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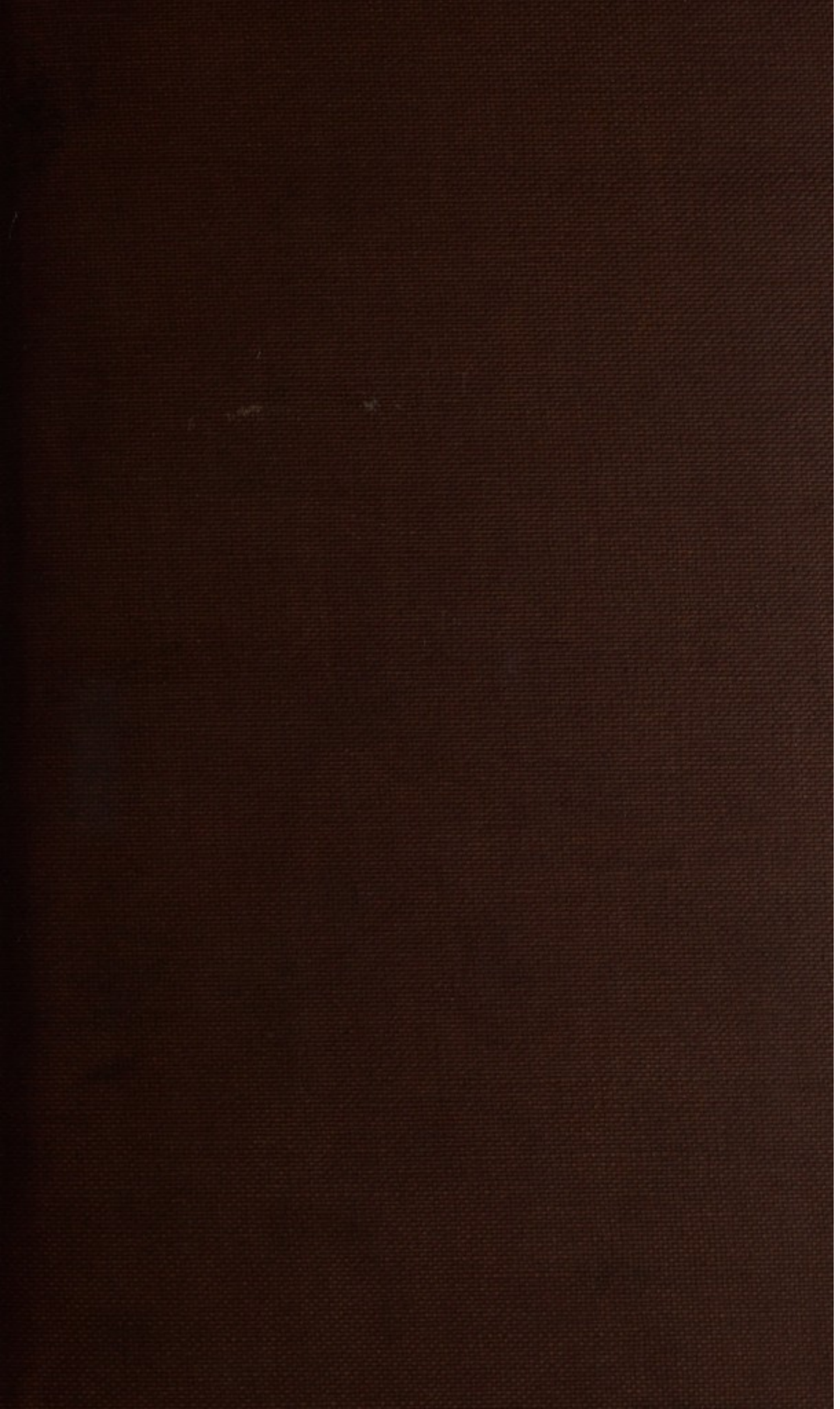
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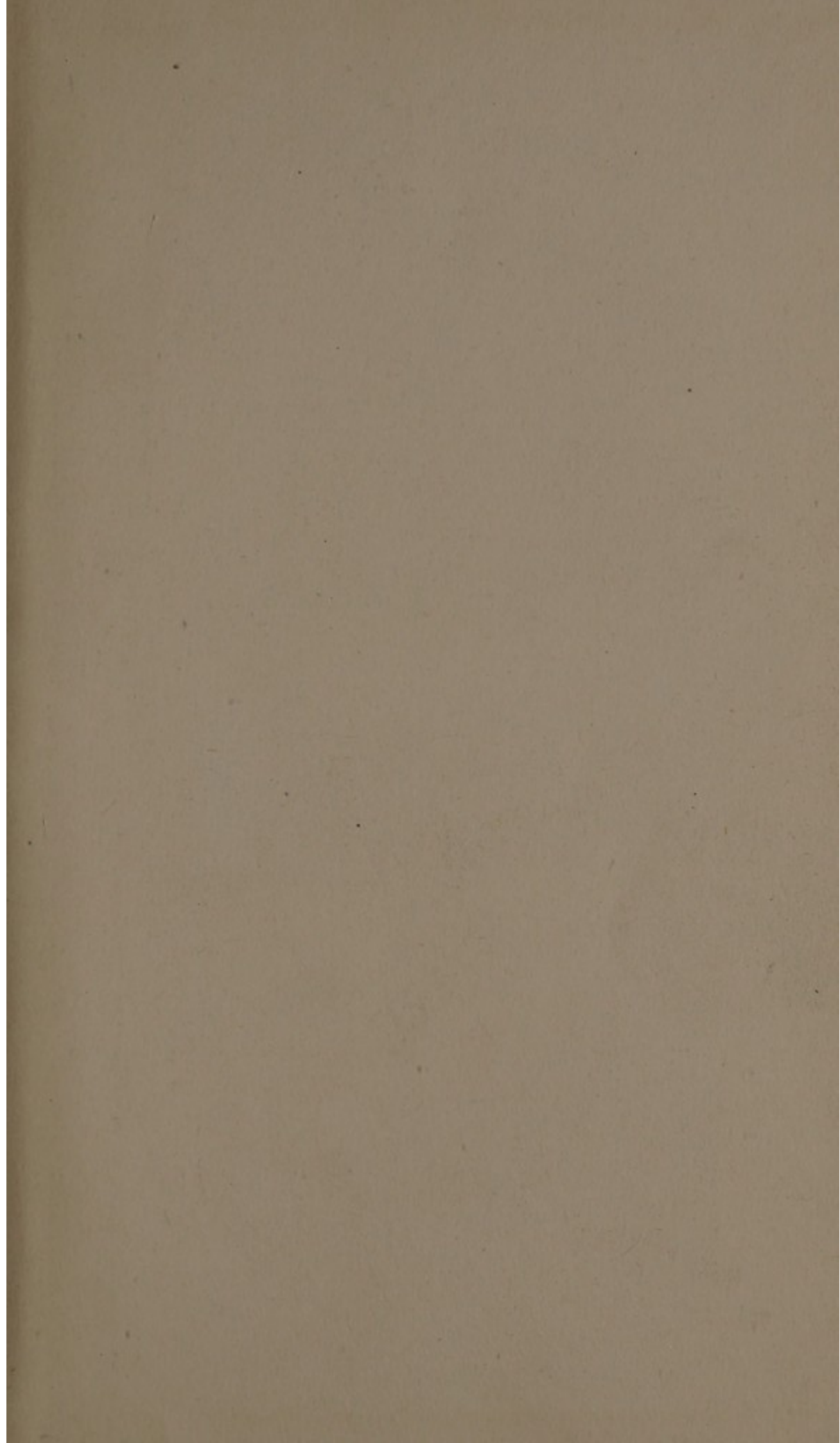
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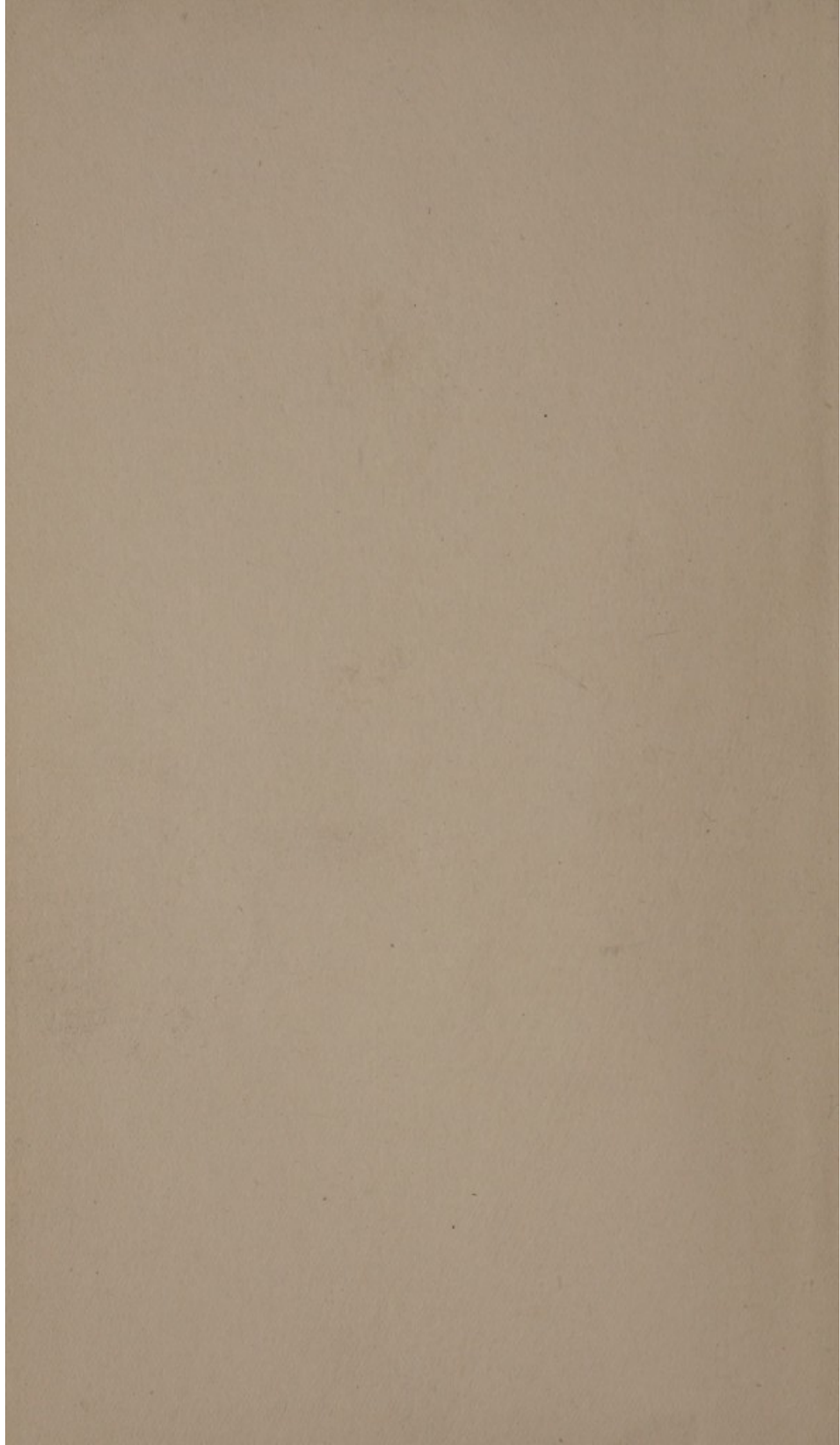
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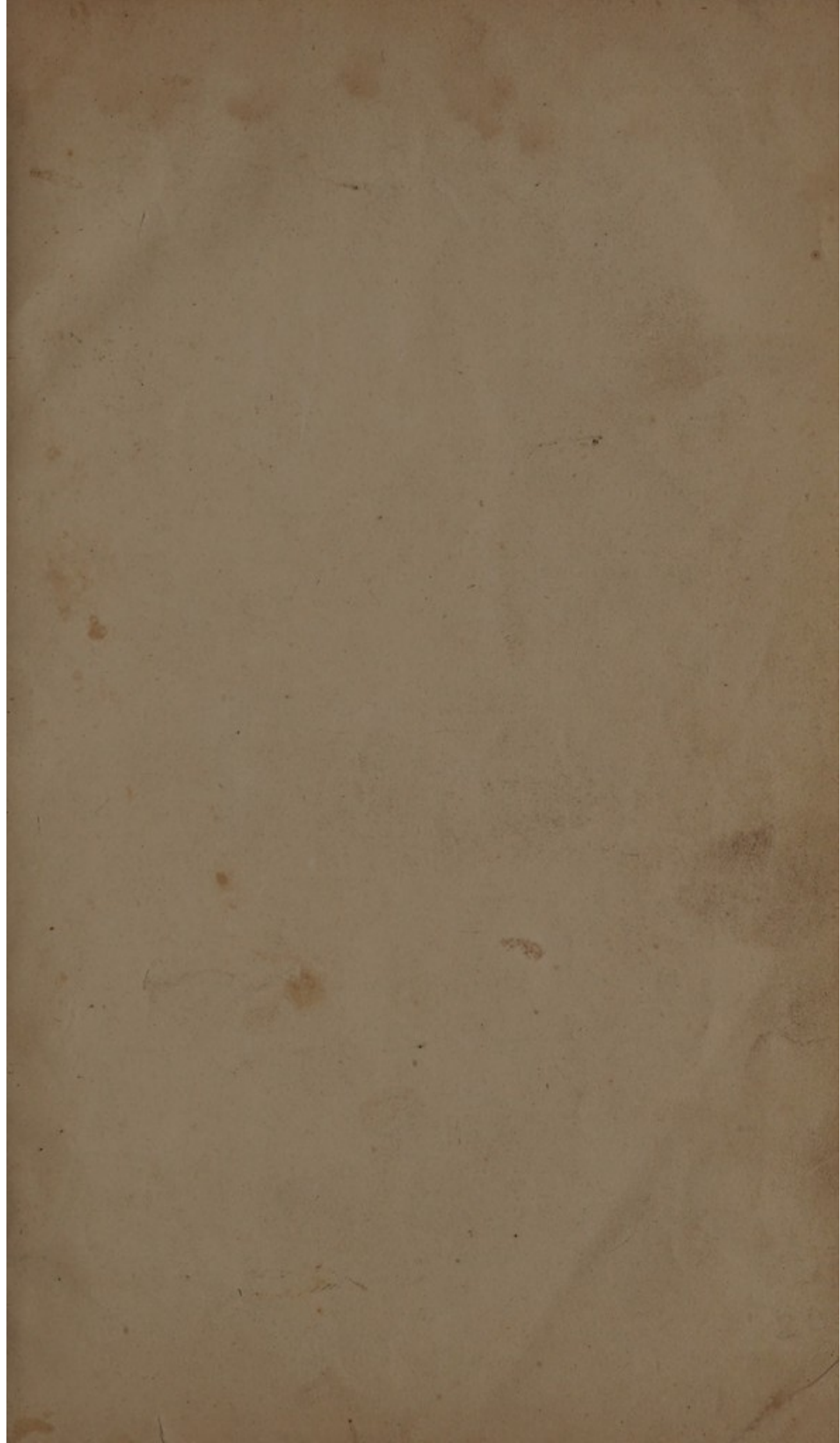
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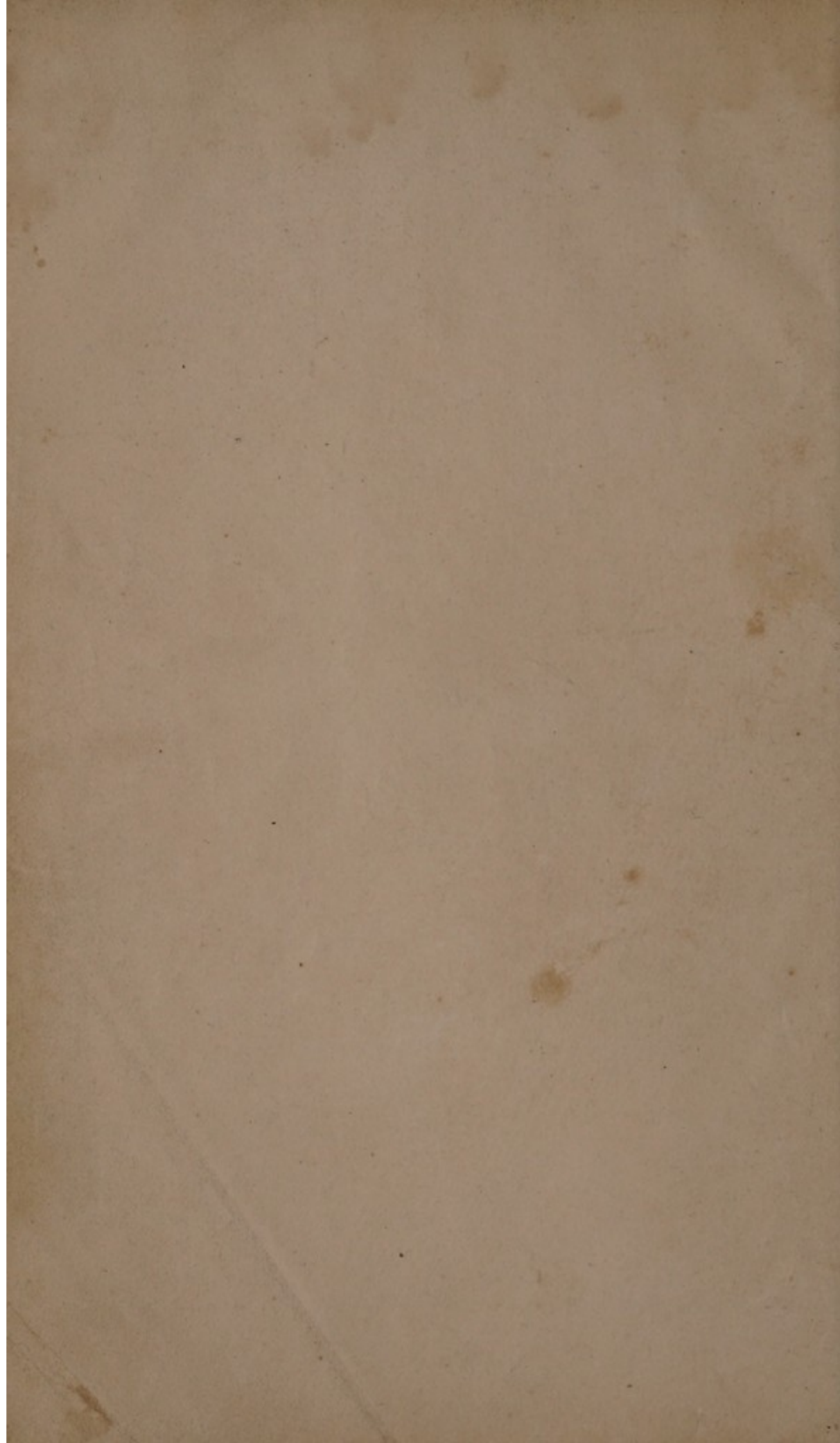
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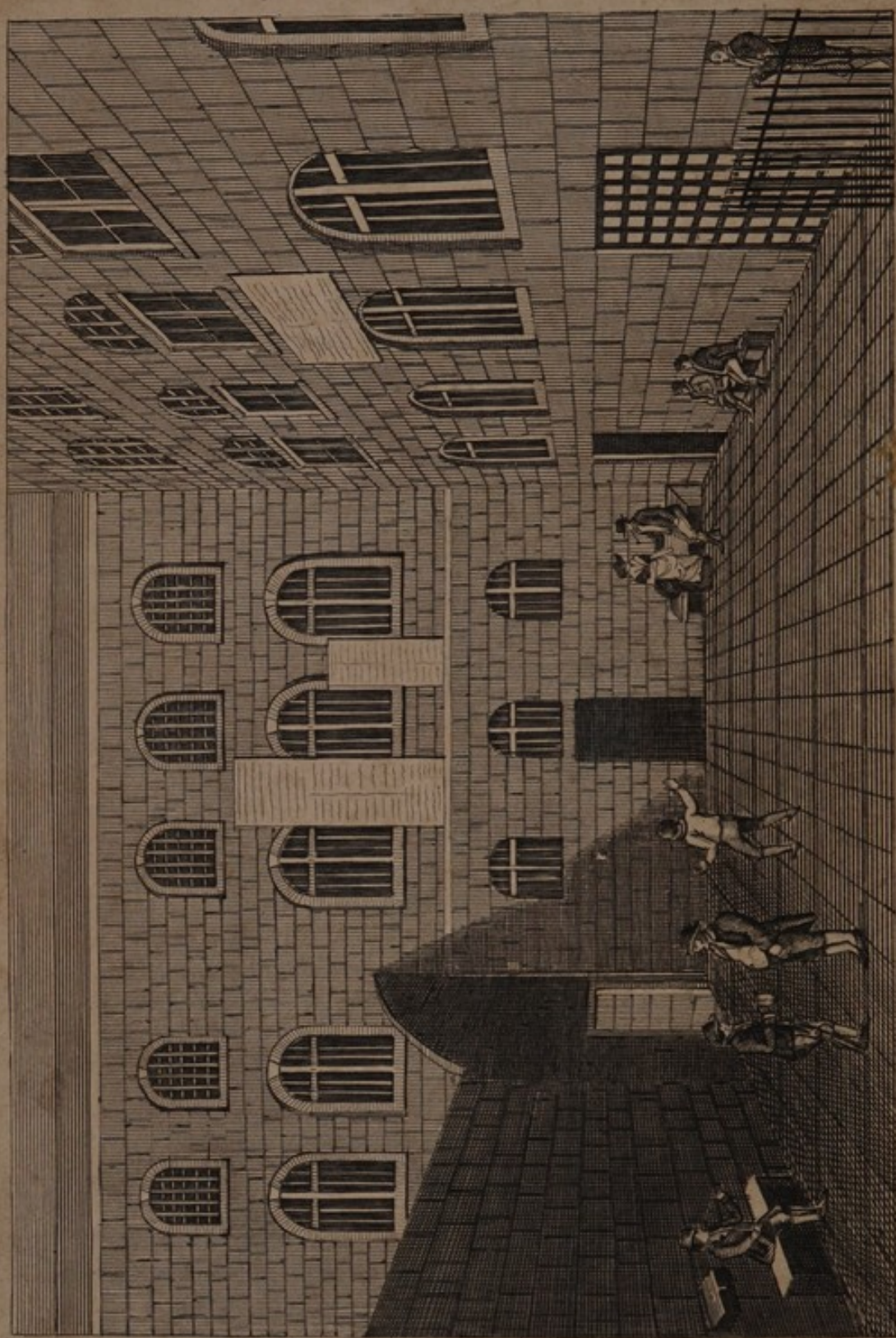












INTERIOR OF NEWGATE.

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THE
NEWGATE CALENDAR
IMPROVED;

BEING
INTERESTING MEMOIRS
OF
NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS

WHO HAVE BEEN CONVICTED OF OFFENCES
AGAINST THE LAWS OF ENGLAND,
DURING THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY; AND CONTINUED TO THE
PRESENT TIME, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED,

COMPRISING

TRAITORS,
MURDERERS,
INCENDIARIES,
RAVISHERS,
PIRATES,
MUTINEERS,
COINERS,

HIGHWAYMEN,
FOOTPADS,
HOUSEBREAKERS,
RIOTERS,
EXTORTIONERS,
SHARPERS,
FORGERS,

PICKPOCKETS,
FRAUDULENT BANK-
RUPTS,
MONEY DROPPERS,
IMPOSTORS,
AND ROGUES OF EVERY
DESCRIPTION,

AND CONTAINING

A number of interesting Cases never before published:

WITH

OCCASIONAL REMARKS ON CRIMES AND PUNISHMENTS, ORIGINAL ANECDOTES, MORAL
REFLECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ON PARTICULAR CASES; EXPLANATIONS OF
THE CRIMINAL LAWS, THE SPEECHES, CONFESSIONS, AND

LAST EXCLAMATIONS OF SUFFERERS.

TO WHICH IS ADDED

**A CORRECT ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS MODES OF PUNISHMENT
OF CRIMINALS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD.**

By **GEORGE THEODORE WILKINSON, Esq.**

VOLUME THE FIRST.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THOMAS KELLY, 17, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

NEWGATE CALMIDAR

IMPROVED

INTERESTING MEMOIRS

NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS



THE HISTORY OF THE
LIFE AND DEATHS OF
THE MOST NOTORIOUS
AND DANGEROUS
CRIMINALS
BY GEORGE THOMAS
LONDON
PRINTED FOR THOMAS NELSON, 18 PATERNOSTER ROW

PREFACE.

THE universal consent of every stage of society has proved the necessity of laws to restrain by punishment the licentious and cruel dispositions of bad men; indeed, but for these regulations, however severe and partial they may have sometimes been, society would have missed its first great object, namely, the better security of men's persons and property.

The several systems of criminal jurisprudence which have at various periods been adopted by different nations, though dissimilar in their specific regulations, all agree in one fundamental principle, *that the proper end of human punishment is the prevention of crime.*

This grand principle is the basis of the English criminal code, and fully justifies it from the character of cruelty with which it is in the present day too commonly branded. This odious charge is best answered by observing that the criminal laws were never intended to be carried into *indiscriminate execution*, that the legislature, when it establishes its last and severest penalties, trusts to *the benignity of the crown to relax their severity*, as often as circumstances appear to palliate the offence, *or even as often as those circumstances of aggravation are wanting* which render this rigorous interposition necessary.

It is true, that by the great number of statutes creating capital offences, it sweeps into the net every crime which under any possible circumstances may merit the punishment of death, *but when the execution of the sentence comes to be deliberated upon, a small proportion of offenders are*

singled out, whose general bad character, or the peculiar aggravation of whose crimes, renders them fit examples of public justice. By this expedient few actually suffer death, whilst the dread and danger of it hang over the crimes of many. Thus the weakness of the law cannot be taken advantage of, the life of the subject is spared as far as the necessity of making public examples will permit, yet no one will venture upon the commission of any enormous crime, from a knowledge that the laws have not provided for its punishment.

The criminal jurisprudence of England may farther be defended from the imputation of cruelty, by considering that though it be strict in its enactments, and visits many minor offences with death, yet in its administration, *jealousy of the criminating evidence, and compassion for the offender,* temper its firmness, and soften the rigour of its decisions. It requires no one to *criminate* himself, and in dubious cases *leans invariably to the side of mercy;* it is ever ready to allow the previous good character of the criminal to lighten his punishment, and never wantonly aggravates, by protracted sufferings, the awful penalty it assigns to the most enormous crimes; it even extends its compassion beyond the present life, and by the consolations of religion which it provides, often calms and alleviates the last moments of its unhappy victims.

The numerous and melancholy examples which our pages record of persons hurrying on from one crime to another, till the awful hand of justice has required their lives, will, we trust, alarm and deter the young and inexperienced from an indulgence in those pursuits or company which tend to weaken their ideas of justice and morality, the sure and certain prognostic of future ruin.

At once to perpetrate the more atrocious crimes is unusual, but the commission of one vice leads to another, frequent repetitions stifle the voice of conscience, the distance to the next degree of criminality is lessened, till at

length the unhappy victim of self-delusion is awakened from his perturbed dream to the more awful scenery of real guilt and retribution.

To avoid, and as much as possible to lessen, the great and increasing number of offences against the salutary restrictions of justice is the duty of every well-wisher to society and civilization; this purpose will be best effected by supporting and countenancing those institutions which have for their object the instruction of youth, by endeavours to excite habits of content and industry, and above all by the constant practice and inculcation of the principles of that religion which enjoins us to "love our neighbour as ourself."

length the unhappy victim of a rebellion is a shamed
 from his country's name to the most faithful enemy of real
 will and rebellion.

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 religion which enjoins us to "love our neighbor as our-
 self."

DESCRIPTION OF NEWGATE

ANCIENTLY, the City of London was encompassed by a wall, in which, at proportionate distances, were several gates, with posterns, resembling the gate which still remains, called Temple Bar. The exact period of time when Newgate, or, as it was first called, the New Gate was erected it is not easy to determine; but we find that as early as the year 1211, its apartments were used for the confinement of felons, as a county gaol for London and Middlesex. This gaol was re-edified in 1422, by the executors of Sir Richard Whittington, and afterwards rebuilt with greater strength and more convenience for prisoners, and with a gate and postern for passengers. The prison then crossed the west end of Newgate Street. In 1780, Newgate was almost burnt down by the rioters. It has since been restored, and now presents a fine uniform exterior to the west, consisting of two wings, the debtors' and felons' side, with the gaoler's house in the middle.

The north side, appropriated to debtors, men and women consists of two court-yards, which are far

too circumscribed for the inhabitants; the men's court being only 49 feet by 31 feet; the women's of the same length, and about half the width. They are entirely surrounded by the wards, which rise three stories above the pavement. The women debtors are separated from the men by a wall 15 feet in height.

The four sides are called the master's side, the cabin, from the cabin bedsteads in them, the common side, and the women's side. The men's apartments are fourteen in number; all of which, except one which occupies in length the whole side of the prison, are nearly of the same dimensions, 23 feet by 15. The number of inhabitants in the rooms is from 12 to 20 in each. The largest room is sometimes inhabited by as many as thirty. The Debtors' side almost always contains 200, and sometimes as many as 300. The painted-room, as it is called—having been painted by a prisoner—has been occupied by a debtor ever since the prison was repaired, his apartment also serves the purpose of a room for case of conscience debtors. Two very close rooms are inhabited by prisoners, one at the bottom of the master's, and another of the common side, which serve the purposes of chandlers' shops by day, and sleeping-rooms by night. This side is always too full, indeed it is difficult to conceive how the prisoners exist, crowded as they generally are, and breathing the same polluted air; for even the windows only open towards the prison court.

Women debtors have two rooms, one on the whole side length of the debtor's court, the other much smaller; in these the inhabitants are generally not very numerous, though sometimes they are crowded. Debtors on the poor and women's sides have eight stone of beef weekly, without bone, sent in by the Sheriffs. Debtors on the master's side pay thirteen shillings and sixpence, eighteen pence of which is spent in beer; the remainder goes to the ward, and finds coals, candles, wood, mops, brooms, and pails. Those who plead poverty are to keep the rooms clean.

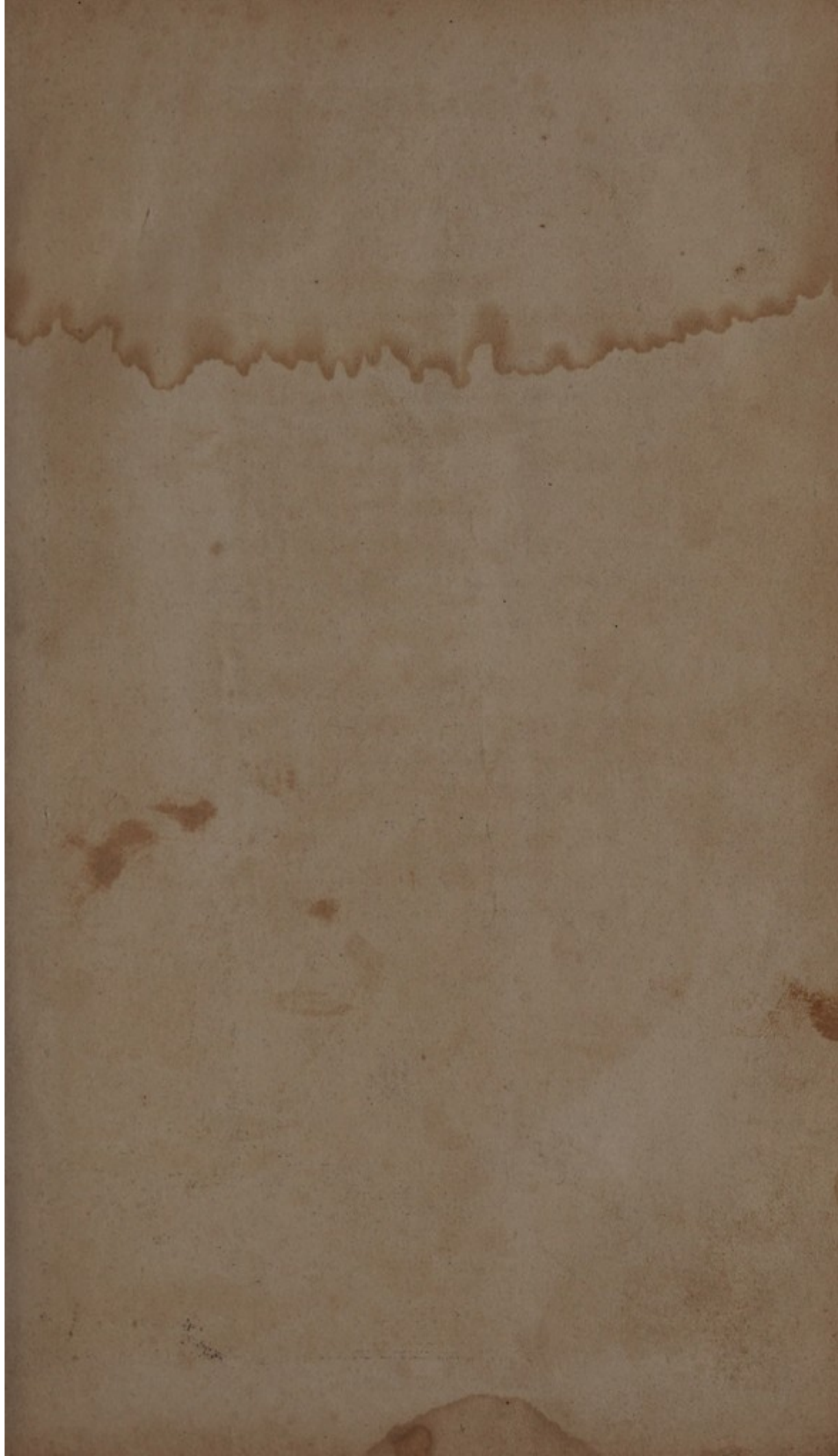
On the south side, which properly belongs to felons, not only felons, but offenders against government, libellers, sellers of libels, and persons for small offences, are confined. This court is rather larger than the men debtors': the rooms are in general in good condition, being often let as single rooms to prisoners who can afford to pay for such an indulgence. There are also four other small yards in which felons are lodged, the number of the whole varying from 140 to 300

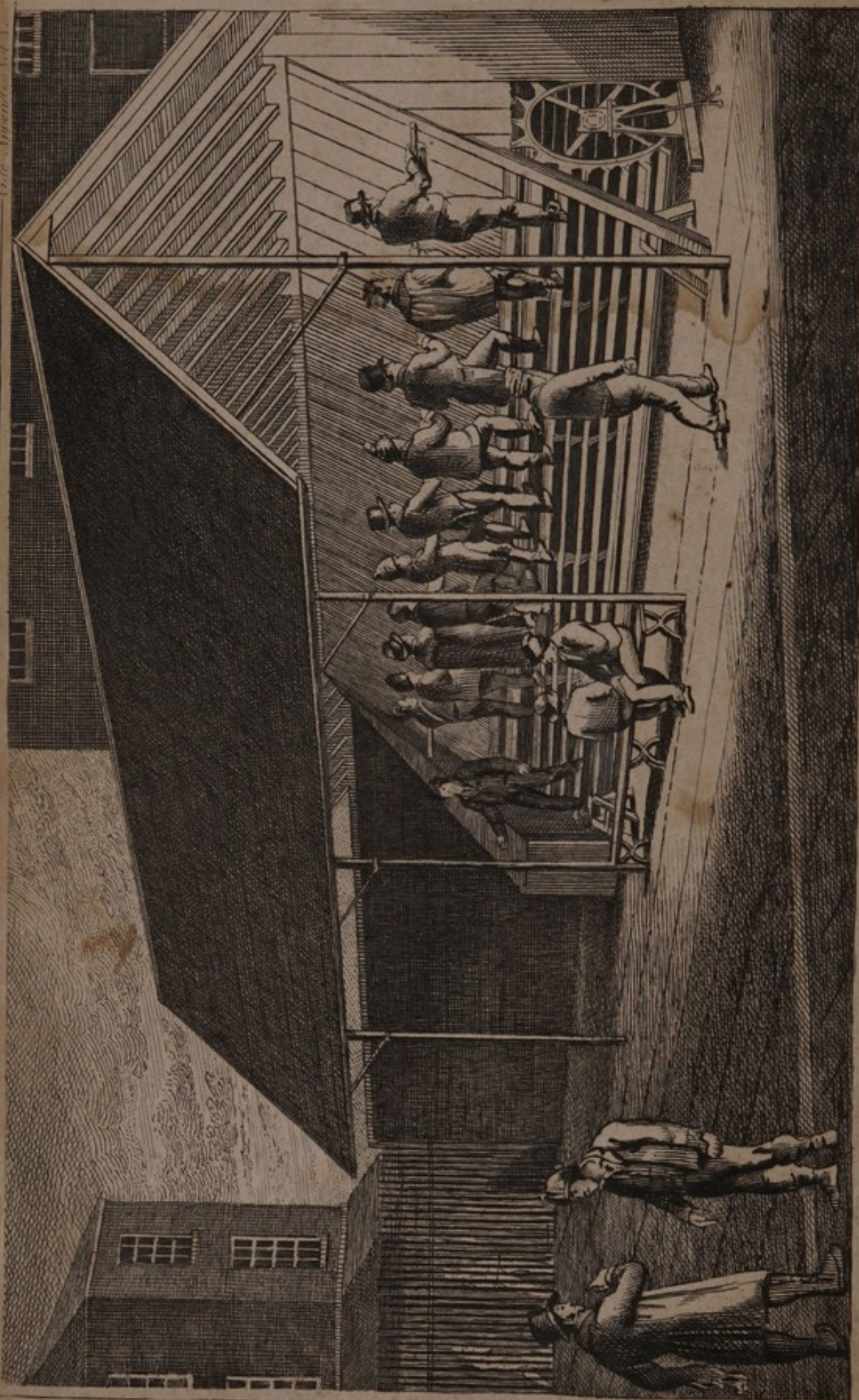
The chapel is plain and neat, with galleries on each side; three or four pews are appropriated for the felons; that in the centre is occupied by the condemned. Service is performed by the chaplain twice every Sunday.

Malefactors under sentence of death are secured in cells built expressly for that purpose; there are

five upon each of the three floors, each vaulted, in height about nine feet to the crown of the arch, and about nine feet in length, by six in width. In the upper part of each cell is a small narrow window double-grated. The doors are four inches thick. The strong wall is lined all round with planks, studded with broad-headed nails. In each cell is a barrack bedstead. It is observed, that prisoners who had affected an air of boldness during their trial, and appeared quite unconcerned when sentence was pronounced on them, were struck with horror, and shed tears, when they were brought to these dark and solitary abodes.

Condemned felons are executed in front of the prison, on a large moveable scaffold, (called the New Drop,) which is kept in the Press Yard for this occasion. The malefactors stand upon a false floor, and when their devotions are finished, on a signal being given, the floor suddenly drops, leaving the unhappy sufferers suspended in the air.





THE TREAD MILL AT BRINGTON,

NEWGATE CALENDAR

IMPROVED.

MICHAEL VAN BERGHEN, CATHERINE VAN
BERGHEN, and DROMELIUS, their Servant,
Publicans,

*Executed July 10, 1700, for the Murder of their
Guest, Mr. Oliver Norris.*

THESE criminals were natives of Holland, who, having settled in England, kept a public-house in East Smithfield, in 1700, and where Geraldus Dromelius acted as their servant. Mr. Norris was a country gentleman, who lodged at an inn near Aldgate, and who went into the house of Van Berghen, about eight o'clock in the evening, and continued to drink there till about eleven. Finding himself rather intoxicated, he desired the maid-servant to call a coach to carry him home. As she was going to do so, her mistress whispered her, and bid her return in a little time, and say that a coach was not to be procured. These directions being observed, Norris, on the maid's return, resolved to go without a coach, and accordingly took his leave of the family; but he had not gone far before he discovered that he had been robbed of a purse containing a sum of money; whereupon he returned, and charged Van Berghen and his wife with having been guilty of the robbery. This they positively denied, and threatened to turn him out of the house; but he re-

fused to go, and resolutely went into a room where the cloth was laid for supper. At this time Dromelius entered the room, and treating Mr. Norris in a haughty manner, the latter resented the insult, and at length a quarrel ensued. At this juncture, Van Berghen seized a poker, with which he fractured Mr. Norris's skull, and in the mean time Dromelius stabbed him in different parts of the body; Mrs. Van Berghen being present during the perpetration of the horrid act. When Mr. Norris was dead, they completely stripped him, and then Van Berghen and Dromelius carried the body, and threw it into a ditch which communicated with the Thames; and in the mean time Mrs. Van Berghen washed the blood of the deceased from the floor of the room. The clothes which had been taken from the deceased, were put up in a hamper, and committed to the care of Dromelius, who hired a boat, and carried them over to Rotherhithe, where he employed the waterman to carry the hamper to lodgings which he had taken, and in which he proposed to remain until he could find a favourable opportunity of embarking for Holland. The next morning, at low water, the body of a man was found, and several of the neighbours went to take a view of it, and endeavoured to try if they could trace any blood to the place where the murder might have been committed; but not succeeding in this, some of them who were up at a very early hour, recollected that they had seen Van Berghen and Dromelius coming almost from the spot where the body was found; and remarked that a light had been carried backwards and forwards in Van Berghen's house. Upon this the house was searched; but no discovery was made, except that a little blood was found behind the door of a room, which appeared to have been lately mopped. Inquiry was made after Dromelius, but Van Berghen and his wife would give no other account than that he had left their service: on which they were taken into cus

tody, with the servant maid, who was the principal evidence against them. At this time the waterman who carried Dromelius to Rotherhithe, and who knew him very well, appeared, and he was likewise taken into custody. The prisoners were tried by a jury of half Englishmen and half foreigners*, to whom all the circumstances above-mentioned appeared so striking, that they did not hesitate to find the prisoners guilty, and accordingly they received sentence of death. After condemnation, and a short time before the day of execution, Dromelius assured the Ordinary of Newgate that the murder was committed by himself, and that it was preceded and followed by these circumstances, viz., Mr. Norris being very much in liquor, and desirous of going to his inn, Mr. Van Berghen directed him to attend him thither; soon after they left the house, Norris went into a broken building, where using opprobrious language to Dromelius, and attempting to draw his sword, he wrested it from his hand, and stabbed him with it in several places; that this being done, Norris groaned very much; and Dromelius hearing a watchman coming, and fearing a discovery, drew a knife, cut his throat, and thereby put an end to his life. In answer to this it was said, that the story was altogether improbable: for if Mr. Norris had been killed in the manner above-mentioned, some blood would have been found on the spot, and there would have been holes in his clothes from the stabbing; neither of which was the case. Still, however, Dromelius persisted in his declaration, with a view to save the life of his mistress, with whom he was thought to have had an improper connexion. Mr. and Mrs. Van Berghen were attended at the place of execution by some divines of

* This is an indulgence of the laws of England to accused foreigners, which no other country affords in such cases. Wherever six men can be found of the nation of the prisoner they are impanelled with the same number of Englishmen.

their own country, as well as an English clergyman; and desired the prayers of them all. Mr. Van Berghen, unable to speak intelligibly in English, conversed in Latin; a circumstance, from which may be inferred, that he had been educated in a style superior to the rank of life which he had lately held. He said that the murder was not committed in his house, and that he knew no more of it, than that Dromelius came to him, while he lay in bed, informed him that he had wounded the gentleman, and begged him to aid his escape; but that when he knew Mr. Norris was murdered, he offered money to some persons to pursue the murderer: this circumstance, however, which might have been favourable to him, was not proved on his trial. Mrs. Van Berghen also solemnly declared, that she knew nothing of the murder till after it was perpetrated, which was not in their house; that Dromelius coming into the chamber, and saying he had murdered the gentleman, she went for a hamper to hold the bloody clothes, and assisted Dromelius in his escape, a circumstance which would not be deemed criminal in her country. This, however, was an artful plea; for, in Holland, accessories before or after the fact are accounted as principals. Dromelius, when at the place of execution, persisted in his former tale; but desired the prayers of the surrounding multitude, whom he warned to beware of the indulgence of violent passions, to which he then fell an untimely sacrifice. They suffered near the Harts-horn brewhouse, East Smithfield, being the nearest convenient spot to the place where the murder was committed, on the 10th July, in the year 1700. The bodies of the men were hung in chains between Bow and Mile-end; but the woman was buried.

The denial by this unhappy couple of the crime, at the very moment their souls must appear before the Almighty, and after such clear proof, on which a jury, composed of one half of their own countrymen, without hesitation found them guilty, greatly adds to their turpitude.

GEORGE CADDELL,

executed July 21, 1700, for the cruel Murder of Miss Price, whom he had seduced and promised Marriage,

WAS a native of the town of Broomsgrove, in Worcestershire, at which place he was articled to an apothecary, with whom he served his time, and then repaired to London, where he attended several of the hospitals, to give him an insight into the art of surgery. As soon as he became tolerably acquainted with the profession, he went to Worcester, and lived with Mr. Randall, a capital surgeon of that city ; in this situation he was equally admired for the depth of his abilities, and the amiableness of his temper. Here he married the daughter of Mr. Randall, who died in labour of her first child. After this melancholy event he went to reside at Lichfield, and continued upwards of two years with Mr. Dean, a surgeon of that place. During his residence here he courted Mr. Dean's daughter, to whom he would probably have been married, but for the commission of the following crime, which cost him his life. A young lady, named Elizabeth Price, who had been seduced by an officer in the army, lived near Mr. Caddell's place of residence; and, after her misfortune, supported herself by her skill in needle-work. Caddell becoming acquainted with her, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between them ; and Miss Price, degraded as she was by the unfortunate step she had taken, still thought herself an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank of life. As pregnancy was shortly the consequence of their intimacy, she repeatedly urged him to marry her ; but Mr. Caddell resisted her importunities for a considerable time ; at last Miss Price heard of his paying his addresses to Miss Dean : she then became more importunate than ever, and

threatened, in case of his non-compliance, to put an end to all his prospects with that young lady, by discovering every thing that had passed between them. Hereupon Caddell formed the horrid resolution of murdering Miss Price; for he could neither bear the thought of forfeiting the esteem of a woman that he courted, nor of marrying one who had been as condescending to another as to himself. This dreadful scheme having entered his head, he called on Miss Price, on a Saturday evening, and requested that she would walk in the fields with him on the afternoon of the following day, in order to adjust a plan of their intended marriage. Miss Price, thus deluded, met him at the time appointed, on the road leading towards Burton-upon-Trent, at a house known by the sign of the Nag's Head. Having accompanied her supposed lover into the fields, and walked about till towards evening, they then sat down under the hedge, where, after a little conversation, Caddell suddenly pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his escape, but not before he had waited till she was dead. However, in the distraction of his mind, he left behind him the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his case of instruments. When he came home it was observed that he appeared exceedingly confused; though the reason of the perturbation of his mind could not even be guessed at. But on the following morning Miss Price being found murdered in the field, great numbers of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the house where she lodged, who recollected that she had said she was going to walk with Mr. Caddell; on which the instruments were examined, and known to have belonged to him: he was accordingly taken into custody, and committed to the gaol of Stafford; and being soon afterwards tried, was found guilty, condemned, and executed, at Stafford.

THOMAS COOK.

Murderer and Rioter, who was the cause of his own apprehension.

HOW frequently do we find that the guilty, in the interval of time between the commission and discovery of a murder, are compelled by an irresistible infatuation to introduce the subject of their crime into conversation with strangers. Many years ago a mail robber was apprehended in a remote part of Cornwall, on suspicion, from his frequently speaking upon the nature and danger of plundering the public mail, and executed for that offence. The subject of the present memoir was taken into custody at Chester for a crime committed in London, merely from his constant relation of the riot in which he had committed the murder. Thus by a kind of mental *ignis fatuus*, the murderer was led on to his own detection. These are the workings of conscience, that earthly hell which torments those who with intentional malice have spilt the blood of their fellow-creatures. How strongly did this mental agony appear in the conduct of Governor Wall; whose life shall hereafter be given. After 20 years had elapsed from the commission of the murder, and while he lived in personal security in a foreign country, his conscience afforded him no peace of mind. He voluntarily returned to London, sought his own apprehension, was convicted, and executed.

Thomas Cook was the son of a butcher, a man of reputation, at Gloucester: when he was about fifteen years of age, his father put him apprentice to a barber-surgeon, in London, with whom he lived two years; and, then running away, engaged himself in the service of ——— Needman, Esq., who was page of honour to King William the Third: but his mother writing to him, and intimating, in the vulgar phrase, that “a gentleman’s service was no inheri-

tance," he quitted his place, and going to Gloucester, engaged in the business of a butcher, being the profession of several of his ancestors. He followed this trade for some time, and served master of the company of butchers in his native city; after which he abandoned that business, and took an inn; but it does not appear that he was successful in it, since he soon afterwards turned grazier. Restless, however, in every station of life, he repaired to London, where he commenced prize-fighter, at May-fair. At this time, May-fair was a place greatly frequented by prize-fighters, thieves, and women of bad character. Here puppet-shews were exhibited, and it was the favourite resort of all the profligate and abandoned. At length the nuisance increased to such a degree, that Queen Anne issued her proclamation for the suppression of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in consequence of which the justices of the peace issued their warrant to the high constable, who summoned all the inferior constables to his assistance. When the constables came to suppress the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty soldiers and other persons, stood in defiance of the peace officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by which some of the latter were wounded. Cooper, the constable, being the most active, Cook drew his sword and stabbed him in the belly; and he died of the wound at the expiration of four days. Hereupon Cook fled to Ireland, and (as it was deposed upon his trial) while he was in a public-house there, he swore in a profane manner, for which the landlord censured him, and told him there were persons in the house who would take him into custody for it: to which he answered, "Are there any of the informing dogs in Ireland?—We in London drive them; for at a fair, called May Fair, there was a noise which I went out to see—six soldiers and myself—the constables played their parts with their staves, and I played mine; and when the man dropped, I wiped my sword, put it up, and went away."

Cook, having repeatedly talked in this boasting and insolent manner, was at length taken into custody, and sent to Chester, whence he was removed by a writ of Habeas Corpus to London; and, being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted, and received sentence of death. After conviction, he solemnly denied the crime for which he had been condemned, declaring, that he had no sword in his hand on the day the constable was killed, and was not in the company of those who killed him. Having received the Sacrament on the 21st of July, 1703, he was taken from Newgate to be carried to Tyburn; but when he was got to High Holborn, opposite Bloomsbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Friday. On his return to Newgate, he was visited by numbers of his acquaintance, who rejoiced at his narrow escape, except that of those who would assist him in his devotions. On Friday he received another respite till the 11th of August, when he was executed.

JOHN HOLLIDAY,

Housebreaker, convicted under the assumed name of Simpson.

THIS man, whose career of villany in England was not long, had committed a great variety of depredations in Flanders, where he served as a soldier under king William the Third. On the peace of Ryswick, he received his discharge, and, with several of his confederates in acts of villany, repaired to London, where they formed themselves into a gang of robbers, of which Holliday, under the name of Simpson, was appointed Captain. We can trace but few particulars of the depredations they committed in London and its environs, farther, than that they were alternately highwaymen and housebreakers.

In the year 1700, Holliday was indicted in the name of Simpson for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Gawden, and stealing thereout two feather beds, and other articles; to which he pleaded guilty, and was, for that offence, hanged at Tyburn

While under sentence of death he made the following confession of the singular and daring robberies he had committed—his officers—the church—nay the king himself, were plundered by this daring villain. He said that his name was not Simpson, but Holliday; and that, during a great part of the war in the reign of king William, he was a soldier in Flanders, where he used to take frequent opportunities of robbing the tents of the officers: and once, when the army lay before Mons, and his Majesty commanded in person, Simpson happened to be one of those who were selected to guard the royal tent. On an evening when the king accompanied by the Earl (afterwards duke) of Marlborough and Lord Cutts, went out to take a view of the situation of the army, Simpson, with a degree of impudence peculiar to himself, went into his Majesty's tent, and stole about a thousand pounds. It was some days before this money was missed; and, when the robbery was discovered, Simpson escaped all suspicion. He said he had committed more robberies than he could possibly recollect, having been a highwayman as well as a house-breaker.

He committed numerous robberies in Flanders, as well as in England, and he affirmed that the gates of the city of Ghent had been twice shut up within a fortnight to prevent his escape; and that when he was taken, his arms, legs, back, and neck, were secured with irons; in which condition he was carried through the streets, that he might be seen by the crowd.

Simpson, and two of his companions, used frequently to stop and rob the Roman Catholics at five o'clock in the morning, as they were going to mass; he repeatedly broke into the churches of

Brussels, Mechlin, and Antwerp, and stole the silver plate from the altar.

This offender further acknowledged, that, having killed one of his companions in a quarrel, he was apprehended, tried, and condemned for the fact, by a court-martial of officers, and sentenced to be executed on the following day, in sight of the army, which was to be drawn up to see the execution. During the night, however, he found means to escape, and took refuge in the church of St. Peter, in Ghent, where the army then lay. Being thus in a place of sanctuary, he applied to the priests, who made interest with prince Eugene; and their joint intercession with king William, who arrived in the city about four days afterwards, obtained his full pardon, and he was permitted immediately to join the army.

In a few days after he had obtained his pardon, he broke into the church, and robbed it of plate to the value of twelve hundred pounds; which he was the better enabled to do, as he was acquainted with the avenues of the church, and knew where the plate was deposited. He was apprehended on suspicion of this sacrilege; for as a crime of this kind is seldom committed by the natives of the country, it was conjectured that it must have been perpetrated by some one, at least, of the soldiers; and information being given that two Jews had embarked in a boat on the Scheldt, for Middleburg, on the day succeeding the robbery, and that Simpson had been seen in company with these Jews, this occasioned his being taken into custody; but as no proof arose, that he had sold any plate to these men, it was thought necessary to dismiss him.

GEORGE GRIFFITHS.

Robber.

THIS young man received the education of a gentleman, was articled as clerk to an attorney of high repute, and enjoyed the utmost latitude of confidence in his master; but which a course of dissipation destroyed, and finally brought him to an untimely fate. His misfortunes may prove a lesson to young gentlemen intended for the learned professions, while the danger into which a young lady, his master's daughter, had, through him, nearly fallen into, will, we trust, be a caution to females against engaging their affections without the sanction of their parents.

Mr. Griffiths was born at Thetford, in the county of Norfolk, and was the son of an eminent apothecary of that town. On the expiration of the term of his clerkship he was retained by his master, on a handsome salary, to manage his business, and he discharged his duty for a considerable time with great regularity; but, unhappily becoming acquainted with some young lawyers who possessed more money than discretion, he soon spent the little fortune which his father had bequeathed to him, and also became indebted to several of his master's employers.

During great part of Griffiths's servitude, the only daughter of his employer had been at a boarding-school at Windsor, for the advantage of education; and now returning home, her father, who was uncommonly tender of her, requested that she would take his domestic affairs under her own management.

This old gentleman being frequently from home, the business of the office was committed to the care of Mr. Griffiths; and an intimacy soon ensued between him and the young lady, in whose company

he spent all those evenings in which he had not particular engagements with his old associates. The consequence was, that their acquaintance ripened into esteem; their esteem into love. The reciprocal declaration soon took place, and the young lady considered Mr. Griffiths as the man who was to be her future husband.

Some short time after this attachment, Griffiths was under the necessity of attending his master on the Norfolk circuit; and while he was in the country, he held a constant correspondence with the young lady; but the father was totally unacquainted with all that had passed, and had not formed the least idea that his daughter had any kind of connexion with his clerk: at length the circumstances of the affair transpired in the following manner:—

The daughter having gone to Windsor for a few days, on a visit to her former acquaintance, continued to correspond with Mr. Griffiths. On a particular day, when Griffiths was not at home, it happened that a letter was brought to the office, directed to this unfortunate man; when one of the clerks, imagining that it might be of consequence, carried it to the master, at an adjacent coffee-house. It is impossible that any language should express the surprise of the old gentleman, when he saw the name of his daughter subscribed to a letter, in which she acknowledged herself as the future wife of the clerk.

The father knew that Griffiths had no fortune; but he soon found that he had been master of sufficient art to prevail on the daughter to believe that he was possessed of considerable property. Hereupon he represented to his daughter the great impropriety of her conduct; in answer to which, she said, that Mr. Griffiths was a man of fortune, though he had hitherto carefully concealed this circumstance from her father. However, it was not long before a discovery was made, which represented Mr. Griffiths's situation in a light equally new and contemptible.

His master, for a considerable time past, had acted as the Solicitor in a capital cause depending in Chancery; but the determination respecting it had been put off, on account of Lord Somers being removed from the office of Chancellor, and the great seal given in commission to Sir Nathan Wright. The solicitor had received immense sums while the cause was depending, which he had committed to the care of his clerk; but the latter, pressed for cash to supply his extravagance, purloined some of this money. At length the cause was determined, and Griffiths was called upon to account to his master for the money in his hands.

Alarmed at this sudden demand, he knew not what course to take. He was already considerably indebted to different people, and had not a friend to whom he could apply for as much money as was deficient in his accounts; but, being driven to the utmost necessity, he came to the resolution of breaking open his master's bureau, which he did while the family were asleep, and stole a considerable sum of money; but as nothing else but money was stolen, Griffiths would very probably have escaped suspicion, had he not been tempted to a repetition of his crime.

At this time the old gentleman and his daughter went to Tunbridge; and, during their residence at that place of amusement, Griffiths procured a key that would unlock his master's bureau, from whence again he took money to a considerable amount. On the master's return, he missed the sum; but still he did not suspect Griffiths, as the drawer was found locked; but hereupon he deposited his jewels in the bureau, but locked up his money in another place.

The amour betwixt Griffiths and the young lady still continued; and they would soon have been married at the Fleet, but that a fatal circumstance now arose, which (happily for her) brought their connexion to a period

Griffiths being (as already observed) possessed of a key that would open his master's bureau, and disposed to go out and spend a cheerful evening with his old associates now during their absence, opened the drawer, but was greatly disappointed in not meeting with the money that was usually left there: finding, however, jewels in its stead, he stole a diamond ring, which he carried to a jeweller, and sold for twelve pounds; and then went to spend his evening as he had intended. The old lawyer came home about ten o'clock at night, and, casually looking into his drawer, found the ring was gone; and, being enraged at this renewed robbery, he had every person in the house carefully searched; but no discovery was made.

Griffiths did not return till a late hour, and on the following day his employer told him what had happened, and requested that he would go to the several jewellers' shops, and make enquiry for the lost ring. Griffiths pretended obedience, and, when he returned, acquainted his master that all his inquiries respecting it had been ineffectual.

However, a discovery of the party who had been guilty of the robbery was made in the following singular manner:—The jeweller who had bought the ring frequented the same coffee-house with the gentleman who had lost it, and was intimately acquainted with him, though he knew nothing of Griffiths. Now the jeweller, having carefully examined the ring after he had bought it, and suspecting that it had been obtained in an illegal manner, related the particulars of his purchase at the coffee-house, which Griffiths's master hearing, desired to have a sight of it; and, on the first inspection, knew it to be that which he had lost.

The person of Griffiths was now so exactly described by the jeweller, that there could be little doubt but that he was the thief; wherefore he was desired to go to the chambers with a constable, and take him into custody, if he appeared to be the man

who had sold the ring. As this was really the case, he was carried before a justice of the peace, and accused of the crime, which he immediately confessed, and likewise that he had robbed his master of money, in the manner we have already related.

Griffiths, in consequence hereof, was committed to Newgate, and being arraigned at the next Sessions at the Old Baily, he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and sentence of death was passed on him accordingly.

As in his situation it was natural to suppose that he would attempt to correspond with the young lady to whom he had aspired as a wife, a proper person was employed by her father to intercept her letters, a service that was performed with such care, that not one reached her hands, though a considerable number were written.

When Mr. Griffiths found that he had nothing to hope from the intervention of the royal mercy, and consequently that all the views with which he had flattered himself in wedlock were vanished, he began seriously to prepare himself for that state, in which persons "neither marry, nor are given in marriage." He very justly attributed his misfortunes to the associating with persons who were his superiors in point of circumstances, and the making an appearance which he was unable to support, in order to secure the object of his wishes. He died a penitent, at Tyburn, the 1st of August, 1700.

THE REV. THOMAS HUNTER,

*Executed near Edinburgh, for the Murder of the
two Children of Mr. Gordon.*

IT is with deep regret that we are compelled to bring before the reader a murderer, in a character

which ever should be held most sacred. A crime more premeditated, and more fraught with cruelty, never stained the annals of history. Ambition has often impelled tyrants to shed innocent blood; revenge has stimulated men to kill each other; jealousy with "jaundiced eye" destroys the object of its love; but God forbid that we should ever again have to record the fact of a tutor, a minister of the Gospel, premeditatedly murdering his pupils—the sons of his benefactor. When we add, that this most miserable sinner expiated his offence in avowing himself an Atheist, we arrive, at once, at the very depth of human depravity. This inhuman culprit was born in the county of Fyfe, in Scotland, and was the son of a rich farmer, who sent him to the University of St. Andrew for education. When he had acquired a sufficient share of classical learning, he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts, and began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no small degree of success. Several of the younger clergymen act as tutors to wealthy and distinguished families, till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and in this station Hunter lived about two years, in the house of Mr. Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies of Edinburgh, which is a rank equal to that of Alderman of London. Mr. Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, two sons, and a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in question, some clerks, and menial servants. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two sons, and for a considerable time he discharged his duty in a manner highly satisfactory to the parents, who considered him as a youth of superior genius, and great goodness of heart. Unfortunately a connection took place between Hunter and the young woman, which soon increased to a criminal degree, and

was maintained for a considerable time without the knowledge of the family. One day, however, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a visit, Hunter and his girl met in their chamber as usual; but, having been so incautious as not to make their door fast, the children went into the room, and found them in such a situation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourse. No suspicion was entertained that these children would mention to their parents what had happened, the eldest boy being not quite ten years of age: but when the children were at supper with their parents, they disclosed so much as left no room to doubt of what had passed. Hereupon the female servant was directed to quit the house on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtlessness of youth, and promising never to offend in the same way again. From this period he entertained the most inveterate hatred to all the children, on whom he determined in his own mind to wreak the most diabolical vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention: but it was a considerable time after he had formed this horrid plan before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution. Whenever it was a fine day, he was accustomed to walk in the fields with his pupils for an hour before dinner; and in these excursions the young lady generally attended her brothers. At the period immediately preceding the commission of the fatal act, Mr. Gordon and his family were at their country retreat very near Edinburgh; and having received an invitation to dine in that city, he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time that Hunter usually took his noon-tide walk with the children. Mrs. Gordon was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this visit; but this was strenuously opposed by her husband, who would consent that the little girl only should attend them.

By this circumstance Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was frustrated; but he held the resolution of destroying the boys while they were yet in his power. With this view he took them into the fields, and sat down as if to repose himself on the grass. This event took place soon after the middle of the month of August, 1700, and Hunter was preparing his knife to put a period to the lives of the children, at the very moment they were busied in catching butterflies, and gathering wild flowers. Having sharpened his knife, he called the lads to him, and when he had reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother of the scene to which they had been witnesses, said that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat, the children ran from him; but he immediately followed, and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one, while he cut the throat of the other with his penknife; and then treated the second in the same inhuman manner that he had done the first. These horrid murders were committed within half a mile of the castle of Edinburgh; and as the deed was perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been very wonderful indeed, if the murderer had not been immediately taken into custody. At the very time, a gentleman was walking on the Castle-hill of Edinburgh, who had a tolerably perfect view of what passed. Alarmed by the incident, he called some people, who ran with him to the place where the children were lying dead: Hunter now had advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himself. Those who pursued, came up with him just as he reached the brink of the river; and, his person being immediately known to them, a messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid murder of their sons.—Language is too weak to describe the effects resulting from the communi-

cation of this dreadful news; the astonishment of the afflicted father, the agony of the frantic mother may possibly be conceived, though it cannot be painted. According to an old Scottish law it was decreed, that "if a murderer should be taken with the blood of the murdered person on his clothes, he should be prosecuted in the Sheriff's Court, and executed within three days after the commission of the fact." It was not common to execute this sentence with rigour; but this offender's crime was of so aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit any thing of the utmost severity of the law. The prisoner was, therefore, committed to the gaol, and chained down to the floor all night; and, on the following day, the sheriff issued his precept for the jury to meet: and, in consequence of their verdict, Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty; and added to the offence he had already committed the horrid crime of declaring, that he lamented only the not having murdered Mr. Gordon's daughter as well as his sons. The sheriff now passed sentence on the convict, which was to the following purpose: that "on the succeeding day he should be executed on a gibbet, erected for that purpose on the spot where he had committed the murders; but that, previous to his execution, his right hand should be cut off with a hatchet, near the wrist; that then he should be drawn up to the gibbet, by a rope, and when he was dead, hung in chains between Edinburgh and Leith, the knife with which he committed the murders being stuck through his hand, which should be advanced over his head, and fixed therewith to the top of the gibbet." Mr. Hunter was executed, in strict conformity to the above sentence, on the 22d of August, 1700. But Mr. Gordon soon afterwards petitioned the sheriff, that the body might be removed to a more distant spot, as its hanging on the side of the highway, through which he frequently passed, tended to re-excite his grief for the occasion

that had first given rise to it. This requisition was immediately complied with, and in a few days the body was removed to the skirts of a small village near Edinburgh, named Broughton. It is equally true and horrid to relate, that, at the place of execution, Hunter closed his life with the following shocking declaration:—"There is no God—I do not believe there is any—or if there is, I hold him in defiance."—Yet this infidel had professed himself to be a minister of the Gospel!

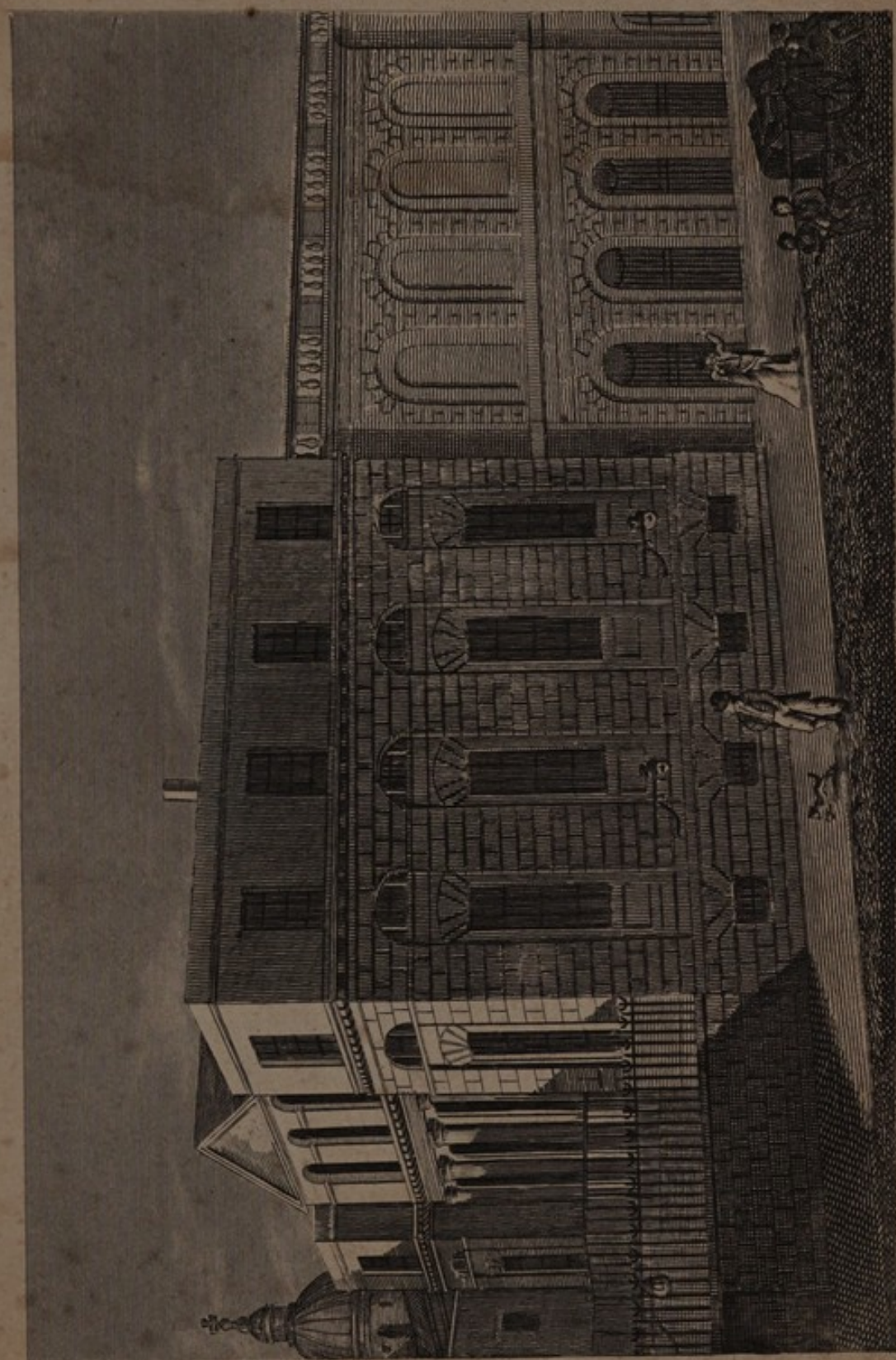
JOHN COWLAND,

Executed at Tyburn, for the Murder of Sir Andrew Slanning, Dec. 20, 1700.

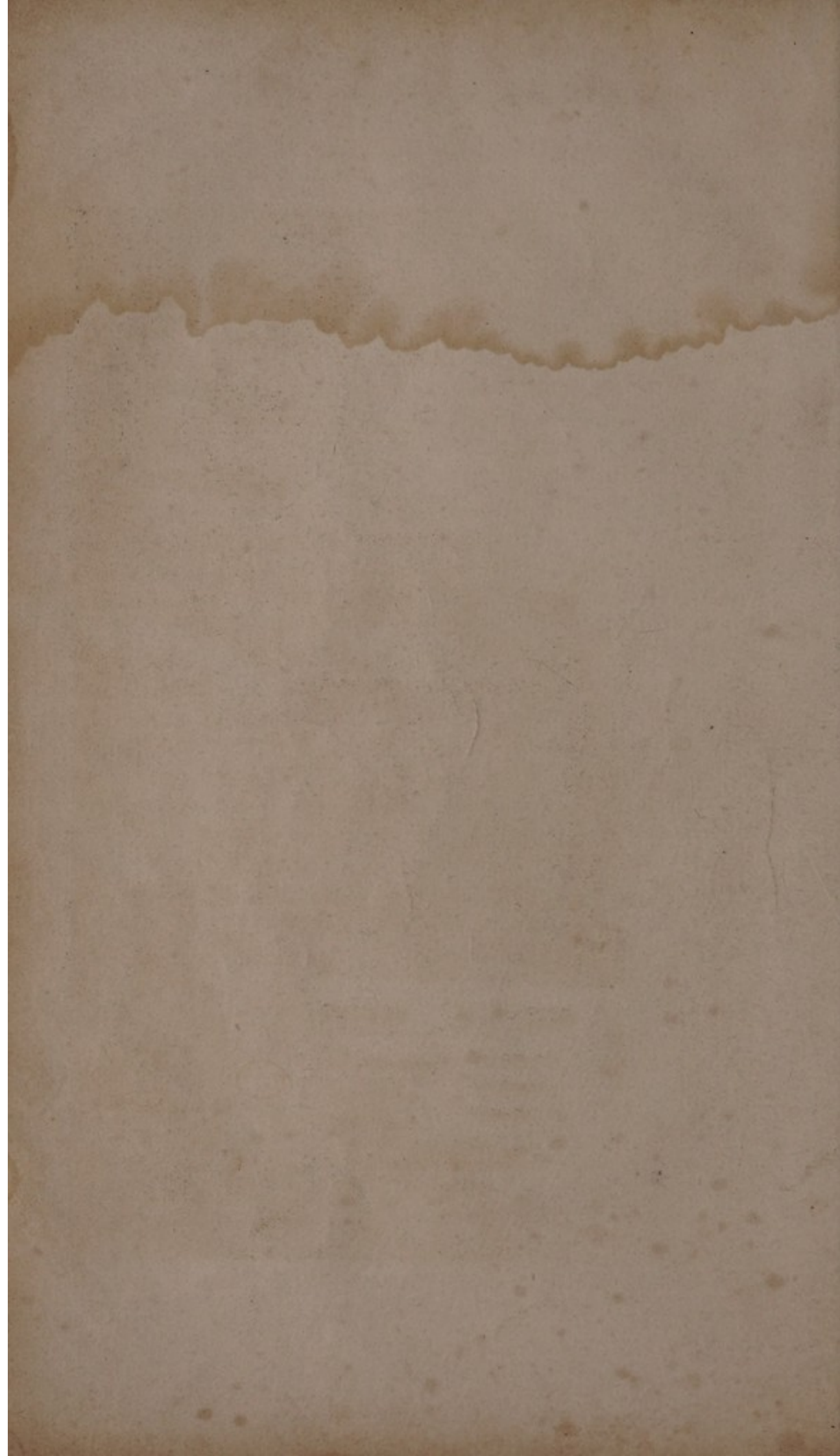
THE crime for which this man suffered, though of the same degree in the eye of the law as that immediately preceding, yet it was by no means attended with such diabolical atrocity. It will shew the danger ever to be apprehended from indiscriminate connection with females, and a caution against intemperance.

He was the son of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldsmith, but of a vicious irascible disposition.—He and some other *bon vivants* had followed Sir Andrew Slanning, Bart. who had made a temporary acquaintance with an orange woman, while in the pit at Drury-lane play-house, and retired with her as soon as the play was ended. They had gone but a few yards before Mr. Cowland put his arm round the woman's neck; on which Sir Andrew desired he would desist, as she was his wife. Cowland, knowing Sir Andrew was married to a woman of honour, gave him the lie, and swords were drawn on both sides; but some gentlemen coming up at this juncture, no immediate ill conse-

quence happened. They all now agreed to adjourn to the Rose Tavern; and Captain Wagget having there used his utmost endeavours to reconcile both parties, it appeared that this mediation was attended with success; but, as they were going up stairs to drink a glass of wine, Mr. Cowland drew his sword, and stabbed Sir Andrew in the belly, who finding himself wounded, cried out, "Murder." One of Lord Warwick's servants, and two other persons who were in the house, ran up immediately, and disarmed Cowland of his sword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into custody. Cowland now desired to see Sir Andrew, which being granted, he jumped down the stairs, and endeavoured to make his escape; but, being pursued, he was easily retaken. Cowland was instantly conducted before a justice of peace, who committed him; and on December the 5th, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey on three indictments—the first at common law, the second on the statute of stabbing, and the third on the Coroner's Inquest for the murder. Every fact was fully proved on the trial; and, among other things, it was deposed, that the deceased had possessed an estate of 20,000*l.* a year, and his family became extinct by his death; and that he had been a gentleman of great good nature, and by no means disposed to animosity. On Cowland's being found guilty, sentence of death was passed on him; and, though great interest was made to obtain a pardon, he was executed at Tyburn the 20th December, 1700.



SESSIONS HOUSE, OLD BAILEY.



CAPTAIN JOHN KIDD,

*Who suffered for Piracy, at Execution Dock,
May 22, 1701.*

PIRACY is an offence committed on the high-seas, by villains who man and arm a vessel for the purpose of robbing fair traders. It is also piracy to rob a vessel lying in shore at anchor, or at a wharf. The river Thames, until the excellent establishment of a marine police, was infested by gangs of fresh water pirates, who were continually rowing about watching the homeward bound vessels, which, whenever opportunity offered, they boarded, and stole whatever part of the cargo they could hoist into their boats. Of late years, however, the shipping there, collected from every part of the habitable globe, lie in tolerable security against such disgraceful depredations.

Piracy is a capital offence by the civil law, although by Act of Parliament it may be heard and determined according to the rules of common law, as if the offence had been committed on land. The mode of trial is regulated by the 28th of Henry VIII. cap. 15; and further by the Acts 11 and 12 William III. cap. 7, and 39 George III. cap. 37; which also extends to other offences committed on the high seas.

Captain John Kidd, was born in the town of Greenock, in Scotland, and bred to the sea. Having quitted his native country, he resided at New York, where he became owner of a small vessel, with which he traded among the pirates, obtained a thorough knowledge of their haunts, and could give a better account of them than any other person whatever. He was neither remarkable for the excess of his courage, nor for the want of it. In a word, his ruling passion appeared to be avarice;

and to this was owing his connection with the pirates. While in their company, he used to converse and act as they did; yet at other times he would make singular professions of honesty, and intimate how easy a matter it would be to extirpate these abandoned people, and prevent their future depredations. His frequent remarks of this kind engaged the notice of several considerable planters, who, forming a more favourable idea of him than his true character would warrant, procured him the patronage with which he was afterwards honoured. For a series of years great complaints had been made of the piracies committed in the West Indies, which had been greatly encouraged by some of the inhabitants of North America, on account of the advantage they derived from purchasing effects thus fraudulently obtained. This coming to the knowledge of king William the Third, he, in the year 1695, bestowed the government of New England and New York on the earl of Bellamont, an Irish nobleman of distinguished character and abilities, who immediately began to consider of the most effectual method to redress the evils complained of, and consulted with Colonel Levingston, a gentleman who had great property in New York, on the most feasible steps to obviate the evils so long complained of. At this juncture, Captain Kidd was arrived from New York, in a sloop of his own; him, therefore, the Colonel mentioned to Lord Bellamont, as a bold and daring man, who was very fit to be employed against the pirates, as he was perfectly well acquainted with the places which they resorted to. This plan met with the fullest approbation of his Lordship, who mentioned the affair to his Majesty, and recommended it to the notice of the board of Admiralty. But such were then the hurry and confusion of public affairs, that, though the design was approved, no steps were taken towards carrying it into execution. Accordingly, Colonel Levingston made application to Lord Bellamont, that, as the

affair would not well admit of delay, it was worthy of being undertaken by some private persons of rank and distinction, and carried into execution at their own expense, notwithstanding public encouragement was denied it. His Lordship approved of this project, but it was attended with considerable difficulty; at length, however, the Lord Chancellor Somers, the Duke of Shrewsbury, the Earl of Romney, the Earl of Oxford, and some other persons, with Colonel Levingston and Captain Kidd, agreed to raise 6000*l.* for the expense of the voyage; and the Colonel and Captain were to have a fifth of the profits of the whole undertaking. Matters being thus far adjusted, a commission, in the usual form, was granted to Captain Kidd, to take and seize pirates, and bring them to justice; but there was no special clause or proviso to restrain his conduct, or regulate the mode of his proceeding. Kidd was known to Lord Bellamont, and another gentleman presented him to Lord Romney. With regard to the other parties concerned, he was wholly unacquainted with them; and so ill was this affair conducted, that he had no private instructions how to act, but received his sailing orders from Lord Bellamont, the purport of which was, that he should act agreeably to the letter of his commission. Accordingly, a vessel was purchased and manned, and received the name of the Adventure Galley; and in this Captain Kidd sailed from New York, towards the close of the year 1695, and in his passage made prize of a French ship. From New York he sailed to the Madeira Islands, thence to Bonavista and St. Jago, and from this last place to Madagascar. He now began to cruise at the entrance of the Red Sea; but, not being successful in those latitudes, he sailed to Calicut, and there took a ship of one hundred and fifty tons burthen, which he carried to Madagascar, and disposed of there. Having sold his prize he again put to sea, and, at the expiration of five weeks, took the Quedah Merchant, a ship of four hundred tons burthen. the master of which

was an Englishman, named Wright, who had two Dutch mates on board, and a French gunner, but the crew consisted of Moors, natives of Africa, and were about ninety in number. He carried the ship to St. Mary's, near Madagascar, where he burnt the Adventure Galley, belonging to his owners, and divided the lading of the Quedah Merchant with his crew, taking forty shares to himself. They then went on board the last mentioned ship, and sailed for the West Indies. It is uncertain whether the inhabitants of the West India Islands knew that Kidd was a pirate; but he was refused refreshments at Anguilla and St. Thomas's, and therefore sailed to Mona, between Porto Rico and Hispaniola, where, through the management of an Englishman, named Bolton, he obtained a supply of provisions from Curagoa. He now bought a sloop of Bolton, in which he stowed great part of his ill-gotten effects, and left the Quedah Merchant, with eighteen of the ship's company, in Bolton's care. While at St. Mary's, ninety men of Kidd's crew left him, and went on board the Mocha Merchant, an East India ship, which had just then commenced pirate. Kidd now sailed in the sloop, and touched at several places, where he disposed of a great part of his cargo, and then steered for Boston, in New England. In the interim, Bolton sold the Quedah Merchant to the Spaniards, and immediately sailed as a passenger, in a ship for Boston, where he arrived a considerable time before Kidd, and gave information of what happened, to Lord Bellamont. Kidd, therefore, on his arrival, was seized by order of his Lordship; when all he had to urge in his defence was, that he thought the Quedah Merchant was a lawful prize, as she was manned with Moors, though there was no kind of proof that this vessel had committed any act of piracy. Upon this, the Earl of Bellamont immediately dispatched an account to England of the circumstances that had arisen, and requested that a ship might be sent for

Kidd, who had committed several other notorious acts of piracy. The ship Rochester was accordingly sent to bring him to England; but this vessel, happening to be disabled, was obliged to return: a circumstance which greatly increased a public clamour which had for some time subsisted respecting this affair, and which, no doubt, took its rise from party prejudice. It was carried to such a height, that the Members of Parliament for several places were instructed to move the House for an enquiry into the affair; and, accordingly it was moved in the House of Commons, that "The letters-patent, granted to the Earl of Bellamont and others, respecting the goods taken from pirates, were dishonourable to the king, against the law of nations, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, an invasion of property and destructive to commerce." Though a negative was put on this motion, yet the enemies of Lord Somers and the Earl of Oxford continued to charge those noblemen with giving countenance to pirates; and it was even insinuated, that the Earl of Bellamont was not less culpable than the actual offenders. Another motion was accordingly made in the House of Commons to address his Majesty, that "Kidd might not be tried till the next Sessions of Parliament; and that the Earl of Bellamont might be directed to send home all examinations and other papers relative to the affair." This motion was carried, and the king complied with the request which was made. As soon as Kidd arrived in England, he was sent for, and examined at the bar of the House of Commons, with a view to fix part of his guilt on the parties who had been concerned in sending him on the expedition; but nothing arose to criminate any of those distinguished persons. Kidd, who was in some degree intoxicated, made a very contemptible appearance at the bar of the House; on which a member, who had been one of the most earnest to have him examined, violently exclaimed, "This fellow; I thought he had

been only a knave, but unfortunately he happens to be a fool likewise." Kidd was at length tried at the Old Bailey, and was convicted on the clearest evidence; but neither at that time nor afterwards charged any of his employers with being privy to his infamous proceedings. He suffered, with one of his companions, (Darby Mullins,) at Execution Dock, on the 23d of May, 1701. After Kidd had been tied up to the gallows, the rope broke,* and he fell to the ground; but being immediately tied up again, the Ordinary, who had before exhorted him, desired to speak with him once more; and, on this second application, entreated him to make the most careful use of the few farther moments thus providentially allotted him for the final preparation of his soul to meet its important change. These exhortations seemed to have the wished-for effect; and he was left, professing his charity to all the world, and his hopes of salvation through the merits of his Redeemer.

CAPTAIN PHILIP STAFFORD.

Executed for Highway Robbery.

THIS singular character was a native of Berkshire and born about the year 1622. His father had a small estate of about 50*l.* a year, which, by cultivating himself, he rendered his family comfortable

* In cases of this distressing nature, and which have often happened to the miserable sufferer, the sheriff ought to be punished. It is his duty to carry the sentence of the law into execution, and there can be no plea for not providing a rope of sufficient strength. In such a case as the last, it is in fact a double execution, inflicting unnecessary torments, both of body and mind, on the already wretched culprit.

Philip was an only child, and therefore received such an education as the place and the circumstances of his father could afford. But while at school, he was more distinguished for boxing and wrestling than for the exertion of his mental faculties.

When the time generally allotted to young men of a moderate fortune at school was expired, Philip was taken home, and destined by his father to follow the plough. In his youthful years he imbibed the principles of religion and loyalty, which were current in that eventful period. When war commenced between Charles I. and his subjects, Stafford was one of the first who joined the royal standard. He continued in the army during that unnatural rebellion, but his actions are involved in the obscurity of the times. It is obvious, however that he signalized himself, as he received the name of Captain during that war.

Upon the death of Charles, the opposite party were invested with all power, and the loyalists were constrained to conceal themselves from the fury of their adversaries. The small estate of Stafford was among many others sequestered, and he deprived of all means of subsistence. In these desperate circumstances he formed the resolution to make depredations upon the enemies of his late king. Upon his principles it was all justice that was wrested from them who had taken away the life of his prince and his paternal inheritance.

He first cast his eyes upon an old republican who had drunk deep in the troubled stream of the times, and had married a young lady in order to obtain her fortune. In the character of a servant, and assuming the dress and the language of the party, he succeeded in hiring himself as a servant into that family. By his insinuating address and engaging manners, he won the affections of his master, and was soon admitted to enter into conversation with his master and mistress, and in the most dexterous manner imitated the religious phrases and senti

ments of that party. But he soon employed language of a different kind to his mistress; alienated her affections from her lawful husband, and so grossly imposed upon him, that when he would sometimes unexpectedly find them alone and in close conversation, he would conclude that religion was the subject of their earnest conversation. Under the disguise of religion, and emboldened by the credulity of the old husband, Stafford remained with increasing favour in that family, until an heir was born to enjoy the fortune of the good old republican.

Indifferent to all the ties of honour and of religion, Stafford and the lady carried on their criminal correspondence; and often amused themselves with the credulity of the husband, and his unabated attachment to Stafford. In the moments of wanton levity, the lady had made him a present of a ring, and also of some jewels, and had not only informed him of a quantity of jewels which her husband had collected, but actually shewed him the place where they were deposited. The violent passion of avarice now assumed the superiority in his criminal mind, and he formed the resolution to seize the cabinet of jewels, and even to abandon his favourite mistress in quest of new adventures.

But his plan could not be effected without the aid of some other person, and he was long doubtful whom he could trust in so delicate and important a matter. At last he fixed upon one of the name of Tom Pretty, the son of a French refugee, whom he had formerly known at school, and with whose temper and disposition he was thoroughly acquainted. He accordingly provided a key to the door of the place where the jewels were deposited, took care to have the window so broke and injured that it appeared to have suffered violence from without, and a ladder brought and laid at the foot of the window, and such noise made as might be heard by some of the servants. Stafford, always attentive to

his duty and master's interest, was the first to give the alarm in the morning. The rest of the servants were called, they remembered to have heard the noise, they saw the ladder, and suspicion could rest upon none of them, far less upon the faithful Stafford.

Tom Pretty was successful in disposing of the jewels at a good price, received such a gratuity as was sufficient to retain him in the service of his new employer, who remained for some time in his station to prevent the shadow of guilt staining the fair character which he had so dexterously maintained.

Fully convinced that he could always render the ladies subservient to the accomplishment of his plans, Stafford next directed his attack upon the virtue of a very handsome lady who had been two years married. To his no small mortification, however, he found that she estimated its value at the sum of one hundred guineas. When all his attempts to alter her first proposal were unsuccessful, his inventive mind devised the following scheme to effectuate his purpose. Being upon friendly terms with the husband, and frequently visiting in the family, he one day took an opportunity to borrow an hundred guineas, under the pretence that he stood in need of that sum to complete a 500*l.* purchase, in the meantime showing him 400*l.* which he had in reserve from the late sale of the jewels. He readily obtained his request, and having arranged matters with the lady, he came, according to appointment, one day to her house, when several persons were at dinner, and the husband absent. He immediately pulled out his purse, and addressed her, saying, "I have borrowed one hundred guineas from your husband, and as he is not here, I will leave the money with you, and those here present will be witnesses to the payment." The good lady, unacquainted with the fact, that he had borrowed that sum from her husband, only supposed that this was a dextrous manœuvre to prevent suspicion, re-

ceived the money with all good humour. It is unnecessary to relate the sequel of the adventure.

In a few days after, Stafford took an opportunity, when the husband was present, to inform him, that, in the presence of several guests at his table, he had repaid the hundred guineas to his wife that he had lately borrowed from him. The lady changed colour, but could not deny the fact, and the husband was satisfied with the punctual repayment of his money. Nor was Stafford contented with the success of his adventure, but took care to have the same whispered all over the neighbourhood.

One day when Stafford was on his way to his native country, with a design only to see his relations, and not to rob any one, as at that time he was flush of money, fortune threw in his way a considerable prize which he could not refuse. At Maidenhead thicket, he overtook an old gentleman, who, from his appearance, he immediately supposed to be what was then quaintly termed, one of the godly. He accosted the traveller in his usual polite manner, and, soon discovering the turn of the old gentleman to be that of a puritanical methodist, he accorded his behaviour to the same character. The brethren were delighted with the good fortune which had thrown them together, and the old gentleman in particular expatiated upon the goodness of Providence in sending him such a companion; "but," says he, "we must ascribe every thing that befalls us to a wise Providence, and for my part I am always content with my lot, as being assured in myself, that all things are for the best, and work together for the good of the elect," of whom (as Stafford soon discovered by his conversation) he considered himself one. Being arrived, however, at the thickest part of the forest, Stafford addressed him in his real character, saying, that "as he was a man who could be content with any thing, and considered every thing as ordered for the best, that he had no occasion for so much money as he carried with him,

and presenting a pistol to his breast, demanded his purse, and told him he would pray that a good supper and a warm bed might be awaiting for him at the next inn. He received the old gentleman's purse with forty guineas in it, and, after leading him into the middle of the thicket, tied him to a tree, and galloped off through byways into Buckinghamshire.

He was overtaken by darkness before he had gained the high road, but observing a light at some distance, he rode up to it, and found it to proceed from a neat comfortable country lodging. He knocked at the door, and told, that having lost his way, and being benighted, if he could be favoured with a lodging for the night, he would thankfully pay for it. The mistress of the house had been expecting her husband from London, and thinking it was him, she came to the door, when, hearing his story, and believing him, as he appeared to be a gentleman, she ordered his horse to the stable, and invited him to partake of an elegant supper she had prepared for her husband, who seemed to have been detained longer than she expected. Stafford wondered at his good fortune, and resolved to make the best of this golden opportunity. To effect his purpose the readier, he pressed his hostess with wine, and entertained her with amorous songs. He succeeded to his desires, but the vicious habits in which he had now turned a proficient, had gained such an ascendant over his natural dispositions, that in this instance he was guilty of more than common felony: he, with very little gratitude for the great favours he had received, tied the lady to her bed, and forced her to discover to him where he would find the money and plate belonging to her husband. Having secured about 300*l.* worth of booty, he went to the stable, mounted his horse, and proceeded to London, by the most private way he could find, to avoid detection.

By success in his profession, Stafford amassed a

considerable sum of money ; therefore, in order to avoid discovery, as he was now well known all over the country, he retired to a village in the North of England, and there lived in the most retired and frugal manner. The more to avoid suspicion, he assumed the appearance of sanctity, attended the church, the private meetings, and exercising his talents, he soon acquired great popularity as a speaker among the simple country people. After he had continued there about a year, the minister of the congregation dying, he in a little time after was called to the charge, and, with seeming reluctance, he commenced preacher, with the annual income of forty pounds. In this station, Stafford acquitted himself to the entire satisfaction of his audience, until his predilection for the fair sex rendered it necessary for him secretly to retire from that place. Upon his departure, however, he took care to carry off the plate and linen of the church, to a considerable amount.

The Captain now assumed his proper character. About four miles from Reading, the Captain overtook a wealthy farmer who was returning from selling some wheat. He entered into conversation with him, and learning that he was possessed of a certain sum of money, he presented a pistol to his breast, threatening him with instant death unless he delivered up his purse. The terrified farmer instantly complied, and gave Stafford thirty-three pounds. But he had scarcely taken leave of the farmer, when two gentlemen, well mounted, came up to him, and being informed of what had happened, rode after Stafford, and, in the space of an hour, overtook and dismounted him, seized the money, and carried him before a justice of the peace, who committed him to prison. At the ensuing assizes he was tried and condemned. During his confinement, he lived in a sumptuous manner, was visited by many of his own profession, who formed a plan for his deliverance, and agreed to

make him their leader. The matter, however, transpiring, the day of his execution was changed, and Stafford miserably disappointed.

The Captain was dressed in a fine light coloured suit of clothes, with a nosegay in his breast, and appeared perfectly unconcerned. In passing a tavern, he called for a pint of wine, and drank it off, informing the landlord, that he would pay him when he returned. Arrived at the place of execution, he looked wistfully around, and endeavoured to prolong the time ; but when he saw none coming to his assistance, he became pale, and trembled greatly. When about to be turned off he presented the sheriff with a paper, containing a short statement of his adventures, and the causes which led him to embrace that infamous mode of life which brought him to such a fatal end.

THOMAS DUN.

Robber and Murderer.

A MAN who is not forced from necessity, or a desire of pleasure, to become dishonest, but follows his natural dispositions, in robbing and maltreating others, will generally be found to be destitute of every humane and generous principle. So will it be found with this character, a person of mean extraction, who was born in Bedfordshire, and who, even in childhood, was noted for his pilfering propensity, and the cruelty of his disposition. He lived in the time of Henry I. and so many were his atrocities, that we can only find limits for the recital of a few.

His first exploit was on the high way to Bedford,

where he met a waggon full of corn, going to market, drawn by a beautiful team of horses. He accosted the driver, and, in the middle of the conversation, stabbed him to the heart with a dagger which he always carried with him. He buried the body, and mounting the waggon, proceeded to the town, where he sold all off, and decamped with the money. He continued to commit many petty thefts and assaults, but judging it safer to associate himself with others, he repaired to a gang of thieves, who infested the country leading from St. Albans to Tocester, where they became such a terror, that the king had to build a town to check his power in the country, and which retains his name to this day, namely *Dunstable*.

This precaution was however of little avail, for he pursued his courses to a great extent. Among his gang were many artists, who enabled him to pick locks, wrench bolts, and use deaf files to great effect. One day having heard that some lawyers were to dine at a certain inn in Bedford, about an hour before the appointed time, he came running to the inn, and desires the landlord to hurry the dinner, and to have enough ready for ten or twelve. The company soon arrived, and the lawyers thought Dun a servant of the house, while those of the house supposed him an attendant of the lawyers. He bustled about, and the bill being called for, he collected it; and having some change to return to the company, they waited till his return; but growing weary, they rang the bell, and enquired for their money, when they discovered him to be an impostor. With the assistance of his associates, he made clear off with a considerable booty of cloaks, nats, silver spoons, and every thing of value upon which he could lay his hands.

After this adventure, Dun and his associates went and put up at another Inn. They rose in the night time, insulted the landlord, did violence to the landlady, then murdered them both, and pillaged

the house of every thing valuable. Dun had an animosity to lawyers, and he determined to play a rich one a trick. He waited upon him, and very abruptly demanded payment of a bond which he produced; and the gentleman found his name was so admirably forged, that he could not swear it was not his hand-writing. He assured Dun, however, that he had never borrowed the money, and would not pay the bond. He then left him, assuring the lawyer he would give him some employment. A law-suit was entered into, and several of his comrades came forward, and swore as to the debt being just, and he was about getting a decision in his favour, when the lawyer produced a forged receipt for the debt, which some of his clerks likewise swore to; upon which Dun was cast. He was in a passion at being outwitted, and swore "he never heard of such rogues, as to swear that they paid him a sum which was never borrowed."

This is one of the few instances in which he did not display that barbarity of disposition which is evinced in all his other adventures, and which makes us refrain from the enumeration of many of them. He became, however, such a terror to every one, that the Sheriff of Bedford sent a considerable force to attack him in his retreat. Finding upon a reconnoitre, however, that his force was equal, if not superior, to the Sheriff's, he commenced the attack, and completely routed them, taking eleven prisoners, whom he hung upon trees round the wood, to scare others by the example of their fate. The clothes of those they had hanged, served them to accomplish their next adventure, which was a design to rob the castle of a nobleman in the neighbourhood. They proceeded in the attire of the Sheriff's men, and demanded entrance in the name of the King, to make search for Dun. After searching every corner, they asked for the keys of the trunks to examine them, which when they received, they loaded themselves with booty and departed. The nobleman

complained to Parliament against the Sheriff, when, upon investigation, the trick was discovered.

Nothing prevented Dun from accomplishing any object which he had in view, as he possessed the greatest share of temerity and cruelty that could fall to the lot of man. He would, under the disguise of a gentleman, wait upon rich people, and, upon being shown into their room, murder them and carry away their money.

There was a rich knight in the neighbourhood, from whom Dun wished to have a little money. Accordingly he went and knocked at his door; the maid opening it, he enquired if her master was at home; and being answered in the affirmative, he instantly went up-stairs, and familiarly entered his room. Common compliments having past, he sat down in a chair, and began a humorous discourse, which attracted the attention of the knight. Dun then approached, and demanded a word or two in his ear: "Sir," says he, "my necessities come pretty thick upon me at present, and I am obliged to keep even with my creditors, for fear of cracking my fame and fortune, too. Now, having been directed to you by some of the heads of this parish, as a very considerable and liberal person, I am come to petition you in a modest manner, to lend me a thousand marks, which will answer all the demands upon me at present!" "A thousand marks!" answered the knight, "Why, man, that's a capital sum; and where's the inducement to lend you so much money, who are a perfect stranger to me; for to my eyes and knowledge, I never saw you before all the days of my life?"—"Sir, you must be mistaken, I am the honest grocer at Bedford, who has so often shared your favours." "Really, friend, I do not know you, nor shall I part with my money but on a good bottom: pray what security have you?" "Why, this dagger," says Dun, pulling it out of his breast, "is my constant security, and unless you let me have a thousand marks instantly,

"I shall pierce your heart!" This terrible menace produced the intended effect, and he delivered the money.

Having lost his road in the country, he arrived at a house where he enquired if they could accommodate a benighted traveller with a bed. The gentleman of the house politely told him that all his house was occupied with friends and relations who had just arrived to be present at the celebration of his daughter's marriage, which was to take place next day, otherwise he should have been very welcome. When he was unwillingly departing, the gentleman informed him, if he was not superstitious, or had courage enough, that there was one room in his house unoccupied, but that it was haunted. Dun was above all silly apprehensions of that nature, and, after being well entertained, retired to his room, the company all praying for his quiet rest. There was a good fire lighted in the room, and when all the house was at rest, he lay anxiously expecting something to appear, when the chamber door opens, and in comes the bride, of whom he had taken particular notice at supper. He was first at a loss to know whether it was only a resemblance, but soon satisfied himself that it was really the lady; though whether she was walking in her sleep or not, he could not say, but resolved to watch her motions. She seemed to look stedfastly upon his countenance, and then going round the bed, gently turned up the clothes, and lay down by his side, where she had not lain long, till she drew a rich diamond ring from her finger, then placed it on the pillow, and left the room with the same silent step as she had entered it. He did not wish to disturb her retreat, when she had left so good a prize behind her. He soon fell asleep, and dreamed that the lady again appeared, said that she detested the person with whom she was going to be married, and entreated him to assist her in this conjuncture. Dun, however, had got what he wanted, and departed next morning, without either satisfy-

ing the curiosity of the company, or thanking the gentleman for his kindness.

By this time Dun had become formidable both to the rich and the poor ; but one melancholy circumstance attended the depredations of this man, that almost in every instance, except those narrated, they were stained with blood. He continued his infamous course above twenty years, the vicinity of the river Ouse in Yorkshire being the usual scene of his exploits ; and being attended with fifty armed men on horseback, the inhabitants of the country were afraid to seize him.

Nor was his last adventure less remarkable than those of his former life. His infamy daily increasing, the people of that district were determined no longer to suffer his depredations. Though Dun was informed of what was intended, yet he still continued his wicked career. The country rising at last against him, he and his gang were so closely pursued, that they were constrained to divide, each taking shelter where he possibly could, and Dun concealed himself in a small village ; the general pursuit and search, however, continuing, he was discovered, and the house he was in surrounded. Two of the strongest posted themselves at the door ; with irresistible courage Dun seized his dagger, laid them both dead, bridled his horse, and, in the midst of the uproar, forced his way. To the number of an hundred and fifty armed with clubs, pitchforks, rakes, and whatever rustic weapons they could find, pursued him, drove him from his horse, but, to the astonishment of all, he again mounted, and, with his sword, cut his way through the crowd.

Multitudes flocking from all quarters, the pursuit was renewed. He was, a second time, dismounted, and now employing his feet, he ran for the space of two miles ; but when he halted to breathe a little, three hundred men were ready to oppose him. His courage and strength, however, still remaining unsubdued, he burst through them, fled over a valley, threw off his clothes, seized his sword in his teeth,

and plunged into a river, in order to gain the opposite bank.

To his sad surprise, however, he perceived it covered with new opponents : he swam down the river, was pursued by several boats, until he took refuge on a small island. Determined to give him no time to recover from his fatigue, they attacked him there. Thus closely pursued, he plunged again into the river with his sword in his teeth ; he was pursued by the boats, repeatedly struck with their oars ; and, after having received several strokes on his head, he was at last vanquished.

He was conducted to a surgeon to have his wounds dressed, then led before a Magistrate, who sent him to Bedford jail under a strong guard. Remaining there two weeks, until he was considerably recovered, a scaffold was erected in the market-place, and, without a formal trial, he was led forth to execution. When the two executioners approached him, he warned them of their danger if they should lay hands upon him ; he accordingly grasped both, and nine times overthrew them upon the stage before his strength was exhausted, so that they could not perform their duty. His hands were first chopped off at the wrist ; then his arms at the elbows ; next, about an inch from the shoulders ; his feet below the ankles ; his legs at the knee ; and his thighs at about five inches from his trunk ; the horrible scene was closed by severing his head from the body, and consuming it to ashes ; the other parts of his body were fixed up in the principal places of Bedfordshire, as a warning to his companions. The quantity of blood that he shed during his wicked career, restrains even the tear of pity upon his miserable fate.

HERMAN STRODTMAN,

Executed June 18, 1701, for the Murder of Peter Wolter, his fellow Apprentice,

WAS a German of a respectable family from Revel, in Lisland, of good education, and a protestant. In 1694, he, with a schoolfellow, named Wolter, were sent to London, and bound to a then eminent Dutch house, Stein and Dorien.

They served with diligence till a sister of Wolter married very advantageously, which so inflated her brother with pride, that he assumed a superiority over his fellow-apprentice, and which led to the fatal catastrophe. This arrogance produced quarrelling, and from words they proceeded to blows, and Wolter beat Strodtman twice; at one time in the compting-house, and at another before the servant-girls in the kitchen. Wolter likewise traduced Strodtman to his masters, who thereupon denied him the liberty and other gratifications that were allowed to his fellow-'prentice. Hereupon Strodtman conceived an implacable hatred against him, and resolved to murder him in some way or other. His first intention was to have poisoned him; and with this view he mixed some white mercury with a white powder, which Wolter used to keep in a glass in his bed-room, as a remedy for the scurvy: but, this happening to be done in the midst of winter, Wolter had declined taking the powder; so that the other thought of destroying him by the more expeditious method of stabbing.

This scheme, however, he delayed from time to time, while Wolter's pride and arrogance increased to such a degree, that the other thought he should at length be tempted to murder him in sight of the family. Hereupon Strodtman desired one of the maids to intimate to his masters his inclination to

be sent to the West Indies; but no answer being given to this request, Strodtman grew again uneasy, and his enmity to his fellow-'prentice increased to such a degree, that the Dutch maid, observing the agitation of his mind, advised him to a patient submission of his situation, as the 'most probable method of securing his future peace. Unfortunately he paid no regard to this good advice; but determined on the execution of the fatal plan, which afterwards led to his destruction.

On the morning of Good Friday, Strodtman was sent out on business; but, instead of transacting it, he went to Greenwich, with an intention of returning on Saturday, to perpetrate the murder; but, reflecting that his fellow-'prentice was to receive the Sacrament on Easter-Sunday, he abhorred the thought of taking away his life before he had partaken of the Lord's Supper: wherefore he sent a letter to his masters on the Saturday, in which he asserted that he had been impressed, and was to be sent to Chatham on Easter-Monday, and put on board a ship in the royal navy; but while he was at Greenwich, he was met by a young gentleman who knew him, and who, returning to London, told Messrs. Stein and Dorien, he believed that the story of his being impressed was all invention. Hereupon Mr. Stein went to Chatham, to enquire into the real state of the case; when he discovered that the young gentleman's suspicions were but too well founded.

Strodtman went to the church at Greenwich twice on Easter-Sunday, and on the approach of evening came to London, and slept at the Dolphin-inn in Bishopsgate-street. On the following day he returned to Greenwich, and continued either at that place, or at Woolwich and the neighbourhood, till Tuesday, when he went to London, lodged in Lombard Street, and returned to Greenwich on the Wednesday.

Coming again to London on the evening of the

succeeding day, he did not return any more to Greenwich; but going to the house of his masters, he told them that what he had written was true, for that he had been pressed. They gave no credit to this tale, but told him they had enquired into the affair, and bid him quit their house. This he did, and took lodgings in Moorfields, where he lay on that and the following night, and on the Saturday he took other lodgings at the Sun, in Queen-street, London.

Before the preceding Christmas, he had procured a key on the model of that belonging to his masters' house, that he might go in and out at his pleasure. Originally he intended to have made no worse use of this key; but, it being still in his possession, he let himself into the house between eight and nine o'clock in the evening of the Saturday last mentioned; but, hearing the footsteps of some persons going up stairs, he concealed himself behind a door in the passage. As soon as the noise arising from this circumstance was over, he went up one pair of stairs to a room adjoining the compting-house, where he used to sleep, and having found a tinder-box, he lighted a candle, and put it into his masters' dark lanthorn, which he carried up stairs to an empty room, next to that in which Peter Wolter used to lay. Here he continued a short time, when hearing somebody coming up stairs, he put out his candle, and fell asleep soon afterwards.

Awaking about twelve o'clock, he listened for a while; and, hearing no noise, he imagined that the family was fast asleep. Hereupon he descended to the room on the first floor, where the tinder-box lay; and, having lighted his candle, he went to the compting-house, and took a sum of money, and several notes and bills.

This being done, he took a piece of wood with which they used to beat tobacco, and going up stairs again, he hastily entered the room where Peter Wolter was asleep, and advancing to his bed-side,

struck him violently on the head; and though his heart in some degree failed him, yet he continued his strokes. As the wounded youth groaned much, he took the pillow, and laying it on his mouth, sat down on the side of the bed, and pressed it hard with his elbow, till no appearance of life remained.

Perceiving Wolter to be quite dead, he searched his chest of drawers and pockets, and took as much money as, with what he had taken from his masters, amounted to above eighty pounds. He then packed up some linen and woollen clothes; and, going down one pair of stairs, he threw his bundle into a house that was uninhabited.

He then went up stairs again, and having cut his candle, lighted both pieces, one of which he placed in a chair close to the bed-curtains, and the other on a chest of drawers, with a view to have set the house on fire, to conceal the robbery and murder of which he had been guilty. This being done, he went through a window into the house where he had thrown his bundle; and in this place he staid till five in the morning, when he took the bundle with him to his lodgings in Queen-street, where he shifted his apparel, and went to the Swedish church in Trinity-lane. After the worship of the congregation was ended, he heard a bill of thanks read which his masters had sent, in devout acknowledgement of the narrow escape that themselves and their neighbours had experienced from the fire. Struck by this circumstance, Strodtman burst into tears; but he endeavoured as much as possible to conceal his emotion from a gentleman who sat in the same pew with him, and who, on their coming out of the church, informed him that the house of Messrs. Stein and Dorian narrowly escaped being burnt the preceding night, by an accident then unknown, but that the destruction was providentially prevented by the Dutch maid smelling the fire, and seeing the smoke, so that, on her alarming her

master, the flames were extinguished by a pail of water.

Strodtman made an appointment to meet the gentleman who gave him this information, on the outer walks of the Royal-Exchange, in the afternoon, to go to the Dutch church in the Savoy: but the gentleman not coming to his time, he went alone to Stepney church, and, after service was ended, he walked towards Mile End, where he saw the bodies of Michael Van Berghen and Dromelius, who had been hung in chains, as before-mentioned. This sight gave him a shocking idea of the crime of which he had been guilty, and he reflected, that he might soon become a like horrid spectacle to mankind. Hence he proceeded to Blackwall, where he saw the captain of a French pirate hanging in chains, which gave fresh force to the gloomy feelings of his mind, and again taught him to dread a similar fate. After having been thus providentially led to the sight of objects which he would otherwise have avoided, he returned to his lodgings in great dejection of mind, but far from repenting, or even being properly sensible of the crime he had committed; for, as he himself said, "his heart did not yet relent for what he had done, and if he had failed in murdering his fellow-'prentice in his bed, he should have destroyed him some other way."

On his return to his lodgings he ate his supper, said his prayers, and went to bed. On the following morning, he went to the White Horse-inn without Cripplegate, to receive cash for a bill of twenty pounds, which he had stolen from his masters house; but the person who was to have paid it being gone out, he was desired to call again about twelve o'clock. In the interim he went to the house of a banker in Lombard-street, who requested him to carry some money to his (the banker's) sister, who was at a boarding-school at Greenwich. Strodtman said he could not go till the following day, when he would execute the commission: but before

he left the house, the banker told him that a young man, named Green, had been to inquire for him on which Strodtman said, that if Mr. Green returned, he should be informed that he would come back at one o'clock. Hence he went again to the White Horse-inn, where he found the party, who told him that he had no orders to pay the money for the bill.

Having received this answer, he went to his lodgings, where he dined, and then went to the banker's in Lombard-street, where his master Stein, with Mr. Green and another gentleman, were waiting for him. Mr. Stein asked him if he would go willingly to his house, or be carried by porters: and he replied, that he would go of his own accord. When he came there, he was asked some questions respecting the atrocious crimes of which he had been guilty: but, persisting that he was innocent, he was searched, and the 20*l.* bill found in his possession. They then inquired where he lodged, to which he answered, in Moorfields; whereupon they all went thither together, but the people denied his lodging there at that time.

Mr. Stein, finding him unwilling to speak the truth, told him, that if he would make a full discovery, he should be sent abroad out of the reach of justice. Hereupon he mentioned his real lodgings; on which they went thither in a coach, and finding the bills and other stolen effects, Strodtman was carried before Sir Humphrey Edwin, who committed him to Newgate, on his own confession.

He was not tried at the first Sessions after his commitment, and, in the interval that he lay in prison, some bad people who were confined there trumped up an idle tale for him to tell when he came to trial, and prevailed on him to plead not guilty; a circumstance which he afterwards sincerely repented of. On his trial, however, there were so many corroborative proofs of his guilt, that the jury could not hesitate to convict him, and he received the sentence awarded by law.

While he was under sentence of death, his behaviour was remarkably contrite and penitent; and when the ordinary of Newgate acquainted him that the warrant for his execution was come down, and that he would suffer in a few days, he said, "The Lord's will be done! I am willing to die, only I beg of God that I may not (as I deserve) die an eternal death; and that though I die here for my most heinous and enormous crimes, yet I may, for the love of Christ, live eternally with him in heaven:" to which he added, "God bless the king, and all my honourable judges: they have done me no wrong; but 'tis I have done great wrong. The Lord be merciful to me, a great sinner, else I perish."

At times he seemed to despair, because he feared that his repentance was not equal to his guilt; but then again his mind was occasionally warmed with the hope that his penitence was such as would lead to salvation.

When at the place of execution, he acknowledged his crime, for which he professed the sincerest sorrow and repentance; he begged pardon of God for having endeavoured, with presumptuous lies, to conceal those crimes, which being punished in this world, his eternal punishment in the next might be avoided. He died full of contrition, penitence, and hope: and suffered at Tyburn on the 18th June, 1701; and it was remarked that he kept his hand lifted up for a considerable time after the cart was drawn away.

THE LIFE OF SAWNEY BEANE.

THE following narrative presents such a picture of human barbarity, that were it not attested by the most unquestionable historical evidence, it would be rejected as altogether fabulous and incredible.

Sawney Beane was born in the county of East Lothian, about eight miles east of Edinburgh, in the reign of James VI. His father was an hedger and ditcher, and brought up his son to the same laborious employment. Naturally idle and vicious, he abandoned that place, along with a young woman equally idle and profligate, and retired to the desarts of Galloway, and took up their habitation by the sea side. The place which Sawney and his wife selected for their dwelling, was a cave of about a mile in length, and of considerable breadth; so near the sea, that the tide often penetrated into the cave above two hundred yards. The entry had many intricate windings and turnings which led to the extremity of the subterraneous dwellings, which was literally "the habitation of horrid cruelty."

Sawney and his wife took shelter in this cave, and commenced their depredations. To prevent the possibility of detection, they murdered every person that they robbed. Destitute also of the means of obtaining any other food, they resolved to live upon human flesh. Accordingly, when they had murdered any man, woman or child, they carried them to their den, quartered them, salted and pickled the members, and dried them for food. In this manner they lived, carrying on their depredations and murders, until they had eight sons and six daughters, eighteen grandsons and fourteen granddaughters, all the offspring of incest.

But, though they soon became numerous; yet, such was the multitude who fell into their hands, that they had often superabundance of provisions, and would, at a distance from their own habitation, throw legs and arms of dried human bodies into the sea by night. These were often thrown out by the tide, and taken up by the country people, to the great consternation and dismay of all the surrounding inhabitants. Nor could any discover what had befallen the many friends, relations, and neighbours who had unfortunately fallen into the hands of these merciless canibals.

In proportion as Sawney's family increased, every one that was able, acted his part in their horrid assassinations. They would some times attack four or six men on foot, but never more than two upon horse-back. To prevent the possibility of escape, they would lay in ambush in every direction, that if they escaped those who first attacked, they might be assailed with renewed fury by another party, and inevitably murdered. By this means, they always secured their prey, and prevented detection.

At last, however, the vast number who were slain, raised the inhabitants of the country, and all the woods and lurking places were carefully searched; and though they often passed by the mouth of the horrible den, it was never once suspected that any human being resided there. In this state of uncertainty and suspense, concerning the authors of such frequent massacres, several innocent travellers and innkeepers were taken up upon suspicion; because, the persons who were missing, had been seen last in their company, or had last resided at their houses. The effect of this well-meant and severe justice, constrained the greater part of the innkeepers in these parts, to abandon such employments, to the great inconvenience of those who travelled through that district.

Meanwhile, the country became depopulated, and the whole nation was surprised, how such numerous and unheard of villanies and cruelties could be perpetrated, without the least discovery of the abominable actors. At length, Providence interposed in the following manner to terminate the horrible scene: One evening, a man and his wife were riding home upon the same horse from a fair which had been in the neighbourhood; and being attacked, he made the most vigorous resistance; unfortunately, however, his wife was dragged from behind him, carried to a little distance, and her entrails taken out. Struck with grief and horror, the husband continued to redouble his efforts to escape, and even trod some of them down under his horse's feet. Fortunately

for him, and for the inhabitants of that part of the country, in the mean time, twenty or thirty in a company came riding home from the same fair. Upon their approach, Sawney and his bloody crew fled into a thick wood, and hasted to their infernal den.

This man, who was the first that had ever escaped out of their hands, related to his neighbours what had happened, and shewed them the mangled body of his wife which lay at a distance, the blood-thirsty wretches not having time to carry it along with them. They were all struck with astonishment and horror, took him with them to Glasgow, and reported the whole adventure to the chief magistrate of the city. Upon this intelligence, he wrote to the King, informing him of the matter.

In a few days, his Majesty in person, accompanied by four hundred men, went in quest of the perpetrators of such cruelties. The man who had his wife murdered before his eyes, went as their guide, with a great number of blood-hounds, that no possible means might be left unattempted to discover the haunt of these execrable villains.

They searched the woods, traversed, and examined the sea shore; but, though they passed by the entrance into their cave, they had no suspicion that any creature resided in that dark and dismal abode. Fortunately, however, some of the blood-hounds entered the cave, raised up an uncommon barking and noise, indicating that they were about to seize their prey. The King and his men returned, but could scarcely conceive how any human being could reside in a place of utter darkness, and where the entrance was difficult and narrow, but as the blood-hounds increased in their vociferation, and refusing to return, it occurred to all that the cave ought to be explored to its extremity. Accordingly a sufficient number of torches were provided. The hounds were permitted to pursue their course; a great number of men penetrated through all the intricacies of the path, and at length arrived at the private residence of these horrible canibals.

They were followed by all the band who were shocked to behold a sight unequalled in Scotland, if not in any part of the universe. Legs, arms, thighs, hands, and feet, of men, women, and children, were suspended in rows like dried beef. Some limbs and other members were soaked in pickle; while a great mass, of money, both of gold and silver, watches, rings, pistols, cloths, both woollen and linen, with an innumerable quantity of other articles, were either thrown together in heaps, or suspended upon the sides of the cave.

The whole cruel brutal family, to the number formerly mentioned, were seized; the human flesh buried in the sand of the sea-shore; the immense booty carried away, and the king marched to Edinburgh with the prisoners. This new and wretched spectacle attracted the attention of the inhabitants, who flocked from all quarters to see this bloody and unnatural family as they passed along, which had increased, in the space of twenty five years, to the number of twenty-seven men, and twenty-one women. Arrived in the capital, they were all confined in the tolbooth under a strong guard; they were next day conducted to the common place of execution in Leith Walk, and executed without any formal trial, it being deemed unnecessary to try those who were avowed enemies of all mankind, and of all social order.

The enormity of their crimes dictated the severity of their death. The men had their privy-members thrown into the fire, their hands and legs were severed from their bodies, and they permitted to bleed to death. The wretched mother of the whole crew, the daughters and grandchildren, after being spectators of the death of the men, were cast into three separate fires, and consumed to ashes. Nor did they, in general, display any signs of repentance or regret, but continued, with their last breath, to pour forth the most dreadful curses and imprecations upon all around, and upon all those who were

instrumental in bringing them to such well merited punishments.

MARY ADAMS,

Executed at Tyburn, for privately Stealing.

THIS unhappy woman was born at Reading, in Berkshire, and when she was old enough to go to service, went to live with a grocer in that town. Mary being a girl of vivacity and a genteel figure, she unfortunately attracted the regard of the grocer's son, and the consequence of their connection became very conspicuous in a short time.

As soon as it was evident that she was pregnant, she was dismissed from her master's service, on which she immediately made oath that his son was the father of the child thereafter to be born: a circumstance that compelled the old gentleman to support her till after she was brought to bed.

She had not been delivered long before she went to London, and entered into the service of a mercer in Cheapside, where, by a prudent conduct, she might have retrieved the character she had forfeited in the country; but though she had already suffered for her indiscretion, an intimacy soon subsisted between her master and herself; but as their associations could not conveniently be held at home, they contrived to meet on evenings at other places, when the mistress of the house was gone to the theatre, or out on a visit.

This connection continued till the girl was far advanced in her pregnancy; when the master, apprehensive of disagreeable consequences at home, advised the girl to quarrel with her mistress, in order that she might be dismissed, and then took a lodging for her at Hackney, where she remained

till she was delivered ; and in the mean time the connection between her and her master continued as before. Being brought to bed of a child that died in a few hours after its birth, the master thought himself happy, supposing he could easily free himself from the incumbrance of the mother, of whom he now began to be heartily tired.

When the girl recovered from her lying-in, he told her she must go to service, as it did not suit him to maintain her any longer ; but this enraged her to the highest degree, and she threatened to discover the nature of their connection to his wife, unless he would make her a present of twenty guineas ; and with this demand he thought it prudent to comply, happy to get rid of her even on such terms.

Being now in possession of money, and in no want of clothes, in which to make a genteel appearance, she removed from Hackney to Wych-street, near Temple-bar ; but was scarcely settled in her new lodgings, before she sent a letter to the mercer's wife, whom she acquainted with the nature of the connection that had subsisted between her late master and herself, but she did not mention her place of abode in this letter.

The consequence was, that the mercer was obliged to acknowledge the crime of which he had been guilty, and solicit his wife's pardon, in terms of the utmost humiliation. This pardon was promised, but whether it was ever ratified remains a doubt.

Mrs. Adams had the advantage of an engaging figure ; and, passing as a young widow in her new lodgings, she was soon married to a young fellow in the neighbourhood ; but it was not long before he discovered the imposition that had been put on him, on which he embarked on board a ship in the royal navy.

By this time Mrs. Adams's money was almost expended : but as her clothes were yet good, an attorney of Clement's-Inn took her into keeping ; and

after she had lived a short time with him, she went to another of the same profession, with whom she cohabited above two years; but, on his marriage, she was once more abandoned to seek her fortune.

Fertile of invention, and too proud to accept a common service, she became connected with a notorious bawd of Drury-lane, who was very glad of her assistance, and promised herself considerable advantage from the association. In this situation Mrs. Adams displayed her charms to a considerable advantage, and was as happy as any common prostitute can expect to be: but, alas! what is this happiness but a prelude to the extremity of misery and distress? Such, indeed, it was found by Mrs. Adams, who having been gratified by a gentleman with a considerable sum of money, the bawd quarrelled with her respecting the dividing of it, and a battle ensuing, our heroine was turned out of the house, after she had got severely bruised in the contest.

After this she used to parade the Park in the daytime, and walk the streets in the evening, in search of casual lovers; at length she joined the practice of theft to that of incontinence, and few of her chance acquaintance escaped being robbed. She was often taken into custody for these practices, but continually escaped through defect of evidence.

But an end was soon put to her depredations; for having enticed a gentleman to a bagnio near Covent Garden, she picked his pocket of all his money, and a bank-note to a large amount, and left him while he was asleep. When the gentleman awaked, he sent immediate notice to the bank to stop payment; and as Mrs. Adams came soon after to receive the money for the note, she was taken into custody, and lodged in prison; and being in a short time tried at the Old Bailey, she was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 16th of June, 1702.

MAJOR STEDE BONNET.

Executed for Piracy.

THIS pirate was a gentleman of a considerable fortune in the Island of Barbadoes; it was therefore surprising that he should embark in such a dishonourable and dangerous undertaking. Having formed his resolution, he equipped a small vessel of ten guns and seventy men at his own expense, and in the night commenced his voyage.

In this vessel, named the *Revenge*, he sailed for the Cape of Virginia, where he captured several vessels, which he plundered. After several good prizes, he directed his course to Long Island, where he took a sloop bound for the West Indies, and then landed some men at Gardner's Island, paid for whatever provisions were necessary, and retired without doing any injury. His next adventure, was the capturing two other vessels.

The Major found no small difficulty in reconciling the different opinions of his crew, on what course they should next steer; being himself no sailor, he was frequently under the necessity of yielding to the erroneous opinion of others. He at last found an accomplished co-adjutor in Edward Teach, commonly called *Black Beard*. To him the Major's crew united their fortunes, while he himself went on board Teach's ship, and remained as a private sailor. In this station, Bonnet began to reflect upon his past life, and was filled with remorse and shame in consequence of his conduct. This change in his sentiments was discovered by his companions, and he avowed his ardent wish to retire into some foreign country to spend the remainder of his days in solitude.

Black Beard sometime after surrendered to the royal proclamation, and obtained pardon. The Major then assumed the command of his own ships,

immediately sailed to Bath Town in North Carolina, and likewise surrendered to his Majesty's proclamation.

The war now commenced between the triple allies and Spain, and Major Bonnet went to the island of St. Thomas, to obtain leave of the Emperor to privateer upon the Spaniards. Upon his return he found, that Black Beard had pillaged the great ships of money and arms, and set on shore in a desolate island seventeen of the men; which Bonnet being informed of by two who had escaped, he sent the long boat to their assistance, so that, after remaining two days without food, and in the prospect of a lingering death, they were all taken on board the Major's ships.

Bonnet then informed his men, that his intention was to take a commission to act against the Spaniards; and that he would take them along with him if they were inclined. To this they all readily complied. Just, however, as they were about to sail, they received intelligence, that Black Beard was not far off, with only eighteen or twenty men. The Major pursued, but was too late to apprehend him. Disappointed in their pursuit, they directed their course to Virginia. When off the Capes, they met a vessel, out of which they took twelve barrels of pork, and four hundred weight of bread, and, in return, gave them eight or ten casks of rice, and an old cable. Two days after, he captured a vessel off Cape Henry; in which were several casks of rum, and other articles of which they stood greatly in want.

Under the name of Captain Thomas, Major Bonnet suddenly resumed his former depredatory courses. Off Cape Henry, he took two ships bound from Virginia to Glasgow, which only supplied him with some hundreds weight of tobacco. The following day he seized one bound to Bermudas, which supplied him with some twenty barrels of pork, and in return, gave her two barrels of rice and a boge-

head of molasses. From this ship, two men entered into their service. The next prize was a Virginian bound for Glasgow, from which they received nothing of value. In the course of their cruising, several vessels were captured, though of no considerable amount.

Our pirates next sailed for Cape Fier river, where they waited too long, because their vessel proved leaky, and they could not proceed until she was refitted. A small shallop now afforded the materials for this purpose. Meanwhile, the intelligence was received, that a pirate was discovered with her prizes at no great distance; upon this information, the Council of South Carolina was alarmed, and two vessels were equipped and sent in search of the pirates. After a considerable search, they were discovered,—a severe engagement ensued, and Bonnet and his crew were made prisoners. In a short time, however, the Major and one Herriot made their escape. This greatly alarmed the inhabitants, lest he should again find means to get a vessel, and wreck his vengeance upon them. Accordingly, one Colonel Rhet was sent in pursuit of him, and a reward of seven hundred pounds offered for his apprehension. They were discovered; Herriot was killed upon the spot, the Major surrendered, was brought to Charlestown and along with several others, was tried, found guilty, and received the sentence of death.

THOMAS ESTRICK,

*Executed for Housebreaking on the 10th of March,
1703.*

WAS born in the Borough of Southwark, in the year 1676. His father was a currier, and instructed him in his own business; but the boy shewed a very early attachment to pleasures and gratifications above his age, and incompatible with his situation.

When the time of his apprenticeship was expired, he was of too unsettled a disposition to follow his business, and therefore engaged in the service of a gentleman of fortune at Hackney; but he had not been long in this new place, before his master was robbed of plate, and other valuable effects to the amount of above eighty pounds:—The fact was, that Estrick had stolen these effects, but such was the ascendancy that he had obtained over his master, and such the baseness of his own disposition, that he had art enough to impute the crime to one of the servant maids, who was turned out of the house, with every circumstance of unmerited disgrace.

Estrick, having quitted this service, took a shop in Cock-Alley, near Cripplegate church, where he carried on the business to which he was bred; and while in this station he courted a girl of reputation, to whom he was soon afterwards married. It should be remarked, that he had been instigated to rob his master at Hackney, by some young fellows of a profligate disposition; and he had not been married more than half a year, when these dissolute companions threatened to give him up to justice, if he refused to bribe them to keep the secret.

Estrick, terrified at the thoughts of a prosecution, gave them his note of hand for the sum they demanded but when the note became due, he was unable to pay it; on which he was arrested, and lay some time in prison: but at length obtained, his liberty in defect of the prosecution of the suit.

As soon as he was at large, he went to lodge with a person who kept his former house in Cock-Alley; but, on taking possession of his lodgings, he found that a woman who lodged and died in the room during his absence, had left a box containing cash to the amount of about ninety pounds.

Having possessed himself of this sum, he opened a shop in Long-Alley, Moorfields; but his old associates having propagated a report to the prejudice of his character, he thought he should not be

safe in that situation ; and therefore took shipping for Holland, having previously disposed of his effects. On his arrival in Holland he found no opportunity of employing his little money to any advantage ; and therefore spent the greater part of it, and then returned to his native country.

It was not long after his return, before he found himself reduced to great distress ; on which he had recourse to a variety of illegal methods to supply his necessities. He was guilty of privately stealing, was a house-breaker, a street-robber, and a highwayman. In a short time, however, the career of his wickedness was at an end.

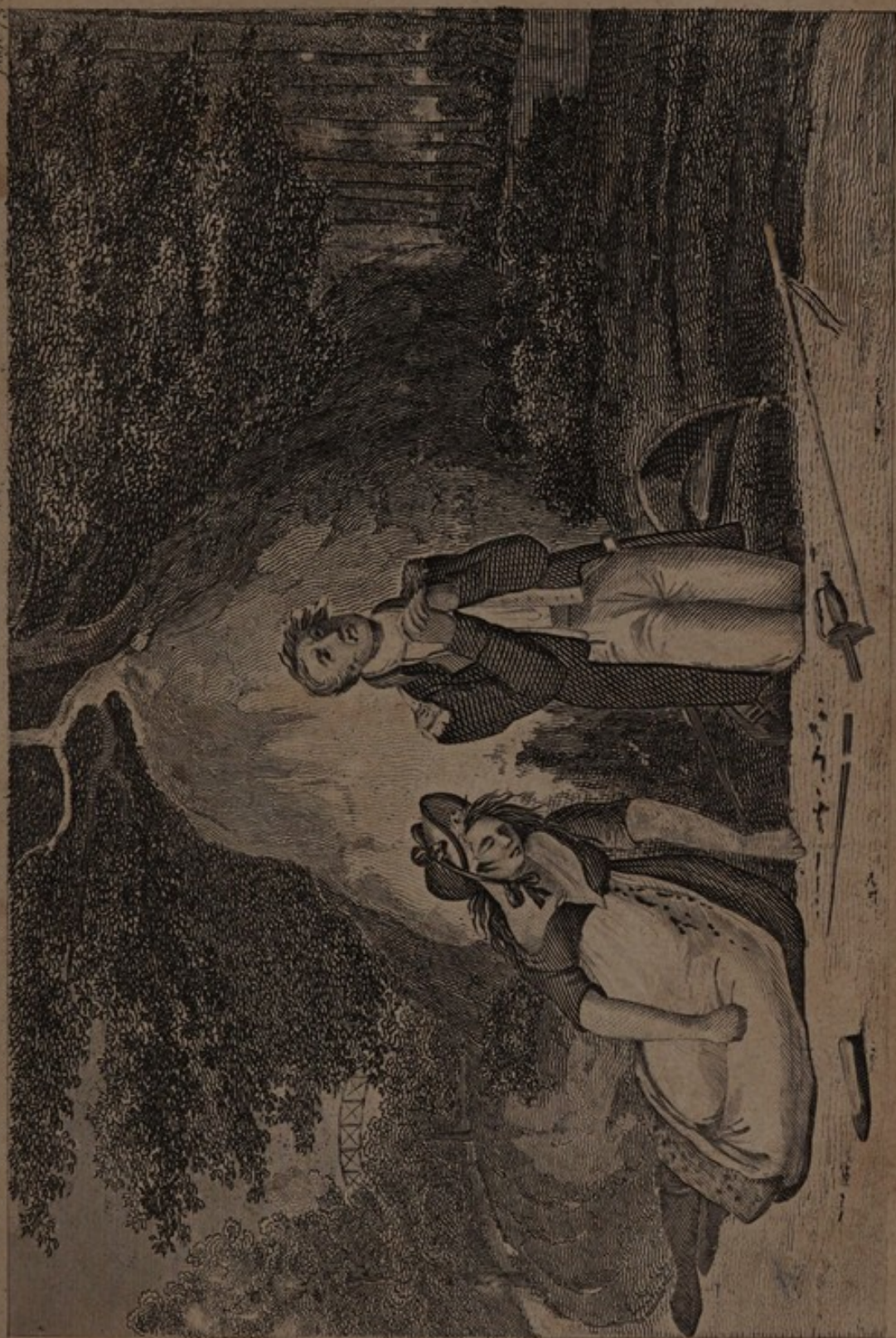
He was apprehended, tried ; and convicted ; and, in consequence thereof, was executed at Tyburn on the 10th of March, 1703, before he had attained the age of twenty seven years.

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI,

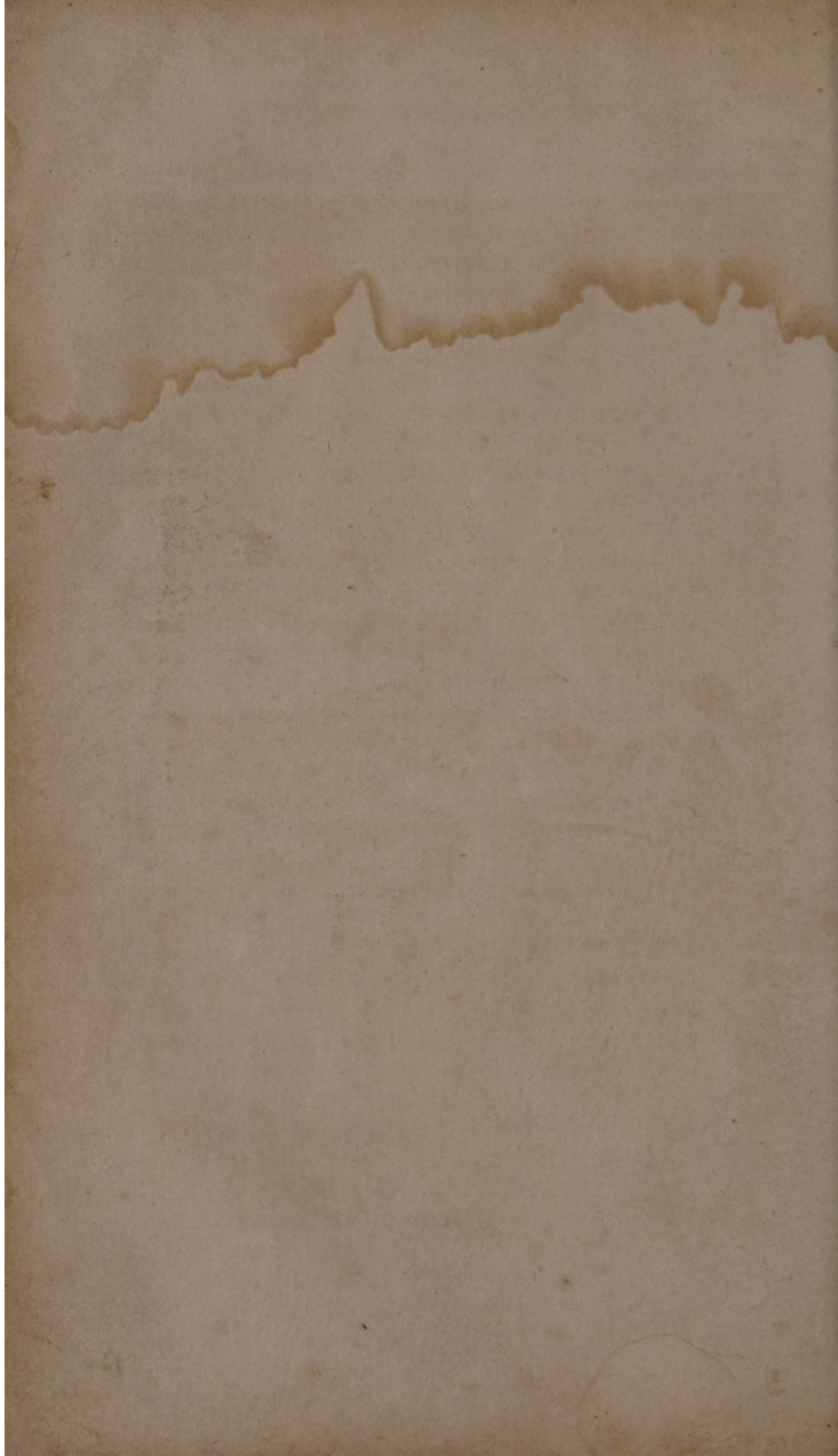
Murderer, Executed on the 21st of July, 1703.

THIS is a case, though of the most heinous nature, yet the perpetrator is entitled to some commiseration. He was a foreigner, but had served the King of England with bravery as a soldier ; and was inveigled by an artful female imposter into marriage. He did not seriously resent the trick played upon him, but continued his habits of industry and integrity, until, on being grossly assaulted by this woman who had led him a wretched life, he killed her in the scuffle which ensued.

This unfortunate man was the son of Protestant parents, born at Saverdun in the county of Foix, and province of Languedoc, in France. He received a religious education ; and, when he arrived at years of maturity, left his own country on account of the persecution then prevailing there, and



THE MURDER OF DR. DRAMATTI.



went to Geneva. From thence he travelled into Germany, and served as a horse-grenadier under the Elector of Brandenburg, who was afterwards King of Prussia. When he had been in this sphere of life about a year he came over to England and entered into the service of Lord Haversham, with whom he remained about twelve months, and then enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of Colonel de la Meloniere. Having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was dismissed from farther service; in consequence of which Dramatti obtained his liberty. He now became acquainted with a widow, between fifty and sixty years of age; who pretending she had a great fortune, and allied to the royal family of France, he soon married her, not only on account of her supposed wealth and rank, but also of her understanding English and Irish, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could speak the language of the country in which he proposed to spend the remainder of his life. As soon as he had discovered that his wife had no fortune, he took a small house and a piece of ground, about ten miles from Cork, intending to turn farmer; but being altogether ignorant of husbandry, he found it impossible to subsist by that profession, on which he went to Cork, and worked as a skinner, being the trade to which he was brought up. At the expiration of a twelvemonth from his coming to that city, he went to London, and offered his service again to Lord Haversham, and was admitted as one of his domestics. His wife, unhappy on account of their separate residence, wished to live with him at Lord Haversham's, which he would not consent to, saying, that his Lordship did not know he was married. Hereupon she entreated him to quit his service, which he likewise refused, saying, that he could not provide for himself so well in any other situation, and that it would be ungenerous to leave so indulgent a master. The wife now began to evince the jealousy of her disposition, and intimated that Dramatti had

fixed his affections on some other woman; and the following circumstance aggravated the malignant disorder that preyed upon her mind: Dramatti being attacked with a violent fever, about the Christmas preceding the time the murder was committed, his noble master gave orders that all possible care should be taken of him at his Lordship's expense. At this period Mrs. Dramatti paid a visit to her husband, and again urged him to quit his service, which he positively refused. A servant-girl came into the room, bringing him some water-gruel; and the wife, suspecting that this was her rival in her husband's affections, once more entreated him to leave his place; in answer to which he said he must be out of his senses to abandon a situation in which he was so well provided for, and treated with such humanity.

Dramatti, being recovered from his illness, visited his wife at her lodgings as often as was consistent with the duties of his station; but this not being so often as she wished him to come, she grew more uneasy than before. At length Lord Haversham took lodgings at Kensington, and Dramatti was so busy in packing up some articles on the occasion, that he had no opportunity of acquainting his wife with their removal. At length she learnt this circumstance from another quarter; on which, inflamed to the highest degree of rage, she went to Kensington, to reproach her husband with his unkindness to her, though he declared he always maintained her as well as he was able, and as a proof of it had given her three guineas but a little time before the murder was committed. Frequent were the disputes between this unhappy man and his wife, till on the 9th of June, 1703, Dramatti being sent to London, and his business lying near Soho, he called on his wife, who lodged in that neighbourhood; and, having been with her some time, he was about to take his leave; but she laid hold on him, and wanted to detain him.—Having got away from her, he went towards Charing-cross, to which place she

followed him ; but at length she seemed to yield to his persuasions, that she would go home, as he told her he was going to his Lord in Spring Gardens ; instead, however, of going home, she went and waited for him at or near Hyde-park gate, and in the evening he found her there, as he was going to Kensington. At the Park gate she stopped him, and insisted he should go no further unless he took her with him. He left her abruptly, and went towards Chelsea ; but she followed him till they came near Bloody-bridge, where the quarrel being vehemently renewed, she seized his neck-cloth, and would have strangled him ; whereupon he beat her with his cane and sword, which latter she broke with her hands, as she was remarkable for her strength ; and, if he had been unarmed, could have easily overpowered him. Having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion immediately began to subside, and, falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid sin of which he had been guilty. He then went on to Kensington, where his fellow-servants observing that his clothes were bloody, he said he had been attacked by two men in Hyde-park, who would have robbed him of his clothes, but that he defended himself, and broke the head of one of them. This story was credited for a short time, and on the following day Dramatti went to London, where he heard a paper read in the streets, respecting the murder that had been committed. Though he dreaded being taken into custody every moment, yet he did not seek to make his escape, but dispatched his business in London, and returned to Kensington. On the following day the servants heard an account of the murder that had been committed near Bloody-bridge ; they immediately hinted to his Lordship that they suspected Dramatti had murdered his wife, as they had been known to quarrel before, and as he came home the preceding evening with his sword broke, the hilt of

it bruised, his cane shattered, and some blood on his clothes. Upon this, Lord Haversham, with a view to employ him, that he might not think he was suspected, bid him get the coach ready, and in the interim sent for a constable, who, on searching him, found a woman's cap in his pocket, which afterwards proved to have belonged to his wife.—When he was examined before a justice of the peace, he confessed he had committed the crime; but, in extenuation of it, said, that his wife was a worthless woman who had entrapped him into marriage, by pretending to be of the blood-royal of France, and a woman of fortune. On his trial, it appeared that he went to Lord Haversham's chamber late on the night on which the murder was committed, after that nobleman was in bed; and it was supposed he had an intention of robbing his Lordship, who called out to know what he wanted. But in a solemn declaration Dramatti made after his conviction, he stedfastly denied all intention of robbing his master, declaring he only went into the room to fetch a silver tumbler which he had forgot, that he might have it in readiness to take in some ass's milk in the morning for his Lordship. The body of Mrs. Dramatti was found in a ditch between Hyde Park and Chelsea, and a tract of blood was seen to the distance of twenty yards, at the end of which a piece of a sword was found sticking in a bank, which fitted the other part of the sword in the prisoner's possession. The circumstances attending the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, the culprit was found guilty, condemned, and on the 21st July, 1703, was executed at Tyburn.

If ever a criminal possessed claim to royal mercy, surely this man's case should have been favoured. He sought not for blood; but, impelled by assaults of the most foul and aggravated nature, he killed an antagonist, who ought to have cheered him through life. He was an ill treated stranger too;

and therein he became doubly an object of compassion.

WILLIAM ELBY,

Murderer, Executed on the 13th of September, 1709,

Was born in the year 1667, at Deptford in Kent, and served his time with a block-maker, at Rotherhithe, during which he became acquainted with some women of ill fame. After the term of his apprenticeship was expired, he kept company with young fellows of such bad character, that he found it necessary to enter on board a ship to prevent worse consequences. Having returned from sea, he enlisted as a soldier: but while in this situation he committed many small thefts, in order to support the women with whom he was connected. At length he deserted from the army, assumed a new name, and prevailed on some of his companions to engage in house-breaking. Detection soon terminated his career; and he was indicted for robbing the house of — Barry, Esq. of Fulham, and murdering his gardener. Elby, it seems, having determined on robbing the house, arrived at Fulham soon after midnight, and had wrenched open one of the windows, at which he was getting in, when the gardener awaking, came down to prevent the intended robbery. As the gardener had a light in his hand, Elby, terrified lest he should be known, seized a knife, and stabbed him to the heart, of which wound the poor man fell dead at his feet. This done, he broke open a chest of drawers, and stole about two hundred and fifty pounds, with which he immediately repaired to his associates in London.

Though this man, naturally inclined to gaiety, dressed in a stile much above people of his profes-

sion, yet being at this juncture in possession of a greater sum of money than usual, those who knew him suspected that it could not have been honestly obtained; and as every one was now talking of the horrid murder that had been committed at Fulham, the idea immediately occurred that it had been perpetrated by Elby, particularly as he began to abound in cash at this critical juncture.

Elby now used to frequent a public-house in the Strand, where, being casually in company, the robbery and murder became the subject of conversation. Hereupon Elby turned pale, and seeing one of the company go out of the room, he was so terrified, that he immediately ran out of the house, without paying the reckoning. Soon after he was gone, a person called for him; but as he was not there, he said he would go to his lodgings. The landlord enraged that the reckoning had not been paid, demanded where he lived, which being told, and remarked by the person who called, he was taken into custody the next day, and committed on suspicion of the robbery and murder. On his trial he steadily denied the perpetration of the crimes with which he was charged, and his conviction would have been very doubtful, had not a woman, with whom he cohabited, become an evidence, and swore that he came from Fulham with the money the morning after the commission of the fact. Some other persons likewise deposed, that they saw him come out of Mr. Barry's house on the morning the murder was committed; but as they did not know what had happened, they had entertained no suspicion of him. The jury deeming this circumstance sufficient conviction, Elby received sentence of death, and having been executed at Fulham on the 13th of September, 1704, was hung in chains near the place where the crime was committed.

EDWARD JEFFERIES,

*Murderer, Executed at Tyburn, on the 21st of
March, 1705,*

WAS a gentleman by birth and education ; and as such, until the commission of the crime for which he suffered, ever deported himself. His crime affords a melancholy instance of the fatal effects of illicit love and jealousy. He was born about the year 1666, at the Devizes in Wiltshire. He served his clerkship to an eminent attorney in London, and afterwards carried on business on his own account ; but his father dying while he was yet young, and leaving him a considerable fortune, he entered into too profuse a way of living, and embarked in the debaucheries of the age, which dissipated his substance. Soon after, he had the good success to marry a young lady of St. Alban's, with whom he received a decent fortune, and might have lived in prosperity with her, but that he continued his former course of dissipation, which naturally occasioned a separation. He now associated with one Mrs. Elizabeth Torshell, with whom a Mr. Woodcock had likewise an illicit connection. Jefferies and Woodcock had frequent debates concerning this woman, but at length appeared to be reconciled, and dined together at the Blue Posts, near Pall-Mall, on the day that the former committed the murder. After dinner they went into the fields near Chelsea, and a quarrel arising between them respecting Mrs. Torshell, Jefferies drew his sword, and before Woodcock, who was left-handed, could draw his, he received a wound, of which he almost immediately died. Woodcock had no sooner fallen, than Jefferies rubbed some of his blood upon his (the deceased's) sword, took something out of his pocket, and then went towards Chelsea, where he had appointed to meet Mrs. Torshell. There were

some boys playing in the fields who saw the body of the deceased, and a part of the transaction above-mentioned. The body was removed to St. Martin's church-yard to be owned; and on the following day Mrs. Torshell came, among a crowd of other people to see it; and was taken into custody, on her saying she knew the murdered party, and expressed great concern at his fate. Torshell's lodgings being searched, a number of articles were found, which she owned Mr. Jefferies had brought thither, though they appeared to belong to Woodcock. On this Jefferies was also taken into custody, and both of them were committed to Newgate. Jefferies alledged in his defence, that he was at another place at the time the murder was committed; he called several witnesses to prove an alibi; but as these did not agree in the circumstances, he was convicted, and received sentence of death. Mrs. Torshell was acquitted. All the while he lay under condemnation he repeatedly denied the having committed the murder, and exerted his utmost interest to obtain a reprieve, which he was at length promised, through the medium of the Duke of Ormond. September the 19th, 1705, when the procession towards Tyburn had got as far as St. Giles's, a respite met him, to defer his execution till the 21st of the same month; but on that day he was executed, his guilt being too apparent. At the place of execution he again denied the fact; but said he freely forgave those who had injured him, and died in charity with all men. He betrayed no symptoms of fear during the preparation for launching him into eternity.

JOHN SMITH,

Convicted of Robbery on the 5th of December, 1705.

THOUGH the crimes committed by this man were neither marked with particular atrocity, nor his life sufficiently remarkable for a place in these volumes; yet the circumstances attending his fate at the place of execution, are perhaps more singular than any we may have to record. He was the son of a farmer at Malton, about fifteen miles from the city of York, who bound him apprentice to a packer in London, with whom he served out his time, and afterwards worked as a journeyman. He then went to sea in a merchant-man, after which he entered on board a man of war, and was at the famous expedition against Vigo; but on the return from that expedition he was discharged.

He had not been long disengaged from the naval service, when he enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of guards commanded by Lord Cutts; but in this station he soon made bad connections, and engaged with some of his dissolute companions as a house-breaker.

On the 5th of December, 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted, and received sentence of death. While he lay under sentence, he seemed very little affected with his situation, absolutely depending on a reprieve, through the interest of his friends.

However, an order came for his execution on the 24th of the same month, in consequence of which he was carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and was turned off in the usual manner, but when he had hung near fifteen minutes, the people present cried out, "A reprieve!" Hereupon the malefactor was cut down, and being conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, he soon recovered, in consequence of bleeding, and other applications.

When he perfectly recovered his senses, he was asked, what were his feelings at the time of execution; to which he repeatedly replied, in substance, as follows: "That when he was turned off, he, for
" some time was sensible of very great pain, occasioned by the weight of his body, and felt his
" spirits in a strange commotion, violently pressing
" upwards; that having forced their way to his
" head, he, as it were, saw a great blaze, or glaring light, which seemed to go out at his eyes
" with a flash, and then he lost all sense of pain.
" That after he was cut down, and began to come
" to himself, the blood and spirits, forcing themselves into their former channels, put him, by a
" sort of pricking or shooting, to such intolerable
" pain, that he could have wished those hanged
" who had cut him down." From this circumstance he was called "Half-hanged Smith."

After this narrow escape from the grave, Smith pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February; yet such was his propensity to evil deeds, that he returned to his former practices, and being apprehended, was tried at the Old Bailey for house-breaking; but some difficulties arising in the case, the jury brought in a special verdict, in consequence of which the affair was left to the opinion of the twelve judges, who determined in favour of the prisoner.

After this second extraordinary escape, he was a third time indicted; but the prosecutor happening to die before the day of trial, he once more obtained that liberty which his conduct shewed he had not deserved.

We have no account what became of this man after this third remarkable incident in his favour: but Christian charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper use of the singular dispensation of Providence evidenced in his own person.

When once the mind has consented to the commission of sin, it is hard to be reclaimed. The memory of the pangs of an ignominious death could

not deter this man from following the evil course he had begun. Thus, by giving way to small propensities, we imperceptibly go on to enormities: which lead us to a shameful fate. Let us, therefore, at once resolve never to depart from the path of rectitude.

ROGER LOWEN,

Convicted of Murder, and executed at Turnham Green, on the 25th of October, 1706,

WAS a native of Hanover, where he was born about the year 1667, and educated in the principles of the Lutheran religion. His father being huntsman to the duke of Zell, that prince sent young Lowen into France, to obtain the qualifications of a gentleman, and, on his return from his travels, he was one of the pages under the duke's master of the horse.

Coming over to England when he was between twenty and thirty years of age, the duke of Shrewsbury patronised him, and procured him a place. Having thus obtained something like a settlement, he married a young English woman, with whom he lived in an affectionate manner for a considerable time; but in the year 1697, on his going abroad to attend King William at the treaty of Ryswick, he left Mrs. Lowen with her cousin, who was married to Mr. Richard Lloyd, of Turnham Green.

When Lowen returned from Holland, he became, with what justice we cannot say, extremely jealous of his wife, and he pretended to have received incontestible proof of her criminal conversation with Mr. Lloyd, for the murder of whom he was indicted at the Old Bailey, on the 20th of September, 1706, and was tried by a jury composed equally of Englishmen and foreigners.

In the course of the evidence it appeared, that on the evening of the day on which the murder was committed, Lowen invited Lloyd and his wife to dine with him on the following day; that Mr. Lloyd being obliged to go to Acton, did not come very early; at which Lowen expressed a considerable degree of uneasiness; that when he came, Lowen introduced him into the parlour, with great apparent civility. That Mr. Lloyd put his sword in a corner of the room; some time after which Lowen invited him into the garden, to see his plants; after which they came together into the house, appearing to be good friends, and Lowen desired his wife to hasten the dinner; that while she went to obey his directions, Lowen drew Mr. Lloyd's sword a little way out of the scabbard, as if admiring it, and asked who was his cutler? and that while the deceased stood with his hands behind him, Lowen, stamping with his foot, drew the sword quite out of the scabbard, and stabbed Mr. Lloyd through the back; on which his wife (who was present at this horrid transaction) said to him, "Speak to me, my dear;" but he was unable to do so; and having lifted up his eyes, groaned twice, and then expired.

Mr. Hawley, a justice of the peace in the neighbourhood passing by at the instant, Mrs. Lloyd acquainted him with what had happened; on which he examined the prisoner, who confessed his intention of having committed the murder sooner, and was only concerned lest he had not killed Mr. Lloyd.

The particulars respecting the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, Lowen was convicted, and received sentence of death; in consequence of which he was hanged at Turnham Green, on the 25th of October, 1706.

While he lay under sentence of death, he was attended by Messrs. Idzardi and Ruperti, two divines of his own country, who were assiduous to convince him of the atrociousness of the crime which he had

committed ; and he became a sincere penitent, confessing with his last breath the crime he had committed in shedding innocent blood.

JOHN HERMAN BRIAN

Incendiary, Executed October 24, 1707, in St James's Street, for setting fire to the House of Mr. Per-suade.

THE crime for which this man suffered is defined by the law to be ARSON, or ARSONRY ; that is, wilfully setting fire to another person's house, whether by day or by night.

It is in this case a capital offence ; but if a man burns his own house, without injuring any other, it is only a misdemeanor, punishable by fine, imprisonment, or the pillory.

By the 23d of Henry the Eighth, cap. 1, the capital part of the offence is extended to persons (whether principals or accessaries) burning dwelling houses, or barns wherein corn is deposited ; and by the 43d of Elizabeth, cap. 13, burning barns or stacks of corn, in the four northern counties, is also made felony, without benefit of clergy.

By the 22d and 23d of Car. II. cap. 7, it is made felony to set fire to any stack of corn, hay, or grain ; or other out-buildings, or kilns, maliciously, in the night time ; punishable with transportation for seven years.

By the 1st George I. cap. 48, it is also made single felony to set fire to any wood, underwood, or coppice.

Other burnings are made punishable with death, without benefit of clergy, viz. setting fire to any house, barn, or out-house, or to any hovel, cock, mow, or stack of corn, straw, hay, or wood ; or

the rescuing any such offender : 9 George I. cap. 22. —Setting fire to a coal mine : 10 George II. cap. 32. Burning, or setting fire to any wind-mill, or water-mill, or other mill ; (as also pulling down the same :) 9 George III. cap. 29 ; but the offender must be prosecuted within eighteen months. Burning any ship, to the prejudice of the owners, freighters, or underwriters : 22 and 23 Charles II. cap. 11 ; 1 Anne, stat. 2. cap. 9 ; 4 George I. cap. 12. Burning the king's ships of war afloat, or building ; or the dock-yards, or any of the buildings, arsenals, or stores therein ; 12 George III. cap. 24. And finally threatening by anonymous or fictitious letters to burn houses, barns, &c. is by the act 27 George II. cap. 15. also made felony, without benefit of clergy.

John Herman Brian was a native of Dully, a village in the bailiwick of Morge, in the Canton of Berne, in Switzerland, where he was born about the year 1683. He left Switzerland while very young, and went to Geneva, where he lived in the service of a gentleman above four years, and then made a tour of Italy with a person of fortune. On his arrival in England, he lived in several reputable families for the space of about three years, and last of all, for about two months, in that of Mr. Persuade, when, being discharged, in about two days after he broke open, plundered, and burned his dwelling house, for which he was brought to trial, on the 16th of October, 1707. It appeared in evidence, that the house was made fast about ten at night, when the family went to bed ; that Mrs. Persuade had locked up her gold watch, etwee case chain, seventeen guineas, &c. that waking about three in the morning she smelt a fire, on which she left her chamber, and found a lighted flambeaux in the passage, which had burnt the boards ; then opening a parlour door the flames spread with such rapidity, that the family had only time to preserve their lives. A poor woman going by at the time,

and seeing the smoke, knocked at the door to alarm the family, and at that instant saw a man come over the wall, (supposed to be Brian) who said to her, "D—n you, are you drunk? What do you do here, knocking at people's doors at this time?" and immediately he went away. It likewise came out in evidence that the prisoner had offered to sell the etwee case to Messrs. Stevenson and Acton, goldsmiths, for eight pounds; but they stopped it on suspicion that it was stolen, and, on enquiry, found to whom it belonged. The prisoner afterwards returning to demand it, they took him into custody, and being carried before a magistrate, and searched, a dagger and two pistols were found on him. It appeared from the testimony of other evidence, that when the prisoner quitted the service of Mr. Persuade, he took a lodging in Soho, but was not at home on the night that the facts were committed; and at noon on the following day, he left his lodging, and took another in Spitalfields, to which he conveyed a trunk, a box, and a bundle, which were found to contain part of Mr. Persuade's effects. It likewise appeared, that he had sold a fowling-piece and two pistols, which were stolen from Mr. Persuade. On his trial he denied every thing that was alledged against him; asserting he bought all the goods of a stranger; but as he adduced nothing like proof in support of this assertion, the jury found him guilty, without the least hesitation. While under sentence of death, he steadily denied being guilty of the offences of which he had been convicted, and reflected on the prosecutor, magistrates, witnesses, and jury; persisting in a declaration of his innocence to the last moment of his life; however, the circumstances against him were so unusually strong, that not the least credit could be given to his declaration. He made repeated attempts to escape out of Newgate, by unscrewing and filing off his irons; but being detected, he was properly secured till the time of his execu-

tion ; and when asked by the ordinary of Newgate, how he could waste his precious time in such fruitless attempt, he answered that Life was sweet, and that any other man, as well as himself, would endeavour to save it if he could." He suffered in St. James's-street, before Mr. Persuade's house, on the 24th of October, 1707, and was hung in chains near the gravel-pits at Acton.

CAPTAIN DUDLEY.

Executed for Robbery.

CAPTAIN DUDLEY was born at Swepston in Leicestershire. His father once possessed a considerable estate, but through extravagance he lost the whole except sixty pounds per annum. In these reduced circumstances he went to London, intending to live in obscurity, corresponding to the state of his finances.

Richard his son had a promising genius, and received a liberal education at St. Paul's school. But a natural vicious disposition baffled all restraints. When only nine years old he showed his covetous disposition, by robbing his sister of thirty shillings, and flying off with that sum. In a few days, however, he was found, brought home, and sent to school. But his vicious disposition strengthened by indulgence. Impatient at the confinement of a school, he next robbed his father of a considerable sum of money, and absconded. But his father discovered his retreat, and found him a little way from town in the company of two lewd women.

Despairing of his settling at home, his father sent him on board a man of war, in which he sailed up the Streights, and behaved gallantly in several actions. Upon his arrival in England, he left the ship, on pretence that a younger officer had been preferred before

him, upon the death of one of the lieutenants. In a short time he joined a band of thieves, assisted them in robbing the country-house of Admiral Carter, and escaped detection.

The next remarkable robbery in which he was engaged, was that of breaking into the house of a lady of Blackheath, and carrying off a large quantity of plate.

He and his associates were also successful in selling the plate to a refiner; but in a short time he was apprehended for this robbery, and committed to Newgate prison. While there, he sent for the refiner, and severely reproached him in the following manner: "It is," said he, "a hard thing to find an honest man and a fair dealer: for, you cursed rogue, among the plate you bought, there was a cup with a cover; which you told us was but silver gilt, and bought it at the same price with the rest; but it plainly appeared, by the advertisement in the gazette, that it was a gold cup and cover; but I see you are a rogue, and that there is no trusting any body." Dudley was tried, convicted for this robbery, and sentenced to death; but his youth and the interest of his friends, procured him a royal pardon.

For two years he conducted himself to the satisfaction of his father, so that he purchased for him a commission in the army. In that situation he also acquitted himself honourably, and married a young lady of a respectable family, with whom he received an estate of an hundred and forty pounds a year. This, with his commission, enabled them to live in a genteel manner. Delighting, however, in company, and having become security for one of his companions for a debt, and that person being arrested for it, one of the bailiffs was killed in the scuffle, and Dudley was suspected as having been the murderer.

Having by frequent crimes vanquished every virtuous feeling, and being more inclined to live upon the ruins of his country than the fruits of industry, he abandoned his own house, and joined a band of robbers. Dudley soon became so expert, that there was scarcely any robbery committed, but

he acted a principal part. Pleased with this easy way of obtaining money, and supporting an extravagant expense, he also prevailed upon *Will* his brother to join him in his employment. It happened, however, that *Will* had not been long in his new occupation, when the Captain was apprehended for robbing a gentleman of a watch, a sword, a whip, and nine shillings. But fortunately for him the evidence was defective, and he escaped death a second time.

Now, hardened in vice, he immediately returned to his old trade. He robbed on the highway, broke into houses, picked pockets, or performed any act of violence or cunning by which he could procure money. For a length of time he went on with impunity, but was at last apprehended for robbing Sir John Friend's house. Upon trial the evidence was decisive, and he received sentence of death. His friends again interposed, and through their influence his sentence was changed for that of banishment. Accordingly, he and several other convicts were put on board a ship bound for Barbadoes. But they had scarcely reached the Isle of Wight, when he excited his companions to a conspiracy, and having concerted their measures while the ship's company were under the hatches, they went off with the long boat.

No sooner had he reached the shore than he abandoned his companions, and travelled through woods and by-paths. Being in a very mean dress, he begged when he had no opportunity to steal. Arriving however at Hounslow-heath, he met with a farmer, robbed him, seized his horse, and having mounted, set forward in quest of new spoils. This was a fortunate day, for Dudley had not proceeded far on the heath when a gentleman well dressed, and better mounted than the farmer, made his appearance. He was commanded to halt and surrender. Dudley led him aside in a secret thicket, exchanged clothes and horse, rifled his pockets, then addressed him, saying, "That he ought never to accuse him of robbing him, for, according to the

old proverb, exchange was no robbery;" so bidding him good day, he rode off for London. Arrived there he went in search of his old associates, who were glad to see their friend; who in consequence of his fortunate adventures and high reputation among them, received the title of Captain, and all agreed to be subject to his commands. Thus, at the head of such an experienced and desperate band, no part of the country was secure from his rapine, nor any house sufficiently strong to keep him out. The natural consequences were, that he soon became known and dreaded all over the country.

To avoid being taken, and to prevent all enquiries, he paid a visit to the north of England, and being one day in search of plunder, he robbed a Dutch Colonel of his horse, arms, and fine laced coat. Thus equipped, he committed several robberies. He at length, however, laid aside his colonel's habit, only using his horse, who soon became dexterous at his new employment. But one day meeting a gentleman near Epsom, he resisted the Captain's demands, and discharged his pistol at Dudley. In the combat, however, he was victorious, wounded the gentleman in the leg, and having stripped him of his money, conveyed him to the next village, that he might receive medical assistance, and then rode off in search of new adventures. The Captain and his men were very successful in this quarter. No stage, nor coach, nor passenger, of which they had intelligence, could escape their depredations, and scarcely a day passed without some notorious robbery being committed.

Captain Dudley and his men went on in a continued course of success, acquiring much wealth, which was as soon dissipated in riot and extravagance, as their extravagance was equal to their gains.

One day, however, having attacked and robbed the Southampton coach, they were keenly pursued, and several of them taken, but Dudley escaped.

Deprived of the chief of his own forces, he now joined himself to some house-breakers, and with them continued to commit many robberies; in particular, with three others, he entered the house of an old woman in Spitalfields, gagged her, bound her to a chair, and rifled the house of a considerable sum of money, which the good woman had been long in scraping together. Hearing the money clink that was going to be taken from her, she struggled in her chair, fell down upon her face, and was stifled to death, while the Captain and his companions went off with impunity. But when the old woman came to be interred, a grandchild of her's, who had been one of the robbers, when about to be fitted with a pair of gloves, changed his countenance, was strongly agitated, and began to tremble. He was suspected, charged with the murder, confessed the crime, and, informing upon the rest, two of them were taken, tried and condemned, and all three hung in chains.

But though Dudley's name was published as accessory to the murder, yet he long escaped detection. At length, however, he was apprehended, and charged with several robberies, of which he, by dexterous management, evaded the deserved punishment. He was also called to stand trial for the murder of the old woman; but the principal evidence, upon whose testimony the other three were chiefly condemned, being absent, he escaped suffering for that crime. The dexterous manner in which he managed that trial, the witnesses that he had suborned, and the manner in which he maintained his innocence before the jury, were often the cause of his boast and amusement.

The profligate Dudley was no sooner relieved from prison than he hastened to join his old companions in vice. Exulting to see their Captain again at their head, they redoubled their activity, and committed all manner of depredations. Among other adventures, they robbed a nobleman on Hounslow

heath of fifteen hundred pounds, after a severe engagement with his servants, three of whom were wounded, and two had their horses shot under them.

Having at length with his companions, committed so many robberies upon the highway, a proclamation was issued against them, offering a reward to those who should bring them, either dead or alive. This occasioned their detection in the following manner: Having committed a robbery, and being closely pursued to Westminster ferry, the wherry-men refused to carry any more that night. Two of them then rode off, and the other four gave their horses to a waterman to lead to the next inn. The horses being foaming with sweat, he began to suspect that they were robbers who had been keenly pursued. He communicated his suspicions to the constable, who secured the horses, and went in search of the men.

He was not long in seizing one of them. He confessed, and the constable, hastening to the inn, secured the rest, and having placed a strong guard upon them, rode to Lambeth, and securing the other two, led them before a justice of the peace, who committed them to Newgate.

At the next sessions Captain Dudley, his brother, and three other accomplices, were tried, and condemned to suffer death. After sentence, Captain Dudley was brought to Newgate, where he conducted himself agreeably to his sad situation. He was conveyed from Newgate with six other prisoners. He appeared cheerful, but his brother lay all the time sick in the cart. The ceremonies of religion being performed, they were launched into another world, to answer for the numerous crimes of their guilty lives.

The bodies of the Captain and his brother were put into separate coffins, to be conveyed to a disconsolate father; at the sight he was so overwhelmed, that he sunk upon the dead bodies and

expired. Thus the father and the two sons were buried in one grave.

JOHN HALL,

Housebreaker, executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of December, 1707.

FROM the humble avocation of a chimney-sweeper this fellow became a notorious and daring thief.

He was remarkably distinguished in his time, on account of the number and variety of robberies in which he was concerned; and few thieves have been more the subject of public conversation.

Hall's parents were very poor people, living in Bishop's-head-court, Gray's-Inn-lane, who put him out to a chimney-sweeper; but he had not been long in this employment, before he quitted it, and commenced pick-pocket; and was accounted very dexterous in that profession; but notwithstanding this dexterity, he was frequently detected, and treated in the usual manner, by ducking in the horse-pond: he was likewise often sent to Bridewell, as a punishment for these offences.

Notwithstanding frequent punishments of this nature, he commenced shop-lifter, and, in the month of January, 1628, he was convicted at the Old Bailey of stealing a pair of shoes; for which he was whipped at the cart's tail; but he had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he commenced house-breaker; and being convicted of breaking open the house of Jonathan Bretail, he was sentenced to be hanged in the year 1700, but was afterwards pardoned, on condition of transporting himself, within six months, to some of the American plantations.

In consequence hereof he entered on board a ship, from which, however, he soon deserted, and engaged with his old accomplices; and they now took up

the trade of robbing country waggons, and stealing portmanteaus from behind coaches. For an offence of this latter kind, Hall was tried and convicted in 1702, and being first burnt on the cheek, was committed close prisoner to Bridewell for two years.

Hall had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he joined with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, and others of his dissolute companions, in breaking open the house of a baker, at Hackney; which burglary was attended with the following circumstances:

Having broke into the house soon after midnight, and the journeyman and apprentice being at work, the robbers tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading-trough, and one of the villains stood over them with a drawn sword, while the others went up stairs to rob the house; but the baker being unwilling to tell them where the money was, Hall seized a young child, a granddaughter of the old people, and swore he would thrust her into the oven, if they did not make the discovery. Terrified at this circumstance, the old man told him where they might find his money, in consequence of which they robbed him of about seventy pounds.

Notwithstanding this singular robbery was the subject of much conversation, yet the perpetrators of it were not taken into custody. Soon afterwards the house of Francis Saunders, a chairman, near St. James's, was broken open; and Saunders being informed that this robbery was committed by Hall and his companions, he observed these very men, as he was attending at St. James's gate, about three in the morning; and informing the watchman, they pursued them; on which Hall and one of his accomplices fired at a watchman, who was wounded in the thigh. Hall escaped; his companions were apprehended and tried, but acquitted for want of evidence.

Hall was in custody in 1705, for breaking open the house of Richard Bartholomew; but he had been so frequently at the Old Bailey, that he was

afraid of being tried by his name, and therefore changed it to that of Price; but the evidence not being sufficient to convict him, he was again acquitted. Having obtained his liberty, he returned to his former practices, and in October, 1706, was indicted for stealing a handkerchief, in company with Arthur Chambers, but once more discharged in defect of evidence.

Repeated as these excesses were, they made no impression on the mind of Hall, who was soon afterwards taken into custody, for a fact which he had reason to think would have put an end to his wicked career, wherefore he became an evidence against Chambers, Bell, and Fitch, three of his accomplices, and thus once more preserved his life.

After this he was concerned in breaking open the house of Captain Guyon, near Stepney, in company with Richard Low and Stephen Bunce, and stealing a considerable quantity of plate and other effects.

Of this offence the parties were found guilty, and were executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of December, 1707.

JOHN MORGRIDGE,

Murderer, executed at Tyburn, on the 28th of April, 1708.

WE now present a dreadful instance of the effects of intoxication. This unfortunate man, who, through the indulgence in this vice, met an untimely fate, was a native of Canterbury, whose ancestors had served the crown for upwards of two hundred years. He had been kettle-drummer to the first troop of horse-guards for a considerable time, and would have been promoted, had it not been for the following unfortunate quarrel. A Mr. Cope having obtained the rank of lieutenant in the army,

invited several officers to dine with him at the Dolphin tavern, in Tower-street; and one of the parties invited Morgridge likewise to go, assuring him that he would be made welcome on the part of Mr. Cope. When dinner was over, Cope paid the reckoning, and then each man depositing half-a-crown, Morgridge and others adjourned to the guard-room, to which place more liquor was sent. They had not been long there before a woman of the town came in a coach, and asked for Captain Cope. Being introduced to the guard-room, she remained a short time, and then said, "Who will pay for my coach?" Morgridge said, "I will;" having done so, he advanced to salute her; but she pushed him from her in a disdainful manner, and spoke to him in very abusive terms which induced him to treat her with the same kind of language. Morgridge's rudeness was resented by Cope, who took the woman's part, and a violent quarrel ensued between Cope and Morgridge, both of whom were intoxicated. This contest increased to such a degree, that they threw the bottles at each other; till at length, Morgridge, inflamed with passion, drew his sword, and stabbed Cope, who instantly expired. Morgridge being taken into custody, was tried at the Old Bailey, July 5, 1706; but a doubt arising in the breast of the jury, whether he was guilty of murder or manslaughter, they brought in a special verdict, and the affair was left to be determined by the twelve judges. The judges having consequently met at Serjeant's-inn, the case was argued before them by counsel; when they gave an unanimous opinion that he was guilty of wilful murder, because he did not kill Cope with the weapons he was originally using, but arose from his seat and drew his sword, which was deemed to imply a malicious intention. Morgridge, in the interim, made his escape from the Marshalsea prison, and went into Flanders, where he remained about two years: but being uneasy to revisit his native country, he imprudently

came back to England, and being apprehended, received sentence of death, and suffered along with William Gregg, at Tyburn, on the 28th of April, 1708. When convicted he was truly sensible of the crime of which he had been guilty, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and submitted to his fate with becoming resignation.

WILLIAM GREGG,

Traitor, Executed at Tyburn, on the 28th of April, 1708.

HIGH Treason is by the law accounted the highest civil crime which can be committed by any member of the community. After various alterations and amendments made and repealed in subsequent reigns, the definition of this offence was settled as it originally stood, by the act of the 25th of Edward III. stat. 5, cap. 2, and may be divided into seven different heads :

1. Compassing, or imagining, the death of the king, queen, or heir apparent.
2. Levying war against the king in his realm.
3. Adhering to the king's enemies, and giving them aid, in the realm, or elsewhere.*

* It has been thought necessary by the legislature to explain and enlarge these clauses of the act 25 Edward III. as not extending, with sufficient explicitness, to modern treasonable attempts. It is therefore provided by the act 36 George III. cap 7, "That if any person (during the life of his present Majesty, and until the end of the session of Parliament next after a demise of the crown) shall within the realm, or without, compass, imagine, invent, devise, or intend, death or destruction, or any bodily harm, tending to death or destruction, maim or wounding, imprisonment or restraint, of the person of the king, his heirs and successors, or to deprive or depose him or them, from his style, honour, or kingly name, or to levy war against the king within this realm, in order by force to compe,

4. Slaying the king's chancellor or judge in the execution of their offices.

5. Violating the queen, the eldest daughter of the king, or the wife of the heir apparent, or eldest son.

6. Counterfeiting the king's great seal, or privy seal.

7. Counterfeiting the king's money, or bringing false money into the kingdom.

This detail shews how much the dignity and security of the king's person is confounded with that of his officers, and even with his effigies impressed on his coin. To assassinate the servant, or to counterfeit the type, is held as criminal as to destroy the sovereign.

This indiscriminate blending of crimes, so different and disproportionate in their nature, under one common head, is certainly liable to great objections, seeing that the judgment in this offence is so extremely severe and terrible, viz. "That the offender be drawn to the gallows on the ground or pavement; that he be hanged by the neck, and then cut down alive; that his entrails be taken out and burnt, while yet alive; that his head be cut off; that his body be divided into four parts; and that his head and quarters be at the king's disposal.

William Gregg was born at Montrose, in Scotland, and having received the common instructions in the grammar-school of that town, finished his education in the university of Aberdeen, and was intended by his friends for the study of divinity; but his inclination leading him to seek for advancement in the state, he came to London, and soon afterwards

him to change his measures, or in order to put any force or constraint upon, or to intimidate or overawe, both houses, or either house, of Parliament: or to incite any foreigner to invade the dominions of the crown: and such compassings, &c. shall express, utter, or declare, by publishing and printing or writing, or by any other overt act or deed,"---the offender shall be deemed a traitor, and punished accordingly.

went abroad as secretary to the ambassador to the court of Sweden.

Gregg, during his residence abroad, debauched a Swedish lady, and was guilty of some other irregularities ; in consequence of which the ambassador dismissed him from his service, and he was glad to embark for London in the first ship that sailed.

As soon as he arrived in London, he was engaged by Mr. Secretary Harley, to write dispatches ; and letters of great importance were left unsealed, and perused by Gregg. As the account of this malefactor, which was given by the ordinary of Newgate, is very superficial and unsatisfactory, we shall give the following extracts respecting him, from Bishop Burnett's history :

“ At this time two discoveries were made very unlucky for Mr. Harley : Tallard wrote often to Chamillard, but he sent the letters open to the secretary's office, to be perused and sealed up, and so be conveyed by the way of Holland. These were opened upon some suspicion in Holland, and it appeared, that one in the secretary's office put letters in them, in which, as he offered his service to the courts of France and St. Germain's, so he gave an account of all transactions here. In one of these he sent a copy of the letter that the queen was to write in her own hand to the emperor ; and he marked what parts were drawn by the secretary, and what additions were made to it by the lord treasurer. This was the letter by which the queen pressed the sending prince Eugene into Spain ; and this, if not intercepted, would have been at Versailles many days before it could reach Vienna.

“ He who sent this wrote, that by this they might see what service he could do them, if well encouraged. All this was sent over to the duke of Marlborough ; and upon search it was found to have been written by one Gregg, a clerk, whom Harley had not only entertained, but taken into a

* particular confidence, without inquiring into the
“ former parts of his life ; for he was a vicious and
“ a necessitous person, who had been secretary to
“ the queen’s envoy in Denmark, but was dismissed
“ by him for his ill qualities. Harley had made
“ use of him to get him intelligence, and he came
“ to trust him with the perusal and sealing up of
“ the letters, which the French prisoners, here in
“ England, sent over to France, and by that means
“ he got into the method of sending intelligence
“ thither. He, when seized on, either upon remorse
“ or hopes of pardon, confessed all, and signed his
“ confession ; upon that he was tried, and, pleading
“ guilty, was condemned as a traitor, for corre-
“ sponding with the queen’s enemies.

“ At the same time Valiere and Bara, whom Har-
“ ley had employed as his spies to go often over to
“ Calais, under the pretence of bringing him intel-
“ ligence, were informed against, as spies employed
“ by France to get intelligence from England, who
“ carried over many letters to Calais and Boulogne,
“ and, as was believed, gave such information of
“ our trade and convoys, that by their means we
“ had made our great losses at sea. They were often
“ complained of upon suspicion, but they were al-
“ ways protected by Harley ; yet the presumptions
“ against them were so violent, that they were at
“ last seized on, and brought up prisoners.”

The whigs took such advantage of this circum-
stance, that Mr. Harley was obliged to resign, and
his enemies were inclined to carry matters still fur-
ther, and were resolved, if possible, to find out
evidence enough to affect his life. With this view,
the house of Lords ordered a committee to examine
Gregg, and the other prisoners, who were very as-
siduous in the discharge of their commission, as
will appear by the following account written by the
same author :

“ The lords who were appointed to examine Gregg,
“ could not find out much by him : he had but newly

“ begun his designs of betraying secrets, and he
“ had no associates with him in it. He told them,
“ that all the papers of state lay so carelessly about
“ the office, that every one belonging to it, even the
“ door-keepers might have read them all. Harley’s
“ custom was to come to the office late on post-
“ nights, and after he had given his orders, and
“ written his letters, he usually went away, and left
“ all to be copied out when he was gone. By that
“ means he came to see every thing, in particular
“ the queen’s letter to the emperor. He said, he
“ knew the design on Toulon in May last, but he
“ did not discover it; for he had not entered on his
“ ill practices till October. This was all he could
“ say.

“ By the examination of Valiere and Bara, and
“ of many others who lived about Dover, and were
“ employed by them, a discovery was made of a con-
“ stant intercourse they were in with Calais, under Har-
“ ley’s protection. They often went over with boats
“ full of wool, and brought back brandy, though both
“ the import and export were severely prohibited.
“ They, and those who belonged to the boats car-
“ ried over by them, were well treated on the French
“ side at the governor’s house or at the commissary’s :
“ they were kept there till their letters were sent to
“ Paris, and till returns could be brought back, and
“ were all the while upon free cost. The order that
“ was constantly given them was, that if an English
“ or Dutch vessel came up with them, they should
“ cast their letters into the sea, but that they should
“ not do it when French ships came up with them :
“ so they were looked on by all on that coast as the
“ spies of France. They used to get what informa-
“ tion they could, both of merchant-ships, and of
“ the ships of war that lay in the Downs, and upon
“ that they usually went over ; and it happened that
“ soon after some of those ships were taken. These
“ men, as they were papists, so they behaved them-

“ selves insolently, and boasted much of their power
“ and credit.

“ Complaints had been often made of them, but
“ they were always protected ; nor did it appear that
“ they ever brought any information of importance
“ to Harley but once, when, according to what they
“ swore, they told him that Fourbin was gone from
“ Dunkirk, to lie in wait for the Russian fleet ;
“ which proved to be true ; he both went to watch
“ for them, and he took a great part of the fleet.
“ Yet though this was the single piece of intelli-
“ gence that they ever brought, Harley took so
“ little notice of it, that he gave no advertisement to
“ the admiralty concerning it. This particular ex-
“ cepted, they only brought over common news, and
“ the Paris gazetteer. These examinations lasted for
“ some weeks when they were ended, a full report was
“ made of them to the house of lords, and they or-
“ dered the whole report, with all the examinations,
“ to be laid before the queen.”

Gregg was convicted on the statute of Edward the third, which declares it high treason “ to ad-
“ here to the king’s enemies, or to give them aid
“ either within or without the realm.”

Immediately after his conviction, both houses of Parliament petitioned the queen that he might be executed ; and he was accordingly hanged at Tyburn, with Morgridge, on the 28th April, 1708.

Gregg, at the place of execution, delivered a paper to the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, in which he acknowledged the justice of his sentence, declared his sincere repentance of all his sins, particularly that lately committed against the queen, whose forgiveness he devoutly implored.

He likewise expressed his wish to make all possible reparation for the injuries he had done ; begged pardon in a particular manner of Mr. Secretary Harley, and testified the perfect innocence of that gentleman, declaring that he was no way privy, directly or indirectly, to his writing to France. He professed that he died an unworthy member of the

Protestant church, and that the want of money to supply his extravagances had tempted him to commit the fatal crime which cost him his life.

DEBORAH CHURCHILL,

Executed at Tyburn, Dec 17, for Murder.

IN this case we shall disclose one of the most consummate tricks ever played by woman, to defraud her creditors; and a more effectual method cannot be resorted to. It is a satisfaction, however, that during the perusal of the fate of Deborah Churchill, we know that Fleet marriages have long been declared illegal; and therefore the artifice cannot now be so easily accomplished. Formerly, within the liberties of the Fleet, the clergy could perform the marriage rites, with as little ceremony as at Gretna Green, where, to the disgrace of the British empire, an ignorant blacksmith, or a fellow equally mean and unfit, assumes this sacred duty of the church.

Though this woman's sins were great, (yet we must admit some hardship in her suffering the utmost rigour of the law for the crime, of which she was found guilty,) but which, at the same time, is, in the eye of the law, great as in the immediate perpetrator of a murder. Here we deem it well to observe, that any person present while murder is committing, and though he may take no part in the commission of the crime, yet unless he does his utmost to prevent, he is considered guilty, equal with him who might have given the fatal blow.

Deborah Churchill was born about the year 1678, in a village near Norwich. She had several children by her husband, Mr. Churchill; but her temper not being calculated to afford him domestic happiness,

he repined at his situation, and destroyed himself by intoxication.

Deborah, after this event, came to London; and being much too idle and too proud to think of earning a subsistence by her industry, she ran considerably in debt; and, in order to extricate herself from her incumbrances, had recourse to a method which was formerly as common as it is unjust. Going to a public-house in Holborn, she saw a soldier, and asked him if he would marry her. The man immediately answered in the affirmative, on which they went in a coach to the Fleet, where the nuptial knot was instantly tied.

Mrs. Churchill, whose maiden-name is unknown, having obtained a certificate of her marriage, enticed her husband to drink till he was quite inebriated, and then gave him the slip, happy in this contrivance to screen herself from an arrest.

A little after this, she cohabited with a young fellow named Hunt, with whom she lived more than six years. Hunt appears to have been a youth of a rakish disposition. He behaved very ill to this unhappy woman, who, however, loved him to distraction; and, at length, forfeited her life in consequence of the regard she had for him.

One night as Mr. Hunt and one of his associates were returning from the Theatre, in company with Mrs. Churchill, a quarrel arose between the men, who immediately drew their swords;* while Mrs. Churchill, anxious for the safety of Hunt, interposed, and kept his antagonist at a distance; in consequence of which, being off his guard, he received a wound, of which he died almost immediately.

No sooner was the murder committed, than Hunt effected his escape, and, eluding his pursuers, arrived safely in Holland; but Mrs. Churchill was appre-

* In those days every well dressed man wore his sword. A fashion productive of infinite mischief.

hended on the spot, and being taken before a magistrate, was committed to Newgate.

November, 1708, at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, Mrs. Churchill was indicted as an accomplice on the act of the first year of king James the First, called the statute of stabbing, by which it is enacted, that "If any one stabs another, who hath not at that time a weapon drawn, or hath not first struck the party who stabs, is deemed guilty of murder, if the person stabbed dies within six months afterwards."

Mrs. Churchill, being convicted, pleaded a state of pregnancy, in bar to her execution; and a jury of matrons being impannelled, declared that they were ignorant whether she was with child or not. Hereupon the court, willing to allow all reasonable time in a case of this nature, respited judgment for six months; at the end of which time she received sentence of death, as there was no appearance of her being pregnant.

This woman's behaviour was extremely penitent; but she denied her guilt to the last moment of her life, having no conception that she had committed murder, because she did not herself stab the deceased. She suffered at Tyburn, 17th of Dec. 1708.

CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD,

Executed at Guildford, July 9, 1709, for the Murder of Jane Young.

THIS is a very singular case, and will excite different opinions respecting this unhappy man's commission of the deed for which he was executed.

He was the son of a miller at Westbury-Green, in Surrey, who apprenticed him at Godalming. When

his time was expired, he lived in several situations, and afterwards took a malt-house at Shalford, when his aunt became his housekeeper, and he acquired a moderate sum of money by his industry.

He now paid his addresses to Jane Young, and it was generally supposed he intended to marry her. The last time he was seen in her company was on the evening of the 5th of October, 1703; from which day she was not heard of for a considerable time, on which suspicions arose that Slaughterford had murdered her.

About a month afterwards, the body of the unfortunate girl was found in a pond, with several marks of violence on it; and the public suspicion being still fixed on Slaughterford, he voluntarily surrendered himself to two justices of the peace, who directed that he should be discharged; but as he was still accused by his neighbours, he went to a third magistrate, who, agreeable to his own solicitations, committed him to the Marshalsea Prison; and he was tried at the next assizes at Kingston, and acquitted.

The majority of his neighbours, however, still insisted that he was guilty, and prevailed on the relations of the deceased to bring an appeal for a new trial; towards the expense of which many persons subscribed, as the father of Jane Young was in indigent circumstances.

During the next term, he was tried by a Surrey jury, in the court of Queen's Bench, before lord chief justice Holt, the appeal being lodged in the name of Henry Young, brother and heir to the deceased.

The evidence given on this second trial was the same in substance as on the first; yet so different were the sentiments of the two juries, that Slaughterford was now found guilty, and received sentence of death. It may be proper to mention the heads of some of the depositions, that the reader may judge of the propriety of the verdict.

Elizabeth Chapman, the mistress of Jane Young deposed, that when the young woman left her service, she said she was going to be married to the prisoner, that she had purchased new clothes on the occasion, and declared she was to meet him on the Sunday following. That the deponent sometime afterwards inquired after Jane Young, and, asking if she was married, was informed that she had been seen in the company of Slaughterford, but no one could tell what was become of her since, and that he himself pretended he knew nothing of her, but thought she had been at home with Mrs. Chapman; which had induced this witness to believe that some mischief had befallen her.

Other witnesses proved that Jane Young was in company with the prisoner on the night that the murder was committed; and one man swore that, at three in the morning, he met a man and woman on a common, about a quarter of a mile from the place where the body was found; that the man wore light-coloured clothes, as it was proved the prisoner had done the preceding day; and that soon after he passed them he heard a shrieking, like the voice of a woman.

It was sworn by a woman, that, after the deceased was missing, she asked Slaughterford what was become of his lady: to which he replied, "I have put her off; do you know of any girl that has any money? I have got the way of putting them off now."

It was deposed by another woman, that, before the discovery of the murder, she said to Mr. Slaughterford, "What if Jane Young should lay such a child to you as mine is here?" at which he sighed, and said, "It is now impossible;" and cried till the tears ran down his cheeks.

In contradiction to this, the aunt of Mr. Slaughterford and a young lad who lived in the house deposed that the prisoner lay at home on the night that the murder was committed.

Slaughterford, from the time of conviction to the

very hour of his death, solemnly declared his innocence; and, though visited by several divines, who urged him, by all possible arguments, to confess the fact, yet he still persisted that he was not guilty. He was respited from the Wednesday till Saturday, in which interim he desired to see Mr. Woodroof, a minister of Guildford: from which it was thought he would make a confession; but what he said to him tended only to confirm his former declarations.

As soon as the executioner had tied him up, he threw himself off, having previously delivered to the sheriff a paper, containing the following solemn declaration:

Guildford, July 9, 1709.

“ Being brought here to die, according to the sentence passed upon me at the Queen’s-Bench bar, for a crime of which I am wholly innocent, I thought myself obliged to let the world know, that they may not reflect on my friends and relations, whom I have left behind me much troubled for my fatal end, that I know nothing of the death of Jane Young, nor how she came by her death, directly or indirectly, though some have been pleased to cast reflections on my aunt. However, I freely forgive all my enemies, and pray to God to give them a due sense of their errors, and in his due time to bring the truth to light. In the mean time, I beg every one to forbear reflecting on my dear mother, or any of relations, for my unjust and unhappy fall, since what I have here set down is truth, and nothing but the truth, as I expect salvation at the hands of Almighty God; but I am heartily sorry that I should be the cause of persuading her to leave her dame, which is all that troubles me. As witness my hand this 9th day of July.”

We have already observed, that the case of Slaughterford is very extraordinary. We see that he surrendered himself to the justices when he might

have ran away; and common sense tells us that a murderer would endeavour to make his escape; and we find him a second time surrendering himself, as if anxious to wipe away the stain on his character. We find him tried by a jury of his countrymen, and acquitted; then again tried, on an appeal, by another jury of his neighbours, found guilty, condemned, and executed. Here it should be observed, that after conviction on an appeal, which rarely happens, the king *has no power to pardon*; probably, had Slaughterford been found guilty by the first jury, as his case was dubious, he would have received royal mercy. Some of the depositions against him seem very striking; yet the testimony in his favour is equally clear. There appears nothing in the former part of his life to impeach his character; there is no proof of any animosity between him and the party murdered; and there is an apparent contradiction in part of the evidence against him. He is represented by one female witness as sneering at and highly gratified with the murder; while another proves him extremely affected and shedding tears on the loss of Jane Young. The charitable reader must, therefore, be inclined to think this man was innocent, and that he fell a sacrifice to the prejudices, laudable, perhaps, of his incensed neighbours. He was visited, while under sentence of death, by a number of divines; yet he dies with the most sacred averment of his innocence.

GRACE TRIPP,

Executed at Tyburn, March 27, 1710, for Murder.

IN the perpetration of this horrid murder, we are greatly shocked to find base perfidy added to great cruelty in the breast of a female. In order to sup-

port the extravagance of a villain, with whom this wretched woman had secret amours, she betrayed her trust, and in hopes of concealing the crime, murdered her fellow servant.

Grace Tripp was a native of Barton in Lincolnshire ; and, after living as a servant at a gentleman's house in the country, she came to London, was sometime in a reputable family, and then procured a place in the house of Lord Torrington.

During her stay in this last service, she became connected with a man named Peters, who persuaded her to be concerned in robbing her master's house, promising to marry her as soon as the fact should be perpetrated. Hereupon it was concerted between them, that she should let Peters into the house in the night, and that they should join in stealing and carrying off the plate.

Peters was accordingly admitted at the appointed time, when all the family, except the housekeeper, were out of town ; but this housekeeper, hearing a noise, came into the room just as they had packed up the plate ; on which Peters seized her, and cut her throat, while Tripp held the candle. This being done, they searched the pockets of the deceased, in which they found about thirty guineas ; with which, and the plate, they hastily decamped, leaving the street door open.

This shocking murder and robbery became the general subject of conversation, and no steps were left unattempted in order to apprehend the offenders, who were taken in a few days, when Peters having been admitted an evidence for the crown, Grace Tripp was convicted at the age of nineteen years.

DANIEL DEMAREE.*Executed June 15, 1710, for Treason.*

WAS waterman to Queen Ann, whose whig ministry having been turned out of, or, in the modern phrase, having resigned their places, the tory ministry succeeded them, and encouraged a young divine, named Henry Sacheverell, to inflame the passions of the public, by preaching against the settlement made at the revolution, and inculcating all those doctrines which were then held as the favourite tenets of what was called the high church party. Sacheverell was a man of abilities, and eminently possessed of those kind of talents which are calculated to inspire such sentiments as the preacher wished to impress his auditors with. The doctor's discourses accordingly tended to instigate the people against the house of Hanover, and to insinuate the right of the pretender to the throne of these realms. This caused such a general commotion, that it became necessary to bring him to a trial in some way; and, contrary to all former practice respecting a man of his rank, he was tried before the House of Peers, and was silenced for three years, upon conviction. But so excited were the passions of the populace in consequence of his insinuations, that they almost adored him as a prophet: and some of them were led to commit outrages, which gave rise to several trials, particularly that of Daniel Demaree, who, on the 19th of April, 1710, was indicted for being concerned with a multitude of men, to the number of five hundred, armed with swords and clubs to levy war against the queen. A gentleman deposed, that going through the Temple, he saw some thousands of people, who had attended Dr. Sacheverell from Westminster-hall; that some of them said they would pull down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house that

might ; others differed as to the time of doing it ; but all agreed on the act, and the meeting-house was demolished on the following night. Here it should be observed, that Dr. Burgess and Mr. Bradbury were two dissenting ministers, who had made themselves conspicuous by preaching in opposition to Sacheverell's doctrine. Captain Orril swore, that on the 1st of March, hearing that the mob had pulled down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, he resolved to go among them to do what service he could to Government by making discoveries. This witness, going to Mr. Bradbury's meeting, found the people plundering it, who obliged him to take off his hat. After this he went to Lincoln's-inn Fields, where he saw a bonfire made of some of the materials of Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and saw the prisoner, who twirled his hat, and said,—“ D—n it, I will lead you on—we will have all the meeting-houses down—high church and Sacheverell, huzza !” It was proved by another evidence, that the prisoner having headed part of the mob, some of them proposed to go to the meeting-house in Wild-street ; but this was objected to by others, who recommended going to Drury-lane, saying, “ That meeting-house was worth ten of that in Wild-street.” Joseph Collier swore, that he saw the prisoner carry a brass sconce from Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and throw it into the fire in Lincoln's-inn Fields, huzzaing, and crying, “ High Church and Sacheverell.” There was another evidence to prove the concern that the prisoner had in these illegal acts ; and several persons appeared in his behalf ; but, as in their testimony they contradicted each other, the jury could not credit their evidence, but brought in a special verdict.—Another of the rioters (George Purchase, who was also waterman to the Queen,) was indicted for the same offence ; the witnesses were chiefly the same, and their evidence almost similar :—Captain Orril swore, that this prisoner ran resolutely with his sword in his hand, and made

a full pass at the officer who commanded the guards ; and, if one of the guards had not made a spring and beat down the sword, he would have run the officer through the left flank ; that the prisoner, however, retired a little lower, and the guards had by this time dispersed the mob, having knocked down forty or fifty of them in the action. This prisoner also produced some witnesses ; but, as what they said did not contradict the testimony of the evidence against him, their depositions had no weight. The jury were satisfied with the proofs ; but, having a doubt respecting the points of law, they brought in a special verdict. The verdicts respecting Demaree and Purchase being left special, their cases were argued in the Court of Queen's Bench, in Westminster-hall, the following term, before the Lord Chief Justice Parker and the other Judges, when, though every artifice in the law was made use of in their behalf, they were adjudged to be guilty ; in consequence of which they received sentence of death.

RICHARD THORNHILL, ESQ.

Convicted of Manslaughter, in killing Sir Cholmondeley Deering, in a Duel

THE abhorred and sanguinary practice of duelling offers to the understanding, in the influence it is found to have over strong and enlightened minds, a paradox most bewildering and humiliating. While reason and common sense exclaim against the folly of duelling—while religion, in its loudest voice, condemns its iniquity—while the laws of a nation load it with penalties, and rank it as a foul crime—while the popular cry is loud against its mischiefs, and when no one is hardy enough to defend it ; we

daily hear that men of the first rank in society make this appeal to violence, fearless of legal prevention and legal penalties. Husbands and fathers leave their wives and children in their morning's slumber, steal from their pillows, to obey the false dictates of honour, and too often, as their families rise from their beds, are they presented with the bleeding bodies of their protectors. We see, too, seconds in this scene of blood, with daring effrontery, retailing, in the public prints, the particulars of the cruel encounter. In some of the republican States of America these outrages to all the parties are punished with confiscation of their lands, and banishment, even on proof of sending or accepting of a challenge*. In many other parts of the world, duelling meets with severer punishment than that inflicted by the laws of England. The lands of the murderer, at least, should be divided between the injured country and the miserable family of the fallen. The English laws prepare an adequate punishment for every offence except duelling for which the murderer too often escapes with impunity.

* Owing to this severe but wholesome law, Americans appear more eager, than otherwise, to settle their quarrels by duel. To accomplish their inhuman and unlawful purpose, they generally journey into another state, where, as each enact their own laws, the murderers generally escape punishment, and save their lands, which cannot be confiscated for an offence committed out of their own state's jurisdiction. Sometimes they travel into Canada, that they may indulge their malice in violation of the British laws. An instance of this kind appeared lately in the London Newspapers, copied from an American print.

"Messrs. Blake and Dix, residents at Boston, recently determined to settle an affair of honour by duel. They repaired to Canada. The distance was to be ten paces the first fire, and to approximate two paces till one or the other fell. They both fired together, and Blake's ball entered the lungs of Dix. Dix's ball grazed the cheek of Blake. Before Dix fell, he said to his second, 'Give me the other pistol, that I may hit him, for I find he has winged me.' The second, finding he was wounded, stepped up to support him, but he fell, and immediately expired."

In addition to the horrors which this practice unworthily styled "fashionable satisfaction," creates it generally takes place among friends of long standing. Such were, previous to this dreadful quarrel, Sir Cholmondeley Deering and Mr. Thornhill, who had dined together on the 7th of April, 1711, in company with several other gentlemen, at the Toy, at Hampton Court, where a quarrel arose, which occasioned the unhappy catastrophe that afterwards happened.

During the quarrel Sir Cholmondeley struck Mr. Thornhill, and a scuffle ensuing, the wainscot of the room broke down, and Thornhill falling, the other stamped on him, and beat out some of his teeth. The company now interposing, Sir Cholmondeley, convinced that he had acted improperly, declared that he was willing to ask pardon; but Mr. Thornhill said, that asking pardon was not a proper satisfaction for the injury that he had received; adding, "Sir Cholmondeley, you know where to find me." Soon after this the company broke up, and the prisoners went home in different coaches, without any farther steps being taken towards their reconciliation.

On the 9th of April, Sir Cholmondeley went to a Coffee-house at Kensington, and asked for Mr. Thornhill, who not being there, he went to his lodgings, and the servant shewed him to the dining-room; to which he ascended with a brace of pistols in his hands, and soon afterwards Mr. Thornhill coming to him, asked him if he would drink tea, which he declined, but drank a glass of small beer.

After this the gentlemen ordered a hackney-coach, in which they went to Tothill-fields, and there advanced towards each other, in a resolute manner, and fired their pistols almost at the same moment.

Sir Cholmondeley, being mortally wounded, fell to the ground; and Mr. Thornhill, after lamenting the unhappy catastrophe, was going away, when a person stopped him, told him he had been guilty of

murder, and took him before a justice of the peace, who committed him to prison.

On the 18th of May, 1711, Richard Thornhill, Esq. was indicted at the Old Bailey Sessions, for this murder. In the course of the trial, the above recited facts were proved, and a letter was produced of which the following is a copy:—

“ Sir,

“ April 8th, 1711.

“ I shall be able to go abroad to-morrow morning, and desire you will give me a meeting, with your sword and pistols, which I insist on. The worthy gentleman who brings you this, will concert with you the time and place. I think Tothill-fields will do well; Hyde-park, will not, at this time of year, being full of company.

“ I am,

“ Your humble Servant,

“ RICHARD THORNHILL.”

Mr. Thornhill's servant swore, that he believed this letter to be his master's hand-writing; but Mr. Thornhill hoped the jury would not pay any regard to this testimony, as the boy acknowledged in Court, that he never saw him write.

Mr. Thornhill called several witnesses to prove how ill he had been used by Sir Cholmondeley; that he had languished some time of the wounds he had received, during which he could take no other sustenance than liquids, and that his life was in imminent danger.

Several persons of distinction testified that Mr. Thornhill was of a peaceable disposition, and that, on the contrary, the deceased was of a remarkable quarrelsome temper. On behalf of Mr. Thornhill, it was farther deposed, that Sir Cholmondeley being asked if he came by his hurt through unfair usage, he replied “ No: poor Thornhill! I am sorry for him; this misfortune was my own fault, and of my own seeking, I heartily forgive him, and desire yo^u

all to take notice of it, that it may be of some service to him; and that one misfortune may not occasion another."

The jury acquitted Mr. Thornhill of the murder, but found him guilty of manslaughter; in consequence of which he was burnt in the hand.

ELIZABETH MASON.

Executed June 18, 1712, for the Murder of her Godmother.

It is with additional regret that we are obliged to record the commission of this abhorred crime, by females. From the present case, let servants be deterred from the aggravation to this sin in the murder of their employers: and may its disclosure put a total stop to the vending of deleterious drugs to ignorant and wicked people. Deadly poison will be found, in the perusal of these volumes, to be a common resort for murderers; and in fact a fine, at least, ought to be imposed on every vender of medicines, who sells arsenic, opium, and similar articles of their trade to strangers.

This wretched woman was born at Melton Mowbray, in Leicestershire, and, while very young, was conveyed by her friends to Sutton, near Peterborough, in Northamptonshire; from whence, at the age of seven years, she was brought to London by Mrs. Scholes, who told her she was her godmother; and with this lady and her sister, Mrs. Cholwell, she lived, and was employed in household work; but having an idea that she should possess the fortune of her mistresses, on their death, she came to the horrid resolution of removing them by poison. On Thursday in Easter-week, 1712, being sent of an errand, she went to a druggist's shop, where she bought a quantity of yellow arsenic,

on the pretence that it was to kill rats. On the following morning she mixed this poison with some coffee, of which Mrs. Scholes drank; and soon afterwards finding herself extremely ill, said her end was approaching, and expired the next day in great agonies. Mrs. Cholwell receiving no injury from what little coffee she drank, the girl determined to renew her attempt to poison her: in consequence of which she went again to the same shop about a fortnight afterwards, and bought a second quantity of arsenic, which she put into some water-gruel prepared for Mrs. Cholwell's breakfast, on the following morning. It happening, providentially, that the gruel was too hot, the lady put it aside some time to cool, during which time most of the arsenic sunk to the bottom. She then drank some of it, found herself very ill; and, observing the sediment at the bottom of the bason, sent for her apothecary, who gave her a large quantity of oil to drink, by the help of which the poison was expelled. Unfavourable suspicions now arising against Elizabeth Mason, she was taken into custody, and, being carried before two justices of the peace, on the 30th of April, she confessed the whole of her guilt, in consequence of which she was committed to Newgate. On the 6th of June, in the same year, she was indicted for the murder of Mrs. Scholes; and, pleading guilty to the indictment, received sentence of death. While she lay under sentence of death, the ordinary of Newgate asked her if she had any lover or other person who had tempted her to the commission of the crime: to which she answered in the negative, but owned that she had frequently defrauded her mistresses of money, and then told lies to conceal the depredations of which she had been guilty. At the time of her execution, she warned young people to beware of crimes similar to those which had brought her to that fatal end, and confessed the justice of the sentence which made her a public example.

ELIZABETH CHIVERS,

*Executed August 1, 1712. for the Murder of her
Bastard Child.*

AT the Sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of July, 1712, Elizabeth Chivers was indicted for the wilful murder of her female bastard-child, Elizabeth Ward, by drowning it in a pond ; and, pleading guilty, she received sentence of death.

This unnatural woman was a native of Spitalfields, but lived at Stepney at the time of the commission of the murder. The account she gave of herself, after she was under sentence of death, was as follows :—She said that her father dying while she was very young, left her in indigent circumstances, which obliged her to go to service when she was only fourteen years of age ; that she lived in several reputable families, in which her conduct was deemed irreproachable.

When she arrived almost at the age of thirty years, she lived with one Mr Ward, an attorney, who prevailed on her to lie with him ; in consequence of which she bore the child which she afterwards murdered.

Finding herself pregnant, she removed from Mr. Ward's to another family, where she remained about six weeks, and then took private lodgings, in which she was delivered of a girl, who was baptized by the name of Elizabeth Ward. The father, agreeable to his promise, provided for the mother and child for about three months, when Mrs. Ward, discovering her habitation, exposed her in the neighbourhood, so that she was ashamed to make her appearance.

Enraged by this circumstance, she was tempted to destroy her child : on which she took it into the fields, and threw it into a pond not far from Hackney ; but some people near the spot, happening

to see what passed, took her into custody, and carried her before a Magistrate, who committed her to Newgate.

All the time that she remained in this gloomy prison, her mind seemed to be tortured with the most agonizing pains, on account of the horrid crime of which she had been guilty: and she expressed a sense of her torments in the following striking words, which she spoke to a clergyman who attended her: "Oh, Sir! I am lost! I cannot pray, I cannot repent; my sin is too great to be pardoned! I did commit it with deliberation and choice, and in cold blood; I was not driven to it by necessity. The father had all the while provided for me, and for the child, and would have done so still, had not I destroyed the child, and thereby sought my own destruction."

COLONEL JOHN HAMILTON,

Convicted of Manslaughter, as second in a duel between the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mahon. Mahon

No occurrence, short of a national misfortune, at this time, engaged the public equal to the memorable duel between the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mahon; and no crime of this nature was ever committed with more sanguinary dispositions. The principals murdered each other, and Mr. Hamilton was one of the seconds. Previous to reading the shocking particulars of this transaction, the reader will do well again to turn to our comments on this crime in the case of Mr. Thornhill. Mahon

John Hamilton, Esq., of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, was indicted at the Sessions held at the Old Bailey on the 11th of September, 1712, for the murder of Charles Lord Mahon, Baron of Oakhampton, on the 5th of November preceding; and at the same time Mahon

he was indicted for abetting Charles Lord Mahon, and George Macartney, Esq., in the murder of James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon; and having pleaded "not guilty" to these indictments, the evidence proceeded to give their testimony in substance as follows:—

Rice Williams, footman to Lord Mahon, proved that his master having met the Duke of Hamilton at the chambers of a Master in Chancery, on Thursday the 13th of November, a misunderstanding arose between them respecting the testimony of an evidence. That when his lord came home at night, he ordered that no person should be admitted to speak with him the next morning except Mr. Macartney. That on the Saturday morning, about seven o'clock, this evidence, having some suspicion that mischief would ensue, went towards Hyde Park; and seeing the Duke of Hamilton's coach going that way, he got over the Park-wall; but, just as he had arrived at the place where the duellists were engaged, he saw both the noblemen fall, and two gentlemen near them, whom he took to be the seconds. One of them, whom he knew to be Mr. Macartney, and the other (but he could not swear it was the prisoner) said; "We have made a fine piece of work of it."

The waiters at two different taverns proved that the deceased noblemen and their seconds had been at those taverns; and from what could be collected from their behaviour, it appeared that a quarrel had taken place, and that a duel was in agitation: and some of the Duke's servants and other witnesses deposed to a variety of particulars, all which tended to the same conclusion.

But the evidence who saw most of the transaction was William Morris, a groom, who deposed, that, "As he was walking his horses towards Hyde Park, "he followed a hackney coach with two gentlemen "in it, whom he saw alight by the lodge, and walk "together towards the left part of the ring, where

“ they were about a quarter of an hour, when he
“ saw two other gentlemen come to them; that,
“ after having saluted each other, one of them, who
“ he was since told was the Duke of Hamilton,
“ threw off his cloak, and one of the other two,
“ who he now understands was Lord Mahon, his
“ surtout coat, and all immediately drew: that the
“ Duke and the Lord pushed at each other a very
“ little while, when the Duke closed, and took the
“ Lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned,
“ and the Duke fell upon him; that just as Lord
“ Mahon was dropping, he saw him lay hold of
“ the Duke’s sword, but could not tell whether the
“ sword was at that time in his body; nor did he
“ see any wound given after the closing, and was
“ sure Lord Mahon did not shorten his sword.
“ He declared he did not see the seconds fight, but
“ they had their swords in their hands, assisting
“ the Lords.”

Paul Boussier, a surgeon, swore, that, on opening the body of the Duke of Hamilton, he found a wound between the second and third ribs, which entered into the body, inclining to the right side, which could not be given but by some push from above.

Henry Amie, a surgeon, swore, that he found the Duke of Hamilton had received a wound by a push, which had cut the artery and small tendon of his right arm; another very large one in his right leg, a small one in his left leg, near the instep; and a fourth in his left side, between the second and third ribs, which ran down into his body most forward, having pierced the skirt of his midriff, and gone through his caul; but that the wound in his arm caused his so speedy death; and that he might have lived two or three days with the wound in his breast, which wound could not be given but by an arm that reached over, or was above him.

He further deposed, that he also viewed the Lord

Mahon's body, and found that he had a wound between the short ribs, quite through his belly, and another about three inches deep in the upper part of his thigh; a large wound, about four inches wide, in his groin, a little higher, which was the cause of his immediate death; and another small wound on his left side; and that the fingers of his left hand were cut.

The defence made by the prisoner was, that "the Duke called him to go abroad with him, but he knew not any thing of the matter till he came into the field."

Some Scottish noblemen, and other gentlemen of rank, gave Mr. Hamilton a very advantageous character, asserting that he was brave, honest, and inoffensive: and the jury, having considered of the affair, gave a verdict of "manslaughter;" in consequence of which the prisoner prayed the benefit of the statute, which was allowed him.

At the time the lives of the above-mentioned noblemen were thus unfortunately sacrificed, many persons thought they fell by the hands of the seconds; and some late writers on the subject have affected to be of the same opinion: but nothing appears in the written or printed accounts of the transaction, nor did any thing arise on the trial, to warrant so ungenerous a suspicion; it is therefore, but justice to the memory of all the parties to discredit such insinuations.

WILLIAM JOHNSON AND JANE HOUSDEN,

*Executed opposite the Old Bailey, September 19,
1712, for the Murder of Mr. Spurling.*

THROUGHOUT the whole annals of our Criminal Chronology, though the denial of culprits condemned on the clearest evidence of their guilt is by far too frequently recorded, shall we adduce such an in

stance as the following dying declarations of innocence :

William Johnson, one of the unrelenting sinners, was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time to a butcher, and, removing to London, opened a shop in Newport Market; but business not succeeding to his expectation, he took a house in Long Acre, and commenced corn-chandler; in this business he was likewise unsuccessful, on which he sold his stock in trade, and took a public-house near Christ church in Surrey. Being equally unsuccessful as a victualler, he sailed to Gibraltar where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the garrison; * in short, he appears to have possessed a genius turned to a variety of employments. Having saved some money at Gibraltar, he came back to his native country, where he soon spent it, and then had recourse to the highway for a supply. Being apprehended in consequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon. Previous to this he had been acquainted with one Jane Housden, the other hardened wretch, who had been tried and convicted of coining, but also obtained a pardon. It was not long after this pardon, (which was procured by great interest), before Housden was again in custody for a similar offence. On the day that she was to be tried, and just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old Bailey, Johnson called to see her; but Mr. Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not speak to her till her trial was ended, he instantly drew a pistol, and shot Spurling dead on the spot, in the presence of the Court, and all the persons attending to hear the trials; Mrs. Housden at the same time encouraging him in the perpetration of this singular murder. The event had no sooner happened, than the Judges, thinking it unnecessary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining,

* This, though very true, by some may be deemed a singular promotion---from a Butcher to a Surgeon !

ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder ; and there being such a number of witnesses to the deed, they were almost immediately convicted, and received sentence of death. From this time to that of their execution, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they where wholly insensible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed ; and notwithstanding the publicity of their offence, to which there were so many witnesses, they had the confidence to deny it to the last moment of their lives : nor did they shew any signs of compunction for their former sins.—After hanging the usual time, Johnson was hung in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

RICHARD TOWN,

Executed at Tyburn, December 23, 1712, for Fraudulent Bankruptcy.

NOTWITHSTANDING the law makes it death to any bankrupt, who shall be convicted of fraudulently concealing, embezzling, or making away with any goods or money to the value of twenty pounds, yet offences of this nature are constantly committed in the most clandestine manner, and too often escape detection.

On the trial of Richard Town, who was the first that suffered under this Act of Parliament, which passed only five years before his execution, a number of witnesses were called to prove his being a regular trader, and to make it appear that he had committed an act of bankruptcy ; but the principal of these was Mr. Hodgson, who deposed, that, being sent after the prisoner by the commissioners of bankrupts, he apprehended him at Sandwich ; and searching him, by virtue of his warrant, found in his pocket twenty guineas in gold, and about five pound, seven shillings, and sixpence in silver ; and that he had three gold rings on his fingers ; that

he took from him the gold, and five pounds in silver, and left him the odd silver.

Town had intended to sail in a ship which was bound to Amsterdam; but, being too late, he went on board a packet-boat bound to Ostend; and, being taken sea-sick, he went to the side of the vessel; and stooping down, dropped eight hundred guineas, which were in two bags between his coat and waistcoat, into the sea.

A storm arising at sea, the packet-boat was driven back, and obliged to put into Sandwich; in consequence of which Town was apprehended by Hodgson, as above mentioned.

When Town was examined before the commissioners, he acknowledged that he had ordered Thomas Norris to carry off his books and accounts, plate, and papers of value, and likewise to convey a large quantity of tallow, which he supposed was then arrived in Holland.

Now the counsel for Town insisted that, as Norris was a joint agent with him, the act of one was the act of both; and that he could not legally be convicted till the other (who was then abroad) could be apprehended, and tried with him. But, in order to frustrate this argument, it was proved that Town had shipped off large quantities of goods on his own account: besides, the circumstance of his being taken at Sandwich, by Mr. Hodgson, with more than twenty pounds of his creditors' money in his possession, was a sufficient proof of his guilt; wherefore the jury did not hesitate on his case, and he received sentence of death.

This unhappy man was a native of the county of Oxford, and for some time had carried on a considerable business as a tallow-chandler, with great reputation; but it appears too evident that he had formed a design of defrauding his creditors, because at the time of his absconding, he had considerable property in the funds, and was otherwise in good circumstances.

Before his conviction, he was indulged with a chamber to himself in the press-yard ; but after sentence was passed on him, he was put into the condemned hole, with the other prisoners : but here he caught a violent cold, which brought on a deafness, a disorder to which he had been subject ; wherefore, on complaining of this circumstance, he was removed to his former apartments.

While under sentence of death, he refused to acknowledge the justice of his sentence, declaring that a person whom he had relieved, and preserved from ruin, had occasioned his destruction. He attended the devotions of the place, declared that he forgave his enemies, and begged that God would likewise forgive them. He was exactly forty-one years of age the day of his execution ; a circumstance which with great composure, he mentioned to the Ordinary of Newgate, on his way to the place of execution.

RICHARD NOBLE,

Executed at Kingston, March 28, 1713, for the Murder of Mr. Sayer.

WE forbear to comment upon that part of this shocking transaction, which relates to the female sex ; and happy should we be, if our duty permitted us to consign to oblivion imputations upon those who were by nature formed to be the friends and comfort of man.

Richard Noble, we are sorry to say, was an attorney at law, and the paramour of Mrs. Sayer, wife of John Sayer, Esq. who was possessed of about one thousand pounds a year, and lord of the manor of Biddlesden, in Buckinghamshire. Mr. Sayer does not appear to have been a man of any great abilities ; but was remarkable for his good nature

and inoffensive disposition. Mrs. Sayer, to whom he was married in 1699, was the daughter of Admiral Nevil, a woman of an agreeable person and brilliant wit; but of such an abandoned disposition as to be a disgrace to her sex. Soon after Mr. Sayer's wedding, Colonel Salisbury married the Admiral's widow; but there was such a vicious similarity in the conduct of the mother and daughter, that the two husbands had early occasion to be disgusted with the choice they had made. Mr. Sayer's nuptials had not been celebrated many days before the bride took the liberty of kicking him, and hinted that she would procure a lover more agreeable to her mind. Sayer, who was distractedly fond of her, bore this treatment with patience; and at the end of a twelvemonth she presented him a daughter, which soon died; but he became still more fond of her after she had made him a father, and was continually loading her with presents. Mr. Sayer now took a house in Lisle-street, Leicester-fields, kept a coach, and did every thing which he thought might gratify his wife: but her unhappy disposition was the occasion of temporary separations.—At times, however, she behaved with more complaisance to her husband, who had, after a while, the honour of being deemed father of another child of which she was delivered; and after this circumstance she indulged herself in still greater liberties than before; her mother, who was almost constantly with her, encouraging her in this shameful conduct. At length a scheme was concerted, which would probably have ended in the destruction of Mr. Sayer and Colonel Salisbury, if it had not been happily prevented by the prudence of the latter. The Colonel taking an opportunity to represent to Mrs. Sayer the ill consequences that must attend her infidelity to her husband, she immediately attacked him with the most outrageous language, and insulted him to that degree that he threw the remainder of a cup of tea at her. The mother and daughter

immediately laid hold of this circumstance to inflame the passions of Mr. Sayer, whom they at length prevailed on to demand satisfaction of the Colonel. The challenge is said to have been written by Mr. Sayer; and, when the Colonel received it, he conjectured that it was a plan concerted between the ladies to get rid of their husbands. However he obeyed the summons; and, going in a coach with Mr. Sayer towards Montague-House, he addressed him as follows:—"Son Sayer, let us come to a right understanding of this business. 'Tis very well known that I am a swordsman, and I should be very far from getting any honour by killing you. But to come nearer to the point in hand. Thou shouldst know, Jack, for all the world knows, that thy wife and mine are both what they should not be. They want to get rid of us at once. If thou shouldst drop, they'll have me hanged for it after." There was so much of obvious truth in this remark, that Mr. Sayer immediately felt its force, and the gentlemen drove home together to the mortification of the ladies. Soon after this affair, Mrs. Sayer went to her house in Buckinghamshire, where an intimacy subsisted between her and the curate of the parish,* and their amour was conducted with so little reserve, that all the servants saw that the parson had more influence in the house than their master. Mrs. Sayer coming to London, was soon followed by the young clergyman, who was seized with the small-pox, which cost him his life. When he found there was no hopes of his recovery, he sent to Mr. Sayer, earnestly requesting to see him: but Mrs. Sayer, who judged what he wanted, said that her husband had not had the small-pox, and such a visit might cost him his life; she therefore insisted that her husband should not go; and the

* How disgraceful are the repeated instances which we are obliged to record of the flagitious conduct of clergymen to their sacred avocations.

passive man tamely submitted to this injunction, though his wife daily sent a footman to inquire after the clergyman, who died without being visited by Mr. Sayer. This gentleman had not been long dead before his place was supplied by an officer of the guards; but he was soon dismissed in favour of a man of great distinction, who presented her with some valuable china, which she pretended was won at Astrop Wells. About this time Mr. Sayer found his affairs considerably deranged by his wife's extravagance; on which a gentleman recommended him to Mr. Richard Noble (the subject of our present consideration), as a man capable of being very serviceable to him. His father kept a very reputable coffee-house at Bath, and his mother was so virtuous a woman, that when Noble afterwards went to her house with Mrs. Sayer, in a coach and six, she shut the door against him. He had been well educated, and articled to an attorney of eminence in New-Inn, in which he afterwards took chambers for himself; but he had not been in any considerable degree of practice when he was introduced to Mr. Sayer. Soon after his introduction to Mr. Sayer's family, he became too intimate with Mrs. Sayer, and, if report said true, with her mother likewise. However, these abandoned women had other prospects besides mere gallantry; and, considering Noble as a man of the world as well as a lover, they concerted a scheme to deprive Mr. Sayer of a considerable part of his estate. The unhappy gentleman, being perpetually teased by the women, at length consented to execute a deed of separation, in which he assigned some lands in Buckinghamshire, to the amount of one hundred and fifty pounds a year, to his wife, exclusive of fifty pounds a year, for pin money; and by this deed he likewise covenanted that Mrs. Sayer might live with whom she pleased, and that he would never molest any person on account of harbouring her. Mr. Sayer was even so weak as to sign this deed without having counsel of his own to

examine it. Not long after this Mrs. Sayer was delivered of a child at Bath; but that the husband might not take alarm at this circumstance, Noble sent him a letter, acquainting him that he was to be pricked down for high sheriff of Buckinghamshire; and Mrs. Salisbury urged him to go to Holland to be out of the way, and supplied him with some money on the occasion. It does not seem probable that Sayer had any suspicion of Noble's criminal intercourse with his wife, for, the night before he set out, he presented him with a pair of saddle-pistols and furniture worth above forty pounds. Soon after he was gone, Mrs. Sayer's maid speaking of the danger her master might be in at sea, Mrs. Sayer said, "She should be sorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow, should come to any harm; but she should be glad, and earnestly wished that Mr. Sayer might sink to the bottom of the sea, and that the bottom of the ship might come out." Not long after the husband was gone abroad, Noble began to give himself airs of greater consequence than he had hitherto done. He was solicitor in a cause in the Court of Chancery, in which Mr. Sayer was plaintiff, and having obtained a decree, he obliged the trustees nominated in the marriage articles to relinquish, and assumed the authority of a sole trustee. Mr. Sayer remained in Holland near a year, during which time Noble publicly cohabited with his wife; and when her husband returned she refused to live with him; but having first robbed him of above two thousand pounds, in Exchequer bills and other effects, she went to private lodgings with Noble, and was shortly after delivered of another child. After Mrs. Sayer had thus eloped from her husband, he caused an advertisement to be inserted in the newspapers, of which the following is a copy:

"Whereas Mary, the wife of John Sayer, Esq. late of Lisle-street, St. Anne's, went away from her

dwelling house, on or about the 23d of May last, in company with Elizabeth Nevil, sister to the said Mary, and hath carried away near one thousand pounds in money, besides other things of considerable value, and is supposed to go by some other name: he desires all tradesmen and others not to give her any credit, for that he will not pay the same."

While Mrs. Sayer cohabited with Noble he was constantly supplied with money; but he was not her only associate at that time, for, during his occasional absence, she received the visits of other lovers. Noble now procured an order from the Court of Chancery, to take Mr. Sayer in execution for four hundred pounds, at the suit of Mrs. Salisbury, the consequence of a judgment confessed by him for form's sake, to protect his goods from his creditors while he was in Holland. Mr. Sayer declared that the real debt was not more than seventy pounds, though artful management and legal expences had swelled it to the above-mentioned sum. Hereupon Sayer took refuge within the rules of the Fleet Prison, and exhibited his bill in Chancery for relief against these suits, and the deed of separation, which he obtained. In the mean time, Mrs. Sayer finding herself liable to be exposed by the advertisement her husband had caused to be inserted in the newspapers, she, with her mother, and Noble, took lodgings in the Mint, Southwark, which was at that time a place of refuge for great numbers of persons of desperate circumstances and abandoned characters. Mr. Sayer, having been informed of this, wrote several letters to her, promising that he would forgive all her crimes, if she would return to her duty; but she treated his letters with as much contempt as she had done his person. Hereupon he determined to seize on her by force, presuming that he should recover some of his effects if he could get her into his custody. He therefore

obtained a warrant of a justice of the peace, and taking with him two constables and six assistants, went to the house of George Twyford in the Mint; the constables intimating that they had a warrant to search for a suspicious person; for if it had been thought that they were bailiffs, their lives would have been in danger. Having entered the house, they went to a back room, where Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury, were at dinner, the door was no sooner opened than Noble drew his sword, and stabbing Sayer in the left breast, he died on the spot. The constables immediately apprehended the murderer and the two women; but the latter were so abandoned, that while the peace officers were conveying them to the house of a Magistrate, they did little else than lament the fate of Noble. Apprehensive that the mob would rise, from a supposition that the prisoners were debtors, a constable was directed to carry the bloody sword before them, in testimony that murder had been committed, which produced the wished-for effect by keeping perfect peace.—The prisoners begged to send for counsel; which being granted, Noble was committed for trial, after an examination of two hours; but the counsel urged so many arguments in favour of the women, that it was ten o'clock at night before they were committed. Soon afterwards this worthless mother and daughter applied to the Court of King's Bench, to be admitted to bail, which was refused them. The Coroner's Inquest having viewed Mr. Sayer's body, it was removed to his lodgings within the rules of the Fleet, in order for interment; and three days afterwards they gave a verdict, finding Noble guilty of wilful murder, and the women of having aided and assisted him in that murder. On the evening of the 12th of March, 1713, they were put to the bar at Kingston, in Surrey; and having been arraigned on the several indictments, to which they pleaded not guilty, they were told to prepare for their trials by

six o'clock on the following morning. Being brought down for trial at the appointed time, they moved the Court that their trials might be deferred till the afternoon, on the plea that some material witnesses were absent : but the Court not believing their allegations, refused to comply with their request. It was imagined that this motion to put off their trials was founded in the expectation that when the business at the nisi prius bar was dispatched, many of the jurymen might go home, so that when the prisoners had made their challenges, there might not be a sufficient number left to try them, by which they might escape till the next assizes, and in the mean time they hoped some circumstances would happen in their favour. It being ordered that the trials should commence, Mr. Noble and Mrs. Salisbury each challenged twenty of the jury, and Mrs. Sayer challenged thirty-five. Here it should be observed, that all persons indicted for felony have a right to challenge twenty jurors, and those indicted for petit-treason thirty-five ; which may be done without alledging any cause. Happily, however, the Sheriff had summoned so great a number of jurors, that the ends of public justice were not for the present defeated.—Noble's counsel urged that some of the persons who broke into the house might have murdered Mr. Sayer, or, if they had not, the provocation he had received might be such as would warrant the jury in bringing him in guilty of manslaughter only. As the Court had sat from six o'clock in the morning till one o'clock the next morning, the jury were indulged with some refreshment before they left the box ; and, after being out nine hours, they gave their verdict that Mr. Noble was " guilty," and Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Sayer were " not guilty." When Mr. Noble was brought to the bar to receive sentence, he addressed the Court in the following words :—

" My Lord,

" I am soon to appear and render an account of

my sins to God Almighty. If your Lordship should think me guilty of those crimes I have been accused and convicted of by my jury, I am then sure your Lordship will think that I stand in need of such a separation, such a humiliation for my great offences, such an abhorrence of my past life, to give me hopes of a future one, that I am not without hopes that it will be a motive to your Lordship's goodness, that after you have judged and sentenced my body to execution, you will charitably assist me with a little time for the preservation of my soul. If I had nothing to answer for but killing Mr. Sayer with precedent malice, I should have no need to address myself to your Lordship in this manner. It is now too late to take advantage by denying it to your Lordship, and too near my end to dissemble it before God. I know, my Lord, the danger, the hell that I should plunge myself headlong into; I know I shall soon answer for the truth I am about to say, before a higher tribunal, and a more discerning judge than your Lordship, which is only in heaven: I did not take the advantage to kill Mr. Sayer, by the thought or apprehension that I could do it under the umbrage of the laws, or with impunity; nothing was more distant from my thoughts, than to remove him out of the world to enjoy his wife (as was suggested) without molestation. Nor could any one have greater reluctance or remorse, from the time of the fact to the hour of my trial, than I have had, though the prosecutors reported to the contrary, for which I heartily forgive them. My counsel obliged me to say, on my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer's voice before he broke open the door; I told them, as I now tell your Lordship, that I did not know it was him till he was breaking in at the door, and then, and not before, was my sword drawn, and the wound given, which wound, as Dr. Garth informed me, was so very slight, that it was a thousand to one that he died of it. When I gave the wound, I insensibly quitted the sword, by which

means I left myself open for him to have done what was proved he attempted, and was so likely for him to have effected, viz. to have stabbed me ; and his failure in the attempt has not a little excited my surprise. When I heard the company run up stairs, I was alarmed, and in fear ; the landlord telling me instantly thereupon, that the house was beset, either for me or himself, added to my confusion. I then never thought or intended to do mischief ; but first bolted the foredoor, and then bolted and padlocked the backdoor, which was glazed, and began to fasten the shutters belonging to it, designing only to screen myself, from the violence of the tumult. When he broke open the door, and not till then, I perceived and knew he was present : and his former threats and attempts, which I so fully proved on my trial, and could have proved much fuller, had not Mrs. Salisbury's evidence been taken from me, made my fear so great, and the apprehension of my danger so near, that what I did was the natural motion of self-defence, and was too sudden to be the result of precedent malice ; and I solemnly declare, that I did not hear or know from Twyford the landlord, or otherwise, that any constable attended the deceased, till after the misfortune happened. It was my misfortune, that what I said as to hearing the deceased's voice was turned to my disadvantage by the counsel against me, and that I was not entitled to any assistance of counsel, to enforce the evidence given for me, or to remark upon the evidence against me, which I don't doubt would have fully satisfied your Lordship and the jury, that what happened was more my misfortune, than my design or intention. If I had been able, under the concern, to remark upon the evidence against me, that Mr. Sayer was but the tenth part of a minute in breaking open the door, it could not then well be supposed by the jury, that I was preparing myself, or putting my

self in order to do mischief, which are acts of forethought and consideration; which require much more time than is pretended I could have had from the time I discovered Mr. Sayer; for even from his entry into the house, to the time of the accident, did not amount, as I am informed, to more than the space of three minutes. But I did not discover him before the door gave way. I wish it had been my good fortune, that the jury had applied that to me which your Lordship remarked in favour of the ladies, that the matter was so very sudden, so very accidental and unexpected, that it was impossible to be a contrivance and confederacy, and unlikely that they could come to a resolution in so short a time. I don't remember your Lordship distinguished my case, as to that particular, to be different from theirs, nor was there room for it; for it is impossible for your Lordship to believe that I dreamt of Mr. Sayer's coming there at that time; but, on the contrary, I fully proved to your Lordship, that I went there upon another occasion, that was lawful and beneficial to the deceased; and I had no more time to think or contrive, than the ladies had to agree or consent. If any thing could be construed favourably on the behalf of such an unfortunate wretch as myself, I think the design I had sometime before begun, and was about finishing that day, might have taken away all suspicion of malice against Mr. Sayer.—Must it be thought, my Lord, that I only am such a sinner that I cannot repent and make reparation to the persons I have injured? It was denied; but I strongly solicited a reconciliation between Mr. Sayer and his lady, and if this had tended to procure me an easier access to Mrs. Sayer, it would have been such a matter of aggravation to me, that it could not have escaped the remark of the counsel against me, nor the sharpness of the prosecutors present in Court; with both I transacted, and to both I appealed, particularly to Mr. Nott, to whom, but the day be-

fore this accident, I manifested my desire of having them live together again, and therefore, my Lord, it should be presumed I laboured to be reconciled to, and not to revenge myself on, Mr. Sayer. Your Lordship, I hope, will observe thus much in my favour, that it was so far from being a clear fact, in the opinion of the jury, that they sat up all night, and, believing there was no malice at that time, told your Lordship they intended, and were inclined, to find it manslaughter, and, doubting the legality of the warrant, to find it special. I hope this will touch your Lordship's heart so far, as not to think me so ill a man as to deserve (what the best of Christians are taught to pray against) a sudden death!—I confess, I am unprepared; the hopes of my being able to make a legal defence and my endeavours therein having taken up my time, which I wish I had better employed: I beg leave to assure your Lordship, upon the words of a dying man, that as none of the indirect practices to get or suppress evidence were proved upon me, so they never sprang from me: and I can safely say, that my blood, in a great measure, will lie at their door that did, because it drew me under an ill imputation of defending myself by subordination of perjury. I would be willing to do my duty towards my neighbour, as well as God, before I die; I have many papers and concerns (by reason of my profession) of my clients in my hands, and who will suffer, if they are not put into some order; and nothing but these two considerations could make life desirable, under this heavy load of irons, and restless remorse of conscience for my sins. A short reprieve for these purposes I hope will be agreeable to your Lordship's humanity and Christian virtue, whereupon your Lordship's name shall be blest with my last breath, for giving me an opportunity of making peace with my conscience and God Almighty."

The last request that Noble made was granted: he was allowed some time to settle his spiritual and

temporal concerns, and at length suffered at Kingston, on the 28th of March, 1713, exhibiting marks of genuine repentance. As to the women, they were no sooner acquitted, than they set out for London, taking one of the turnkeys with them, to protect them from the assaults of the populace, who were incensed in the highest degree at the singular enormity of their crimes.

WILLIAM LOWTHER & RICHARD KEELE,

*Executed for the Murder of William Perry, a
Turnkey of Clerkenwell Bridewell.*

WILLIAM LOWTHER was a native of Cumberland, and being bound to the master of a Newcastle ship, which traded to London, became acquainted with some of that low and abandoned company which is always to be found in the metropolis.

Richard Keele was a native of Hampshire, and served his time to a barber at Winchester; and, on coming to London, he married and settled in his own business in Rotherhithe: but, not living happily with his wife, he parted from her, and cohabited with another woman, and associated with a number of disorderly people, till the commission of the crime for which his life paid the forfeit.

On the 10th of December, 1713, they were indicted at the Old Bailey, for assisting Charles Houghton in the murder of Edward Perry.

The case was as follows:—The prisoners, together with two other desperate offenders, of the names of Houghton and Cullum, having been convicted of felony at the Old Bailey, were sentenced to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell-Bridewell for two years. On their being carried thither, Mr. Boreman, the keeper, thought it necessary to put them in irons, to prevent their escape. This they

all refused to submit to ; and Boreman having ordered the irons, they broke into the room where the arms were deposited, which they seized, and then attacked the keeper and his assistants, whom they cruelly beat. Lowther bit off part of a man's nose. At this time Perry, one of the turnkeys, was without the gate, and desired the prisoners to be peaceable ; but, advancing towards them, he was stabbed by Houghton ; and, during the fray, Houghton was shot dead.

The prisoners being at length victorious, many of them made their escape ; but the neighbours giving their assistance, Keele and Lowther, and several others, were taken, and convicted on the clearest evidence. Before the passing sentence, Keele endeavoured to extenuate his crime ; but he was informed by the court, that he must be deemed equally guilty with the rest of his companions, as he had opposed the keepers, in the execution of their duty.

Some time after conviction a smith went to the prison to take measure of them for chains, in which they were to be hung, pursuant to an order from the secretary of state's office : but they for some time resisted him in this duty.

On the morning of execution, being the 13th of December, 1713, they were carried from Newgate to Clerkenwell-green, and there hanged on a gallows erected on the occasion ; after which their bodies were put in a cart, drawn by four horses decorated with plumes of black feathers, and were hung in chains on the day after their execution.

While these unhappy men lay under sentence of death, they appeared to have a due sense of the enormity of the crime of which they had been guilty, and made serious preparation for the important change they were to undergo ; but, at the place of execution, Keele asked the under sheriff if they were to be hung chains ? when the answer given was, " Don't concern yourself about your body, but take care of your poor soul."

HENRY PLUNKET,

Murderer, executed at Tyburn, the 22d of September, 1714.

IN the case of this gentleman, we have a shocking instance of the danger into which our passions lead us. A more unprovoked murder we cannot record. Mr. Plunket was a foreigner, born at Saar-Lewis, in the Duchy of Lorrain, and was the Son of an Irish gentleman, who held the rank of Colonel in the French service, and was related to father Plunket, a priest, who was called the primate of Ireland, and came to a fatal end in the year 1679. Young Plunket was made a lieutenant when he was only ten years of age, and served under his father in Flanders, Germany, and Italy. He was remarkably distinguished for his courage, having never exhibited the least sign of fear in all the engagements in which he was concerned.

Having been a while at Ostend, he came over to England with a gentleman named Reynard, having fled from that place on account of having murdered a man.

He was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Thomas Brown, by cutting his throat with a razor, on the 30th of August, 1714.

It appeared in the course of the evidence, that the prisoner lodged in the parish of St. Anne, Soho, in the same house with the deceased, who being a peruke-maker by trade, Plunket bespoke a wig of him, which Brown finished, and asked seven pounds for it, * but at length lowered his demand to six: Plunket bid him four pounds for it; but was so enraged at what he thought an exorbitant price, that

* It must be remembered, that at the commencement of the last century, when this foul deed was committed, young gentlemen wore enormous wigs. A hundred years reconciled them to their own hair, and the ladies alone now appear in wigs.

he took up a razor, cut his throat, and then made his escape; but was apprehended on the following day.

As soon as the horrid deed was perpetrated, Brown came down stairs in a bloody condition, holding his hands to his throat, on which a surgeon was sent for, who dressed his wounds, and gave him some cordials; by which he was so far recovered as to be able to describe the prisoner, who, he said, stood behind him, pulled back his head, and cut him twice on the throat.

It was proved that a sword and a pair of gloves belonging to the prisoner were found on a bed in the room where Brown was murdered; and Plunket, having nothing material to urge in his defence, was found guilty, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 22d of September, 1714.

He professed to die a Roman Catholic; and it was with the utmost difficulty he was brought to confess the justice of the sentence in consequence of which he suffered.

THOMAS DOUGLASS,

Murderer, executed at Tyburn, the 27th of October, 1714.

THIS conviction presents another instance of the mischief ensuing from drunkenness, which the law, so far from admitting it as a palliation, as this unhappy man conceived, considers it an aggravation of the crime.

Thomas Douglass was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of William Sparks, a seaman, at a public-house in Wapping.

He was born in county of Berwick, in Scotland, and, having been educated by his parents according to the strictly religious plan prevailing in that

country, he was bound apprentice to a sea-faring person at Berwick, and when he was out of his time, he entered on board a ship in the royal navy ; and, in this station acquired the character of an expert and valiant seaman.

Having served Queen Anne during several engagements in the Mediterranean and other seas, he returned to England with Sparks, who was his shipmate, on whom he committed the murder we have mentioned.

It appeared in the course of the evidence, that the parties had been drinking together, till they were inflamed with liquor, when the prisoner took up a knife, and stabbed the other in such a manner, that he died on the spot. The atrociousness of the offence was such, that Douglass was immediately taken into custody ; and, being convicted on the clearest evidence, received sentence of death.

After conviction, it was a difficult matter to make Douglass sensible of the enormity of the crime that he had committed ; for he supposed that, as he was drunk when he perpetrated the fact, he ought to be considered in the same light as a man who is a lunatic. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 27th of October, 1714, and died a penitent.

NATHANIEL PARKHURST, ESQ.

*Murderer executed at Tyburn, the 20th of
May, 1715.*

It is somewhat singular, that in our search of the ancient records of crimes and punishments, we should find, in chronological order, two murders, stimulated by the fumes of intoxication. Of this disgraceful practice, of itself a sin, we could give

a long lecture;—but let these dreadful consequences operate as a caution to drunkards.

Mr. Parkhurst was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Lewis Pleura, on the 3d of March, 1715; and a second time indicted on the statute of stabbing: when the substance of the evidence given against him, was as follows:

He was a native of the village of Catesby, near Daventry, in Northamptonshire, and was the son of very respectable parents, who having given him the education common in a country academy, sent him to finish his studies at Wadham College, in Oxford; but, associating himself with men of an atheistical turn of mind, they employed themselves in ridiculing religion, and making a jest of the Scriptures, and every thing that was held sacred.

Lewis Pleura who was born in Italy, had taken upon himself the title of Count, and subsisted by the practice of gaming, till being greatly reduced in circumstances, he was obliged to take refuge in the Fleet prison, where he became acquainted with Mr. Parkhurst.

Parkhurst and the deceased, Lewis Pleura, having been fellow prisoners in the Fleet for debt, the former who had sat up drinking till three o'clock in the morning, went into a room adjoining to that of Mr. Pleura, and said, "D—n you, Sir Lewis, where are you?" but finding that he had mistaken the room, he went into the right chamber, and said, "D—n you, Sir Lewis, pay me four guineas you owe me." Soon after this the cry of murder was heard; when a number of people repairing to the place, found Pleura weltering in his blood on the floor, and Parkhurst over him with his sword, who had stabbed him in near twenty places.

A surgeon was immediately sent for, who dressed the deceased, and put him to bed, and as soon as he recovered the use of his speech, he declared that Parkhurst had assassinated him. Parkhurst being

taken out of the room, went back again to it, and said, "D—n you, Pleura, are you not dead yet?"

In answer to this evidence against him, he said, that he was ignorant of having committed the crime, and for two years and a half past had been in a very unhappy state of mind; and several witnesses were called to prove that he had done many things which seemed to intimate that he was a lunatic; but, on the contrary, other evidences deposed, that not long before the murder happened, he had taken such steps towards obtaining his liberty, as proved, that he was in the full use of his intellectual faculties. Upon the whole, therefore, the jury found him guilty.

Soon after this offender had received sentence of death, he began to see the error of those opinions he had imbibed, acknowledged the truth of that religion he had ridiculed, and felt the force of its divine precepts. He confessed that the dissolute course of life which he had led had wasted his substance, weakened his intellectual faculties, and disturbed his mind to such a degree, that before he committed the murder for which he suffered, he had resolved to kill some person or other, and make his escape from the Fleet prison; or, if he should be unable to effect this, he intended to have been guilty of suicide.

It is very remarkable of this malefactor, that, on the morning of execution he ordered a fowl to be prepared for his breakfast, of which he seemed to eat with a good appetite, and drank a pint of liquor with it.

How men can even indulge the idea, of feasting a moment as it were, before they know a disgraceful death must happen, is truly astonishing! Lord Lovat, as we shall hereafter shew, ordered his favourite dish to be cooked, and thereof eat greedily, just before his head was severed from his body.

At the place of execution, he addressed himself

to the populace, intimating, that since he had been ill of the small-pox, about twenty years before, his head had been affected to such a degree, that he was never able to speak long at a time: wherefore he said no more, only earnestly requested their prayers for his departing soul.

He was executed at Tyburn on the 20th of May, 1715, in the thirty-ninth of his age.

HENRY POWEL,

Highwayman, executed at Tyburn, on the 23d of December, 1715.

At the age of nine years he was placed at Merchant Taylor's School, whence he was removed to the care of Dr. Shorter, under whom he obtained a tolerable proficiency in the Latin and Greek languages.

Having made choice of the profession of a surgeon, he was bound at Surgeon's Hall, to a gentleman equally eminent for his skill and piety; but giving early proofs of the wildness of his disposition, his master predicted the fatal consequence that would ensue.

Powel's father and mother dying soon after he was bound, and his master, when he had served six years of his time, he was wholly at his own disposal: a circumstance that led to his ruin. He was at this time only eighteen years of age, and hitherto had not kept any company that was notoriously wicked. Going now to see a young woman who was related to him, she fancied a ring which he had on his finger, and wished he would exchange it for hers, which he did; but it appearing to be of less value than she imagined she was base enough, on the following morning, to have him seized in his

bed, as a proper person to serve the king; and without being permitted to send for any friend, he was sent into Flanders as a foot-soldier.

He twice deserted from the regiment in which he served; but the intercession of some of his officers saved him from the customary punishment. When he had been a soldier about three years, the regiment was quartered at Nieuport, between Dunkirk and Ostend, whence he again deserted, in company with seven other men, who travelled into Holland, where they embarked on board a ship bound to England, and being landed at Burlington, in Yorkshire, Powel came to London.

Being arrived in the metropolis, he found that he had not one acquaintance left who was able and willing to assist him; so that he repented having deserted from the army, being reduced to such a situation that he saw no prospect before him but either to beg or steal. The first he despised as a mean occupation, and the latter he dreaded as equally destructive to his soul and body.

Hereupon he applied for employment as a porter, and worked at the water-side, till a fellow induced him to be concerned in stealing some goods, for which the other was hanged.

About this time Powel married a young woman of strict virtue, who finding some irregularity in his behaviour, warned him to avoid all evil courses, as they must infallibly end in his destruction.

On the 15th of October, 1715, he went as far as South Mims, in Hertfordshire, where he stopped Sarah Maddocks on the highway, and robbed her of two shillings and sixpence; for which offence he was apprehended, and being tried at the Old Bailey in the following month, he was convicted, received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn, on the 23d of December, 1715.

Just before his going to the place of execution, he delivered a paper to the Ordinary of Newgate, in which were the following passages: "I account

this ignominious death as a just judgment for my sins against the Divine Majesty and my neighbour; and therefore patiently resign myself to his blessed will, and hope (with true repentance, and a stedfast faith in Christ Jesus,) he will seal my pardon in heaven, before I go hence, and be no more seen; and I bless God I have had more consolation under my condemnation, than ever I had these many years; and I hope that those who survive me will take warning by my fatal end.

“ I have this comfort, that no man can accuse me of enticing him to the commission of such acts; especially one person, who has accused me of it since my condemnation; but for the value I have for him, I'll omit his name, and desire him to take warning by me; being resolved within myself, that if God had prolonged my days, I would relinquish all such courses.”

Account of the Rise and Progress of the FIRST REBELLION IN SCOTLAND, 1715; with full Accounts of the principal Traitors who were executed.

WE are now arrived at a very memorable period of the history of England. Neither the abdication of the throne by king James James II. nor his defeat by king William III. at the battle of the Boyne, in Ireland, were admitted by the adherents to the family of Stuart, to bar their right to the crown. On the accession of George I. this question was in secret agitated with much warmth; when the earl Mar, a Scotch nobleman of great popularity, and secretly a friend to the royal stock of his own country, determined upon the attempt to dethrone the king, and to overthrow the constitution. This nobleman was farther stimulated to attempt this dangerous measure, from being on the accession of the

king, deprived of some offices which he held under the tory ministry of Queen Anne; which, had he been permitted to retain after the change of measures which then took place, this rebellion might not have broke out. When the earl found he was deprived of all share in the new government, in revenge he retired to Scotland, where he immediately began to tamper with such lords as possessed influence among the people, and found they wanted only a leader to set up the standard of the grandson of king James, who by the Scotch was hailed as the heir to the English throne, but by the government denominated the pretender.

An invitation was now sent to the pretender, who had taken refuge in France, to come to Scotland, while the friends to his cause were seducing and enlisting men for his service. This was done with all possible secrecy, yet their proceedings were soon known by the ministry, as on the 20th of July, 1715, when the king had not then reigned a year, he went to the House of Lords, where having sent for the Commons, he told them from the throne, that a plan was on foot to invade the country by the pretender; and that he suspected there were too many abettors of rebellion in this country.

He required, that until the rebellion should be quelled, the act of habeas corpus should be suspended, and preparations should, to that end be immediately made.

Orders were issued for the embodying of the militia, the guards were encamped in Hyde-Park, and several men of war ordered to guard the coast, and intercept the army of the Pretender on his voyage from France to Scotland; and many were apprehended on suspicion of secretly aiding the rebels, and committed to prison.

Meanwhile the earl of Mar was in open rebellion at the head of an army of 3000 men, which was rapidly increasing, marching from town to town in Scotland, proclaiming the Pretender as king of En-

gland and Scotland, by the title of James III. An attempt was made by stratagem to surprise the castle of Edinburgh. To this end some of the king's soldiers were base enough to receive a bribe to admit those of the earl of Mar, who were, by means of ladders of rope, to scale the walls, and surprise the guard; but the Lord Justice Clerk having some suspicion of the treachery, seized the guilty, some of whom were executed.

The rebels were greatly chagrined at the failure of their attempt upon Edinburgh Castle; and the French king, Louis XIV. from whom they hoped for assistance, dying about this time, the leaders became disheartened, and contemplated the abandonment of their project, until their king could shew himself among them.

Discontent, however, shewed itself in another quarter. In Northumberland the spirit of rebellion was fermented by Thomas Forster, then one of the members of parliament for that county; and, being joined by several noblemen and gentlemen, they attempted to seize the large and commercial town of Newcastle, but were driven back by the friends of the government. Forster set up the standard of the Pretender, and proclaimed him the lawful king of Britain wherever he went. He next joined a body of Scotch troops in rebellion, and marched with them as far as Preston, in Lancashire, before his career could be stopped by the king's army.

At this town Generals Carpenter and Wills attacked the rebels, who defended themselves a while by firing upon the royal army from windows, and from the tops of the houses, but the latter proved victorious, but not without the loss of 150 men. They made prisoners about 1500, among whom were the Earl of Derwentwater, the Lord Widdrington, English peers; the Earl of Nithesdale, the Earl of Winton, the Earl of Carnworth, Viscount Kenmure, the Lord Nairn, Scotch peers.

These noblemen, with about 300 more rebels,

were conveyed to London; the remainder taken at the battle of Preston, were sent to Liverpool and its adjacent towns. At Highgate, the party intended for trial in London, were met by a strong detachment of foot-guards, who tied them back to back, and placed two on each horse, and in this ignominious manner were they held to the derision of the populace, until the lords were conveyed to the tower, and the others to Newgate and other prisons.

On the day after the victory of the English, the earl of Mar, with his followers, attempted to cross the Forth, with a view of joining the rebels, collected together in England; but a squadron of the British fleet having anchored off Edinburgh, they abandoned that design.

Sir John M'Kenzie, on the part of the pretender, fortified the town of Inverness; but Lord Lovet* armed his tenants, and drove him from his fortifications. This was a service of much import to the royal cause, as the possession of Inverness opened a communication between the high and low lands of Scotland. The earl of Seathforth and the Marquis of Huntley, appeared in favour of the Pretender; but on the earl of Sunderland threatening, to fall upon them at the head of his tenants, they laid down their arms. Thus we find that the interest of Scotland was divided in the question of the right to the British throne. In England there was a vast majority in favour of the house of Hanover.

The Pretender, evading the British ships sent to watch his motions, landed from a small French vessel, with only six followers. This happened on the 23d of December, while the royal army, under the duke of Argyle, were in winter quarters at Stir-

* This Scotch nobleman, at this time active in the cause of king George, by a strange infatuation during a subsequent rebellion, on the very same cause, took the other side, and fought for the Pretender, was taken, condemned, and beheaded on Tower-hill! A particular account of that rebellion we shall also give, with the trials and execution of the rebels.

ing, and that of the rebels, at Perth. On the 9th of January, 1716, having collected a few hundred half-armed highlanders, the Pretender made a public entry into the palace of Scone, the place of coronation of the kings of Scotland, while that country was a separate monarchy; assumed the functions of a king, and issued a proclamation for his coronation, and another for the convocation of the states.

These daring proceedings determined the duke of Argyle, who had been joined by general Cadogan, at the head of 6000 Dutch troops, notwithstanding the inclemency of the season, to march in pursuit of the rebels. He proceeded to their head-quarters at Perth, but they fled on his approach. It appeared that the Pretender was encouraged by France to rebel, hoping thereby to throw the nation into confusion, of which that deceitful government would have taken advantage. To meet the expected succours, the Pretender and his adherents went to Dundee, and thence to Montrose, where, soon rendered hopeless by no news arriving of the approach of the foreigners, they began to disperse. The king's troops pursued and put several to death; but the Pretender, accompanied by the earl of Mar, and some of the leaders of the rebellion, had the good fortune to get on board a ship lying before Montrose, and in a dark night put to sea, escaped the English fleet, and landed in France.

It is now time to return to the captive lords, and the other prisoners, taken at the battle of Preston. The House of Commons unanimously agreed to impeach the lords and expel Forster from his seat, as one of their members; while the courts of common law proceeded with the trials of those of less note. The articles of impeachment being sent by the commons, the Lords sat in judgment, Earl Cooper, the Lord High Chancellor of England, being constituted Lord High Steward.

The unfortunate noblemen, except the earl of Winton, pleaded guilty to the indictment, but offer-

ed pleas of extenuation for their guilt, in hopes of obtaining mercy. In that of the earl of Derwentwater, he suggested that the proceedings of the House of Commons, in impeaching him, were illegal.

Proclamation was immediately made for silence, and the Lord High Steward proceeded to pass the sentence of the law, on those who had pleaded guilty, in the following words :

“ James earl of Derwentwater, William lord Widdrington, William earl of Nithisdale, Robert earl of Carnwarth, William viscount Kenmure, William lord Nairn :

“ You stand impeached by the Commons of Great Britain, in parliament assembled, of high treason, in traitorously imagining and compassing the death of his most sacred majesty, and conspiring for that end to levy a bloody and destructive war against his majesty, in order to depose and murder him ; and in levying war accordingly, and proclaiming a pretender to his crown to be king of these realms.

“ Which impeachment, though one of your lordships, in the introduction to this plea, supposes to be out of the ordinary and common course of law and justice, is yet as much a course of proceeding according to the common law, as any other whatsoever.

“ If you had been indicted, the indictment must have been removed, and brought before the House of Lords, (the parliament sitting). In that case you had (’tis true) been accused only by the grand-jury of one county ; in the present, the whole body of the Commons of Great Britain, by their representatives, are your accusers.

“ And this circumstance is very observable, (to exclude all possible supposition of hardship, as to the method of proceeding against you) that however all great assemblies are apt to differ on other points, you were impeached by the unanimous opinion of the House of Commons, not one contradicting.

“ They found themselves, it seems, so much concerned in the preservation of his most truly sacred majesty, and the Protestant succession (the very life and soul of these kingdoms) that they could not omit the first opportunity of taking their proper part, in order to so signal and necessary an act of his majesty's justice.

“ And thus the whole body politic of this free kingdom has in a manner rose up in its own defence, for the punishment of those crimes, which, it was rightly apprehended, had a direct tendency to the everlasting dissolution of it.

“ To this impeachment you have severally pleaded and acknowledged yourselves guilty of the high treason therein contained.

“ Your pleas are accompanied with some variety of matter to mitigate your offences, and to obtain mercy.

“ Part of which, as some of the circumstances said to have attended your surrender, (seeming to be offered rather as arguments only for mercy, than any thing in mitigation of your preceding guilt) is not proper for me to take notice of.

“ But as to the other part, which is meant to extenuate the crimes of which you are convicted, it is fit I should take this occasion to make some observations to your lordships upon it, to the end that the judgment to be given against you may clearly appear to be just and righteous, as well as legal; and that you may not remain under any fatal error in respect of a greater judicature, by reflecting with less horror and remorse on the guilt you have contracted than it really deserves.

“ It is alleged, by some of your lordships, that you engaged in this rebellion without previous concert or deliberation, and without suitable preparations of men, horses, and arms.

“ If this should be supposed true, on some of your lordships averring it, I desire you to consider, that it exempts you from the circumstance of con-

triving this reason, so it very much aggravates your guilt in that part you have undoubtedly borne in the execution of it.

“ For it shews, that your inclinations to rebel were so well known, (which could only be from a continued series of your words and actions) that the contrivers of that horrid design depended upon, and you therein judged rightly that your zeal to engage in this treason was so strong, as to carry you into it on the least warning, and the very first invitation: that you would not excuse yourselves by want of preparation, as you might have done; and, that rather than not have a share in the rebellion, you would plunge yourselves into it, almost naked and unprovided for such an enterprize; in short that your men, horses, and arms, were not so well prepared as they might, and would have been on longer warning; but your minds were.

“ It is alledged also, as an extenuation of your crimes, that no cruel or harsh action (I suppose is meant no rapine or plunder, or worse) has been committed by you.

“ This may, in part only, be true: but then your lordships will at the same time consider, that the lying waste a tract of land bears but a little proportion, in point of guilt, compared with that crime of which you stand convicted; an open attempt to destroy the best of kings, to ruin the whole fabric, and rase the very foundation of a government, the best suited of any in the world, to perfect the happiness and support the dignity of human nature. The former offence causes but a mischief that is soon recovered, and is usually pretty much confined; the latter had it succeeded, must have brought a lasting and universal destruction on the whole kingdom.

“ Besides, much of this was owing to accident; your march was so hasty, partly to avoid the king's troops, and partly from a vain hope to stir up insurrections in all the counties you have passed through, that you had not time to spread devastation, without

deviating from your main, and, as I have further observed, much worse design.

“Farther: ’Tis very surprising that any concerned in this rebellion, should lay their engaging in it on the government’s doing a necessary and usual act in like cases, for its preservation; the giving orders to confine such as were most likely to join in that treason: ’tis hard to believe that any one should rebel, merely to avoid being restrained from rebelling; or that a gentle confinement would not much better have suited a crazy state of health, then the fatigues and inconveniences of such long and hasty marches in the depth of winter.

“Your lordships rising in arms therefore, has much more justified the prudence and fitness of those orders, than those orders will in any wise serve to mitigate your treason. Alas! happy had it been for all your lordships, had you fallen under so indulgent a restraint!

“When your lordships shall in good earnest apply yourselves to think impartially on your case, surely you will not yourselves believe that it is possible, in the nature of the thing, to be engaged, and continue so long engaged, in such a difficult and laborious enterprize, through rashness, surprize, or inadvertency; or that had the attack at Preston been less sudden (and consequently the rebels better prepared to receive it), your lordships had been reduced the sooner, and with less, if not without bloodshed.

“No, my lords, these, and such like, are artful colourings, proceeding from minds filled with expectation of continuing in this world, and not from such as are preparing for their defence before a tribunal, where the thoughts of the heart, and the true springs and causes of action must be laid open.

“And now, my lords, having thus removed some false colours you have used; to assist you yet farther in that necessary work of thinking on your great offence, as you ought, I proceed to touch upon several circumstances that seem greatly to aggravate

your crime, and which will deserve your most serious consideration.

“The divine virtues (’tis one of your lordships’ own epithets) which all the world, as well as your lordships, acknowledge to be in his majesty, and which you now lay claim to, ought certainly to have withheld your hands from endeavouring to depose, destroy, to murder, that most excellent prince; so the impeachment speaks, and so the law construes your actions; and this is not only true in the notion of law, but almost always so in deed and reason. ’Tis a trite but a very true remark, that there are but few hours between kings being reduced under the power of pretenders to their crown and their graves. Had you succeeded, his majesty’s case would I fear, have hardly been an exception to that general rule since ’tis highly improbable that flight should have saved any of that illustrious and valiant family.

“’Tis a further aggravation of your crime, that his majesty, whom your lordships would have dethroned, effected not the crown by force, or by the arts of ambition, but succeeded peaceably and legally to it; and on the decease of her late majesty without issue, became undoubtedly the next in course of descent capable of succeeding to the crown, by the law and constitution of this kingdom, as it stood declared some years before the crown was expressly limited to the House of Hanover. This right was acknowledged, and the descent of the crown limited or confirmed accordingly, by the whole legislature in two successive reigns, and more than once in the latter; which your lordships’ accomplices are very far from allowing would bias the nation to that side.

“How could it then enter into the heart of man, to think that private persons might with a good conscience endeavour to subvert such a settlement, by running to tumultuary arms, and by intoxicating the dregs of the people with contradictory opinions and groundless slanders; or that God’s providence

would ever prosper such wicked such ruinous attempts; especially if, in the next place, it be considered, that the most fertile inventions, on the side of the rebellion, have not been able to assign the least shadow of grievance as the cause of it: to such poor shifts have they been reduced on this head, that, for want of better colours, it has been objected, in a solemn manner, by your lordships' associates, to his majesty's government that his people do not enjoy the fruits of peace, as our neighbours have done since the last war: thus they first rob us of our peace, and then upbraid us that we have it not. It is a monstrous rebellion, that can find no fault with the government it invades but what is the effect of the rebellion itself?

"Your lordships will likewise do well to consider what an additional burden your treason has made it necessary on the people of this kingdom, who wanted and were about to enjoy some respite: to this end, 'tis well known, that all knew, an increase of taxes, were the last year carefully avoided, and his majesty was contented to have no more forces than were just sufficient to attend his person, and shut the gates of a few garrisons.

"But what his majesty thus did for the ease and quiet of his people, you most ungratefully turned to his disadvantage, by taking encouragement from thence, to endanger his and his kingdom's safety, and to bring oppression on your fellow-subjects.

"Your Lordships observe, I avoid expatiating on the miseries of a civil war, a very large and copious subject; I shall but barely suggest to you on that head, that whatever those calamities may happen to be, in the present case, all who are, at any time, or in any place, partakers in the rebellion (especially persons of figure and distinction), are in some degree responsible for them: and therefore your lordships must not hold yourselves quite clear from the guilt of those barbarities which have been lately committed, by such as are engaged in the same

treason with you, and not yet perfectly reduced, in burning the habitations of their countrymen, and thereby exposing many thousands to cold and hunger in this rigorous season.

“ I must be so just, to such of your lordships as profess the religion of the Church of Rome, that you had one temptation, and that a great one, to engage you in this treason, which the others had not; in that, it was evident, success on your part must for ever have established Popery in this kingdom, and that probably you could never have again so fair an opportunity.

“ But then, good God! how must those Protestants be covered with confusion, who entered into the same measures, without so much as capitulating for their religion (that ever I could find from any examination I have seen or heard), or so much as requiring, much less obtaining a frail promise, that it should be preserved, or even tolerated.

“ It is my duty to exhort your lordships thus to think of the aggravations as well as the mitigations (if there be any) of your offences; and if I could have the least hopes, that the prejudices of habit and education would not be too strong for the most earnest and charitable entreaties, I would beg you not to rely any longer on those directors of your consciences, by whose conduct you have, very probably, been led into this miserable condition; but that your lordships would be assisted by some of those pious and learned divines of the church of England, who have constantly borne that infallible mark of sincere Christians, universal charity.

“ And now, my lords, nothing remains, but that I pronounce upon you, (and sorry I am that it falls to my lot to do it) that terrible sentence of the law, which must be the same that is usually given against the meanest offender in the like kind.

“ The most ignominious and painful parts of it are usually remitted, by the grace of the crown, to persons of your quality: but the law in this case,

being deaf to all distinctions of persons, requires I should pronounce, and accordingly it is adjudged by this court,

“That you, James Earl of Derwentwater, William Lord Widdrington, William Earl of Nithisdale, Robert Earl of Carnwarth, William Viscount Kenmure, and William Lord Nairn, and every of you, return to the prison of the Tower, from whence you came; from thence you must be drawn to the place of execution; when you come there, you must be hanged by the neck, but not till you be dead; for you must be cut down alive; then your bowels must be taken out, and burnt before your faces; then your heads must be severed from your bodies, and your bodies divided each into four quarters; and these must be at the king's disposal. And God Almighty be merciful to your souls.”

After sentence thus passed, the lords were remanded back to the Tower, and on the 18th of February orders were sent to the Lieutenant of the Tower and sheriffs for their execution; and great solicitations were made in favour of them, which did not only reach the court, but came down to the two houses of parliament, and petitions were delivered in both, which being backed by some, occasioned debates: that in the house of commons arose no higher than to occasion a motion for adjournment, thereby to prevent any further interposition there; but the matter in the house of peers was carried on with more success, where their petitions were delivered and spoke to, and it was carried by nine or ten voices, that the same should be received and read. And the question was put, whether the king had power to reprieve, in case of impeachment? which being carried in the affirmative, a motion was made to address his Majesty to desire him to grant reprieve to the lords under sentence; but the mover thereof only obtained this clause, viz. “To
“reprieve such of the condemned lords as deserved
“his mercy; and that the time of respite should be
“left to his Majesty's discretion.”

To which address his Majesty replied,

“ That on this and other occasions, he would do what he thought most consistent with the dignity of his crown, and the safety of his people.”

The great parties they had made, as was said, by the means of money, and also the rash expressions too common in the mouths of many of their friends, as if the government did not dare to execute them, did not a little contribute to the hastening of their execution: for on the same day the address was presented, the 23d of February, it was resolved in council, that the Earl of Derwentwater and the Lord Kenmure, should be beheaded; and the Earl of Nithisdale, apprehending he should be included in the warrant, made his escape the evening before in a woman's riding-hood, supposed to have been conveyed to him by his mother on a visit.

In the morning of the 24th of February, three detachments of the Life-guards went from White-hall, to Tower-hill, and having taken their stations round the scaffold, the two lords were brought from the Tower at ten o'clock, and being received by the sheriffs at the bar, were conducted to the transport office on Tower-hill; and, at the expiration of about an hour, the Earl Derwentwater sent word that he was ready; on which Sir John Fryer, one of the sheriffs, walked before him to the scaffold, and when there, told him he might have what time he pleased to prepare himself for death.

His lordship desired to read a paper which he had written, the substance of which was, that he was sorry for having pleaded guilty; that he acknowledged no king but James the Third, for whom he had an inviolable affection, and that these kingdoms would never be happy till the ancient constitution was restored; and he wished his death might contribute to that desirable end. His lordship professed to die a Roman Catholic, and in the postscript to his speech, said, “ If that prince, who now governs, had given me life, I should have thought

“ myself obliged never more to have taken up arms
“ against him.”

Sir John Fryer desiring to have the paper, i.e. said he had sent a copy of it to his friends, and then delivered it. He then read some prayers out of two small books, and kneeled to try how the block would fit his neck. This being done, he had again recourse to his devotions, and having told the executioner that he forgave him, and likewise forgave all his enemies, he directed him to strike when he should repeat the words “sweet Jesus,” the third time.

He then kneeled down, and said, “sweet Jesus !
“ receive my spirit ! sweet Jesus be merciful to me ;
“ sweet Jesus”—and appeared to be proceeding in his prayer, when his head was struck off at one blow ; and the executioner taking it up, exhibited it at the four corners of the scaffold, saying, “Behold the head of a traitor :—God save king George.”

The body was now wrapped up in black baize, and being carried to a coach, was delivered to the friends of the deceased ; and the scaffold having been cleared, fresh baize put on the block, and saw-dust strewed, that none of the blood might appear, Lord Kenmure was conducted to the scaffold.

His lordship, who was a Protestant, was attended by two clergymen ; but he declined saying much, telling one of them that he had prudential reasons for not delivering his sentiments ; which were supposed to arise from his regard to Lord Carnwarth, who was his brother-in-law, and was then interceding for the royal mercy ; as his talking in the way that Lord Derwentwater had done, might be supposed to injure his lordship with those most likely to serve him.

Lord Kenmure having finished his devotions, declared that he forgave the executioner, to whom he made a present of eight guineas. He was attended by a surgeon, who drew his finger over that part of the neck where the blow was to be struck ; and being executed as Lord Derwentwater had been, his body was delivered to the care of an undertaker.

George Earl of Winton, not having pleaded guilty with the other lords, was brought to his trial on the 15th of March, when the principal matter urged in his favour was, that he had surrendered at Preston in consequence of a promise from General Wills to grant him his life: in answer to which it was sworn, that no promise of mercy was made, but that the rebels surrendered at discretion.

The Earl of Winton having left his house, with fourteen or fifteen of his servants, well mounted and armed;—his joining the Earl Carnworth and Lord Kenmure; his proceeding with the rebels through the various stages of their march, and his surrendering with the rest were circumstances fully proved: notwithstanding which his counsel moved an arrest of judgment: but the plea on which this motion was founded being thought insufficient, his peers unanimously found him guilty: and then the lord high steward pronounced sentence on him, after having addressed him in the following forcible terms:—

“ George Earl of Winton, I have acquainted you,
“ that your peers have found you guilty; that is, in
“ the terms of the law, convicted you of the high-
“ treason whereof you stand impeached; after your
“ lordship has moved an arrest of judgment, and
“ their lordships have disallowed that motion, their
“ next step is, to proceed to judgment.

“ The melancholy part I am to bear, in pronounc-
“ ing that judgment upon you, since it is his majesty’s
“ pleasure to appoint me to that office, I dutifully
“ submit to; far, very far, from taking any satis-
“ faction in it.

“ Till conviction, your lordship has been spoke to
“ without the least prejudice, or supposition of your
“ guilt; but now it must be taken for granted, that
“ your lordship is guilty of the high-treason whereof
“ you stand impeached.

“ My lord, this your crime is the greatest known
“ to the law of this kingdom, or of any other country
“ whatsoever, and it is of the blackest and most

“ odious species of that crime ; a conspiracy and
 “ attempt, manifested by an open rebellion, to de-
 “ pose and murder that sacred person, who sus-
 “ tains, and is the majesty of the whole ; and from
 “ whom, as from a fountain of warmth and glory,
 “ are dispersed all the honours, all the dignity of the
 “ state ; indeed the lasting and operative life and
 “ vigour of the laws, which plainly subsist by a due
 “ administration of the executive power.

“ So that attempting this precious life, is really
 “ striking at the most noble part, the seat of life,
 “ and spring of all motion in this government ;
 “ and may therefore properly be called a design to
 “ murder not only the king, but also the body poli-
 “ tick of this kingdom.

“ And this is most evidently true in your lordships’
 “ case, considering that success in your treason
 “ must infallibly have established Popery ; and that
 “ never fails to bring with it a civil as well as eccle-
 “ siastical tyranny : which is quite another sort of
 “ constitution than that of this kingdom, and can-
 “ not take place till the present is annihilated.

“ This your crime (so I must call it), is the more
 “ aggravated, in that where it proceeds so far as to
 “ take arms openly, and to make an offensive war
 “ against lawful authority ; it is generally (as in
 “ your case) complicated with the horrid and crying
 “ sin of murdering many, who are not only inno-
 “ cent but meritorious : and, if pity be due (as I
 “ admit it is in some degree) to such as suffer for
 “ their own crimes, it must be admitted a much
 “ greater share of compassion is owing to them who
 “ have lost their lives merely by the crimes of other
 “ men.

“ As many have so done in the late rebellion, so
 “ many murders have they to answer for who pro-
 “ moted it ; and your lordship in examining your
 “ conscience, will be under a great delusion, if you
 “ look at those that fell at Preston, Dumbain, or
 “ elsewhere, on the side of the laws, and defence of

“ settled order and government, as slain in an open
“ lawful manner even judging of this matter by the
“ law of nations.

“ Alas ! my lord, your crime of high-treason is yet
“ made redder by shedding a great deal of the best
“ blood in the kingdom ; I include in this expres-
“ sion the brave common soldiers, as well as those
“ gallant and heroic officers, who continued faithful
“ to death, in defence of the laws : for sure but little
“ blood can be better than that, which is shed while
“ it is warm in the cause of the true religion, and
“ the liberties of its native country.”

After continuing for some length, much in the same strain as the foregoing address, his lordship pronounced the usual sentence.

Soon after the passing this sentence, the earls of Winton and Nithisdale founds means to escape out of the Tower ; and Messrs. Forster and M'Itosh escaped from Newgate : but it was supposed that motives of mercy and tenderness in the prince of Wales, afterwards George the second, favoured the escape of all these gentlemen.

This rebellion occasioned the untimely death of many other persons. Five were executed at Manchester, six at Wigan, and eleven at Preston ; but a considerable number were brought to London, and being arraigned in the court of Exchequer, most of them pleaded guilty, and suffered the utmost rigour of the law.

It will now be proper that we mention the cases of such other remarkable persons who suffered on account of the rebellion ; and then we will make some general remarks on the nature and heinousness of that offence.

COLONEL HENRY OXBURGH,

Executed at Tyburn, May 14, 1716, for High-Treason.

HENRY OXBURGH, Esq. the son of a man of considerable property in Lancashire, having been educated in the most rigid principles of the Roman Catholic religion, was sent abroad while a youth into the service of France, in which he acquired the character of a brave and gallant officer.

At the close of the war he returned to England to see his friends, and finding that the rebels were advancing southwards, he raised a regiment with which he joined the main army before it reached Preston. Colonel Oxburgh was the man who ordered the rebels to fire on the royal troops, and if his opinion had been taken, the town would not have surrendered as soon as it did.

On his trial he pleaded guilty; but after sentence was passed on him, and he found that every application for mercy was unsuccessful, he talked in a strain very different from that of a man conscious of any crime. He said he considered the Pretender as his lawful sovereign, and never deemed himself the subject of any other prince.—He even asserted that he would have been equally loyal to the Pretender if he had been a Protestant.

This unhappy man, seems to have fallen a victim to the prejudices of education.

RICHARD GASCOIGNE,

Executed at Tyburn, May 25, 1716, for High-Treason.

THIS unfortunate man was singularly active in fomenting the rebellion. So zealous was he in the cause, that he mortgaged his whole estate to supply

him with money to purchase arms from foreign countries.

When the rebels marched towards the south of England, he engaged all the forces he could, and went and joined them, proclaiming the Pretender king at every stage of his march. He was made prisoner by the king's troops at Preston, at the same time as Colonel Oxburgh; and being arraigned before Lord Chief Justice King, in Westminster-hall, he pleaded "not guilty."

On his trial it was proved, that some casks of arms which he had purchased abroad, were found on board a ship, directed to him; and being found guilty, on the clearest evidence, sentence of death was passed on him.

While he lay under sentence of death, his sentiments appeared to be nearly the same as those of Colonel Oxburgh: and at the place of execution he declared that he did not take up arms with a view to restore the Roman Catholic religion, but solely in behalf of James the Third, whom he deemed his lawful sovereign.

REV. WILLIAM PAUL.

Executed at Tyburn, July 18, 1716, for High Treason.

MR. PAUL was born of reputable parents, near Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, and having been educated for the pulpit, took the degree of Bachelor of Arts, at St. John's College, Cambridge. After officiating as a chaplain for two clergymen, the bishop of Oxford presented him to the vicarage of Orton, in his native county, to which he was instituted in the year 1709.

The rebels having reached Preston, Mr. Paul be-

gan a journey to meet them; but was apprehended on suspicion, and carried before Colonel Noel, a justice of the peace, who finding no just cause of detention, dismissed him; on which he continued his journey to Preston, where he read prayers to the rebels three days successively, and prayed for the Pretender, by the name of King James, in the parish church.

A short time before the national forces reached Preston, Mr. Paul quitted that place, and coming to London, disguised himself by wearing coloured clothes, a sword, a laced hat, and a full-bottomed wig.

But he had not been long in this disguise before he was met by Mr. Bird, a justice of the peace for Leicestershire, who caused him to be taken into custody, and carried to the house of the duke of Devonshire, who sent him to the secretary of state for examination; but as he refused to make any confession, he was delivered to the custody of one of the king's messengers, with whom he remained about a fortnight, and was then committed to Newgate.

He was arraigned at Westminster on the 31st of May, and pleaded "not guilty:" on which he was remanded to Newgate, and had time allowed him to prepare his defence. On his return to prison, he sent for a friend; to whom he said, "What must I do? I have been this day arraigned, and pleaded not guilty, but that will not avail, for too much will be proved against me."—To this his friend replied, "I will persuade you to nothing; but in my opinion the best way is to confess your fault, ask pardon, and throw yourself on the king's mercy." Mr. Paul said his counsel advised the same, and he was resolved to do so; and when he was again brought to the bar, he retracted his former plea, and pleaded guilty; in consequence of which sentence of death was passed on him.

Being sent back to prison, he made every possible

interest for the preservation of his life; for he seemed to have a most singular dread of death, particularly when attended with such disgraceful circumstances as he had reason to apprehend. He wrote a petition to the king, another to the lord chief justice, and letters to the archbishop of Canterbury, with other letters to clergymen; in all of which he acknowledged his crime, and his change of sentiments; and intercedes for mercy, in terms of the most abject humiliation.

In a letter to a female relation, he says, "I am among the number of those that are to suffer next Friday.—I cannot think of dying the death of a dog, by the hands of a common executioner, with any manner of patience. Transportation, perpetual imprisonment, or any other condition of life, will be infinitely preferable to so barbarous and insupportable a way of ending it; and means must be found for preventing, or I shall anticipate the ignominy of the halter, by laying violent hands on myself. Give Mr. C——r to understand, that he may promise any thing that he shall think fit in my name; and that his royal highness the prince, and his council, shall have no cause to repent of their mercy to me."

All Mr. Paul's petitions, however, proved fruitless; he was ordered for execution, and was attended by a non-juring clergyman who endeavoured to inspire him with an idea of the justice of the cause for which he was to yield his life; he was however dreadfully affected till within a few days of his death; when he began to assume a greater degree of courage.

JOHN HALL, ESQ.

Executed at Tyburn, July 18, 1716, for High Treason.

JOHN HALL, Esq. was a justice of the peace for the county of Northumberland, and having been taken prisoner with the other rebels at Preston, was brought to London, and indicted for having joined, aided, and abetted the rebels.

Two evidences deposed that he was seen at different places with the rebels: but in his defence he said, that having been to a meeting of the justices at Plainfield, he had lodged at a friend's house, and that on the following day, while he was stooping on his horse's neck, to screen himself from the tempestuous weather, himself and his servant were surrounded by the rebels, who forced them away; and that he was unarmed, and had only seven shillings and sixpence in his possession.

Though this circumstance was sworn to by Mr. Hall's servant, yet the court in the charge to the jury observed, that, "if a man was seen with rebels, "if it appeared that he had frequent opportunities "of escaping, and did not do it, but continued by "his presence to abet and comfort them, it was "treason within the meaning of the law."

Now as it appeared in evidence that Mr. Hall had liberty to ride out when he pleased, and did not seem to be restrained, the jury found him guilty; and when the court passed sentence on him, he said "God's will be done."

After conviction, he was attended by a nonjuring clergyman; and behaved with manly fortitude under his misfortunes: however, he made such interest that he obtained five short reprieves, and might possibly have been pardoned; but that having written the following speech some weeks before his death, the knowledge thereof is supposed to have reached the court; for when a nobleman made ap-

plication for a pardon, he was answered, " By no
" means, my good lord: it were a pity Mr. Hall
" should lose the opportunity of leaving such a
" speech behind him, as he gives out will raise the
" spirits of the whole nation to be of the same mind
" with him, and will be instrumental in bringing
" in the person whom he calls his lawful sovereign
" king James the Third."

Mr. Hall was executed at the same time and place with Mr. Paul; and a few minutes before he was turned off, he delivered a paper to the sheriff which is as follows:

" Friends, Brethren, and Countrymen,

" I am come here to die, for the sake of God, my king, and my country; and I heartily rejoice that I am counted worthy of so great an honour: for let not any of you think that I am come to a shameful and ignominious end: the truth and justice of the cause for which I suffer, makes my death a duty, a virtue, and an honour. Remember that I lay down my life for asserting the right of my only lawful sovereign king James the Third; that I offer myself a victim for the liberties and happiness of my dear country, and my beloved fellow subjects; that I fall a sacrifice to tyranny, oppression, and usurpation. In short, consider that I suffer in defence of the command of God, and the laws, and hereditary constitution of the land; and then know, and be assured, that I am not a traitor, but a martyr.

" I declare that I die a true and sincere member of the church of England, but not of the revolution schismatical church, whose bishops have so rebelliously abandoned the king, and so shamefully given up the rights of the church, by submitting to the unlawful invalid lay-deprivations of the prince of Orange. The communion I die in, is that of the true catholic nonjuring church of England, and I pray God to prosper and increase it, and to grant (if it be his good pleasure) that it may rise again and flourish.

“ I heartily beg pardon of all whom I have in any manner, and at any time, injured and offended. I do particularly implore forgiveness of God and my king, for having so far swerved from my duty, as to comply with the usurpation, in swearing allegiance to it, and acting in public posts by the usurper's commissions, which were void of all power and authority. God knows my heart, I did this at first through ignorance and error, but after I had recollected myself, and informed my judgment better, I repented, and drew my sword for the king, and now submit myself to this violent death for his sake. I heartily pray God my patience and my sufferings may atone for my former crime; and this I beg through the merits, mediation, and sufferings, of my dearest Saviour Jesus Christ.

“ I do sincerely forgive all my enemies, especially those who have either caused or increased the destruction in church or state; I pray God to have mercy upon them, and spare them, because they are the works of his own hands, and because they are redeemed with his Son's most precious blood. I do, particularly, forgive from the bottom of my heart, the elector of Brunswick, who murders me: my unjust pretended judges and jury who convicted and condemned me; Mr. Patten and Mr. Carnaby, evidences who swore against me at my trial. And I do here declare, upon the words of a dying man (and all my Northumberland fellow-prisoners can testify the same) that the evidence they gave was so far from being the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, that, in relation to my indictment, they swore not one true thing against me, but many absolute falsehoods. I pray God forgive them, for I am sure I do.

“ Lastly, I forgive all who had a hand in the surrender at Preston, for they have surrendered away my life; and I would to God that they were the only bad consequences of it. But, alas! it is too plain that the surrenderers not only ruined

many of his majesty's brave and faithful subjects, but gave up their king and country into the bargain: for it was then in their power to have restored the king with triumph to his throne, and thereby to have made us a happy people. We had repulsed our enemies at every attack, and were ready, willing, and able, to have attacked them.

" On our side, even our common men were brave, courageous, and resolute; on the other hand, theirs were directly the contrary, insomuch, that after they had run away from our first fire, they could never be brought so much as to endeavour to stand a second. This I think myself obliged in justice to mention, that Mr. Wills may not impose upon the world, as if he and his troops had conquered us, and gained the victory; for the truth is, after we had conquered them, our superiors thought fit to capitulate and ruin us; I wish them God's and the king's pardon for it.

" May it please God to bless, preserve, and restore our only rightful and lawful sovereign king James the Third; may he direct his counsels, and prosper his arms; may he bring him to his kingdom, and set the crown upon his head.

" May he protect him from the malice of his enemies, and defend him from those who for a reward would slay him innocent! may he grant him in health and wealth long to live; may he strengthen him, that he may vanquish and overcome all his enemies; and finally, when it pleases his infinite wisdom to take him out of this world, may he take him to himself, and reward him with an everlasting crown of glory in the next.

" These my beloved countrymen are the sincere prayers, these the last words of me who am now a dying person; and if you have any regard to the last words of one, who is just going out of the world, let me beg of you to be dutiful, obedient, and loyal, to your only sovereign liege lord king James the Third; be ever ready to serve him, and

be sure you never fail, to use all your endeavours to restore him : and whatever the consequence be, remember that you have a good cause, and a gracious God, and expect a recompense from him.

“ To that God, the God of truth and holiness, the rewarder of all who suffer for righteousness sake, I commend my soul, beseeching him to have mercy upon it, for the sake of my dear Redeemer, and merciful Saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen, Amen, Amen.”

July 13, 1716.

“ JOHN HALL.”

Postscript.

“ I might reasonably have expected my life would have been saved, since I had obtained five reprieves ; but I find that the Duke of Hanover, and his evil counsellors who guide him, have so little virtue and honour themselves, that they are resolved not to spare my life, because I would not purchase it upon base and dishonourable terms. I have reason to think, that at first I could have secured my life and fortune if I would have pleaded guilty ; and I doubt not but I might since have obtained favour, if I would have petitioned in a vile, scandalous manner : but I was resolved to do nothing whereby I should have disowned my king, and denied my principles ; and I thank my good God, both for inspiring me with this holy resolution, and for giving me the grace to perform it.”

July 13, 1716.

“ JOHN HALL.”

Among the sufferers in the rebellion were the following, who were apprehended in London, enlisting men for the Pretender :— Robert Whitty, Felix O'Hara, and Joseph Sullivan ; and though the business in which they were engaged was of the most dangerous nature, yet they continued it for some time : but were at length apprehended, brought to trial, and being convicted, were executed at Tyburn, on the 28th of May, 1715.

Robert Whitty was born in Ireland, and having

enlisted for a soldier when young, served in an English regiment in Spain, where being wounded, he was brought to England, and received the bounty of Chelsea-college as an out-pensioner.

Felix O'Hara, who was about 29 years of age, was likewise an Irishman, and having lived some time in Dublin, as a waiter at a tavern, he saved some money, and entered into business for himself; but that not answering as he could have wished, he came to London.

Joseph Sullivan was a native of Munster in Ireland, and about the same age as O'Hara. He had for some time served in the Irish brigades, but obtaining his discharge, he came to England, and was thought a fit agent to engage in the business which cost him and his companions their lives.

These men denied, at the time of their trial, that they had been guilty of any crime; and even at the place of execution they attempted to defend their conduct. They all died professing the Roman Catholic religion.

We have already fully stated the law against treason, in the case of William Gregg, the first traitor, whose case came before us in the order we have placed these singular series of biography. Any comments upon the cause which stirred up this rebellion in Scotland is needless—it being well known that, like the contending parties of York and Lancaster, it was a struggle for the crown between the houses of Hanover and of the Stuarts. The latter becoming entirely extinct in the death of a Cardinal at Rome, the only remaining relative of the family, we are not likely on that score, to be again embroiled in civil wars.

JAMES GOODMAN,

Executed March 12, 1716, for Horse-stealing, &c.

WAS a native of Little Harwood, in Buckinghamshire, and served his time to a carpenter at Aylesbury. After he was out of his time, he and two other young men agreed to have a venison pasty, and make merry; in consequence of which they stole a deer; but being taken into custody, one of them turned evidence, whereupon Goodman and the other were imprisoned a year in Aylesbury gaol.

After his enlargement, he married and entered into business, which he carried on with success for about nine years: but becoming fond of idle company, he was soon so reduced in circumstances that he brought himself and his family to ruin.

Coming to London, he got into company with one Stephens, with whom he agreed to commit robberies on the highway. Pursuant to this plan they stopped Philip White, between Stratford and Ilford in Essex, and robbed him of his horse, one shilling, and his spurs.

Four days after this robbery, Mr. White saw Goodman on his horse at Bow, in the company of Stephens, who was likewise on horseback. Hereupon Mr. White sent his servant to demand his horse; on which the robbers galloped off, but were immediately pursued by Mr. White and his man. Finding themselves hard pressed, they quitted their horses, and ran into a field; on which Mr. White gave him his servant a gun, and bid him follow them. He did so; on which one of them fired twice, and said, "d—n it we'll kill or be killed; we won't be taken alive; our lives are as good as theirs." On this Mr. White's servant fired his gun, which was loaded with pebble-stones, and striking Goodman on the head, he was so stunned that he was easily taken; and some other persons now coming up, one of them drew a hanger, and pursued Ste-

phens, who submitting after a short resistance, both the prisoners were conveyed to Newgate.

Stephens having been admitted an evidence against Goodman, the latter was brought to his trial, when he endeavoured to prove that he was in another place when the robbery was committed, and that he had purchased Mr. White's horse; but the jury found him guilty, as they did not believe the testimony of his witnesses.

After conviction he was put into the bail-dock, in order to receive sentence: but the night being dark, and being assisted by some other prisoners, he got over the spikes, and though he was loaded with irons, effected his escape.

But it was not long before he was retaken, owing to a very singular circumstance. While in custody, he delivered some money to a carrier to take into the country to a woman with whom he had cohabited; but the carrier, considering his situation, kept the money for his own use.

Wherefore, about a month after his escape, Goodman went to an alehouse in Holborn, and sent to a lawyer, to concert with him how to recover the money of the carrier; but some persons in the house happening to know him, went to Newgate, and informed the keepers where he was; on which he was taken into custody after a desperate resistance; and at the end of the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he received sentence of death.

While he lay in this deplorable situation, he acknowledged his guilt, confessed he had committed many robberies, lamented the iniquities of his past life, and wished he could make reparation to those whom he had injured.

JOHN HAMILTON, ESQ.

Beheaded in Edinburgh, June 30, 1716, for Murder.

THE philosopher Plato says, that gaming was invented by a certain devil called Theuth, who afterwards instructed Thamus, king of Egypt, in the tricks of play. Cards were invented to amuse a puny dauphin of France; but are now become a common medium of robbery in the hands of sharpers. Cyrus and Alexander admired hunting; Cicero played with a kitten; Socrates found recreation in galloping about on a hobby-horse with children; Plato turned pedlar; Posidonius, the stoic philosopher, under the most violent paroxysms of the gout, would only smile and say, "Pain! all thy obliging services are to no purpose; thou may'st be a little troublesome; but I will never own thee for an evil." Shakespeare says, "All mankind to some loved ills incline," but woe to him whose propensities lead him to drinking and gaming. Aristotle treats gamesters as thieves, pickpockets, and robbers, and these annals of crimes sufficiently corroborate the opinions of the philosophers of old.

Mr. Hamilton was born in the county of Clydesdale, and was related to the ducal family of Hamilton. His parents, to whom he was an only son, sent him to Glasgow to study the law; but the young gentleman's disposition leading him to the profession of arms, his friends exerted their interest to procure a commission, but the intervention of the crime of which we are about to relate the particulars, prevented their generous intention from taking effect.

Young Hamilton soon becoming connected with some abandoned young gentlemen at Edinburgh, he lost considerable sums at gaming; and going to his parents for more, they supplied him for the present, but said they would not advance him any further

sums while he continued his dissipated course of life.

Being possessed of this money, Hamilton went to a village near Glasgow, to meet his companions at a public-house kept by Thomas Arkle. Having drank and gamed for several successive days and nights, Hamilton's companions left him while he was asleep, leaving him to discharge the bill, which exceeding his ability, a quarrel ensued between him and Arkle, and while they contended, Arkle stripped Hamilton's scabbard from the sword.—The latter immediately ran away, but finding he had no scabbard to his sword, he instantly went back to the house, when Arkle calling him several scandalous names, he stabbed him so that he immediately expired.

The daughter of Arkle being present, attempted to seize Hamilton; in doing which she tore off the skirt of his coat, which was left on the floor, together with his sword, on his effecting a second escape. This daughter of Arkle was almost blind; but her keeping the sword and the skirt of the coat, proved the means of bringing Hamilton to justice.

The murderer having gone to Leith, embarked on board a ship, and landed in Holland, where he continued two years; but his parents dying in the interval, he returned to Scotland, when he was taken into custody on account of the murder.

On his trial, he pleaded that he was intoxicated at the time the fact was committed; to which he was instigated by the extreme ill usage he received from Arkle.—The jury, not allowing the force of these arguments, found him guilty, and he was beheaded by the maiden, an instrument of death, from which the guillotine in France was constructed, and which, in the case of Alexander Balfour, we have already described.

JOSEPH STILL,

Executed at Stamford Hill, March 22, 1717, for Murder.

THIS man came to London in search of a livelihood, and for some time maintained himself by selling poultry in the streets; but growing weary of that employment, he enlisted into the army, in which he continued nine years; but having obtained his discharge, he became acquainted with a set of thieves, who committed depredations in the neighbourhood of London; and being apprehended, he was tried at the Old Bailey, and whipped.

Soon after he obtained his liberty, he returned to his former way of life; and being taken into custody in Hertfordshire, he was tried, convicted, and punished by burning in the hand. After this he began the practice of robbing higlers on the highway, and he obtained the appellation of Chicken Joe, from his singular dexterity in that employment.

After continuing in this way of life a considerable time, he commenced footpad, and committed a great number of robberies on the roads near town, escaping detection for a long while, on account of his wearing a mask over his face.

At length almost all his companions were hanged, and he was reduced to such distress, that he went once more on the road to supply himself with the means of procuring the necessaries of life. Having drank at an ale-house in Kingsland road till his spirits were somewhat elevated, he proceeded to Stoke-Newington, and after sauntering a while in the fields, without meeting with any person whom he durst venture to attack, he went into Queen Elizabeth's Walk, behind the church, where he saw a gentleman's servant, whose money he demanded. The servant being determined not to be robbed, contested the matter with Still, and a battle ensuing,

the villain drew a knife, and stabbed the footman through the body.

He immediately ran away; but some people coming by while the footman was sensible enough to tell them what had happened, Still was pursued, taken, and brought to the spot where the other was expiring; and being searched, the bloody knife with which he had committed the deed was found in his pocket. The man died after declaring that Still was the murderer; and the latter was committed to Newgate; and being indicted at the Old Bailey, the jury did not scruple to find him guilty, in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

THE MARQUIS DE PALEOTTI,

Executed at Tyburn on 17th of March, 1718, for the Murder of his servant.

THIS rash man was the head of a noble family in Italy, and like Colonel Hamilton, was brought to a disgraceful death, through the vice of gaming, with all the aggravated horrors of suffering in a strange country: thus doubly disgracing the honours of his house.

Ferdinando Marquis de Paleotti was born at Bologna in Italy, and in the reign of Queen Anne was a colonel in the Imperial army.

The cause of his coming to England arose from the following circumstances:—The Duke of Shrewsbury being at Rome in the latter end of King William's reign, fell in love with, and paid his addresses to, the sister of Paleotti; and the lady following the Duke to Augsburgh in Germany, they were there married, after she had first renounced the Roman Catholic religion. The duchess residing with her husband in England, and the Marquis

having quitted the Imperial army, on the peace of Utrecht, he came to this country to see his sister.

Being fond of an extravagant course of life, and attached to gaming, he soon ran in debt for considerable sums. His sister paid his debts for some time, till she found it would be a burthensome and endless task. Though she declined to assist him as usual, he continued his former course of life till he was imprisoned for debt; but his sister privately procured his liberty, and he was discharged without knowing who had conferred the favour on him.

After his enlargement, he adopted his old plan of extravagance; and being one day walking in the street, he directed his servant an Italian, to go and borrow some money. The servant having met with frequent denials, delined going: on which the Marquis drew his sword, and killed him on the spot.

Being instantly apprehended, he was committed to prison, tried at the next sessions, and being convicted on full evidence, he received sentence of death. The Duke of Shrewsbury being dead, and his duchess having little interest or acquaintance in England, it appears as if no endeavours were used to save the Marquis, who suffered at Tyburn on the 17th of March, 1718.

Italian pride had taken deep root in the mind of this man. He declared it to be disgraceful to this country to put a nobleman to death, like a common malefactor, for killing his servant, and lamented that our churches, as in Italy, did not afford a sanctuary for murderers. Englishmen, however, are thankful that neither of the Marquis's desires prevail in their country, where the law makes no distinction in offenders. To his last moment this pride of aristocracy was predominant in his mind. He petitioned the sheriffs, lest his body be defiled by touching the unhappy Englishmen, doomed to suffer with him for different offences, that he might die before them, and alone. The sheriffs, in courtesy to a stranger, granted this request, and

thus, in his last struggle, he maintained the superiority of his rank.—Vain man ! of what avail were his titles in the presence of the Almighty ?

JAMES SHEPPARD,

Traitor, executed at Tyburn, on the 17th of March, 1718.

THIS trial is a very singular case of treason, and may be considered as an appendix to our history of the rebellion. Though the crime for which he was executed was committed three years after it was quelled, yet the same misjudged opinion urged this youth to enthusiasm, in the cause of the Pretender. It is still more singular, that he, being neither a Scotchman born, or in any way interested in the mischiefs which he contemplated, should, unsolicited, volunteer in so dangerous a cause. Hence, when first apprehended, many were of opinion, that he was disordered in the brain ; but the firmness of his demeanour, during his imprisonment and trial, removed these doubts.

James Sheppard was the son of Thomas Sheppard, glover in Southwark ; but his father dying when he was about five years of age, he was sent to school in Hertfordshire, whence his uncle, Dr. Hinchcliffe, removed him to Mitcham in Surrey, and afterwards, to Salisbury, where he remained at school three years. Being at Salisbury at the time of the rebellion, he imbibed the principles of his school-fellows, many of whom were favourers of the Pretender ; and he was confirmed in his sentiments by reading some pamphlets which were then put into his hands.

When he quitted Salisbury, Dr. Hinchcliffe put him apprentice to Mr. Scott, a coach-painter, in Devonshire-street, near Bishopsgate ; and he con-

tinued in this situation about fourteen months, when he was apprehended for the fact which cost him his life.

Sheppard having conceived the idea that it would be a praise-worthy action to kill the king, wrote a letter, which he intended for a nonjuring minister of the name of Leake; but mistaking the spelling, he directed it "to the Reverend Mr. Heath." This letter, a copy of which follows, he carried to Mr Leake's house.

"SIR,

"From the many discontents visible throughout this kingdom, I infer, that if the Prince now reigning could be by death removed, our king being here he might be settled on his throne, without much loss of blood. For the more ready effecting of this, I propose that if any gentleman will pay for my passage into Italy, and if our friends will entrust one so young with letters of invitation to his Majesty, I will, on his arrival, smite the usurper in his palace. In this confusion, if sufficient forces may be raised, his Majesty may appear; if not, he may retreat or conceal himself till a fitter opportunity. Neither is it presumptuous to hope that this may succeed, if we consider how easy it is to cut the thread of human life; how great confusion the death of a prince occasions in the most peaceful nation, and how mutinous the people are, how desirous of a change. But we will suppose the worst that I am seized, and by torture examined. Now that this may endanger none but myself, it will be necessary that the gentleman who defrays my charges to Italy leave England before my departure; that I be ignorant of his Majesty's abode; that I lodge with some whig; that you abscond, and that this be communicated to none. But be the event as it will, I can expect nothing less than a most cruel death; which that I may the better support, it will be requisite that, from my arrival till the attempt, I every

day receive the Holy Sacrament from one who shall be ignorant of the design.

JAMES SHEPPARD.

Mr. Leake was absent when this letter arrived, but on his return he read it; on which he said to his daughter and maid servant, that it was a most villainous letter, and not fit to be kept; and, in the height of his resentment, he threw it into the fire, and went up into his study; but coming down soon afterwards, his daughter told him that she had recollected that the boy who had brought the letter, said he would call for an answer on the following Monday.

Hereupon Mr. Leake determined to make the affair known to Sir John Fryer, a neighbouring magistrate, which he did on the following morning; when Sir John advised him to take the party into custody when he should return for an answer. Sheppard came at the time that he had promised; when Mr. Leake sent for a constable, and had him apprehended.

Being carried before Sir John Fryer, he was asked if he had delivered a letter at Mr. Leake's on the preceding Friday, directed to the Rev. Mr. Heath. He answered in the affirmative; and being asked if he had a copy of that letter, he said he had no copy about him, but he believed he could remember it, so as to write a copy. This being done, and he having deliberately read and signed what he had written, was committed to the Compter.

Three gentlemen were now sent to the house of the prisoner's master, and being shewn his trunk, they found, among some other papers, a copy of the letter he had left at Mr. Leake's which differed very little from that written at Sir John Fryer's, only that these words were added: "How meritorious an act it will be to free these nations from an usurpation that they have lain under these nine

and twenty years ;" and it was insinuated that he thought it requisite, that while his majesty (the Pretender), should be absent from Avignon, "some person should be found resembling him, that should personate him there, lest the rumour of his departure from Avignon should awaken this inquisitive and suspicious court."

Soon after Sheppard's commitment he was twice examined at the office of Lord Sunderland, then secretary of state ; when he attempted to justify his conduct, and readily signed what he had before written.

When he was brought to his trial, he behaved in the most firm and composed manner ; and after the evidence against him was given, and the jury had brought him in guilty of high-treason, he was asked why sentence of death should not be passed on him according to law, when he said, "he could not hope for mercy from a prince whom he would not own." Then the Recorder proceeded to pass sentence on him, which he prefaced with the following most pathetic speech .

"James Sheppard, you are convicted according to law of the greatest offence against human authority, high-treason, in compassing and imagining the death of the king. Your intent was to kill, to murder, and basely assassinate, his majesty King George, in order to place a popish pretender on his throne.

"It is very surprising that one so young in years should attempt so wicked an enterprise ; and it is more amazing that you should still thus defend and justify it, and not only think that there is no harm in it, but that the action, if committed, would have been meritorious.

"It was reasonable to think that you had received those impressions which incited you to this undertaking from some of those false and malicious libels which have been industriously dispersed, to delude unwary readers, and to alienate the minds

of his Majesty's subjects; and it appears to be so from your own confession, that you had imbibed your principles from sermons and pamphlets, which make you think King George an usurper, and the Pretender your lawful king.

"Consider, unhappy young man, whether you may not be in error; and what I now suggest to you is not to reproach you, or to aggravate your crime, but proceeds from compassion; and with a regard to your further consideration before you go out of the world; that you may be convinced of your error, and retract it.

"The notions you entertain are contrary to the sense of the nation; who found by experience that their religion, their laws, and liberties, were in imminent danger from a popish prince, and therefore they rescued themselves from that danger, and excluded papists for the future from the crown; and settled it on his Majesty and his heirs, being protestants; which has been confirmed by many parliaments, and the nation feels the good effects of so happy an establishment.

"It seems strange, that you should hint at a passage in St. Paul for your justification. If he exhorted the Christians to submit to the Roman emperors, even though they should be tyrants, how comes it that you, a private youth, should not only judge of the title of kings, in opposition to the sense of so many parliaments; but that you should think yourself authorized to murder a prince in peaceable possession of the throne, and by whom his subjects are protected in the enjoyment of all their rights and privileges, and of every thing that is dear and valuable to mankind.

"You mention in your papers as if you must expect the most cruel tortures. No, unfortunate youth, the king you will not own uses no cruel tortures to his subjects. He is king according to the laws of the land, and by them he governs. And as you have transgressed those laws in the highest

degree, the public justice requires that you should submit to the sentence ordained for such an offender; which is,

“That you be led from hence to the place from whence you came; from thence you are to be drawn upon a hurdle to the place of execution, and there you are to be hanged by the neck, and being alive to be cut down, your bowels to be taken out of your belly, and there burnt, you being alive: your head is to be cut off and your body to be divided into four quarters, and your head and quarters to be disposed of as his Majesty shall think fit. And God Almighty have mercy on your soul.”

After sentence was passed, Sheppard confessed that the reading some sermons, and other pamphlets, had induced him to think that it would be a meritorious act to kill the king; and that he was convinced he was the agent destined by Providence to accomplish the deed.—The ordinary of Newgate told him, that he should have prayed that such wicked sentiments might be removed from his mind. His reply was, that “he had prayed; and that in proportion as he prayed, he was so much the more encouraged and confirmed in the lawfulness of his design.”

The unhappy youth was now visited by a nonjur-ing clergyman, between whom and the ordinary there were repeated quarrels, which continued almost to the last moments of Sheppard's life; for they wrangled even at the place of execution; nor did the debate cease till the ordinary quitted the cart, and left the other to instruct and pray with the malefactor as he thought proper.

Sheppard was executed a few hours after the Marquis of Paleotti.

JOHN PRICE,

[COMMONLY CALLED JACK KETCH,]

Executed in Bunhill-fields, May 17, 1718, for the Murder of Elizabeth White.

It will, we imagine, be not a little surprising to our readers, to find the public executioner, vulgarly called Jack Ketch, to have been himself suspended on that fatal tree to which he had tied up such a number of sinners. Here have we the fullest proof of the hardness of heart created by repeatedly witnessing executions. The dreadful fate attending those who had died by his hands, their sufferings of mind, confessions and exhortations to the spectators to be warned by their example, against the violation of the law, it seems, had no effect on Jack Ketch.

The callous wretch, who in the year 1718, filled this office, was named John Price. He was born in the parish of St. Martin's in the Fields, London, of reputable parents; his father being in the service of his country, and unfortunately blown up at the demolishing of Tangier. From her loss the widow was reduced to poverty, which rendered her unable of giving an education to her orphan children: but she succeeded in putting John apprentice to a dealer in rags; a business by which he might have earned an honest livelihood. When he had served two years of his apprenticeship his master died, and soon after, he ran away from his mistress, and got employment in the loading of waggons with rags for other dealers. He then went to sea, and served with credit, on board different ships in the royal navy, for the space of eighteen years, but at length was paid off and discharged from farther service.

The office of public executioner becoming vacant it was given to Price, who, but for his extravagance, might have long continued it, and subsisted on his

dreadful-earned wages. On returning from execution, in the cart which had delivered some criminals into his hands, he was arrested in Holborn for debt, which he discharged in part, with the wages he had that day earned, and the remainder from the produce of three suits of clothes, which he had taken from the bodies of the executed men. Not long afterwards he was lodged in the Marshalsea prison for other debts, and there remained for want of bail : in consequence whereof, being unable to attend his business at the next sessions of the Old Bailey, one William Marvel was appointed in his stead.

John Price was indicted at the Old Bailey on the 24th of April, 1718, for the murder of Elizabeth, the wife of William White, on the 13th of the preceding month.

In the course of the evidence it appeared, that Price met the deceased near ten at night in Moorfields, and attempted to ravish her ; but the poor woman (who was the wife of a watchman, and sold gingerbread in the streets) doing all in her power to resist his villainous attacks, he beat her so cruelly that streams of blood issued from her eyes and mouth, broke one of her arms, beat out some of her teeth, bruised her head in a most dreadful manner, forced one of her eyes from the socket, and otherwise so ill treated her, that the language of decency cannot describe it.

Some persons hearing the cries of the unhappy creature, repaired to the spot, took Price into custody, and lodged him in the watch-house ; then conveyed the woman to a house, where a surgeon and nurse were sent for to attend her. Being unable to speak, she answered the nurse's questions by signs, and in that manner described what had happened to her. She died, after having languished four days.

The prisoner, on his trial, denied being guilty of the fact ; and said, that as he was crossing Moorfields, he found something lying in his way ; that

he kicked at it, but discovered that it was a woman; he lifted her up, but she could not stand on her legs; and he said that he was taken into custody while he was thus employed. This defence, however, could not be credited, from what some former evidences had sworn; and the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty.

After sentence of death was passed on him, he abandoned himself to the drinking of spirituous liquors, to such a degree as rendered him totally incapable of all the exercises of devotion. He obstinately denied the fact till the day of his execution, when he confessed that he had been guilty of it; but said, that the crime was perpetrated in a state of intoxication. He was executed in Bunhill fields, on the 31st of May, 1718, and in his last moments, begged the prayers of the multitude, and hoped they would take warning by his untimely end. He was afterwards hung in chains near Holloway.

LIEUTENANT EDWARD BIRD,

*Murderer, executed at Tyburn, on the 23d of
February, 1719.*

WHEN young men mount the cockade, suspend the epaulet to the shoulder, and gird themselves with a sword, they too often neglect the duty they owe to private life. Accustomed to command, they forget that private individuals, with whom they may chuse to associate, are subject alone to the CIVIL law, which hath the power of chastising military outrages.

Mr. Bird was born at Windsor, in Berkshire, and descended of respectable parents, who having first sent him to Westminster School, then removed him to Eton College. When he had finished his studies, he was sent to make the tour of France and Italy, and on his return to England was honoured with

the commission of a lieutenant in a regiment of horse.

Before he had been long in the army, he began to associate with abandoned company of both sexes, which finally led to the commission of the crime which cost him his life.

On the 10th of January, 1719, he was indicted at the Old Bailey, for the murder of Samuel Loxton. It appeared on his trial, that he had taken a woman of the town to a house of ill fame, in Silver-street, where Loxton was a waiter. Early in the morning he ordered a bath to be got ready;* but Loxton being busy, sent another waiter, at whom Bird, in a fit of passion, made several passes with his sword, which he avoided by holding the door in his hand; but the prisoner ran after him, threw him down stairs, and broke some of his ribs. On this, the master and mistress of the house, and Loxton, went into the room, and attempted to appease him; but Bird, enraged that the bath had not been prepared the moment he ordered it, seized his sword, which lay by the bed-side, and stabbing Loxton, he fell backwards, and died immediately: on which the offender was taken into custody, and committed to Newgate.

His case stood for trial in October, but pleading that he was not ready with his defence, it was put off to December, and then again to January, on his physicians making affidavit that he was too ill to be removed from his chamber.

Being convicted on the clearest evidence, he received sentence of death; but great interest being made in his behalf, he was reprieved, and it was thought he would have been pardoned, on condition of transportation, but for the intervention of the following circumstance:

* In these days this description of houses were generally provided with hot baths, a very necessary *stew* after such debauches; and hence called *Bagnios*. In modern times uncleanness of this nature takes its due course.

The friends of Loxton, hearing that a reprieve was granted, advised his widow to lodge an appeal at the bar of the court of King's Bench; and she went thither with some friends, to give security for that purpose, but the relations of Bird hearing what was intended, were ready in court with witnesses to depose that this was the second wife of Loxton, his first being still living. This being the fact, the court refused to admit the appeal, as the second could not be a lawful wife.

This affair occasioned so much clamour, that Bird was ordered for execution on Monday the 23^d of February; on the night preceding which he took a dose of poison, but that not operating as he had expected, he stabbed himself in several places. Yet, however, he lived till the morning, when he was taken to Tyburn, in a mourning coach, attended by his mother, and the ordinary of Newgate.

As he had paid little attention to the instructions of the ordinary, while under confinement, so he seemed equally indifferent to his advice in the last moments of his life. Being indulged to stay an hour in the coach with his mother, he was put into the cart, where he asked for a glass of wine; but being told it could not be had, he begged a pinch of snuff, which he took with apparent unconcern, wishing health to those who stood near him. He then rehearsed the apostle's creed, and being tied up, was lauched into eternity, on the above-mentioned 23^d of February, 1719, in the 27th year of his age.

In the fate of this young man, we have demonstrated the misapplication of a military education, when exercised among private individuals; but it also shews the effects of fallen pride, which, rather than survive, he twice attempted suicide; a crime, in strict religious and moral point of view, more heinous than the act for which he suffered. Passion might plead in extenuation for the latter, but self-murder is a premeditated offence both to God and man. When resorted to from a sense of shame, arising from

private wrongs, it discovers an imbecility not to be found in the minds of brave men. Where do we find in ancient history, of a Greek or a Roman soldier becoming his own executioner, to avoid the punishment due to a private crime?

England is justly reproached by foreign writers, with the multiplicity of crimes of this description. When we estimate the mischief arising to the friends and relations of the suicide, we must hold it in abhorrence; nay, the very welfare of society is concerned. Men, regardless of their fate in the next world alone, can coolly contemplate their departure from this life, by their own hands. They are lost to religion—to a sense of their Maker. Hence they are hardened against punishment; and murder and robbery have to them no terrors. In addition to the baneful influence of bad actions upon the multitude, mark the increased agonies of mind, of the wretched female who gave birth to this malefactor, when she attended his still flowing blood, shed by his own hands, to the place where the remainder must be sacrificed to the offended laws of his country. In what detestation, then, ought we to regard a crime leading to such aggravated enormities!

THOMAS BUTLER, ESQ.

Highwayman, executed at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1720.

IDLENESS, the step-mother of dissipation, hath driven many, gentlemen by education, to commit depredations on the public. This observation is fully verified in the life of Mr. Butler. He was a native of Ireland, his father being an officer in the army of king James II. but king William having defeated that prince at the battle of the Boyne, young But-

ier and his father went with James to France ; but, when the rebellion broke out in Scotland, the young gentleman was employed as a spy in the family of the duke of Ormond, for which he was allowed 20*l.* a year ; but he thereby lost the favour of his friends and relations, who espoused a different interest. From Paris he went to Holland, where he soon spent most of the money in his possession, and then embarked for England.

On his arrival in this country, being idle and extravagant, he commenced highwayman, and went out frequently in company with a man whom he called Jack, and who occasionally acted as his servant ; and they jointly committed a great number of robberies near London, particular in Kent and Essex.

When they were in London, and sometimes in a country town, they had the genteelest lodging, and then Jack wore a livery, while the squire was dressed in a most elegant manner, and had all the appearance of a man of fortune.

By this style of living they continued their depredations on the highway for many years : but Butler being at length apprehended, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, in January, 1720, when he was indicted for robbing Sir Justinian Isham and another gentleman on the highway of a gold watch, a silk night-gown, six Holland shirts, and other valuable articles ; and was convicted on the clearest evidence.

The circumstance that led to his detection was, that offering some of the effects for sale to a jeweller he refused to purchase them unless he knew Butler's place of residence, which the latter readily told him ; and, when his lodgings were searched, Sir Justinian's gown was found and produced in court. Butler's companion, or servant, was in Ireland, at the time of his detection, by which he escaped the fate he deserved.

While Mr. Butler lay under sentence of death, he

behaved in a very penitent manner. Being a Roman catholic, he received the sacrament from a priest of his own persuasion. It had been reported that he had eight wives; but this he solemnly denied; declaring that he was legally married to only one woman.

This malefactor was executed at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1720, at the age of forty-two years.

BARBARA SPENCER,

*Traitoress, strangled, and then burnt, at Tyburn,
on the 5th of July, 1721.*

THIS woman being the first sufferer for this offence, which we find among the criminal records of the last century, we shall, agreeably to the order of our work, give our general comments on the crime itself, and the law provided for the offence, previous to entering upon her particular case.

The mischief arising from the counterfeiting the current coin of the realm reaches to every door. A poor man, cheated by a single base shilling often finds a loss, great as a forgery upon paper, to the wealthy merchant.

Coining, or uttering base money, is high-treason in the second degree. To rob all the people is to be a traitor to the state. But it is asked, whether a merchant, who imports ingots of gold from America, and privately converts them into good money, be guilty of high treason, and merits death, which is the punishment annexed to the crime, in almost all countries? Nevertheless, he has robbed nobody; on the contrary, he has done service to the state by increasing the currency. But he had defrauded the king of the small profit upon the coin. He hath indeed coined money, but he hath led

others into the temptation of coining bad. Yet death is a severe punishment. A lawyer was of opinion that such a criminal should be condemned, as a useful hand, to work in the royal mint with irons to his legs.

The last increase, and extensive circulation of counterfeit money, particularly of late years, is too obvious not to have attracted the notice of all ranks. It has become an enormous evil in the melancholy catalogue of crimes which the laws of the country are called upon to assist the police in suppressing. Its extent almost exceeds credibility; and the dexterity and ingenuity of these counterfeits have, after considerable practice, enabled them to finish the different kinds of base money, in so masterly a manner, that it has become extremely difficult for a common observer to distinguish their spurious manufacture from the worn-out silver of the mint. So systematic, indeed, has this nefarious traffic become of late, that the great dealers, who, in most instances, are the employers of the coiners, execute orders for the town and country, with the same regularity as manufacturers in fair branches of trade.

Scarcely a waggon or coach departs from the metropolis, which does not carry boxes and parcels of base coin to the camps, sea-ports, and manufacturing towns. In London, regular markets, in various public and private houses, are held by the principal dealers; where hawkers, pedlars, fraudulent horse-dealers, unlicensed lottery-office keepers, gamblers at fairs, itinerant Jews, Irish labourers, servants of toll-gatherers, and hackney-coach owners, fraudulent publicans, market-women, rabbit-sellers, fish-cryers, barrow-women, and many who would not be suspected, are regularly supplied with counterfeit copper and silver, with the advantage of near 100% per cent in their favour; and thus it happens, that through these various channels, the country is deluged with immense quantities of base

money, which get into circulation ; while an evident diminution of the mint coinage is apparent to every common observer.

It is impossible to reflect on the necessity to which all persons are thus reduced, of receiving, and again uttering, money which is known to be false and counterfeit, without lamenting, that by thus familiarizing the mind to fraud and deception, the same laxity of conduct may be introduced into other transactions of life ; the barrier being broken down in one part, the principle of common honesty is infringed upon, and infinite mischief to the very best interests of society, is the result, in cases at first unthought of.

To permit, therefore, the existence of an adulterated and ill-regulated silver and copper coinage, is in fact to tolerate general fraud and deception, to the ultimate loss of many individuals ; for the evil must terminate at some period, and then thousands must suffer ; with this aggravation, that the longer it continues, the greater will be the loss of property.

Nor has the mischief been confined to the counterfeiting the coin of the realm. The avarice and ingenuity of man is constantly finding out new sources of fraud ; insomuch, that in London, and in Birmingham, and its neighbourhood, Louis d'or, half Johannas, French half-crowns and shillings, as well as several coins of Flanders and Germany, and dollars of excellent workmanship, in exact imitation of the Spanish dollars issued from the Bank, in 1797, have been from time to time counterfeited ; apparently without suspicion, that under the act of the 14th Elizabeth, (cap. 3) the offenders were guilty of misprision of high-treason.

These ingenious miscreants have also extended their iniquitous manufacture to the coins of India ; and a coinage of the star pagoda of Arcot was established in London for years, by one person. These counterfeits, being made wholly of blanchéd copper tempered in such a manner, as to exhibit,

when stamped, the cracks in the edges, which are always to be found on the real pagoda, cost the maker only three halfpence each, after being double gilt. When finished, they were generally sold to Jews at five shillings a dozen, who disposed of them afterwards at 2s. 3s. and even 5s. each: and through this medium, they have been introduced by a variety of channels into India, where they were mixed with the real pagodas of the country, and passed at their full denominated value of 8s. sterling.

The sequins of Turkey, another gold coin, worth about five or six shillings, have in like manner been counterfeited in London. Thus the national character is wounded, and the disgrace of the British name proclaimed in Asia, and even in the most distant nations of India. Nor can it be sufficiently lamented, that persons who consider themselves as ranking in superior stations of life, with some pretensions to honour and integrity, have suffered their avarice so far to get the better of their honesty, as to be concerned in this iniquitous traffic.

It has been recently discovered that there are at least 120 persons in the metropolis and the country, employed principally in coining and selling base money! and this independent of the numerous horde of utterers, who chiefly support themselves by passing it at its full value.

It will scarcely be credited, that of criminals of this latter class, who have either been detected, prosecuted, or convicted, within the last seven years, there stand upon the register of the solicitor of the mint, more than 650 names!—And yet the mischief is not diminished. When the reader is informed, that two persons can finish from 200l. to 300l. (nominal value) in base silver, in six days; and that three people within the same period, will stamp the like amount in copper, and takes into the calculation the number of known coiners, the aggregate amount in the course of a year will be found to be immense.

On the circulation of Spanish dollars in 1804, a Jew was apprehended for uttering base ones, and also suspected of being the coiner thereof; but there being no provision in the act against counterfeiting this coin, though it had been called in before (1797), on that account the offender escaped with impunity.

So dexterous and skilful have coiners now become, that by mixing a certain proportion of pure gold with a compound of base metal, they can fabricate guineas that shall be full weight, and of such perfect workmanship, as to elude a discovery, except by persons of skill; while the intrinsic value does not exceed thirteen or fourteen shillings, and in some instances is not more than eight or nine. Of this coinage, considerable quantities were circulated some years since, bearing the impression of George II. and another coinage of counterfeit guineas of the year 1793, bearing the impression of his present Majesty, has been for some years in circulation, finished in a masterly manner, for nearly full weight, although the intrinsic value is not above eight shillings; half guineas are also in circulation, of the same coinage; and lately a good imitation of the seven shilling pieces. But as the fabrication of such coin requires a greater degree of skill and ingenuity than generally prevails, and also a greater capital than most coiners are able to command; it is to be hoped it has gone to no great extent; for amidst all the abuses which have prevailed of late years, it is unquestionably true, that the guineas and half guineas which have been counterfeited in a style to elude detection, have borne no proportion in point of extent, to the coinage of base silver. Of this latter there are five different kinds at present counterfeited, and which we shall proceed to enumerate.

The first of these are denominated flats, from the circumstance of this species of money being cut out of flatted plates, composed of a mixture of silver

and blanced copper. The proportion of silver run from one fourth to one third, and in some instances even to one-half: the metals are mixed by a chemical preparation, and afterwards rolled by flatting-mills, into the thickness of shillings, half-crowns, or crowns, according to the desire of the parties who bring the copper and silver, which last is generally stolen plate. It is not known, that there are at present above one or two rolling-mills in London, although there are several in the country, where all the dealers and coiners of this species of base money resort, for the purpose of having these plates prepared; from which, when finished, blanks, or round pieces, are cut out, of the sizes of the money meant to be counterfeited.

The artisans who stamp or coin these blanks into base money, are seldom interested themselves. They generally work as mechanics for the large dealers, who employ a capital in the trade, and who furnish the plates, and pay about eight per cent. for the coinage, being at the rate of one penny for each shilling, and two pence halfpenny for each half-crown.

This operation consists first in turning the blanks in a lathe then stamping them by means of a press, with dies with the exact impression of the coin intended to be imitated; they are afterwards rubbed with sand paper and cork; then put in aquafortis, to bring the silver to the surface; then rubbed with common salt; then with cream of tartar; then warmed in a shovel, or similar machine, before the fire; and last of all rubbed with blacking, to give the money the appearance of having been in circulation.

All these operations are so quickly performed, that two persons (a man and his wife for instance) can completely finish to the nominal amount of fifty pounds in shillings and half crowns in two days. by which they will earn each two guineas a day.

A shilling of this species, which exhibits nearly the appearance of what has been usually called a Birmingham shilling, is intrinsically worth from two-pence to four-pence; and crowns and half-crowns are in the same proportion. The quantity made of this sort of counterfeit coinage is very considerable; it requires less ingenuity than any of the other methods of coinage, though at the same time it is the most expensive, and of course the least profitable to the dealer; who for the most part disposes of it to the utterers, vulgarly called smashers, at from 28s. to 40s. for a guinea, according to the quality; while these smashers generally manage to utter it again to the full import value.

The second species of counterfeit silver money passes among the dealers by the denomination of plated goods; from the circumstances of the shillings and half-crowns being made of copper of a reduced size, and afterwards plated with silver, so extended as to form a rim round the edge. This coin is afterwards stamped with dies, so as to resemble the real coin; and from the circumstance of the surface being pure silver, is not easily discovered, except by ringing the money on the table; but as this species of base money requires a knowledge of plating, as well as a great deal of ingenuity, it is of course confined to few hands. It is, however, extremely profitable to those who carried it on, as it can generally be uttered without detection, at its full import value.

The third species of base silver money is called plain goods and is totally confined to shillings. These are made of copper blanks turned in a lathe, of the exact size of a Birmingham shilling, afterwards silvered over by a particular operation used in colouring metal buttons; they are then rubbed over with cream of tartar and blacking, after which, they are fit for circulation.

These shillings do not cost the makers above one half-penny each; they are sold very low to the smashers or utterers, who pass them where they can, at the full nominal value; and then when the silver wears off, which is very soon the case, they are sold to the Jews, as bad shillings, who generally re-sell them at a small profit to customers, by whom they are re-coloured, and thus soon brought again into circulation. The profit is immense, owing to the trifling value of the materials; but the circulation, on account of the danger of discovery, it is to be hoped, is not yet very extensive. It is, however, to be remarked, that it is a species of coinage not of a long standing.

The fourth class of counterfeit silver money is known by the name of castings, or cast goods. This species of work requires great skill and ingenuity, and is therefore confined to few hands; for none but excellent artists can attempt it, with any prospect of great success.

The process is to melt blanchéd copper, and to cast it in moulds, having the impression, and being of the size of a crown, a half-crown, a shilling, or a sixpence, as the case may be; after being removed from the moulds, the money thus formed is cleaned off, and afterwards neatly silvered over by an operation similar to that which takes place in the manufacture of buttons.

The counterfeit money made in imitation of shillings by this process, is generally cast so as to have a crooked appearance; and the deception is so admirable, that although intrinsically not worth one halfpenny, by exhibiting the appearance of a thick crooked shilling, they enter into circulation without suspicion, and are seldom refused while the surface exhibits no part of the copper; and even after this the itinerant Jews will purchase them at three-pence each, though six times their intrinsic value, well knowing that they can again be re

coloured at the expence of half a farthing, so as to pass without difficulty for their nominal value of twelve pence. A vast number of the sixpences now in circulation are of this species of coinage.

The profit in every view, whether to the original maker, or to the subsequent purchasers, after having lost their colour, is immense.

In fabricating cast money, the workmen are always more secure than where presses and dies are used; because upon the least alarm, and before any officer of justice can have admission, the counterfeits are thrown into the crucible; the moulds are destroyed; and nothing is to be found that can convict, or even criminate, the offender; on this account the present makers of cast money have reigned long, and were they careful and frugal, they might have become extremely rich; but prudence rarely falls to the lot of men who live by acts of criminality.

The fifth and last species of base coin made in imitation of the silver money of the realm is called figs, or fig things. It is a very inferior sort of counterfeit money, of which composition, however, a great part of the sixpences now in circulation are made. The proportion of silver is not, generally speaking, of the value of one farthing in half a crown; although there are certainly some exceptions, as counterfeit sixpences have been lately discovered, some with a mixture, and some wholly silver: but even these did not yield the maker less than from fifty to eighty per cent. while the profit on the former is no less than from five hundred to one thousand per cent. and sometimes more.

It is impossible to estimate the amount of this base money which has entered into the circulation of the country during the last twenty years; but it must be very great, since one of the principal coiners of stamped money, who some time since left off business, and made some important discoveries, acknowledged to the author, that he had coined to

the extent of two hundred thousand pounds sterling in counterfeit half-crowns, and other base silver money, in a period of seven years. This is the less surprising, as two persons can stamp and finish to the amount of from 200*l.* to 300*l.* a week.

Of the copper money made in imitation of the current coin of the realm, there are many different sorts sold at various prices, according to the size and weight; but in general they may be divided into two sorts, namely, the stamped and the plain halfpence, of both which kind immense quantities have been made in London: and also in Birmingham, Wedgbury, Bilston, and Wolverhampton, &c.

The plain halfpence are generally made at Birmingham; and from their thickness afford a wonderful deception. They are sold, however by the coiners, to the large dealers, at about a farthing each, or 100 per cent. profit to the tale or aggregate number. These dealers are not the utterers, but sell them again by retail in pieces, or five shilling papers, at the rate of from 28*s.* to 31*s.* for a guinea; not only to the smashers, but also to persons in different trades, as well in the metropolis as in the country towns, who pass them in the course of their business at the full import value.

Farthings are also made in considerable quantities, chiefly in London, but so very thin, that the profit upon this specie of coinage is much greater than on the halfpence, though these counterfeits are not now, as formerly made of base metal. The copper of which they are made is generally pure. The advantage lies in the weight alone, where the coiners, sellers, and utterers, do not obtain less than 200 per cent. A well-known coiner has been said to finish from sixty to eighty pounds sterling a week. Of halfpence, two or three persons can stamp and finish to the nominal amount of at least two hundred pounds in six days.

When it is considered that there are seldom less

than between forty and fifty coinages or private mints, almost constantly employed in London and in different country towns, in stamping and fabricating base silver and copper money, the evil may justly be said to have arrived at an enormous height. It is indeed true, that these people have been a good deal interrupted and embarrassed, from time to time, by detections and convictions; but while the laws are so inapplicable to the new tricks and devices they have resorted to, these convictions are only a drop in the bucket: while such encouragements are held out, the execution of one rogue only makes room for another to take up his customers; and indeed as the offence of selling is only a misdemeanor, it is no unusual thing for the wife and family of a culprit, or convicted seller of base money, to carry on the business, and to support him luxuriously in Newgate, until the expiration of the year and day's imprisonment, which is generally the punishment inflicted for this species of offence.

It has not been an unusual thing for several of these dealers to hold a kind of market, every morning, where from forty to fifty of the German Jew boys are regularly supplied with counterfeit halfpence, which they dispose of in the course of the day in different streets and lanes of the metropolis, for bad shillings, at about threepence each. Care is always taken that the person who cries bad shillings shall have a companion near him, who carries the halfpence, and takes charge of the purchased shillings (which are not cut :) so as to elude the detection of the officers of the police, in the event of being searched.

The bad shillings thus purchased, are received in payment by the employers of the boys, for the bad halfpence supplied by them, at the rate of four shillings a dozen; and are generally resold to smashers, at a profit of two shillings a dozen; who speedily re-colour them, and introduce them again into circulation, at their full nominal value..

These boys will generally clear from five to seven

shillings a day by this fraudulent business, which they almost uniformly spend, during the evening, in riot and debauchery; returning pennyless in the morning to their old trade.

Thus it is that the frauds upon the public multiply beyond all possible conception, while the tradesman, who, unwarily at least if not improperly, sells his counterfeit shillings to Jew boys at threepence each, little suspects, that it is for the purpose of being returned upon him again at the rate of twelvepence; or 300 per cent. profit to the purchasers and utterers.

But those are not the only criminal devices to which the coiners and dealers, as well as the utterers of base money, have had recourse, for answering their iniquitous purposes.

Previous to the act of the 37th George III. cap. 126, counterfeit French crowns, half-crowns, and shillings, of excellent workmanship, were introduced with a view to elude the punishment of the then deficient laws relative to foreign coin.

Fraudulent die sinkers are to be found both in the metropolis and in Birmingham, who are excellent artists; able and willing to copy the exact similitude of any coin, from the British guinea to the sequin of Turkey, or to the star pagoda of Arcot. The delinquents have therefore every opportunity and assistance they can wish for; while their accurate knowledge of the deficiency of the laws, (particularly relative to British coin) and where the point of danger lies, joined to the extreme difficulty of detection, operates as a great encouragement to this species of treason, felony, and fraud; and affords the most forcible reason why these pests of society still continued to afflict the honest part of the community.

An opinion prevails, founded on information obtained through the medium of the most intelligent of these coiners and dealers, that of the counterfeit money now in circulation, not above one third part

is of the species of flats or composition money, which has been mentioned as the most intrinsically valuable of counterfeit silver; and contains from one-fourth to one-third silver: the remainder being blanchéd copper.—The other two-thirds of the counterfeit money being cast or washed, and intrinsically worth little or nothing, the imposition is obvious. Taking the whole upon an average, the amount of the injury may be fairly calculated at within 10 per cent of a total loss upon the mass of the base silver now in circulation; which, if a conclusion may be drawn from what passes under the review of any person who has occasion to receive silver in exchange, must considerably exceed one million sterling! To this we have the miserable prospect of an accession every year, until some effectual steps shall be taken to remedy the evil.

Of the copper coinage, the quantity of counterfeits at one time in circulation might be truly said to equal three-fourth parts of the whole, and nothing is more certain than that a very great proportion of the actual counterfeits passed as mint halfpence, from their size and appearance, although they yielded the coiners a vast profit.

Even at present the state both of the silver and copper coinage of this kingdom (the copper pence only excepted) deserves very particular attention, for at no time can any person minutely examine either the one coin or the other, which may come into his possession, without finding a considerable portion counterfeit.

These dealers are also assisted by fruit women, who are always ready to give change to ladies (particularly when no gentleman is in company,) when perhaps not one shilling in the change is good; and should the purchaser of the fruit object to any, abusive words ensue.—An instance of this happened not long ago in Cranbourn Alley. Rabbit and fowl hawkers are likewise very dexterous in passing bad money: they call in at shops, and propose bargains

of fowls, apparently fine looking, but generally old, when they receive payment, they have a mode of changing the silver, and telling the purchaser that he has given a bad shilling, or half-a-crown, producing accordingly a most notorious base one: by their peremptory, and afterwards abusive manner, they force the master or mistress of the house (for who would have a mob about their door?) to give them good money for their counterfeit. A person of this description has imposed lately upon some very respectable people in Chelsea, but was fortunately stopped in his career.

A species of counterfeit halfpence made wholly of lead has been circulated in considerable quantities, coloured in such a manner, as even to deceive the best judges. They are generally of the reign of George II. and have the exact appearance of old mint halfpence.

The same kind of counterfeit penny-pieces are also in circulation; and as six or twelve penny pieces are often taken in a lump, the leaden ones, on account of their exact size and similitude, are seldom or never noticed. The colouring, however, is very apt to wear off at the edges.

Barbara Spencer was born in the parish of St. Giles without Cripplegate, and when young, proved to be of a violent temper. At length, her mother finding her quite unmanageable at home, put her apprentice to a mantua-maker, who, having known her from a child, treated her with great kindness.

Barbara had served about two years, when on a dispute with her mistress she went home to her mother, with whom she had not long resided before she insisted on having a maid kept, to which the old woman consented. A quarrel soon happening between Barbara and the maid, the mother interposed; on which the daughter left her for a time, but soon returned again.

Not long after this, it happened that some male factors were to be executed at Tyburn, and Barbara

insisted on going to see the execution. This was prudently opposed by her mother, who, struggling to keep her at home, struck her; but the daughter, getting out of the house, went to a female acquaintance, who accompanied her to Tyburn, and thence to a house near St. Giles's Pound, where Barbara made a vow that she would never again return to her mother.

In this fatal resolution she was encouraged by the company present, who persuaded her to believe that she might live in an easy manner, if she would but follow their way of life. To this she readily agreed; and, as they were coiners, they employed her in uttering counterfeit money, of which she was detected, tried, fined, and imprisoned.

Not taking warning by what had happened, she returned to her old connections, commenced coiner herself, and was at length apprehended for the crime for which she suffered.

While under sentence of death, she behaved in the most indecent and turbulent manner; nor could she be convinced that she had been guilty of any crime in making a few shillings. She was for some time very impatient under the idea of her approaching dissolution, and was particularly shocked at the thought of being burnt; but, at the place of execution, she seemed willing to exercise herself in devotion; but was much interrupted by the mob throwing stones and dirt at her.

She was strangled and burned.

MATTHEW CLARKE,

*Executed at Tyburn, July 28, 1721, for murdering
a young woman while kissing her.*

THIS most unmanly offender was the son of poor persons at St. Alban's, and brought up as a plough

boy ; but, being too idle to follow his business, he sauntered about the country, and committed frequent robberies, spending amongst women the money he obtained in this illegal manner.

Clarke had art enough to engage the affections of a number of young women, to some of whom he promised marriage ; and he seems to have intended to have kept his word with one of them, and went with her to London to tie the nuptial knot ; but going into a goldsmith's shop to buy the ring, he said he had forgot to supply himself with money, but would go into the country and fetch it.

The young woman staid in town while he went to Wilsden-Green, with a view to commit a robbery, that he might replenish his pocket. As it was now the season of hay-making, he met a man, who, wondering that he should be idle, gave him employment. Besides the business of farming, his employer kept a public-house, and had a servant maid, whom Clarke had formerly courted.

The villain, leaving his fellow-labourers in the field, went to the house, and finding only the girl at home, conversed with her some time ; but having determined to rob his employer, he thought he could not do it securely without murdering her ; and, while she was gone to draw him some beer, he pulled out his knife for this horrid purpose ; and, when she entered the room, he got up to kiss her, thinking to have then perpetrated the deed, but his conscience prevented him : on this he sat down, and talked with her some time longer ; when he got up, and, again kissing her, cut her throat in the same instant.

Hereupon she fell down, and attempted to crawl to the door, while the blood streamed from her throat, on which the villain cut her neck to the bone, and, robbing the house of a small sum, ran off towards London, under all the agonizing tortures of a wounded conscience.

Tyburn being in his way to town, he was so terri

fied at the sight of the gallows, that he went back a considerable distance, till meeting a waggon, he offered his service in driving, thinking that his being in employment might prevent his being suspected in case of a pursuit.—But he had not gone far before some persons rode up, and asked him if he had seen a man who might be suspected for a murder. He seemed so terrified by the question, that the parties could not help noticing his agitation; and on a close inspection, they found some congealed blood on his clothes, to account for which he said he had quarrelled and fought with a soldier on the road.

Being taken into custody, he soon acknowledged his crime, and, being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to Newgate: and when brought to trial he pleaded guilty, in consequence of which he was hung in chains near the spot where he committed the murder.

JOHN MEFF,

Executed at Tyburn, September 11, 1724.

THIS offender had been taken into custody for committing a robbery near London; but as it happened at a time within the limits of an Act of Grace passed in the reign of king George the First, it was not thought necessary to indict him, and he would have been discharged without farther ceremony, but it appeared that he had been transported for another crime, and returned before the expiration of his time; wherefore he was indicted for this offence, on an act then lately made, "For the effectual transportation of felons;" and his person being identified, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.

The following is an account which he wrote between his condemnation, and the day of his execution:—

“ I was born in London of French parents, who fled hither for protection, when the French protestants were driven out of France by Lewis XIV.

“ I was put apprentice to a weaver: my father, having continued about twelve years in England, went with the rest of his family to Holland. I served my time faithfully, and with the approbation of my master.—Soon after I came to work for myself I married; but my business not being sufficient to maintain myself, my wife, and children, I was willing to try what I could at thieving.

“ I followed this practice till I was apprehended, tried, and condemned, for house-breaking; but as I was going to the place of execution, the hangman was arrested, and I was brought back to Newgate. It was thought this was my contrivance, to put a stop to public justice; but I was so far from being any ways concerned in it, that I knew nothing of it till it was done. This might have been a happy turn for me, if I had made a right use of it; for my sentence of death was changed to that of transportation. And indeed I took up a solemn resolution to lead an honest and regular course of life, and to resist all the persuasions of my comrades to the contrary. But this resolution continued but a short time after the fear of death vanished.

“ I believe, however, that if I had been safely landed in America, my ruin might have been prevented; but the ship which carried me and the other convicts, was taken by the pirates. They would have persuaded me and some others to sign a paper, in order to become pirates; but we refusing, they put me and eight more on shore, on a desert uninhabited island, where we must have perished with hunger, if by good fortune an Indian canoe had not arrived there. We waited till the Indians were gone up the island, and then, getting

into the vessel, we sailed from one small island to another, till we reached the coast of America.

“Not choosing to settle in any of the plantations there, but preferring the life of a sailor, I shipped myself on board a vessel that carried merchandise from Virginia and South Carolina to Barbadoes, Jamaica, and other of his majesty’s islands. And thus I lived a considerable time; but at last being over desirous to see how my wife and children fared in England, I was resolved to return at all adventures.

“Upon my arrival here, I quickly fell into my former wicked practices, and it was not long before I was committed to Newgate on suspicion of robbing a person near London; but, by the assistance of a certain bricklayer, I broke out of prison and went to Hatfield, where I lay concealed for some time; but was at last discovered, and taken again by the same bricklayer who had procured my escape. Some evil genius attended me. I was certainly infatuated, or I had never continued in a place where I was so likely to be discovered.

“My father is now a gardener at Amsterdam. ’Tis an addition to my misfortune, that I cannot see him and my mother before I die; but I hope, when he hears of my unhappy end, he will keep my children by my first wife from starving. My present wife is able, by her industry, to bring up her own offspring; for she has been an honest careful woman, during the nine months I have been married to her, and has often pressed me to go over to Ireland, and lead a regular and sober life. It had been well for me if I had taken her advice.

“I have had enough of this restless and tumultuous world, and hope I am now going to a better. I am very easy and resigned to the will of Providence, not doubting but I have made my peace with Heaven. I thank God that I have not been molested by my fellow prisoners, with the least cursing or swearing in the condemned hole; but

have had an opportunity of employing every moment of my time in preparing for a future state."

NATHANIEL HAWES,

Executed at Tyburn, December 21, 1721, Robber.

NATHANIEL HAWES was a native of Norfolk, in which county he was born in the year 1701. His father was a grazier in ample circumstances, but dying while the son was an infant, a relation in Hertfordshire took care of his education. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an upholsterer in London; but becoming connected with people of bad character, and thus acquiring an early habit of vice, he robbed his master when he had served only two years of his time, for which he was tried at the Old Bailey; and, being convicted of stealing to the amount of thirty-nine shillings, was sentenced to seven years' transportation. This sentence, however, was not carried into execution, owing to the following circumstance:—A man named Phillips had encouraged the unhappy youth in his depredations, by purchasing, at a very low rate, such goods as he stole from his master: but when Hawes was taken into custody, he gave information of this affair, in consequence of which, a search-warrant was procured, and many affects belonging to Hawes's master were found in Phillips's possession. Hereafter, application was made to the king, and a free pardon was granted to Hawes, whereby he was rendered a competent evidence against Phillips, who was tried for receiving stolen goods, and transported for fourteen years. Hawes, during his confinement in Newgate, had made such connections as greatly contributed to the contamination of his morals: and, soon after

his release, he connected himself with a set of bad fellows who acted under the direction of Jonathan Wild, and having made a particular acquaintance with one John James, they joined in the commission of a number of robberies. After an uncommon share of success for some days, they quarrelled on the division of the booty; in consequence, each acted on his own account. Some little time after they had thus separated, Hawes, being apprehensive that James would impeach him, applied to Jonathan Wild, and informed against his old acquaintance, on which James was taken into custody, tried, convicted, and executed. Notwithstanding this conviction, the court sentenced Hawes to be imprisoned in the New Prison, and that gaol was preferred to Newgate, because the prisoners in the latter threatened to murder Hawes for being an evidence against James. Here it should be observed, that by an act of the 4th and 5th of William and Mary, for the more effectual conviction of highwaymen, the evidence of accomplices is allowed; but the evidence cannot claim his liberty unless two or more of his accomplices are convicted; but may be imprisoned during the pleasure of the court. Soon after his commitment, Hawes and another fellow made their escape, and entering into partnership, committed a variety of robberies, particularly on the road between Hackney and Shoreditch. This connection, like the former, lasted but a short time: a dispute on dividing their ill-gotten gains occasioned a separation: soon after which Hawes went alone to Finchley Common, where, meeting with a gentleman riding to town, he presented a pistol to his breast, and commanded him instantly to dismount, that he might search him for his money. The gentleman offered him four shillings, on which Hawes swore the most horrid oaths, and threatened instant death, if he did not immediately submit. The gentleman quitted his horse, and in the same moment seized the pistol, which he snatched from the hand of the rob-

ber, and presenting it to him, told him to expect death if he did not surrender himself. Hawes, who was now as terrified as he had been insolent, made no opposition; and the driver of a cart coming up just at that juncture, he was easily made prisoner, conveyed to London, and committed to Newgate. When the sessions came on, and he was brought to the bar, he refused to plead to his indictment, alledging the following reasons for so doing; that he would die, as he had lived like a gentleman: "The people (said he), who apprehended me, seized a suit of fine clothes, which I intended to have gone to the gallows in; and unless they are returned I will not plead; for no one shall say that I was hanged in a dirty shirt and ragged coat." On this he was told what would be the consequence of his contempt of legal authority; but this making no impression on him, sentence was pronounced that he should be pressed to death, whereupon he was taken from the court, and being laid on his back, sustained a load of two hundred and fifty pounds weight about seven minutes; but unable any longer to bear the pain, he entreated he might be conducted back to the court, which being complied with, he pleaded "Not guilty;" but the evidence against him being complete, he was convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction, his behaviour was very improper. He told the other capital convicts he would die like a hero; and behaved in the same thoughtless way till the arrival of the warrant for his execution: after which his conduct was not altogether so imprudent. He owned to the ordinary of Newgate, that he was induced to refuse to plead to his indictment that the other prisoners might deem him a man of honour, and not from the idle vanity of being hanged in fine clothes. He acknowledged many robberies which he had committed; but charged Jonathan Wild as being the principal author of his ruin, by purchasing the stolen goods. He likewise owned that he had been base enough to inform against persons who were innocent, parti-

cularly a gentleman's servant who was then in custody; but he did not discover any signs of contrition for this or any other of his offences.

WILLIAM BURRIDGE,

Executed at Tyburn, May 22, 1722, for Horse-stealing,

Was born in Northamptonshire, and served his apprenticeship to a carpenter; but being of a wild disposition, his friends determined on sending him to sea; accordingly they got him rated as a midshipman, and he sailed to the coast of Spain: but soon quitting the naval service, he returned to England, and commencing highwayman, committed many robberies on the road to Hampstead, on Finchley Common, and in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith. When he first began the practice of robbing, he formed a resolution to retire when he had acquired as much money as would support him: but this time never arrived; for finding his success by no means proportioned to his expectations, he became one of the gang under Jonathan Wild,* of infamous memory; and was for a considerable time screened from justice by that celebrated master of thieves.

Burridge being confined in New Prison for a capital offence, broke out of that gaol; and he was repeatedly an evidence at the Old Bailey, by which means his associates suffered the rigour of the law. At length having offended Wild, the latter marked him down as one doomed to suffer at the next execution after the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; which was a common practice with Wild when he grew tired of his dependants, or thought they could be no longer serviceable to him. Alarmed by this circumstance,

* Our readers will find the particulars of the life and execution of this most notorious thief and thief-taker in the subsequent pages.

Burridge fled into Lincolnshire, where he stole a horse, and brought it to London, intending to sell it at Smithfield for present support; but the gentleman who lost the horse having sent a full description of it to London, Burridge was seen riding on through the street, and watched to a livery-stable. Some persons going to take him, he produced a brace of pistols, threatening destruction to any one who came near him; by which he got off; but being immediately pursued, he was apprehended in May-Fair, and lodged in Newgate. On his trial, a man and a woman swore that they saw him purchase the horse; but as there was a material difference in their stories, the court was of opinion that they had been hired to swear, and the judge gave directions for their being taken into custody for the perjury. The jury did not hesitate to find Burridge guilty; and after sentence was passed, his behaviour was extremely devout and he encouraged the devotion of others in like unhappy circumstances. He suffered in the 34th year of his age; having first warned the spectators to be obedient to their parents and masters, and to beware of the crime of debauching young women, which had first led him from the path of duty, and finally terminated in his ruin.

ARUNDEL COOKE, Esq.

And his accomplice, JOHN WOODBURNE, the first criminals who suffered death under the Coventry Act. Executed at Bury St. Edmund's, April 5, 1722.

PREVIOUS to the passing of this act of Parliament, it was customary for revengeful men to way-lay another, and cut and maim him, so that though he did not die of such wounds, he might remain a cripple during the remainder of life, and such case was not

then a capital offence. It was also a dangerous practice resorted to by thieves, who would often cut the sinews of men's legs, called ham-stringing, in order to prevent their escape from being robbed.

Sir John Coventry, who in the reign of Charles the Second, having opposed the measures of the Court in the House of Commons, in revenge some armed villains attacked him one night in Covent-Garden, slit his nose, and cut off his lips. Shocked by so barbarous a deed, the members of both houses of parliament passed an act in a few days, by which it was ordained, that "Unlawfully cutting out, or disabling the tongue, of malice aforethought, or by lying in wait, putting out an eye, slitting the nose or lip, or cutting off or disabling any limb or member of any person, with intent to maim or disfigure, shall be felony without benefit of clergy."* By this law it is likewise enacted, that "accessaries shall likewise be deemed principals."

Mr. Cooke was born at Bury St. Edmund's, in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune, and when he had given him an university education, he sent him to the Temple to study the law, after which he was called to the bar, and acted as a counsellor. After some time he married a young lady, the sister of Mr. Crisp, who lived in the neighbourhood of his native place. Mr. Crisp, being a gentleman of large property, but of a bad state of health, made his will in favour of Cooke, subject only to a jointure for his sister's use, which was likewise to become the property of the counsellor, in case the lady died before her husband. It was not long after Mr. Crisp had made his will, before he recovered his health in some degree; but he continued an infirm man, though he lived a number of years. This partial recovery gave great uneasiness to Cooke, who wishing to possess the estate, was anxious for the

* A similar act was passed in Ireland, called "The Chalking Act," on which one Lamb, a butcher, was the first who was convicted.

death of his brother-in law, though, as he had art enough to conceal his sentiments, they appeared to live on tolerable terms. However, he at length grew so impatient that he could not come in possession by the death of Mr. Crisp, that he resolved to remove him by murder; and for that purpose he engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had six children, to assist him in the execution of his diabolical plan; for which piece of service he promised to give him a hundred pounds. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable business; but reflecting on his poverty, and the largeness of his family, he was induced to comply.

On this it was agreed that the murder should be perpetrated on Christmas evening; and as Mr. Crisp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the church-yard lay between one house and the other, Woodburne was to wait concealed behind one of the tombstones till Cooke gave him the signal of attack, which was to be a loud whistle. Crisp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law; but declining to stay supper, he left the house about nine o'clock, and was almost immediately followed into the church-yard by Cooke, who giving the agreed signal, Woodburne quitted his place of retreat, knocked down the unhappy man, and cut and maimed him in a terrible manner; in which he was abetted by the counsellor. Imagining they had dispatched him, Mr. Cooke rewarded Woodburne with a few shillings, and instantly went home; but he had not arrived more than a quarter of an hour before Mr. Crisp knocked at the door, and entered covered with wounds, and almost dead through loss of blood. He was unable to speak, but by his looks seemed to accuse Cooke with the intended murder, and was then put to bed, and his wounds dressed by a surgeon. At the end of about a week he was so much mended, as to be removed to his own house. He had no doubt but Cooke was one of the persons who had assaulted him; but had resolved not to speak of

the affair till future circumstances made it necessary for him to inform a court of justice of what had happened.

The intended assassination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on suspicion; when, making a discovery of the whole truth, Cooke was also taken into custody. They were brought to their trials at the next assizes, and both convicted. When they were called upon to receive sentence of death, Cooke desired to be heard: and the court complying with his request, he urged that "judgment could not pass on the verdict, because the act of parliament simply mentions an intention to maim or deface, whereas he was firmly resolved to have committed murder." He quoted several law cases in favour of the arguments he had advanced, and hoped that judgment might be respited till the opinion of the twelve judges could be taken on the case. The counsel for the Crown opposed the arguments of Cooke; insisted that the crime came within the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would pass against the prisoners. Lord Chief Justice King, who presided on this occasion, declared he could not admit the force of Mr. Cooke's plea, consistent with his own oath as a judge. "For (said he,) it would establish a principle in the law inconsistent with the first dictates of natural reason, as the greatest villain might, when convicted of a smaller offence, plead that judgment must be arrested, because he intended to commit a greater. In the present instance (said he) judgment cannot be arrested, as the intention is naturally implied when the crime is actually committed." His lordship said that "Crisp was assassinated in the manner laid in the indictment;—it is therefore to be taken for granted, that the intention was to maim and deface; wherefore the court will proceed to give judgment;"—and accordingly sentence of death was passed on Cooke and his accomplice.

After condemnation, Cooke employed his time

principally in endeavours to procure a pardon; and when he found his expectations fail him, he grew reserved, and would not admit even the visits of his friends. Woodburne, on the contrary, was all penitence and contrition; sincerely lamenting the crime he had been guilty of, and the miserable situation in which he left his poor children. A short time before the day of execution Cooke wrote to the sheriff, requesting that he might be hanged in the night, to prevent his being exposed to the country people, who were expected from all the adjacent towns and villages; and in consequence hereof he was hanged at four o'clock in the morning; and Woodburne was executed in the afternoon of the same day. The latter behaved with every sign of penitence; but Cooke's conduct was very unfeeling, and he absolutely refused to confess his crime.

JOHN HARTLEY AND THOMAS REEVES,

*Footpads, the most dangerous description of robbers.
Executed at Tyburn, May 4, 1722,*

WERE tried for stopping a journeyman tailor, in the fields near Harrow, and robbing him of two-pence and his clothes; and because he had no more money, they beat him most inhumanly, stripped, and bound him to a tree.

While he was in this wretched situation, some persons coming by unbound him, and took him to an alehouse, where he told the particulars of the robbery, mentioned the colour of his clothes, and described the persons of the robbers to the best of his power.

These circumstances were heard by a fiddler, who going next day into a public-house in Fore-street, saw the fellows offering to sell the tailor's coat. The fiddler immediately proposed to be the purchaser,

gave earnest for it, and pretending he had not money enough, said he would fetch the difference; instead of which he brought the party robbed, who knowing the footpads, they were immediately taken into custody.

The evidence on their trial was so plain, that the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty; in consequence of which they received sentence of death.

After conviction, their behaviour was unbecoming persons in their unhappy situation. That of Reeves was particularly hardened: he would sing and swear while the convicts were at prayer, yet he told the ordinary that he was certain of going to heaven.

The most curious circumstance arising from the detection of these offenders, was the singular method that Hartley took to save his life. He procured six young women, dressed in white, to go to St. James's, and present a petition in his behalf. The singularity of their appearance gained them admission; when they delivered their petition, and told the king, that if he extended the royal mercy to the offender, they would cast lots which should be his wife; but his Majesty said, that he was more deserving of the gallows than a wife, and accordingly refused their request.

As they were going to execution, the ordinary asked Reeves if his wife had been concerned with him in any robberies. "No (said he), she is a very worthy woman, whose first husband happening to be hanged, I married her, that she might not reproach me by a repetition of his virtues."

At the fatal tree Reeves behaved in the most hardened manner; affected to despise death, and said he believed he might go to heaven from the gallows as safely as from his bed.

JOHN HAWKINS AND JAMES SIMPSON.

*Highwaymen and Mail-robbers, executed at Tyburn,
on the 21st of May, 1722.*

JOHN HAWKINS was born of poor but honest parents, at Staines, in Middlesex, and for some time lived as waiter at the Red Lion, at Brentford; but leaving this place, he engaged himself as a gentleman's servant. Having been at length in different families, he became butler to Sir Dennis Drury, and was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance. His person was uncommonly graceful, and he was remarkably vain of it. He used to frequent gaming-tables two or three nights in a week; a practice which led to that ruin which finally befel him.

About this time Sir Dennis had been robbed of a considerable quantity of plate; and as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive, it was suspected that he was the thief, for which reason he was discharged, without the advantage of a good character. Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence, he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow-Heath, where he took about eleven pounds from the passengers in a coach; but such was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London, and lost it all. He continued to rob alone for some time, and then engaged with other highwaymen; but the same fate still attended him: he lost at gaming what he had acquired at so much risque, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house, and sneak off without paying his reckoning. Several of his old companions having met their deserts at the gallows, he became acquainted with one Wilson, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a solicitor in chancery, but had neglected his business through an attachment to the gaming-table. These associates having committed several

robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them, but acquitted for want of evidence. After which Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby, in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year, and then coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law; but having lost all his money in gaming, he renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains; one of whom, however, being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon dispersed the gang, but not until some of them had made their exit at Tyburn; on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself for a considerable time; but at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley-Common, and shot one of his servants, who died on the spot. His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond-lane, from whom he took about twenty-pounds, two gold watches, and a sapphire ring. For this ring a reward of one hundred pounds was offered to Jonathan Wild; but Hawkins sailed to Holland with it, and there sold it for forty pounds. On his return to England he joined his old companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a snuff-box, and a pocket-book, for which last Sir David offered sixty pounds reward to Wild; but Hawkins's gang having no connection with that villain, who did not even know their persons, they sent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expence. They next stopped Mr. Hyde, of Hackney, in his coach, and robbed him of ten pounds and his watch, but missed three hundred pounds which that gentleman then had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Westmoreland's coach, in Lincoln's-inn-fields, and robbed him of a sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch; but the robbers firing a pistol over their heads, the guardians of the night decamped. Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland;

but Jonathan Wild having heard of the connection, caused some of the gang to be apprehended; on which the rest went into the country to hide themselves. On this occasion Hawkins and Wilson went to Oxford, and paying a visit to the Bodleian library, the former wantonly defaced some pictures in the gallery; and one hundred pounds' reward was offered to discover the offender; when a poor tailor having been taken up on suspicion, narrowly escaped being whipped merely because he was of whiggish principles.

Hawkins and his friend returning to London, the latter coming of age at that time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for three hundred and fifty pounds, a small part of which he lent to his companions to buy horses, and soon dissipated the rest at the gaming-table. The associates now stopped two gentlemen in a chariot on the Hampstead road, who both fired at once, by which three slugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder, and the highwaymen got to London with some difficulty. On Hawkins's recovery they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde-Park; but the coachman driving hastily, Wilson fired, and wounding himself in the hand, found it difficult to scale the park-wall to effect his escape. This circumstance occasioned some serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to recur to his former practices. While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness, he was sent for to a public-house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with one George Simpson, another associate, who was a native of Putney, in Surrey. His father was a wine-merchant, but being reduced in circumstances, removed into Lincolnshire. Young Simpson kept a public-house at Lincoln, and acted as a sheriff's-officer; but quitting the country, he came to London,

and was butler to Lord Castlemain; after which he lived in several other creditable places, till he became acquainted with Hawkins. Wilson was shocked at seeing them, and asked what could induce them to take such a journey? Hereupon Hawkins swore violently, said Wilson was impeached, and would be taken into custody in a few days. This induced him to go to London with them; but, on his arrival, he found that the story of the impeachment was false. When in London, they formed connections with other thieves, and committed several robberies, for which some of the gang were executed. They frequented a public-house at London-wall, the master of which kept a livery-stable, so that they rode out at all hours, and robbed the stages as they were coming into town. They took not only money, but portmanteaus, &c. and divided the booty with Carter, the master of the livery-stable. Thus they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their associates, named Child, was executed at Salisbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail. This incensed them to such a degree, that they determined to avenge the supposed insult, by committing a similar crime. Having mentioned their design in the presence of Carter, the stable-keeper, he advised them to stop the mail from Harwich; but this they declined, because the changing of the wind must render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was determined to rob the Bristol mail; and they set out on an expedition for that purpose. It appeared on the trial, that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley-Broom, where a person rode up to them, and turned back again. When passing through Colnbrook they saw the same man again, with two others, who followed them at a small distance, and then pulled their wigs over their foreheads, and holding handkerchiefs in their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, when

they ordered them to quit their horses; and then Hawkins, Simpson, and Wilson, tied them back to back, and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge. They now crossed the Thames, and riding a little way into Surrey, put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey-street. It was now about six in the morning, when they parted, and went different ways to a public-house in the Minories, where they proposed to divide their ill-gotten treasure. The landlord being well acquainted with their persons, and knowing the profession of his guests, shewed them a private room, and supplied them with pen and ink. Having equally divided the bank-notes, they threw the letters into the fire, and then went to their lodgings in Green-arbour-court, in the Old-bailey.

A few days after this, information was given at the Post-office, that suspicious people frequented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper, at London-wall; accordingly some persons were sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson happening to be there at the time, suspected their business; on which he abruptly retired, slipped through some bye alleys, and got into the Moorgate coffee-house, which he had occasionally used for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore less liable to be searched for suspicious people. He had not been long in the house before a Quaker mentioned the search that was making in the neighbourhood for the men who had robbed the mail. This shocked him so, that he instantly paid his reckoning, and going out at the back-door, went to Bedlam, where the melancholy sight of the objects around him induced him to draw a comparison between their situation and his own; and he concluded that he was far more unhappy, through the weight of his guilt, than those poor wretches whom

It had pleased God to deprive of the use of their intellects. Having reflected that it would not be safe for him to stay longer in London, he resolved to go to Newcastle by sea, and he was confirmed in this resolution, upon being told by a person who wished his safety, that he and his companions were the parties suspected of having robbed the mail. This friend likewise advised him to go to the Post-office, surrender, and turn evidence; hinting, that if he did not, it was probable Simpson would; as he had asked some questions which seemed to intimate such a design. Wilson neglected this advice, but held his resolution of going to Newcastle, and with that intention quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate coffee-house he met the men he had seen at Carter's house. They turned, and followed him; yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-house, while they went under the arch of the gate, and if he had returned by the door he entered, he would have again escaped them; but going out of the fore-door of the house, they took him into custody, and conducted him to the Post-office. On his first examination, he refused to make any confession; and on the following day he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances induced him to reveal it. In the first place, the Postmaster-General promised that he should be admitted an evidence, if he would discover his accomplices; and one of the clerks calling him aside, shewed him a letter, without any name to it, of which the following is a copy:—

“Sir,—I am one of those persons who robbed the mail, which I am very sorry for; and to make amends, I will secure my two companions as soon as may be. He whose hand this shall appear to be, will, I hope, be entitled to the reward of his pardon.”

As Wilson knew this letter to be of Simpson's handwriting, he thought himself justified in making a full discovery, which he accordingly did, in consequence of which his associates were apprehended at their lodgings, in Green-arbour-court, two days after-

wards. At first they made an appearance of resistance, and threatened to shoot the peace-officers; but the latter saying they were provided with arms, the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate.

On the trial, Hawkins endeavoured to prove that he was in London at the time that the mail was robbed; and one Fuller, of Bedfordbury, swore that he lodged at his house on that night.

To ascertain this, Fuller produced a receipt for thirty shillings, which he said Hawkins then paid him for horse-hire. The judge desired to look at that receipt, observed that the body of it was written with an ink of a different colour from that of the name at the bottom: on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked that Fuller's testimony deserved no kind of credit. After examining some other witnesses, the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by the following singular occurrence, as stated by the short-hand writer:—

“ My ink, as it happened, was very bad, being thick at bottom, and thin and waterish at top; so that, according as I dipped my pen, the writing appeared very pale, or pretty black. Now, just as the court was remarking on the difference of the ink in Fuller's receipt, a gentleman who stood by me perceiving something of the same kind in my writing, desired to look at my notes for a minute. As I was not aware of any ill consequences, I let him take the book out of my hand; when presently shewing it to his friend, ‘ See here, (said he) what difference there is in the colour of the same ink!’ His friend took it, and shewed it to another. Uneasy at this, I spoke to them to return me my book. They begged my pardon, and said I should have it in a minute: but this answer was no sooner given, than a curiosity suddenly entered one of the jurymen who sat just by, and he too begged a sight of the book; which, notwithstanding my importunity, was immediately handed to him. He viewed it, and gave it to the

next, and so it passed from one to the other, till the judge perceiving them very busy, called to them,—‘Gentlemen, what are you doing? what book is that?’ They told him it was the writer’s book, and they were observing how the ink appeared pale in one place, and black in another. ‘You ought not, Gentlemen, (says he,) to take notice of any thing but what is produced in evidence;’ and then turning to me, demanded what I meant by shewing that to the jury. I answered, that I could not fix upon the persons, for the gentlemen near me were all strangers to me, and I was far from imagining I should have any such occasion for taking particular notice of them. His lordship then reassumed his charge to the jury, which being ended, they withdrew to consider of their verdict.”

After staying out about an hour, the jury returned into court without agreeing on a verdict; saying they could not be convinced that Fuller’s receipt was not genuine, merely on account of the different colours of the ink. Hereupon the court intimated how many witnesses had sworn that Hawkins was absent from London; to contradict all of whom there was only the evidence of Fuller, which was at least rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours: and it submitted, whether Fuller’s testimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the opposing parties. Hereupon the jury went out of court, and, on their return, gave a verdict of guilty against both the prisoners.

At the place of execution, Hawkins addressed the surrounding multitude, acknowledging his sins, professing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of those who were witnesses of his melancholy exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpson was out of his pain almost without a struggle.—They suffered at Tyburn, on the 21st of May, 1722, and were hung in chains on Hounslow-Heath.

NATHANIEL JACKSON,

Highwayman, executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1722,

WAS a native of Doncaster, in Yorkshire, whose father dying while he was very young, left a sum of money for his use in the hands of a relation, who apprenticed him to a silk-weaver, in Norwich. He had frequent disputes with his master, with whom he lived three years, and then run away. At length his guardian found out his retreat, and sent to inform him, that, as he was averse to business, his friends wished that a place might be purchased for him with the money left by his father. But Jackson being of an unsettled disposition, enlisted in the army, and was sent to Ireland. After a while, being disgusted with his low condition, he solicited his discharge; which having obtained, he procured some money of his friends, and gave fifteen guineas to be admitted into a troop of dragoons; but soon quarrelling with one of his comrades, a duel ensued, in which Jackson wounded the other in such a horrid manner, that he was turned out of the regiment. He then returned to England, and lived some time with his guardian, in Yorkshire; being averse to a life of sobriety, he afterwards went to London, where he spent, in the most extravagant manner, the little money he brought with him. Reduced to the utmost distress, he casually met John Murphy and Neal O'Brian, whom he had known in Ireland. After they had drank together, O'Brian produced a considerable sum of money, saying, "You see how I live! I never want money; and if you have but courage, and dare but walk with me towards Hampstead to-night, I will shew you how easy it is to get it." As Jackson and Murphy were both of dissolute manners, and very poor, they were easily persuaded to be concerned in this dangerous enterprize. Be.

tween Tottenham-court-road and Hampstead they stopped a poor man, named Dennis, from whom they took his coat, waistcoat, two shirts, thirteen-pence in money, and some other trifling articles; and then bound him to a tree. No sooner were they gone, than he struggled hard, got loose, and meeting a person whom he knew, they pursued them to a night-house in the Haymarket, where Murphy and Jackson were taken into custody, but O'Brian made his escape.

On their trial, as soon as Dennis had given his testimony, they owned the fact they had committed; in consequence of which they received sentence of death; but Murphy obtained a reprieve. Jackson's brother exerted all his influence to save his life; but his endeavours proving ineffectual, he sent him a letter to inform him of it; which was written in so affecting a manner, as to overwhelm his mind with the most poignant affliction.

While under sentence of death, Jackson behaved in the most penitent manner; confessed the sins of his past life with the deepest signs of contrition; was earnest in his devotions, and made every preparation for his approaching end. He was executed at Tyburn, on the 18th of July, 1722, having suffered for the first robbery he ever committed.

THOMAS BUTLOGE.

Hanged at Tyburn, for basely brtraying his trust, in robbing his Master, July 18th, 1722.

WAS a native of Ireland, where he received a good education, and was then apprenticed to a vintner in Dublin; but the house in which he lived not being of the most reputable kind, he became a witness to such scenes as had a natural tendency to debauch his morals.

Butloge's master having got considerably in debt, came to England, and resided some time at Chester, whither the apprentice was frequently sent with such remittances as the wife could spare.

At length Butloge quitted his service, and came to England with a view to settle there: but being unsuccessful in his endeavours to procure an establishment, he returned to Dublin, where he engaged in the service of a shopkeeper, whose daughter he soon afterwards married.

Butloge had now a fair prospect of success before him, as his wife's father proposed to have resigned business in his favour; but being of an unsettled disposition, and having conceived an idea of making his fortune in England, he could not bring his mind to think of the regular pursuit of trade. Unhappily for him, while he was amusing himself with the imagination of his future greatness, he received a letter from a relation in England, inviting him thither, and promising his interest to obtain him a place, on which he might live in a genteel manner. Butloge readily accepted this invitation, and immediately embarking for England, soon arrived in London.

Butloge now took lodgings at the court-end of the town, and living in a gay style, soon spent all the money he had brought with him from Ireland; and his relation not being able to obtain the place for him which he had expected, he was reduced to the necessity of going to service, on which he entered into that of Mr. Langlie, a French gentleman. He had not been long in his new place, when Mr. Langlie going to church on a Sunday, recollected that he had forgot to lock his bureau, in which he had deposited a sum of money; whereupon he went home, and found Butloge in the room where the money was left. When Mr. Langlie had counted his cash, the other asked him if he missed any thing; and the master answered, one guinea; which Butloge said he found by the side of the bureau; whereupon his master gave him two shillings, in approbation of this in-

stance of his honesty. Mr. Langlie went to Chelsea in the afternoon; and during his absence Butloge broke open his bureau, robbed it of all the money, and several other valuable effects, and then took a horse, which he had hired for a gentleman to go to Chester, and set off on his way to Ireland. When Mr. Langlie returned in the evening, he discovered the loss he had sustained; on which he applied to Lord Gage, who wrote to the postmaster of Chester to stop the delinquent; in consequence of which he was apprehended with the stolen goods in his possession, and sent to London to take his trial, which happened soon afterwards at the Old Bailey, when he was capitally convicted.

After he had received sentence of death, he acknowledged that he was not tempted by want to the commission of the crime which had brought him into such deplorable circumstances; but that the vanity of appearing as a gentleman had been one principal instigation; and he was encouraged by the consideration that Mr. Langlie would soon return to France, so that there would be no person to prosecute him. He submitted to his unhappy lot with resignation, declaring that the thoughts of death did not so much terrify him as the reflection on the disgrace that he had brought on his family.—He was executed along with Nathaniel Jackson.

MATTHIAS BRINSDEN,

*Executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of September, 1722,
for inhumanly killing his Wife.*

THIS offender served his time to a cloth-drawer, in Blackfriars, named Beech, who dying, was succeeded by Mr. Byfield, who left the business to Brinsden, who married Byfield's widow; but how long she lived with him is uncertain. After the death of this

wife, he married a second, by whom he had ten children, some of the elder of whom were brought up to work at his business. At length he was seized with a fever, so violent that it distracted him, and occasioned him to be tied down to his bed. This misfortune occasioned such a decay in his trade, that on his recovery he carried newspapers about, and did any other business he could to support his family. Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was sitting on a bed suckling a young child, asked him what she should have for supper? To which he answered, "Bread and cheese; can't you eat that as well as the children?" She replied, "No, I want a bit of meat." "But (said he) I have no money to buy you any." In answer to which she said, "You know I have had but little to-day:" and some further words arising between them, he stabbed her under the left breast with a knife. The deed was no sooner perpetrated, than one of the daughters snatched the infant from the mother's breast, and another cried out, "O Lord! father, you have killed my mother." Brinsden now sent for some basilicon and sugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his escape.

A surgeon being sent for, found that the wound was mortal, and the poor woman died soon after he came, and within half an hour of the time the wound was given.

In the interim the murderer had retreated to the house of Mr. King, a barber, at Shadwell; from whence, on the following day, he sent a letter to one of his daughters, and another to a woman of his acquaintance; and in consequence of these letters he was discovered, taken into custody, carried before a magistrate, and committed to take his trial for the murder.

When on trial, he urged in his defence, that his wife was in some degree intoxicated, that she wanted to go out and drink with her companions, and that while he endeavoured to hinder her, she threw her-

self against the knife, and received an accidental wound. However, the evidence against him was so clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received sentence of death. After conviction he became serious and resigned; and being visited by one of his daughters, who had given evidence against him, he took her in his arms, and said, "God forgive me, I have robbed you of your mother: be a good child, and rather die than steal. Never be in a passion; but curb your anger, and honour your mistress: she will be as a father and mother to you. Farewell, my dear child; pray for your father, and think of him as favourably as you can."

On his way to the place of execution, the daughter above-mentioned was permitted to go into the cart to take her last farewell of him, a scene that was greatly affecting to the spectators.

As some reports very unfavourable to this malefactor had been propagated during his confinement, he desired the ordinary of Newgate to read the following speech just before he was launched into eternity:—

"I was born of kind parents, who gave me learning, and apprenticed me to a fine-drawer. I had often jars with him, which might increase a natural waspishness in my temper. I fell in love with Hannah, my last wife, and, after much difficulty, won her, she having five suitors courting her at the same time. We had ten children (half of them dead,) and I believe we loved each other dearly; but often quarrelled and fought.

"Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice against her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I designed only to make her obey me thoroughly, which, the Scripture says, all wives should do. This I thought I had done, when I cut her skull on Monday; but she was the same again by Tuesday.

"Good people, I request you to observe, that the world has spitefully given out, that I carnally and

incestuously lay with my eldest daughter: I here solemnly declare, as I am entering into the presence of God, I never knew whether she was man or woman since she was a babe. I have often taken her in my arms, often kissed her; sometimes given her a cake or a pye, when she did any particular service, beyond what came to her share, but never lay with her, or carnally knew her, much less have a child by her. But when a man is in calamities, and is hated, like me, the women will make surmises be certainties.

“Good Christians, pray for me! I deserve death: I am willing to die; for though my sins are great, God’s mercies are greater.”

ROBERT WILKINSON, JAMES LINCOLN,
AND THOMAS MILKSOP.

Murderers, executed at Tyburn, Sept. 24, 1722.

THESE offenders were tried for a murder, which arose from the following circumstance: having agreed to commit a robbery together, they stopped a gentleman’s coach on the road to Kensington, and having robbed him of a sum of money, ran off; and soon afterwards meeting a Chelsea pensioner, who had a gun in his hand, they ordered him to deliver it; but the man refusing to do it, Wilkinson stabbed him repeatedly through the back with a hanger; and when they saw the man was dead, they hastily decamped, committed some robberies on coaches on the road, and then went to London.

On the following day they were apprehended, and committed to prison; and being soon afterwards brought to their trial at the Old Bailey, they were convicted, and received sentence of death.

It will be now proper to give such an account of these offenders as we have been able to collect.

Robert Wilkinson was the son of poor parents, who lived in St. Giles's, and having missed the advantages of an education, became an associate of coachmen, carmen, and others the lowest of the people. At length he grew to be a dexterous boxer, and frequented Hoxley-in-the-Hole, and other black-guard places in the neighbourhood of London.

After this he commenced footpad, and committed a great variety of robberies, attended with many circumstances of cruelty. Frequently did he knock men down with bludgeons; and when he had robbed women, it was a common practice with him to strip them naked, bind them to trees, and leave them in that calamitous situation.

He continued this way of life alone for some years, and then connected himself with the other villains whose names are mentioned in this narrative.

James Lincoln was likewise born of mean parents, nor was any more care taken of his education than of Wilkinson's. For some time he served the hackney-coachmen and carmen, and afterwards committed an immense number of footpad-robberies on the roads near London; and so frequent were his depredations of this kind, that honest men were afraid to pass alone about their lawful business.

He had been so successful in his adventures, and had so often escaped detection, that he grew so hardened, as to watch four nights at the end of Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn-fields, to rob the Duke of Newcastle of his George, though he knew that his Grace had always a number of servants in his train. Being disappointed of this booty, he went on foot to Hyde-Park, where he robbed a gentleman in his carriage, and eluded all pursuit. The money he acquired by his robberies was spent in the most extravagant manner; and at length he became acquainted with the other subjects of this narrative, and was concerned in the crime which ended in their mutual ruin.

Thomas Milksop was a native of London, and was

bound apprentice to a vintner, in which station he became familiar to some scenes of irregularity that had a natural tendency to corrupt his morals. When the term of his apprenticeship was expired, he attached himself to some abandoned women, and got connected with an infamous gang of housebreakers and other thieves, who committed numberless depredations on the public.

Milksop having, by one of his night-robberies, acquired a considerable sum of money, bought a horse, and rode out in the character of a highwayman; but not meeting any success in this way, he returned to his former practices, and then engaged with a gang, of which Wilkinson and Lincoln were two, and was concerned in a great number of other facts, besides that which brought him to a fatal end.

The behaviour of these malefactors under sentence of death was rather hardened. They had been guilty of a great number of offences, for which they did not appear to have a proper concern. Such was the conduct of Wilkinson, that the ordinary of Newgate refused to administer the sacrament to him; on which he said, if he was not allowed to go to heaven with others, he would find the way alone. Lincoln professed himself a Roman Catholic. Milksop, among his other offences, particularly lamented the committing a rape on a poor woman whom he robbed near Caen-Wood.

RICHARD OAKEY, JOHN LEVEY, ANB
MATTHEW FLOOD,

*Executed at Tyburn, on the 23d of February, 1723,
for Robbery.*

At this time London and its environs were infested with desperate gangs of villains, of which a felon of the name of Blake was the Macheath; and in

which character he was known as Captain Blueskin. In a few pages we shall give the particulars of this depredator; who, on the present occasion, owed his escape alone to his baseness in impeaching his associates in villainy.

Oakey, Levey, and Flood, three of this gang, were of the meanest origin, the first being apprenticed to a tailor, from whom he soon ran away. The other two were miserable, ignorant, yet most dangerous wretches, and from childhood were pickpockets. With such as these Oakey associated himself, and for some time procured a miserable subsistence by picking of pockets; and he afterwards proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women. In order to do this effectually, one of them used to trip up the women's heels, while the other cut off the pocket: and they generally got out of the reach of detection before the party robbed could recover her legs.

Many of Oakey's associates belonged to Jonathan Wild's gang, who caused several of them to be executed, when he could make no further advantage of them. Having thus lost many of his old acquaintance, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him the following singular method of robbery: in their excursions through the streets the woman went a little before Oakey, and when she observed a lady walking near where a coach was turning, she used to catch her in her arms, crying, "Take care, Madam, you will be run over!" and in the interim Oakey was certain to cut off her pocket. But this way of life did not last long, for this abandoned woman died soon after, in consequence of some bruises she received from a man whom she had ill-treated; and, on her death, Oakey followed the practice of snatching off pockets without a partner, and became one of the most dexterous in his profession. Not long after this, he became acquainted with several housebreakers, who persuaded him to follow their course of life, as more

profitable than stealing of pockets. In the first attempt they were successful; but the second, in which two others were concerned with him, was the breaking open a shop in the Borough, from whence they stole a quantity of calimancoes; for which offence Oakey was apprehended; on which he impeached his accomplices, one of whom was hanged, and the other transported, on his evidence.

Deterred from the thoughts of housebreaking by this adventure, he returned for a while to his old employment, and then became acquainted with a man called Will the Sailor, when their plan of robbery was this: Will, who wore a sword, used to affront persons in the streets, and provoke them till they stripped to fight with him, and then Oakey used to decamp with their clothes.

However, these associates in iniquity soon quarrelled, and parted; and Oakey, who by this time was an accomplished thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, among whom were John Levey, Matthew Flood, and Blueskin. These men were for some time the terror of travellers near London. Among other atrocious robberies, they stopped a coach between Camberwell and London, in which were five men and a woman. The men said they would deliver their money, but begged they would not search, as the lady was with child. Blueskin, holding a hat, received the money the passengers put into it, which appeared to be a considerable sum, but, on examination, it was found to be chiefly halfpence. The gang suspected that Blueskin had defrauded them, as it was not the first time he had cheated his fellow-thieves: but they were greatly mortified that they had neglected to search the coach, when they afterwards learned there were three hundred pounds in it.

Some time after this Oakey, Levey, Flood, and Blueskin stopped Colonel Cope and Mr. Young, in a carriage, on their return from Hampstead, and robbed them of their watches, rings, and money.

Information of this robbery was sent to Jonathan Wild, who caused the parties to be apprehended; and Blueskin being admitted an evidence, they were tried, convicted, sentenced, and ordered for execution. After conviction, their behaviour was exceedingly proper for persons in their calamitous situation.—Oakey said that what gave him more concern than all his other offences was, the burning a will that he found with some money and rings in a pocket which he had cut from a lady's side; a circumstance which proved highly detrimental to the owner.

WILLIAM SPIGGOT AND THOMAS PHILLIPS,

Who suffered the torture for refusing to plead.

Executed at Tyburn, February 8, 1723, for robbery.

WILLIAM SPIGGOT and Thomas Phillips were indicted at the Old Bailey, for committing several robberies on the highway; but they refused to plead, unless the effects taken from them when they were apprehended were returned: but this being directly contrary to an act of the 4th and 5th of king William and Queen Mary, entitled "An act for encouraging the apprehending of highway-men," the court informed them, that their demand could not be complied with.

Still, however, they refused to plead, and no arguments could convince them of the absurdity of such an obstinate procedure: on which the court ordered, that the judgment ordained by law in such cases should be read; which is to the following purpose:—

"That the prisoner should be sent to the prison
 "from whence he came, and put into a mean room,
 "stopped from the light, and shall there be laid on
 "the bare ground, without any litter, straw, or
 "other covering, or without any garment about him,
 "except something to cover his privy members.—

“ He shall lie upon his back, his head shall be
“ covered, and his feet shall be bare. One of his
“ arms shall be drawn with a cord to one side of the
“ room, and the other arm to the other side, and his
“ legs shall be served in the like manner. Then
“ there shall be laid upon his body as much iron or
“ stone as he can bare, and more. And the first day
“ after he shall have three morsels of barley bread,
“ without any drink; and the second day he shall
“ be allowed to drink as much as he can at three
“ times, of the water that is next the prison-door,
“ except running water; without any bread; and
“ this shall be his diet till he dies; and he, against
“ whom this judgment shall be given, forfeits his
“ goods to the king.”*

The reading of this sentence producing no effect, they were ordered back to Newgate, there to be pressed to death; but when they came into the press-room, Phillips begged to be taken back to plead, a favour that was granted, though it might have been denied to him; but Spiggot was put under the press, where he continued half an hour with three hundred and fifty pounds weight on his body; but, on the addition of fifty pounds more, he likewise begged to plead.

In consequence hereof, they were again brought back and again indicted, when the evidence being clear and positive against them, they were convicted, received sentence of death, and were executed along with Oakey, Levee, and Flood.

William Spiggot, who was about twenty-seven years of age when he suffered, was a native of Hereford, but coming to London, he apprenticed himself to a cabinet maker. He was a married man, and had three children living at the time of his fatal exit. He and Phillips were hanged for robbing Charles

* This act becoming barbarous to Englishmen, in 1772, it was determined that persons refusing to plead shll be deemed guilty, as if convicted by a jury: an alteration that does honour to modern times.

Sybbald, on Finchley Common, and were convicted principally on the evidence of Joseph Linsey, a clergyman of abandoned character, who had been of their party. One Burroughs, a lunatic, who had escaped from Bedlam, was likewise concerned with them, but afterwards publicly spoke of the affair, which occasioned their being taken into custody; and when it was known that Burroughs was disordered in his mind, he was sent back to Bedlam.

Thomas Phillips, aged thirty-three years, was a native of Bristol, totally uneducated, and being sent to sea when very young, he served under Lord Torrington,* when he attacked and took the Spanish fleet in the Mediterranean Sea, near the harbour of Cadiz.

Phillips returning to England, became acquainted with Spiggot and Linsey, in company with whom he committed a great number of robberies on the highway. Phillips once boasted that he and Spiggot robbed above an hundred passengers one night, whom they obliged to come out of different waggon, and having bound them, placed them by each other on the side of the road: but this story is too absurd to be believed.

While under sentence of death, Phillips behaved in the most hardened and abandoned manner; he paid no regard to any thing that the minister said to him, and swore or sung songs while the other prisoners were engaged in acts of devotion; and, towards the close of his life, when his companions became more serious, he grew still more wicked; and yet, when at the place of execution, he said, "he did not fear to die, for he was in no doubt of going to heaven."

* The unfortunate admiral Byng, whose case will be given in due order of time in this work, was the son of this gallant nobleman.

CHRISTOPHER LAYER, ESQ.

Executed at Tyburn, March 15, 1723, for High Treason.

MR. LAYER was born of very respectable parents, and received a very liberal education, which being completed at the university, he was entered a student of the honourable society of the Inner Temple. After the customary time, he was called to the bar, entered on the profession of a counsellor at law, and had so much practice, that he seemed to be in the high road of making a large fortune.

Francis Atterbury, bishop of Rochester, had been disabled from holding his preferments in the church, by an act of parliament passed in the year 1722, and was banished from England for life, for his treasonable practices; and about this period several other persons were concerned in similar designs, among whom counsellor Layer was one of the most distinguished.

This infatuated man, made a journey to Rome, where he held several conferences with the Pretender, to whom he promised that he would effect such a secret revolution in England, that no person in authority should be apprised of the scheme till it had actually taken place.

Impressed with the idea that it was possible to carry his scheme into execution, he came to England with a determination to effect it. His plan was to hire an assassin to murder the king, on his return from Kensington; and this being done, the other parties, engaged in the plot, were to seize the guards; and the Prince of Wales and his children, and the great officers of state, were to be seized and confined during the confusion that such an event would naturally produce.

Among others concerned in this strange scheme was lord Grey, an ancient nobleman of the Roman Catholic religion, who died a prisoner in the Tower,

before the necessary legal proceedings against him could take place.

Mr. Layer having settled a correspondence with several Roman Catholics, nonjurors, and other persons disaffected to the government, he engaged a small number of disbanded soldiers, who were to be the principal actors in the intended tragedy. The counsellor met these soldiers at a public-house at Stratford, in Essex, where he gave them the necessary instructions for seizing the king on his return from the palace, and even fixed on the day when the plan was to be carried into execution.

Some of the people of the public-house having overheard the conversation, spoke of it publicly in the neighbourhood; and some other circumstances of suspicion arising, Mr. Layer was taken into custody by one of the king's messengers, in consequence of a warrant from the secretary of state.

At this time Mr. Layer had two women in keeping, one in Southampton Buildings, and the other in Queen-street, to both of whom he had given intimations of the scheme he had in hand. The lodgings of these women were searched, such a number of treasonable papers being found, that the intentions of the counsellor appeared evident. When he was apprised that his papers were seized, and the women bound to give evidence against him, he dispatched a messenger to the secretary of state, informing him that he would make a discovery of all he knew, if he might be permitted the use of pen, ink, and paper. This requisition was instantly complied with, and it was the prevailing opinion that he would have been admitted an evidence against his accomplices, if he had made the promised discovery; but it will appear that he had no such intention.

Behind the house of the messenger in which he was confined, there was a yard, which communicated with the yard of a public-house adjoining, and Mr. Layer thought, if he could get from his confinement, it would be no difficult matter to escape

through the tap-room of the ale-house, where it was not probable that he should be known.

Having digested his plan, he cut the blankets of his bed into pieces, and tied them together, and in the dusk of the evening dropped from his window; but falling on a bottle-rack in the yard, he overset it; and the noise occasioned by the breaking of the bottles was such that the family was alarmed; but Layer escaped during the confusion occasioned by this incident.

Almost distracted by the loss of his prisoner, the messenger went in search of him, and finding that he had taken a boat at the Horse-ferry, Westminster, he crossed the water after him, pursued him through St. George's Fields, and caught him at Newington-Butts. Having brought him back to his house, and guarded him properly for that night, he was examined by the secretary of state on the following day, and committed to Newgate,

The king and council now determined that no time should be lost in bringing Layer to a trial; wherefore a writ was issued from the Crown Office, directed to the sheriff of Essex, commanding him to impanel a grand jury, to inquire into such bills as should be presented against the prisoner: in consequence of which the jury met at Rumford, and found a bill against him for high treason, and this bill was returnable into the Court of King's Bench.

Soon after the bill was found, the trial came on before Sir John Pratt, lord chief justice, and the other judges of the court. Mr. Layer had two counsellors to plead for him, and they urged every possible argument that could be thought of in his behalf; contesting every minute circumstance with the council for the crown, during a trial that lasted sixteen hours; but at length the jury found the prisoner guilty, after having been out of court about an hour.

When the prisoner was brought up to receive sentence, his council made another effort in his be

half, by urging the informality of some of the legal proceedings against him; but their arguments being thought insufficient, the sentence ordained by the law was passed on him.

As he had some important affairs to settle, from the nature of his profession, the court did not order his execution till more than two months after he had been condemned; and the king repeatedly reprieved him, to prevent his clients being sufferers by his affairs being left in a state of confusion.

After conviction, Mr. Layer was committed to the Tower, and at length the sheriffs of London and Middlesex, received a warrant to execute the sentence of the law; in consequence of which he was drawn on a sledge to Tyburn, dressed in a suit of black full trimmed, and a tye-wig.

At the place of execution, he was assisted in his devotions by a nonjuring clergyman; and when these were ended, he spoke to the surrounding multitude, declaring that he deemed king James (so he called the pretender) his lawful sovereign. He said that king George was an usurper, and damnation would be the fate of those who supported his government. He insisted that the nation would never be in a state of peace till the Pretender was restored; and therefore advised the people to take up arms in his behalf; he professed himself willing to die for the cause; and expressed great hopes that Providence would effectually support the right heir to the throne on some future occasion, though himself had failed, of being the happy instrument of placing him thereon.

After he was hanged, his body being quartered, his head was placed over Temple-bar.

WILLIAM BURK,

*Robber, executed at Tyburn, on the 8th of April,
1723.*

THE subject of this biography, though born of parents so poor, that they were glad to get him into a charity-school, yet he had a fair chance of becoming an useful member of society. Little doubt can be entertained but that the fault of mothers, by a too great and too long indulgence to their children, which they call kindness, was the primary cause which led this man to his wretched fate. Some unreflecting women, by mistimed fondness, would have their children, while they should be in search of an honest livelihood, still at home; or, to use the vulgar expression, "still within the length of their apron strings." It is rare, indeed, to find a great boy, pampered by the mother, possessing the rare qualities of a good boy. Indulgence to a youth at home unnerves him when abroad; and, subject to no controul, he becomes insolent, weak, and contemptible to strangers.

William Burk, was born in the parish of St Catherine's, and near the Tower of London. His temper, it was alledged, was bad when a boy; but which of us are not early wayward, until precept and correction teach us better; but it was also admitted, that the mother, by ill-judged fondness and indulgence, made it much worse.

Having reached the eleventh year of his age, he was guilty of some faults that required severe chastisement, which having received, he ran away from school, and went to the water-side, enquiring for a station on board a ship. A man observing his inclination, took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the Salisbury man of war.

The mother learning where her darling boy was gone, followed him on board the ship, and endea-

voured to prevail on him to return, but in vain; for the youth was obstinately bent on a sea-faring life.

In about a fortnight, the ship sailed for Jamaica, and during the voyage, had an engagement with a Spanish galleon, which she took after a bloody and obstinate fight, in which young Burk was wounded. After this they met with another galleon, which they took without the loss of a man; but a woman, the only one on board, having the curiosity to look on the deck, lost her life by a chain-shot, which severed her head from her body. The common men shared each fifteen pounds prize-money on these captures; but some of the principal officers got sufficient to make them easy for life.

The ship was stationed for three years in the West-Indies, during which Burk learnt the art of stealing every thing that he could secrete without detection. At Jamaica, there was a woman who had been transported from Newgate, some years before, but having married a planter who soon died, she was left in affluent circumstances, and took a tavern. Wanting a white servant, she prevailed on the captain to let Will attend her customers.

The boy was pleased with his new situation, and might have continued in it, as long as he was on the island, but he could not refrain from defrauding his mistress; but she, who had been herself a thief, soon detected him. Hereupon he fell on his knees, and begged pardon, which was granted; but he was ordered to depart the house immediately.

Alarmed at the danger from which he had escaped, he seems to have formed a temporary resolution to live honestly in future, and, with that view, shipped himself for Maryland, where a merchant would have employed him, but the captain he sailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coast of Guinea, where he had a very narrow escape of being murdered by the natives, who killed several of his shipmates.

On the return of the ship from Guinea to England, the weather was so bad, that they were five months on their voyage to the port of Bristol, during which they suffered innumerable hardships. Their provisions were so reduced, that they were almost famished, the allowance of each man for a whole day, being not so much as he could eat at two mouthfuls; and at length, they were obliged to fast five days successively.

However, they reached the port in safety; and notwithstanding the miseries they had endured, the captain resolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchased a number of slaves, they set sail for the West-India islands; but during the voyage, the negroes concerted a scheme to make themselves masters of the ship; and would have probably carried it into execution, but that one of their associates betrayed them; in consequence of which, they were more strictly confined than they had hitherto been.

Burk sailed from the West-Indies to England, where he entered on board a man of war, and sailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel, to the north of Russia, where his sufferings from the extremity of the cold, and other circumstances, were so severe, that on his return to England, he determined to abandon the life of a sailor.

Being now quite out of all honest methods of getting his bread, he took to robbing passengers in and near Stepney; but he continued his depredations on the public only for a short time, being apprehended for committing the fourth robbery.

He was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer, on the highway; and again, on the same day, for robbing James Westwood; and being found guilty on both indictments, he received sentence of death.

There was something remarkably cruel in the con-

duct of this malefactor; for he carried a hedge-bill with him, to terrify the persons he stopped; and one old man hesitating to comply with his demand, he cut him so that he fell to the ground.

After conviction he became sensible of the enormity of his crimes; received the sacrament with great devotion; and declared, that if he obtained mercy from God, it must be through the merits of Jesus Christ.

ALEXANDER DAY,

(Alias Marmaduke Davenport, Esq.)

Sharper.

THE mode of plunder practised by this villain at the time of committing his depredations was not common; but now-a-days, alas! the great metropolis of our country abounds with such insidious robbers. This kind of thieving, in modern times, is called SWINDLING,* and the latter part of our pages will adduce instances of the tricks of sharpers, passing almost credibility. The fellow now before us was, however, circumstances considered, an adept; and, like our modern swindlers, had a fictitious name; an accomplice, sometimes acting as his footman; a hired house, and borrowed carriage.

The great qualifications, or leading and indispensable attributes, of a sharper or swindler, are, to possess a genteel exterior, a demeanour apparently artless, and a good address.

Among the various classes of sharpers, may be reckoned those who obtain licences to become pawnbrokers, and bring disgrace upon the reputable part

* This word is derived from the German, in which language it most forcibly conveys the idea of a man practising every species of deceit, to plunder the unwary.

of the trade, by every species of fraud, which can add to the distresses of those who are compelled to raise money in this way; for which purpose there are abundance of opportunities. Swindling pawn-brokers of this class, are uniformly receivers of stolen goods; and, under the cover of their licence, do much mischief to the public. The evil arising from them might, in a great measure, be prevented by placing the power of granting licences in a general board of police; and rendering it necessary for all persons to produce a certificate of character, before they can obtain such licence, and also to enter into recognizance for good behaviour.

Also sharpers who obtain licences to be hawkers and pedlars; under the cover of which every species of villainy is practised upon the country people, as well as upon the unwary in the metropolis, and all the great towns in the kingdom. The artifices by which they succeed are various; as for example—by fraudulent raffles, where plated goods are exhibited as silver, and where the chances are exceedingly against the adventurers; by selling and uttering base money, and frequently forged bank notes, which make one of the most profitable branches of their trade; by dealing in smuggled goods, thereby promoting the sale of articles injurious to the revenue, besides cheating the ignorant with regard to their value; by receiving stolen goods, to be disposed of in the country, by which discoveries are prevented, and assistance afforded to common thieves and stationary receivers; by purchasing stolen horses in one part of the country, and disposing of them in another, in the course of their journies; in accomplishing which, so as to elude detection, they have great opportunities; by gambling with EO tables at fairs and horse-races.

A number of other devices might be pointed out, which render this class of men great nuisances in society; and shew the necessity of either suppressing them totally, for in fact they are of little use to

the public, or of limiting the licences only to men of good character; to be granted by a general board of police, under whose control they should be placed, while they enter at the same time into a recognizance in a certain sum, with one surety for good behaviour; by which the honest part would be retained, to the exclusion of the fraudulent.

Also sharpers, known by the name of duffers, who go about from house to house, and attend public-houses, inns, and fairs, pretending to sell smuggled goods, such as India handkerchiefs, waistcoat patterns, muslins, &c. By offering their goods for sale, they are enabled to discover the proper objects, which may be successfully practised upon in various ways; and if they do not succeed in promoting some gambling scheme, by which the party is plundered of his money, they seldom fail passing forged country bank notes, or base silver and copper, in the course of their dealings.

In London, a number of female sharpers also infest public places. They dress elegantly, personate women of fashion, attend masquerades, and even go to St. James's. These, from their effrontery, actually get into the circle; where their wits and hands are employed in obtaining diamonds, and whatever other articles of value, capable of being concealed, are found to be most accessible.

The wife of a well-known sharper, lately upon the town, is said to have appeared at court, dressed in a style of peculiar elegance; while the sharper himself is supposed to have gone in the dress of a clergyman. According to the information of a noted receiver, they pilfered to the value of 1700*l.* on the king's birth day, 1795, without discovery or suspicion.

Houses are kept where female cheats dress and undress for public places. Thirty or forty of these sharpers, generally attend all masquerades, in different characters, where they seldom fail to get clear off with a considerable booty

The first deception, which we find played off by Alexander Day, was to take an elegant house in Queen-square, and then to send his pretended footman to a livery stable, to enquire the price of a pair of horses, which he himself afterwards agreed to purchase, and then desired the stable-keeper to recommend him a coachman, a man rather lusty, as he had a suit of livery clothes of a large size by him.

The man was accordingly recommended; but when the livery was tried on, Day observed, that, as they did not fit him, he would send into the country for his own coachman; but this objection was obviated by the footman, who saying that the clothes would fit with a small alteration, the squire consented to hire the man.

When the stable-keeper saw the coachman he had recommended, he enquired to what places he had driven his new master; and being informed, to the duke of Montague's, and other persons of rank, he seemed satisfied, though he had begun to form ideas unfavourable to his new customer.

Mr. Day, having kept his coach and horses something more than a week, gave orders to be driven to a coffee-house, in Red-Lion Square, where he drank half a pint of wine at the bar, and asked if some gentlemen were come, whom he expected to supper. Being answered in the negative, he went out at the back-door, without paying for his wine, and said he would return in a few minutes.

The coachman waited a long time; but his master not coming back, he drove to the stable-keeper's, who seemed glad to have recovered his property out of such dangerous hands.

It seems that Day, made no small use of this coach while it was in his possession. He drove to the shop of a lace-merchant, named Gravestock, and asked for some Spanish point; but the dealer having none of that kind by him, the squire ordered fifty-five pounds worth of gold lace to be sent

to his house in Queen-square. When Gravestock's servant carried the lace, Day desired him to tell his master to call, as he was in want of lace for some rich liveries, but he must speak with his taylor before he could ascertain the quantity wanted. Mr. Gravestock attended his new customer, who gave him so large an order for lace, that if he had executed it, he must have been a very considerable loser, and the squire's liveries would have been gayer than those of any nobleman in London; however, on the following day, he carried some lace of the sort he had left before; nor did he forget to take his bill with him; but the person who should have paid it was decamped.

The next trick practised by our adventurer was as follows: he went to the house of Mr. Markham, a goldsmith, and ordered a gold equipage, worth 50*l*. Markham carried home the equipage, and had the honour to drink tea with the supposed Mr. Davenport, who ordered other curious articles, and among the rest a chain of gold for his squirrel.

Mr. Markham observing that the squirrel wore a silver chain, which he had sold to a lady not long before, began to suspect his new customer; and waiting on the lady, enquired if she knew Marmaduke Davenport, Esq.—She answered in the negative; on which Markham mentioned the circumstance that had arisen, and described the person of the defrauder. The lady now recollected him, and said, that his name was Alexander Day, and that he had cheated her of property to a considerable amount. In consequence of this information, Markham arrested the sharper, and recovered his property.

On another occasion, Day went in his carriage to the shop of a linen-draper, named Schrimshaw, agreed for linen to the amount of 48*l*. and ordered a large quantity to be sent to his house on the following day, when he would pay for the whole. The first parcel was delivered, but the purchaser

was decamped when the linen-draper went with the second.

After this he went to the shop of a tea-dealer, named Kendrick, and ordered tea to the amount of 26*l*. The tea was sent in, and the proprietor called for payment, when Day gave him orders for a farther quantity, which he pretended to have forgot before; and told him to call the next morning, when he should be paid for it by the steward. The honest tea-dealer called the next day, but neither the squire nor steward were to be found.

His next adventure was contrived to defraud Mr Hinchcliffe, a silk-mercier. Day, going to his shop in his absence, left word for him to call at his house to receive a large order.. The mercier went, and saw a carriage at the door; and being told that the squire had company, he waited a short time, during which the servant took care to inform him, that Mr. Davenport, was the son of a baronet of Yorkshire, and possessed a large fortune in that county.

When he saw the supposed Mr. Davenport, he was told that he wanted some valuable silks, and wished that a quantity might be sent, for him to select such as he approved. Mr. Hinchcliffe said, that the choice would be much better made by fixing on the patterns at his shop.

Hereupon Day took the mercier in his coach, and on their way talked of his father sir Marmaduke, and of other people of rank; and said he was on the point of marriage with the daughter of counselor Ward, and as he should be under the necessity of furnishing a house in London, he should want mercery goods to a large amount.

When they came to the mercier's shop, Day selected as many damasks, &c. for bed furniture and hangings, as were worth a thousand pounds. It looks as if Hinchcliffe had now some suspicion; for he told him that the ladies were the best judges of such articles, and asked if he had not a lady of his acquaintance, whom he could consult. He readily

answered that he had, and mentioned a lady Davenport as his relation, saying, "send the silks to my house, and I will take her opinion of them."

Mr. Hinchcliffe said he would send them, and permitted him to take with him two pieces of brocade, worth about thirty pounds; but desirous to know more of his customer before he trusted him with the whole property, he went to counsellor Ward, and found that his daughter was already married, to a gentleman of the name of Davenport. Hereupon the mercer went to the house of the supposed squire, but he was gone off with what property he had obtained.

It was likewise discovered, that our adventurer having casually met, at a coffee-house, the Mr. Davenport who had married the daughter of counsellor Ward, had prevailed on him to call him cousin, on the pretence that they must be related, because, as he alledged, their coats of arms were the same.

After a course of fraud, Day was taken into custody in the month of May, 1723, on suspicion of his having robbed the mail; but it proved that he was not the man; however there were six indictments brought against him for the defrauds.

In his defence he pleaded that his intention was to have paid for the goods he had purchased on credit; and he asserted that he possessed an estate in the county of Durham, which he had mortgaged for 1200*l*. but no credit could be given to his allegations; nor, even if he had possessed such an estate, would it have appeared that he acted on an honest principle.

After a long trial he was convicted, and sentenced to suffer two years' imprisonment in Newgate, to stand twice in the pillory, to pay a fine of 200*l*. and to give security for his good behaviour for two years after the term of his imprisonment should be expired.

SARAH PRIDDON,

Convicted of an assault in which murder was committed.

THERE is no state in human nature so wretched as that of the prostitute. Seduced, abandoned to fate, the unhappy female falls a prey to want; or, she must purchase existence at a price, degrading, in the last degree, to the mind of sensibility. Subject to the lust and debauchery of every thoughtless block-head, she becomes hardened in shame. Hence modesty is put to the blush, by the obscenity of those, once pure as our own darling daughters. Every public place swarms with this miserable set of beings, so that parents dread to indulge their children with even the sight of a moral stage performance. The unhappy prostitute, heated by drink, acquires false spirits, in order to inveigle men to her purpose; and in so doing, she often takes apparent satisfaction in annoying, by looks and gestures, often by indecent words, the virtuous part of the audience. The law, while it assumes the guardianship of youth by suppressing immorality, still permits these wantons to rove uncontrolled, among the virtuous, as well as the profligate. There ought, in public at least, some bounds to be set—some check to the pernicious example. They may surely be restrained, at least, to the outward shew of decency, when in mixed company.

Yet, says the philanthropist, they demand our pity. They do indeed. The cause, while nature progresses, cannot be removed, but the legislature might do more to regulate the evil, than is done in this country. It is by some held a necessary evil, tending in its utmost extent, even to the benefit of the yet virtuous female: but a mind once formed by precept and good example will ever repel a liberty attempted by a profligate man; they are cowards when reproved by virtuous indignation.

We can only accord our tribute of pity to them, though about to give the effects of prostitution in its greatest extent, by quoting the words of the poet, as applied to the miseries of the unhappy Jane Shore :

When she was mine, no harm came ever near her,
I thought the gentlest breath of heaven
Too rough to blow upon her.
Now, sad and shelterless perhaps she wanders,
And the rain drops from some penthouse,
On her wretched head, drenches her locks,
And kills her with the cold."

On the 24th of April, 1723, Sarah Priddon was indicted at the Old Bailey, for making a violent assault on the honourable J. F. Esq. and stabbing him with a knife, in his left breast, and giving him a wound of which he long languished, with an intent to kill and murder him.

Mrs. Priddon, or rather Salisbury (for that was the name by which she was best known), was a woman of the town, who was well acquainted with the gentleman whom she wounded. It appeared on the trial, that Mr. F. having gone to the Three-Tuns Tavern in Chandos Street, Covent Garden, about midnight, Sally followed him thither soon afterwards. The drawer, after he had waited on Mr. F. went to bed; but at two in the morning he was called up, to draw a pint of Frontiniac for Mrs. Salisbury. This he did, and carried it to her with a French roll and a knife. The prisoner was now in company and conversation with Mr. F., and the drawer heard them disputing about an Opera ticket, which he had presented to her sister; and, while they were talking, she stabbed him; on which he put his hand to his breast, and said, "Madam, you have wounded me."

No sooner had she committed the fact, than she appeared sincerely to regret what she had done: she sent for a surgeon, who, finding it necessary to extend the wound that the blood might flow out-

wardly, she seemed terrified, and calling out, "O Lord! what are you doing!" fainted away.

On her recovery, she asked Mr. F. how he did; to which he answered, "Very bad, and worse than you imagine." She endeavoured to console him in the best manner she could, and, after some time, the parties went away in separate chairs; but not till the wounded gentleman had forgiven her, and saluted her, as a token of that forgiveness.

The counsel for the prisoner endeavoured to prove that she had no intention of wounding him with malice *prepense*, and that what she did, arose from a sudden start of passion, the consequence of his giving an Opera ticket to her sister, with a view to ingratiate her affections, and debauch her.

The counsel for the crown ridiculed this idea, and insinuated, that a woman of Mrs. Salisbury's character could not be supposed to have any very tender regard to her sister's reputation. They allowed that Mr. F. had readily forgiven her at the time; but insisted that this was a proof of the placability of his temper, and no argument in her favour.

They said, that if the gentleman had died of the wound, she would have been deemed guilty of murder, as she had not received the least provocation to commit the crime; and that the event made no difference with respect to the malignity of her intentions.

The jury, having considered the circumstances of the case, found her guilty of assaulting and wounding Mr. F.; but acquitted her of doing it with an intent to kill and murder him. In consequence hereof, she was sentenced to pay a fine of one hundred pounds, to be imprisoned for a year, and then to find security for her good behaviour for two years; but when she had suffered about nine months imprisonment she died in Newgate, and was buried in the church-yard of St. Andrew, Holborn

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH,

Murderer.

“ Hard names at first, and threat’ning words,
That are but noisy breath,
May grow to clubs, and naked swords,
To murder, and to death.”

THIS criminal was born of reputable parents, who gave him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a creditable trade; but being of a disposition too unsettled to think of business, he enlisted for a soldier, in the hope of being promoted in the army.

After he had served some time, and found himself disappointed in his expectation of preferment, he made interest to obtain his discharge, and then entered into the service of a gentleman, with whom he behaved in a proper manner for a considerable time; but, not being content with his situation, he repaired to London, and again inlisted as a soldier in the foot-guards.

In this station he remained four years, during two of which he was servant to the colonel, who entertained a very good opinion of him; till an incident, which unexpectedly arose, occasioned the crime for which he suffered.

Before we relate the particulars, it will be proper to remark, that, at the period of which we are writing, party disputes ran very high, and the soldiers were frequently the subjects of the contempt and derision of the populace.

While Hawksworth was marching, with other soldiers, to relieve the guard in St. James’s Park, a man named Ransom, who had a woman in his company, jostled him, and cried, “What a stir is here about king George’s soldiers!” Hawksworth, imagining the woman had incited him to this behaviour, quitted his rank, and gave her a blow on the face. Irritated hereby, Ransom called him a puppy, and

demanded the reason of his behaviour to the woman.

The term of reproach enraged Hawksworth to such a degree, that he knocked the other down with his musket, and then the soldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the meantime the crowd of people gathered round Ransom, and finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair, and sent him to a surgeon, who examined him, and found his skull fractured to such a degree, that there were no hopes of his recovery; and he died in a few hours.

Hereupon a person who had been witness to what passed in the Park, went to the Savoy, and having learnt the name of the offender, caused Hawksworth to be taken into custody, and he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the following sessions, the colonel whom he had served gave him an excellent character; but the facts were so clearly proved, that the jury could not do otherwise than convict him, and judgment of death passed accordingly.

For some time after sentence he flattered himself with the hope of a reprieve; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he seemed to give up all hopes of life, and seriously prepared himself to meet his fate. He solemnly averred, that Ransom struck him first, and said he did not recollect the circumstance of leaving his rank to strike the blow that occasioned the death of the other. He declared that he had no malice against the deceased, and therefore thought himself acquitted, in his own mind, of the crime of murder.

However, he behaved in a very contrite manner, and received the sacrament with signs of the sincerest devotion. A few minutes before he was executed, he made a speech to the surrounding multitude, advising them to keep a strict guard over their passions; he lamented the situation of the common soldiers, who are considered as cowards if they do not resent an injury, and if they do, are

liable to endure legal punishment for the consequences that may arise from such resentment. However, he advised his brethren of the army, to submit with patience to the indignities that might be offered, and trust to the goodness of God, to recompense their sufferings.

Although the crime for which Hawksworth suffered is such as ought not to be pardoned, yet the eye of humanity will drop a tear for the fate of a man who thought himself instigated to strike the fatal blow, little considering, at that moment, that it would have proved fatal.

Hence let us learn to guard against the first impulse of passion; to reflect that reason was given us for the moderation of our passions; and that the higher considerations of religion ought to be a perpetual restraint on those violent emotions of the mind; which in numerous instances, beside the present, have led to destruction. That man is guilty of an egregious folly, as well as an enormous crime, who will permit the taunting words, or aggravating actions of another to tempt him to the commission of murder.

THOMAS ATHOE, SEN. AND THOMAS ATHOE,
JUN.

Murderers, executed in Surrey, July 5, 1723.

THIS murder was attended with shocking barbarity; and when we have to relate that it was committed by father and son, the relation becomes additionally painful. A solitary murder is sufficiently detestable; but when it is proved that a parent advises, aids, and abets his child in the horrid purpose, we are shocked at the extent of human depravity.

The elder Athoe was a native of Carew, in Pembrokeshire, where he rented above a hundred pounds per annum, and had lived in such a respectable way,

that in the year 1721 he was chosen mayor of the corporation of Tenby, and his son a bailiff of the same place; though they did not live there, but at Mannerbeer, two miles distant from it.

George Merchant, (of whose murder they were convicted,) and his brother Thomas, were nephews, by the mother's side, to the elder Athoe, their father having married his sister.

On the 23d of November, 1722, a fair was held at Tenby, where the Athoes went to sell cattle, and there met with George Merchant and his brother Thomas. A quarrel arose between the younger Athoe and George Merchant, on an old grudge respecting their right to part of an estate; when a battle ensued, in which George had the advantage, and beat young Athoe. The elder Athoe taking the advice of an attorney on what had passed, he would have persuaded him to bring an action; to which he replied, "No, no, we won't take the law, but we'll pay them in their own coin." Late in the evening, after the fair was ended, the Merchants left the town; but the Athoes going to the inn, made enquiries of the ostler which way they went. He gave them the best information in his power, on which they immediately mounted their horses, and followed them. The brothers stopped on the road, at a place called Holloway's Water, to let their horses drink. In the meantime they heard the footsteps of other horses behind them, and turning about saw two men riding at a small distance. It was too dark for them to know the parties, but they presently heard the voice of old Athoe. Knowing that he had sworn revenge, and dreading the consequence that would probably ensue, they endeavoured to conceal themselves behind a bridge, but they were discovered by the splashing their horses' feet made in the water. The Athoes riding up with large sticks, the younger said to George Merchant, "I owe thee a pass, and now thou shalt have it;" and immediately knocked him off his horse. In the interim old

Athoe attacked Thomas Merchant, and beat him likewise from his horse, calling out at the same time, "Kill the dogs! kill the dogs!" The brothers begged hard for their lives; but they pleaded to those who had no idea of pity. The elder Athoe seized Thomas Merchant in the tenderest part, and squeezed him in so violent a manner, that human nature could not long have sustained the pain; while the younger Athoe treated George Merchant in a similar way; and carried his revenge to such a length, that it is not possible to relate the horrid deed with decency. When he had completed his execrable purpose, he called out to his father, saying, "Now I have done George Merchant's business." A great effusion of blood was the consequence of this barbarity; but his savage revenge was not yet glutted; seizing George Merchant by the nose with his teeth, he bit it off, and then strangled him, by tying a handkerchief tight round his neck.

This done, the murderers quitted the spot; but some persons coming by, they took the Merchants to an adjacent house, and sent for a surgeon, who dressed the wounds of Thomas, but found that George was dead: the surgeon declared, that the blows he had received were sufficient to have killed six or seven men; for he had two bruises on his breast, three large ones on his head, and twenty-two on his back.

The elder Athoe was taken into custody on the following day, but the son had fled to Ireland; however, those who had been concerned in favouring his escape, were glad to use their endeavours to get him back again.

The murder was committed in Pembrokeshire, but the prisoners were removed by a writ of habeas corpus to Hereford; and on the 19th of March, 1723, they were indicted for the murder. On the trial, the principal evidence against them was the surviving brother, who was even then so weak, as to be in-

dulged with a seat while ne gave nis evidence. But the jury, though satisfied of the commission of the murder, entertained a doubt whether the prisoners could be legally tried in any county but that in which the crime was committed; on which they brought in a special verdict: whereupon the case was referred to the determination of the twelve judges; and the prisoners being brought up to London, were committed to the King's Bench prison, where they remained till the 22d of June, 1723, and were then taken to the Court of King's Bench, in Westminster-Hall; when a motion being made by counsel in arrest of judgment, the court directed that an act of the 33d of Henry VIII. should be read, in which is a clause, ordaining that "All murders and robberies committed in, on, or about the borders of Wales, shall be triable in any county of England, where the criminal shall be taken; and that the Court of King's Bench shall have power to remove, by writ of habeas corpus, any prisoner confined in Wales to the next county of England to be tried." In consequence hereof the Court proceeded to give judgment, and the prisoners were remanded to the King's Bench prison.

Between this and the time of their execution they were visited by Mr. Dyche, the chaplain of the prison, and by several other divines. They continued to flatter themselves with the hope of life till the warrant came down for their execution; and endeavoured to extenuate their crime by a variety of frivolous pretences, respecting disputes between them and the deceased. On the 28th of June they received the sacrament with great devotion, and did the same again on the morning of their execution.

Their behaviour at the place of death is thus recorded by the minister who attended them. "On Friday the 5th of July, 1723, about eleven o'clock in the morning, they were conveyed in a cart to the place of execution. When they came to the fatal tree, they behaved themselves in a decent manner,

embracing each other with the utmost tenderness and affection; and, indeed, the son's hiding his face, bedewed with tears, in his father's bosom, was, notwithstanding the barbarous action they had committed, a very moving spectacle. They begged of all good people to take warning by their ignominious death; and were turned off, crying, "Lord, have mercy upon us! Christ, have mercy upon us!" The bodies were brought from the place of execution, in two hearses, to the Falcon inn in Southwark, in order to be buried in St. George's church-yard."

They suffered at a place called St. Thomas's Watering, a little below Kent-street, in Surrey; the father being 58 years old, and the son within one day of 24, at the time of their deaths.

CAPTAIN JOHN MASSEY,

*Executed at Execution-Dock, on the 26th of July,
1723, for Piracy.*

IN transcribing the record and particulars of this truly unfortunate man, we had no conception that he would have appeared among those who suffered the extreme sentence of the law. Indeed, we rather thought his conduct, making allowance for the critical way in which he was situated, meritorious, rather than really guilty; but when we found that he actually pleaded guilty to the charge laid against him in the indictment, we were left in wonder at the mysterious ways of Providence.

Captain Massey was the son of a gentleman of fortune, who gave him an excellent education. When young, though somewhat wild and wavering in his mind, yet we find no flagitious conduct imputed to him. He grew weary of home, and longed to taste the pleasures of a world in which he was

doomed to act an unhappy part. His father procured him a commission in the army; he served with great credit, as lieutenant, under the command of the duke of Marlborough, during the wars in Flanders, in the reign of queen Anne. On his return to England, he conducted himself with great propriety; but became acquainted with a woman of bad character, to whom he was so much attached, that he would undoubtedly have married her, if his father, who got intelligence of the affair, had not happily broke off the connexion. After this he went with his regiment to Ireland, where he lived for some time in a dissolute manner; but at length got appointed to the rank of lieutenant and engineer to the Royal African Company, and sailed in one of their ships to direct the building of a fort. The ship being ill supplied with provisions, and those of the worst kind, the sufferings of the crew were inexpressibly great. Every officer on board died, except Massey; and many of the soldiers likewise fell a sacrifice to the scandalous neglect. Those who lived to get on shore, drank so greedily of the fresh water, that they were thrown into fluxes, which destroyed them in such a rapid manner, that only Captain Massey and a very few of his people were left alive. These being totally unable to build a fort, and seeing no prospect of relief, began to abandon themselves to despair; but at this time a vessel happening to come near the shore, they made signals of distress, on which a boat was sent off to their relief. They were no sooner on board, than they found the vessel was a pirate; and, distressed as they had been, perhaps too hastily engaged in their lawless plan, or appeared so to do, rather than run the hazard of perishing on shore. Sailing from hence, they took several prizes; and though the persons made prisoners were not used with cruelty, Mr. Massey had so true a sense of the illegality of the proceedings in which he was concerned, that his mind was perpetually tormented with the idea of the

fatal consequences that might ensue. At length the ship reached Jamaica, when Mr. Massey seized the first opportunity of deserting; and, repairing to the governor, he gave such information, that the crew of the pirate vessel were taken into custody, convicted, and hanged.

Mr. Massey might have been provided for by the governor, who treated him with singular respect, on account of his services to the public, but he declined his generous offers, through an anxiety to visit his native country. On his sailing for England, the governor gave him recommendatory letters to the lords of the Admiralty; but, astonishing as it may seem, instead of being caressed, he was taken into custody, and committed till a sessions of admiralty was held for his trial; when he pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death.

As Mr. Massey's case was remarkable, the public entertained no doubt but that he would have been pardoned; however, a warrant was sent for his execution, and he made the most solemn preparation for his approaching fate. Two clergymen attended him at the place of execution, where he freely acknowledged his sins in general, was remarkably fervent in his devotions, and seemed perfectly resigned to his fatal destiny.

Though the captain pleaded guilty at his trial, for guilty in some measure he was, yet his joining the pirates was evidently an act of necessity, not of choice; add to which, his subsequent conduct at Jamaica proved that he took the earliest opportunity to abandon his late companions, and bring them to justice: a conduct by which he surely merited the thanks of his country, and not the vengeance of the law. We sincerely hope that no future king will, under such circumstances, sign a warrant for execution

PHILIP ROCHE,

*Executed at Execution-Dock, August 5, 1723, for
Piracy and Murder.*

WE have already commented upon the foul crime of piracy. The account now to be given of this atrocious offender, will shew to what a horrid pitch it has been carried; and happy should we feel ourselves if we could add, that this was a singular case. In latter years, we find that murder, foul as that committed by Roche, was practised on board one of our men of war, in which captain Pigot, her commander, was barbarously killed; and the mutinous crew seized the frigate, and delivered her to the enemy.

This defested monster, Philip Roche, was a native of Ireland, and being brought up to a sea-faring life, served for a considerable time on board some coasting vessels, and then sailed to Barbadoes on board a West-Indiaman. Here he endeavoured to procure the place of clerk to a factor; but failing in this he went again to sea, and was advanced to the station of a first mate.

He now became acquainted with a fisherman, named Neale, who hinted to him that large sums of money might be acquired by insuring ships, and then causing them to be sunk, to defraud the insurers.

Roche was wicked enough to listen to this horrid tale, and becoming acquainted with a gentleman who had a ship bound to Cape Breton, he got a station on board, next in command to the captain, who having an high opinion of him, trusted the ship to his management, directing the seamen to obey his commands.

If Roche had entertained any idea of sinking the ship, he seemed now to have abandoned it; but he

had brought on board with him five Irishmen, who were concerned in the shocking tragedy that ensued.

When they had been only a few days at sea, the plan was executed as follows: One night, when the captain and most of the crew were asleep, Roche gave orders to two of the seamen to furl the sails, which being immediately done, the poor fellows no sooner descended on the deck, than Roche and his hellish associates, murdered them and threw them overboard. At this instant a man and a boy at the yard-arm, observing what passed, and dreading a similar fate, hurried towards the topmast-head, when one of the Irishmen, named Cullen, followed them, and seizing the boy, threw him into the sea. The man, thinking to effect, at least a present escape, descended to the main-deck, where Roche instantly seized, murdered, and then threw him overboard.

The noise occasioned by these transactions alarming the sailors below, they hurried up with all possible expedition; but they were severally seized and murdered, as fast as they came on deck, and being first knocked on the head, were thrown into the sea. At length the master and mate came on the quarter-deck, when Roche and his villainous companions seized them, and tying them back to back, committed them to the merciless waves.

These execrable murders being perpetrated, the murderers ransacked the chests of the deceased, then sat down to regale themselves with liquor; and while the profligate crew were carousing, they determined to commence pirates, and that Roche should be the captain, as the reward of his superior villainy.

They had intended to have sailed up the Gulf of St. Lawrence; but as they were within a few days' sail of the British Channel, when the bloody tragedy was acted, and finding themselves short of provisions, they put into Portsmouth, and giving the vessel a fictitious name, they painted her afresh, and

then sailed for Rotterdam. At this city they disposed of their cargo, and took in a fresh one. Here they were unknown; and an English gentleman, named Annesley, shipped considerable property on board, and took his passage with them for the port of London; but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard, after they had been only one day at sea.

When the ship arrived in the river Thames, Mr. Annesley's friends made enquiry after him, in consequence of his having sent letters to England describing the ship in which he proposed to embark; but Roche denied any knowledge of the gentleman; and even disclaimed his own name.

Notwithstanding his confident assertions, it was rightly presumed who he was, and a letter which he sent to his wife being stopped, he was taken into custody. Being carried before the secretary of state for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche; and said that he knew no person of that name. Hereupon the intercepted letter was shewn him, on which he instantly confessed his crimes, and was immediately committed to take his trial at the next Admiralty sessions.

It was intimated to Roche, that he might expect a pardon, if he would impeach any three persons who were more culpable than himself, so that they might be prosecuted to conviction; but not being able to do this, he was brought to his trial, and found guilty; judgment of death was awarded against him.

After conviction, he professed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, but was certainly no bigot to that religion, since he attended the devotions according to the Protestant form. He was hanged at Execution-Dock, on the 5th of August, 1723, but was so ill at the time, that he could not make any public declaration of the abhorrence of the crime for which he suffered.

WILLIAM DUCE, JAMES BUTLER, WADE,
AND MEADS,

A desperate and cruel gang of murderers and foot pads.) Executed at Tyburn, August 14, 1723.

THE reader has doubtless observed, that this work shews that there are different grades of thieves. The boy, when abandoned to profligacy, commences his career by picking pockets, and a single handkerchief is then the extent of his hopes. Hardening with his years, he advances a step in villainy, and becomes a footpad; the most cruel description of robbers. If success should, for a while, attend his enormities, he proceeds to steal a horse, and throwing away the footpad's bludgeon or knife, he appears mounted on the highway, armed with a brace of pistols. Arrived now at the highest rank of thievery, he despises the lower posts, and stiles himself a gentleman highwayman. To do honour to his station, he scorns to use that violence, where there is no shew of resistance, which, as a footpad, he exercised, often through mere wantonness. His fame, if industrious, however, sooner reaches the knowledge of the myrmidons of justice, than if he had grovelled as a foot-robber; and his career is happily thus sooner at an end.

Duce, was a native of Wolverhampton, and by trade a buckle-maker, which he followed some time in London; but being imprisoned in Newgate for debt, he there made connections which greatly tended to the corruption of his manners.

He was no sooner at large, than he commenced footpad, and, in company with another man, robbed a gentleman in Chelsea-fields, of four guineas; after this he connected himself with John Dyer and James Butler, in concert with whom he committed a variety of robberies. Their plan was to go out to

gether, but one only to attack the party intended to be robbed; and to give a signal for his accomplices to come up, if any resistance should be made.

After committing a variety of robberies in the neighbourhood of London, they joined in a scheme, with four other villains, to rob lady Chudleigh, between Hyde-Park Corner and Kensington; but her ladyship's footman shot one of the gang, named Rice, through the head, which prevented the intended depredation.

Their robberies had now been so numerous, that the neighbourhood of London became unsafe for them; wherefore, they went on the Portsmouth road, where they committed a variety of robberies, and even proceeded to the perpetration of murder, with a view to prevent detection.

Meeting Mr. Bunch, a farmer, near a wood on the road side, they robbed him of his money, and then dragging him into the wood they stripped him.

Darker, Wade, and Meads, three of the gang, were hanged at Winchester; but Butler was sent to take his trial at the Old Bailey, for robberies committed in the county of Middlesex.

James Butler was the son of reputable parents, of the parish of St. Anne, Soho, and apprenticed to a silversmith; but being of an ungovernable disposition, his parents were obliged to send him to sea. After making several voyages, as an apprentice to the captain, he ran from the ship at Boston, in New-England, and went to New-York, where he entered on board another ship, from which he likewise run away, and embarked in a third vessel bound to Martinique. This he also quitted, on a dispute with the captain, and then sailed to Jamaica, where he was impressed into the royal navy, and served under the celebrated admiral Vernon.

On his return to England, he married a girl of Wapping, and having soon spent the little money he brought home with him, he engaged with the gang

we have mentioned, with whom he was likewise concerned in several other robberies.

These appear to have been very desperate villains. On the road to Gravesend, they stopped four gentlemen, who refusing to be robbed, Meads, one of those hanged at Winchester, shot a servant who attended them, in the breast, so that he died in a few days. Disappointed of their booty in this attempt, their passions were so irritated, that, meeting a gentleman on horseback, they fired, and wounded him in the head and breast, and the next day he expired.

They committed other robberies attended with circumstances of cruelty; but it will be now proper to mention those for which they suffered. Butler having been acquitted at the Old Bailey, of the crime for which he was transmitted from Winchester; he, Duce, and Dyer, immediately renewed their depredations on the road. Meeting Mr. Holmes, near Buckingham-house, they robbed him of his money, hat, and handkerchief, which laid the foundation of one of the indictments against them.

On the following evening they stopped a hackney-coachman near Hampstead, and robbed him of nine shillings, after the coachman had told them that the words "stand and deliver," were sufficient to hang a man. Jonathan Wild, being informed of these robberies, caused the offenders to be apprehended, at a house kept by Duce's sister.

Dyer being admitted an evidence, Duce and Butler, were brought to their trial, when the latter pleaded guilty, to both the indictments; and the former, after spending some time in denying the robberies, and arraigning the conduct of Jonathan Wild, was found guilty, and both of them received sentence of death.

After conviction, their behaviour was more resigned and devout, than could have been expected from men, whose repeated crimes might be supposed to have hardened their hearts, and death appeared to them in all its horrors. Butler was a Roman

catholic, and Duce a protestant. The latter was urged by the ordinary to discover the names of some of his old accomplices, but this he refused to do because they had left their practices, and lived honest lives.

A few moments before they were launched into eternity, Butler declared that the circumstances of cruelty with which their crimes had been attended, gave him more pains than the thoughts of death; and Duce acknowledged the enormity of his offences, and begged the forgiveness of all whom he had injured.

HUMPHREY ANGIER,

*Executed at Tyburn, September 9, 1723, for
Robbery,*

WAS a native of Ireland, born near Dublin; but his parents removing to Cork, put him apprentice to a Cooper in that city. He had not been long in this station before his master desired to get rid of him, on account of his untoward disposition. Thus discharged, he lived the life of a vagabond for two years, and the father apprehending that he would come to a fatal end, brought him to England in the eighteenth year of his age.

Still, however, he continued his dissipated course of life, till having got considerably in debt, he enlisted for a soldier, to avoid being lodged in prison. As this happened in the year 1715, he was sent into Scotland to oppose the rebels; but robbing a farmer in that country, he was punished by receiving five hundred lashes, in consequence of the sentence of a court-martial. The rebellion ended. Angier came to London, and obtained his discharge. Here he became acquainted with Duce, (see DUCE.) whose sister he married at an alehouse in the verge

of the Fleet. After this he enlisted a second time, and the regiment being ordered to Vigo, he took his wife with him. The greater part of the Spaniards having abandoned the place, Angier obtained a considerable sum by plunder.

On his return to England he became acquainted with Butler's associates, and was concerned with them in several of their lawless depredations, but refused to have any share in acts of barbarity. Angier now kept a house of ill fame, which was resorted to by the other thieves; and one night after they had been out on one of their exploits, Meads told the following horrid tale: "We have been out, and the best fun of all was, an engagement with a smock-faced shoemaker, whom we met on the Kentish road. We asked him how far he was going, and he said, he was just married, and going home to see his relations. After a little more discourse, we persuaded him to turn rather out of the road to look for a bird's nest, which as soon as he had done, we bound and gagged him, after which we robbed him, and were going away; but I being in a merry humour, and wanting to have a little diversion, turned about with my pistol, and shot him through the head." Bad as Angier was in other respects, he was shocked at this story, told his companions that there was no courage in cruelty, and from that time refused to drink with any of them.

After this he kept a house of ill fame near Charing Cross, letting lodgings to thieves, and receiving stolen goods. While in this way of life he went to see an execution at Tyburn, and did not return till four o'clock the next morning; when, during his absence, an affair happened, which was attended with troublesome consequences. A Dutch woman meeting with a gentleman in the streets, conducted him to Angier's house, where he drank so freely that he fell fast asleep, and the woman robbing him of his watch and money, immediately made her escape. The gentleman awaking when Angier re-

turned, charged him with the robbery, in consequence of which he was committed to prison, but was afterwards discharged, the grand jury not finding the bill against him. Soon after his wife was indicted for robbing a gentleman of his watch and a guinea, but was fortunate enough to be acquitted for want of evidence. The following accident happened about the same time: A woman named Turner, had drunk so much at Angier's house, that he conducted her up to bed; but while he was in the room with her, his wife entered in a rage, and demanding of her how she could presume to keep company with her husband, attacked and beat the woman. William Duce being in the house, went up to interfere; but the disturbance was by this time so great, that it was necessary to send for a constable. The officer no sooner arrived, than Mrs. Turner charged Angier and his wife with robbing her; on which they were taken into custody and committed; but when they were brought to trial, they were acquitted, as there was no proof of any robbery, to the satisfaction of the jury.

Dyer, who was evidence against Duce and Butler, lived at this time with Angier, as a waiter; and the master and the man used occasionally to commit footpad robberies together; for which they were several times apprehended, and tried at the Old Bailey; but acquitted, as the prosecutors could not swear to their persons. Angier's character now grew so notorious, that no person of any reputation would be seen in the house; and the expenses attending his repeated prosecutions were so great, that he was compelled to decline business. After this, he kept a gin-shop in Short's-gardens, Drury-lane; and this house was frequented by company of the same kind, as those he had formerly entertained, particularly parson Lindsey. Lindsey having prevailed on a gentleman to go to this house, made him drunk, and then robbed him of several valuable articles; but procuring himself to be admitted an evidence, charged

Angier and his wife with the robbery; they had again the good fortune to escape, the character of Lindsey being at this time so infamous, that the court and jury paid no regard to any thing he said. Soon after, however, Mrs. Angier was transported for picking a gentleman's pocket, and her husband was convicted on two capital indictments; the one for robbing Mr. Lewin, the city marshal, near Hornsey, of ten guineas, and some silver, and the other for robbing a waggoner, near Knightsbridge. On both these trials, Dyer, who was concerned in the robberies, was admitted an evidence against Angier. After conviction, he was visited by numbers of persons, whose pockets had been picked of valuable articles, in the hope of getting some intelligence of the property they had lost; but he said, "he was never guilty of such mean practices as picking of pockets, and all his associates were above it, except one Hugh Kelly, who was transported for robbing a woman of a shroud, which she was carrying home to cover her deceased husband."

RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOT, ROB. KINGSHELL, HEN. MARSHALL, EDWARD PINK, JOHN PINK, AND JAMES ANSELL,

Executed at Tyburn, December 4. 1723, for Murder and Deer-Stealing.

THIS was another gang of daring plunderers, who carried on their depredations with such effrontery that it was found necessary to enact the law hereafter recited, in order to bring them to condign punishment; and it was not long after it was in force, before it took due effect upon them.

Having blacked their faces, they went in the day-

time to the parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly stole deer, and at length murdered the bishop of Winchester's keeper on Waltham Chase; and from the name of the place, and their blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the *Waltham Blacks*.

The following is the substance of the act of parliament on which they were convicted: "Any person appearing in any forest, chase, park, &c. or in any high road, open heath, common, or down, with offensive weapons, and having his face blacked, or otherwise disguised, or unlawfully and wilfully hunting, wounding, killing, or stealing, any red or fallow deer, or unlawfully robbing any warren, &c. or stealing any fish out of any river or pond, or (whether armed or disguised or not) breaking down the head or mound of any fish-pond, whereby the fish may be lost or destroyed; or unlawfully and maliciously killing, maiming, or wounding, any cattle, or cutting down or otherwise destroying any trees planted in any avenue, or growing in any garden, orchard, or plantation, for ornament, shelter, or profit; or setting fire to any house, barn, or out-house, hovel, cock-mow, or stack of corn, straw, hay, or wood; or maliciously shooting at any person, in any dwelling-house or other place; or knowingly sending any letter without any name, or signed with a fictitious name, demanding money, venison, or other valuable thing, or forcibly rescuing any person being in custody for any of the offences before mentioned, or procuring any person by gift, or promise of money, or other reward, to join in any such unlawful act, or concealing or succouring such offenders, when, by order of council, &c. required to surrender—shall suffer death."

The offence of deer-stealing was formerly only a misdemeanor at common law; but the act of Parliament above-mentioned has been rendered perpetual by a subsequent statute it therefore behoves

people to be cautious that they do not endanger their lives, while they think they are committing what they may deem an inferior offence. We will now give such particulars as we have been able to obtain respecting the malefactors in question.

RICHARD PARVIN, was heretofore the master of a public-house in Portsmouth, which he had kept with reputation for a considerable time, till he was imprudent enough to engage with the gang of ruffians who practised the robbing noblemen's and gentlemen's parks through the country. The reader is already apprised that it was the custom of these fellows to go disguised. Now a servant-maid of Parvin's, having left his house during his absence, had repaired to an alehouse in the country; and Parvin, calling there on his return from one of his dishonest expeditions, the girl discovered him; in consequence of which he was committed to Winchester gaol, by the mayor of Portsmouth, till his removal to London for trial.

EDWARD ELLIOT, was an apprentice to a taylor at Guildford, and was very young when he engaged with the gang, whose orders he implicitly obeyed, till the following circumstance occasioned his leaving them. Having met with two countrymen, who refused to enter into the society, they dug holes in the ground, and placed the unhappy men in them, up to their chins, and had they not been relieved by persons who accidentally saw them they must have perished. Shocked by this deed, Elliot left them, and for some time served a lady as a footman; but on the day the keeper was murdered, he casually met them in the fields, and on their promise that no harm should attend him, he unhappily consented to bear them company.

Having provided themselves with pistols, and blacked their faces with gunpowder, they proceeded to their lawless depredations; and while the rest of the gang were killing of deer, Elliot went in search of a fawn; but while he was looking for it, the

keeper and his assistants came up, and took him into custody. His associates were near enough to see what happened; and immediately coming to his assistance, a violent affray ensued, in which the keeper was shot by Henry Marshall, so that he died on the spot, and Elliot made his escape; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Guildford.

Robert Kingshell, who was a native of Farnham, in Surrey, was placed by his parents with a shoemaker; but being too idle to follow his profession, he was guilty of many acts of irregularity, before he associated himself with the Waltham Blacks, with whom he afterwards suffered. While he was in bed on the night preceding the fatal murder, one of the gang awaked him, by knocking at his window, on which he arose, and went with him to join the rest of the deer-stealers.

Henry Marshall, was a man distinguished for his strength and agility; we have no account of the place of his birth, or the manner of his education; but it is reasonable to think, that the latter was of the inferior kind, since he appears to have been chiefly distinguished by his skill, in the vulgar science of bruising. He was once the occasion of apprehending a highwayman, who had robbed a coach, by giving him a single blow which broke his arm. He seems to have been one of the most daring of the Waltham Bucks, and was the man who shot this chase-keeper, as abovementioned.

Edward Pink and John Pink were brothers, who spent the former part of their lives as carters, at Portsmouth, and had maintained the character of honest men, till they became weak enough to join the desperate gang of deer-stealers.

It now remains to speak only of James Ansell, who likewise lived at Portsmouth. We are not informed in what way he had originally supported himself; but for some years before he joined the desperate gang abovementioned, he was a highwayman; and had

been concerned with the Waltham Bucks, about two years before the commission of the murder which cost them their lives.

By a vigilant exertion of the civil power, all the abovementioned offenders were taken into custody, and it being thought prudent to bring them to trial in London, they were removed thither under a strong guard, and lodged in Newgate. On the 13th of November, 1723, they were brought to their trial in the court of King's Bench, and being convicted on the clearest evidence, were found guilty, and sentenced to die; and it was immediately ordered that they should suffer on the fourth of the next month. One circumstance was very remarkable on this occasion; the judge had no sooner pronounced the sentence, than Henry Marshall, the man who had shot the keeper, was immediately deprived of the use of his tongue; nor did he recover his speech till the day before his death.

After passing the solemn sentence, the convicts behaved in a manner equally devout and resigned, were regular in their devotions, and prepared themselves for eternity with every mark of unfeigned contrition. They received the sacrament before they left Newgate, acknowledged the justice of the sentence against them, and said they had been guilty of many crimes besides that for which they were to suffer.

At the place of execution they were so dejected, as to be unable to address the populace; but they again confessed their sins, and recommended their souls to God, beseeching his mercy, through the merits of Christ, with the utmost fervency and devotion.

JOHN STANLEY,

Executed at Tyburn, Dec. 23, 1723, for Murder.

IN our accounts of the primary cause of the misfortunes and unhappy fate of William Burke, we have attempted to advise mothers against a too long unrestrained indulgence to their sons; and we now come to the case of a father, by the same kind of ill-judged fondness, laying the foundation of ruin and disgrace for his son.

Mr. Stanley was the son of an officer in the army, and born in the year 1690, at Duce-Hall, in Essex, a seat belonging to Mr. Palmer, who was his uncle by the mother's side. Young Stanley being the favourite of his father, he began to teach him the art of fencing when he was no more than five years of age; and other officers likewise practising the same art with him, he became a kind of master of the sword when he was but a mere boy: for, to stimulate his courage, it was common for those who fenced with him to give him wine, or other strong liquors. In consequence of this treatment the boy grew daring and insolent beyond expression, and at length behaved with so uncommon a degree of audacity, that his father deemed him a singular character of bravery.

While he was very young, Mr. Stanley being ordered to join his regiment in Spain, took his son with him; and in that country he was a spectator of several engagements; but his principal delight was in trampling on the bodies of the deceased, after the battles were ended.

From Spain the elder Stanley was ordered to Ireland, whither he took his son, and there procured for him an ensign's commission: but the young gentleman, habituating himself to extravagant company, spent much more money than the produce of

his commission, which he soon sold, and then returned to England.

The father was greatly mortified at this proceeding, and advised him to make application to General Stanhope, who had been a warm friend to the family. But this advice was lost on the young gentleman, who abandoned himself to the most dissolute course of life; borrowed money of all his acquaintance, which he soon squandered at the gaming-tables, and procured further supplies from women with whom he made illicit connexions.

He was so vain of his acquaintance with the ladies, that he boasted of their favours, as an argument in proof of his own accomplishments; though what he might obtain from the weakness of one woman, he commonly squandered on others of more abandoned character.

One mode which he took to supply his extravagance, was to introduce himself into the company of young gentlemen who were but little acquainted with the vices of the age, whom he assisted in wasting their fortunes in every species of scandalous dissipation.

At length, after a scene of riot in London, he went with one of his associates to Flanders, and thence to Paris; and Stanley boasted not a little of the favours he received among the French ladies, and of the improvements he had made in the science of fencing.

On his return to England, the opinion he conceived of his skill in the use of the sword made him insufferably vain and presuming. He would very frequently intrude himself into company at a tavern, and, saying he was come to make himself welcome, would sit down at the table without further ceremony. The company would sometimes bear with his insolence for the sake of peace; but when this was the case, it was a chance if he did not pretend to have received some affront, and, drawing his sword, walk off while the company was in confu-

sion. It was not always, however, the matter thus ended; for sometimes a gentleman of spirit would take the liberty of kicking our hero out of the house.

It will now be proper to mention something of his connexion with Mrs. Maycock, the murder of whom cost him his life. As he was returning from a gaming-house which he frequented in Covent-garden, he met a Mr. Bryan, of Newgate-street, and his sister, Mrs. Maycock, the wife of a mercer on Ludgate-hill. Stanley rudely ran against the man, and embraced the woman; on which a quarrel arose; but this subsiding, Stanley insisted on seeing the parties home: this he did, and spent the evening with them; and from this circumstance a fatal connexion arose, as will appear in the sequel.

Stanley having made an acquaintance with the family, soon afterwards met Mrs. Maycock at the house of a relation, in Red-lion-street, Holborn. In a short time Mr. Maycock removing into Southwark, the visits of our captain were admitted on a footing of intimacy.

The husband dying soon after this connexion, Stanley became more at liberty to pay his addresses to the widow: and it appears that some considerable intimacy subsisted between them, from the following letter, which is not more a proof of the absurd vanity of the man that could write it, than of the woman that could keep him company after receiving it. The egregious coxcomb, and supercilious flatterer, is visible in every line.

“ I am to-morrow to be at the opera: O that I could add, with her I love. The opera, where beauties, less beauteous than thou, sit panting, admired, and taste the sweet barbarian sounds. On Friday I shall be at the masquerade at Somerset-House, where modest pleasure hides itself before it can be touched: but though it is uncertain in the shape, 'tis real in the sense; for masks scorn to steal, and not repay: therefore, as they conceal the face, they oft make the

body better known. At this end of the town, many faded beauties bid the oleos and the brush kiss their cheeks and lips, till their charms only glimmer with a borrowed grace; so that a city beauty, rich in her native spring of simplicity and loveliness, will doubly shine **with** us: shine like the innocent morning blush of light that glitters untainted on the garden."

This exquisite piece of nonsense flattered the vanity of the lady, so that he was admitted to repeat his visits at his own convenience. At this time a young fellow, who had served his apprenticeship with the late Mr. Maycock, and who was possessed of a decent fortune to begin the world, paid his addresses to the young widow; but she preferred a licentious life with Stanley, to a more virtuous connexion.

Soon after this she quitted her house in Southwark, and the lovers spent their time at balls, plays, and assemblies, till her money was dissipated, when he did not scruple to insinuate that she had been too liberal of her favours to other persons. In the meantime she bore him three children, one of whom was living at the time of the father's execution.

Stanley continuing his dissolute course of life, his parents became very uneasy, in fear of the fatal consequences that might ensue; and his father, who saw too late the wrong bias he had given to his education, procured him the commission of a lieutenant, to go to Cape Coast Castle, in the service of the African Company.

The young fellow seemed so pleased with this appointment, that his friends conceived great hopes that he would reform. Preparations being made for his voyage, and the company having advanced a considerable sum, he went to Portsmouth, in order to embark: but he had been only a few days in that town, when he was followed by Mrs. Maycock, with her infant child. She reproached him with baseness, in first debauching, and then leaving her to

starve: and employing all the arts she was mistress of to divert him from his resolution, he gave her half the money which belonged to the company, and followed her to London with the rest.

Shocked with the news of this dishonourable action, the father took to his bed, and died of grief. Young Stanley appeared greatly grieved at this event, and to divert his chagrin, he went to Flanders, where he staid a considerable time; when he returned to England, and lived in as abandoned a manner as before.

Soon after his return, having drank freely with two tradesmen, they all walked together towards Hampstead; and meeting a Mr. Dawson, with five other gentlemen, a quarrel ensued. One of the gentlemen fired a pistol, the ball from which grazed Stanley's skin. Enraged thereat, the latter drew his sword, and making a pass at him, the sword ran into the body of Mr. Dawson, through the lower part of his belly, and to his backbone. The poor wounded man was conveyed to a neighbouring house, where he lay six weeks before he was perfectly recovered.

However, as Dawson happened to know Stanley, he took out a writ against him for damages, to recover the expense of the cure; but the writ was never executed, as Stanley was so celebrated for his skill in the use of the sword, and his daring disposition, that the bailiffs were afraid to arrest him.

Not long after this, quarrelling with Capt. Chickley, at a cider-cellar in Covent-garden, Stanley challenged the captain to fight him in a dark room. They shut themselves in; but a constable being sent for, broke open the door, and probably saved Stanley's life; for Chickley had then ran his sword through his body, while he himself had received only two slight wounds.

It appears that Stanley paid occasional visits to Mrs. Maycock; and he had the insolence to pretend anger at her receiving the visits of other per-

sons, though he was not able to support her: for he had the vanity to think, that a woman whom he had debauched ought for ever to pay true allegiance to him, as a wife to her husband.

Mrs. Maycock having been to visit a gentleman, was returning one night through Chancery-lane, in company with another woman, and Mr. Hammond, of the Old-Bailey. Stanley, in company with another man, met the parties, and he and his companion insisted on going with the women. Hammond hereupon said the ladies belonged to him; but Mrs. Maycock now recognizing Stanley, said, "What, captain, is it you?" He asked her where she was going: she said to Mr. Hammond's, in the Old-Bailey. He replied that he was glad to meet her, and would go with her.

As they walked down Fleet-street, Stanley desired his companion to go back, and wait for him at an appointed place; and as the company was going forward Stanley struck a man who happened to be in his way, and kicked a woman on the same account.

Being arrived at Hammond's house, the company desired Stanley to go home; but this he refused, and Mrs. Maycock going into the kitchen, he pushed in after her, and some words having passed between them, he stabbed her, so that she died in about an hour and a half.

Other company going into the kitchen, saw Stanley flourishing his sword, while the deceased was fainting with loss of blood, and crying out, "I am stabbed! I am murdered!" Stanley's sword being taken from him, he threw himself down by Mrs. Maycock, and said, "My dear Hannah, will you not speak to me?"

The offender being taken into custody, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, when some witnesses endeavoured to prove that he was a lunatic; but the jury considering his extravagant conduct as the effect of his vices, and the evidence against him being posi-

tive, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.

Before his conviction, he had behaved in a very inconsiderate manner; nor was his conduct much altered afterwards, only that when he heard the name of Mrs. Maycock mentioned, he was seized with violent tremblings, and drops of cold sweat fell from his face.

He was carried to the place of execution in a mourning-coach; but, on being put into the cart under the gallows, he turned pale, and was so weak that he could not stand without support. He made no speech to the people; but only said, that as a hearse was provided to take away his body, he hoped no one would prevent its receiving Christian burial. It was observed that he wept bitterly after the cap was drawn over his eyes.—He was executed at the age of 25 years.

STEPHEN GARDENER,

Housebreaker—Executed at Tyburn. Feb. 3, 1724.

(With the Bellman's Notice to Criminals.)

THIS malefactor was born in Moorfields, of poor parents, who put him apprentice to a weaver; but his behaviour soon became so bad, that his master was obliged to correct him severely; on which he ran away, and associated with blackguard boys in the streets, and then was driven home through mere hunger.

His friends were determined to send him to sea, and accordingly put him on board a corn vessel, the master of which traded to France and Holland. But being an idle and useless hand on board, he was treated so roughly by his shipmates, that he grew heartily tired of a seafaring life; and, on his return from the first voyage, he promised the utmost obe-

dience if his friends would permit him to remain at home.

This request was readily complied with, in the hope of his reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but being impatient of restraint, he soon quitted his service, and associated with dissolute fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, &c. till he was stripped of what little money he had, and then commenced pickpocket.

His first attempt of this kind was at Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket; but though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the surrounding multitude permitted his escape. This circumstance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and, notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, underwent the discipline of the horsepond.

He was now determined to give over a business which was necessarily attended with so much hazard, and afforded so little prospect of advantage; but soon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious housebreakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as a partner; but he rejected their proposals, till one night, when he had lost all his money, and most of his clothes, at cards; then he went to his new acquaintance and agreed to be concerned in their illicit practices.

Garraway proposed that they should rob his own brother; which being immediately agreed to, they broke open his house, and stole most of his and his wife's wearing apparel, which they sold, and spent the money in extravagance. They, in the next place, robbed Garraway's uncle of a considerable quantity of plate, which they sold to a woman named Gill, who disposed of the plate, and never accounted to them for the produce. Gardener, provoked at being thus defrauded of his share of the ill-got booty, in-

formed Jonathan Wild of the robbery, who got him admitted an evidence against the other men, who were convicted, but respited on condition of being transported.

Gardener having now been some time acquainted with a woman who kept a public-house in Fleet lane, and who was possessed of some money, he proposed to marry her, with a view of obtaining her property; and the woman listening to his offer, they were married by one of the Fleet parsons.

The money Gardiner obtained with his spouse was soon spent in extravagance; and not long afterwards they were apprehended on suspicion of felony, and conducted to St. Sepulchre's watch-house; however, the charge against them not being validated, it was necessary to dismiss them; but before they were set at liberty, the constable said to Gardener, "Beware how you come here again, or this bellman will certainly say his verses over you:" for the bellman happened to be at that time in the watch-house.

It has been a very ancient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned criminals, for the bellman of the parish of St. Sepulchre to go under Newgate, and ringing his bell, to repeat the following verses, as a piece of friendly advice, to the unhappy wretches under sentence of death:

All you that in the condemn'd hold do lie,
Prepare you, for to-morrow you shall die.
Watch all, and pray, the hour is drawing near,
That you before the Almighty must appear.
Examine well yourselves, in time repent,
That you may not t' eternal flames be sent.
And when St. Sepulchre's bell to-morrow tolls,
The Lord above have mercy on your souls!

Past twelve o'clock!

The following extract from Stowe's Survey of London, page 125, of the quarto edition, printed in 1618, will prove that the above verses ought to be repeated by a clergyman, instead of a bellman:

"Robert Doue, Citizen and Merchant Tayler, of London, gave to the parish church of St. Sepulchres, the somme of 50l. That after the seuerall sessions of London, when the prisoners remain in the gaole, as condemned men to death, expecting execution on the morrow following; the clarke (that is, the parson) of the church shoold come in the night time, and likewise early in the morning, to the window of the prison where they lye, and there ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appointed for the purpose, he doth afterwards (in most Christian manner) put them in mind of their present condition, and ensuing execution, desiring them to be prepared therefore as they ought to be. When they are in the cart, and brought before the wall of the church, there he standeth ready with the same bell, and after certain toles rehearseth an appointed praier, desiring all the people there present to pray for them. The beadle also of Merchant Taylors' Hall hath an honest stipend allowed to see that this is duely done."

Gardener was greatly affected when the constable told him that the bellman would say his verses over him: but the impression it made on his mind soon wore off, and he quickly returned to his vicious practices.

In a short time after this adventure, Gardener fell into company with one Rice Jones, and they agreed to go together on the *passing lay*, which is an artifice frequently practised in modern times, and though the sharpers are often taken into custody, and their tricks exposed in the newspapers, yet there are repeatedly found people weak enough to submit to the imposition.

The following is a description of this trick from a book formerly printed;—

"The rogues having concerted their plan, one of them takes a countryman into a public-house, under pretence of any business they can think of; then the other comes in as a stranger, and in a little time finds

a pack of cards, which his companion had designedly laid on some shelf in the room: on which the two sharpers begin to play. At length one of them offers a wager on the game, and puts down his money. The other shews his cards to the countryman to convince him that he must certainly win, and offers to let him go halves in the wager; but soon after the countryman has laid down his money, the sharpers manage the matter so as to *pass off* with it."

This was evidently the mode of tricking formerly; but it seems to have been improved on of late years: for the sharpers generally game with the countryman, till he has lost all his money; and then he has only to execrate his own folly, for suffering himself to be duped by a couple of rascals.

In this practice our adventurers were very successful at different places, particularly at Bristol; but in this last place Jones bilked Gardener in such a manner as to prove that there is no truth in the observation of "honour among thieves;" for Jones having defrauded a country gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a suit of laced clothes, and about a hundred guineas, gave no share of the booty to Gardener.

This induced the latter to think of revenge; but he disguised his sentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained some time, and then proceeded on their journey; but in the morning on which they set out, Gardener stole an iron pestle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with an intention of murdering his companion when they should come into an unfrequented place.

On their journey, Gardener generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the pestle, with an intention to perpetrate the murder; but his resolution failing him, he at length dropped it on the road, unperceived by his companion.

In a few days afterwards these companions in iniquity parted: and on this occasion Jones said, "Hark-ye, Gardener, whither are you going?" "To

London," said he. "Why then, replied Jones, you are going to be hanged."

We find that this was not the first intimation that Gardener received of the fatal consequences that must attend his illicit practices: but it appeared to have no good effect on him; for soon after he quitted Jones, he broke open a house between Abergavenny and Monmouth; but finding no money, he took only a gown, with which he rode off.

Soon after his arrival in London, he robbed a house in Addle-hill, but was not apprehended for it: but in a short time he broke open the house of Mrs. Roberts, and carried off linen to the amount of twenty-five pounds,

In this robbery he was assisted by John Martin; and both the offenders being soon afterwards taken into custody, were brought to trial, capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but Martin was afterwards reprieved, on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

After sentence of death Gardener became as sincere a penitent as he had been a notorious offender. He resigned himself to his fate with the utmost submission; and before he quitted Newgate on the day of execution, he dressed himself in a shroud, in which he was executed, refusing to wear any other clothes, though the weather was intensely cold.

At the fatal tree he saw some of his old companions, whom he desired to take warning, by his calamitous fate, to avoid bad company, and embrace a life of sobriety, as the most certain road to happiness in this world and the next.

JOSEPH BLAKE, *alias* BLUESKIN,

*Executed at Tyburn, November 11, 1724, for
Housebreaking.*

THIS was one of the most notorious and daring thieves in the days in which he committed his depredations. He had offended in all the steps of villany, beginning in his boyish years, as a pick-pocket; but he confined himself to none, appearing in the streets, in houses, and on the highway, as booty presented. His enormities were the subject of public conversation, and the dread of the traveller.

He was a native of London, was sent to school by his parents, for the space of six years; but he made little progress in learning, having a very early propensity to acts of dishonesty. While at school he made an acquaintance with William Blewit, who afterwards entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, became one of the most notorious villains of the age, and then he acquired the nick-name of Blueskin, from his dark countenance.

No sooner had Blake left school than he commenced pickpocket, and had been in all the prisons for felons before he was fifteen years of age. From this practice he turned street robber, and joined with Oaky, Levee, and many other villains, who acted under the directions of Jonathan Wild. For some of the robberies they committed they were taken into custody, and Blake was admitted an evidence against his companions, who were convicted.

In consequence of these convictions, Blake claimed his liberty, and part of the reward allowed by government; but he was informed by the court that he had no right to either, because he was not a voluntary evidence: since, so far from having surrendered, he made an obstinate resistance, and was much wounded before he was taken; and, therefore,

he must find security for his good behaviour, or be transported.

Not being able to give the requisite security, he was lodged in Wood-street Compter, where he remained a considerable time, during which time Jonathan Wild allowed him three shillings and sixpence a week. At length he prevailed on two gardeners to be his bail; but the court at the Old Bailey hesitating to take their security, they went before Sir John Fryer, who took their recognizance for Blake's good behaviour for seven years. A gentleman, who happened to be present at Sir John's, asked how long it might be before Blake would appear again at the Old Bailey? to which another gentleman answered, "three sessions;" and he happened to be perfectly right in his conjecture.

Blake had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he was concerned in several robberies with Jack Sheppard, and particularly that for which the two brothers, Brightwell, were tried. The footpad robberies and burglaries they committed were very numerous; but the fact for which Blake suffered was the robbery of Mr. Kneebone, as will appear by the following account:

At the Old Bailey sessions, in October, 1724, Joseph Blake, otherwise Blueskin, was indicted for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, value 36*l.* and other goods. The prosecutor having sworn that the bars of his cellar-window were cut, and that the cellar-door which had been bolted and padlocked was broke open, he acquainted Jonathan Wild with what had happened, who went to Blake's lodgings, with two other persons; but Blake refusing to open the door, it was broke open by Quilt Arnold, one of Wild's men.

On this Blake drew a penknife, and swore he would kill the first man that entered; in answer to which Arnold said, "Then I am the first man, and Mr. Wild is not far behind, and if you do not deliver

your penknife immediately, I will chop your arm off." Hereupon the prisoner dropped the knife; and Wild entering, he was taken into custody.

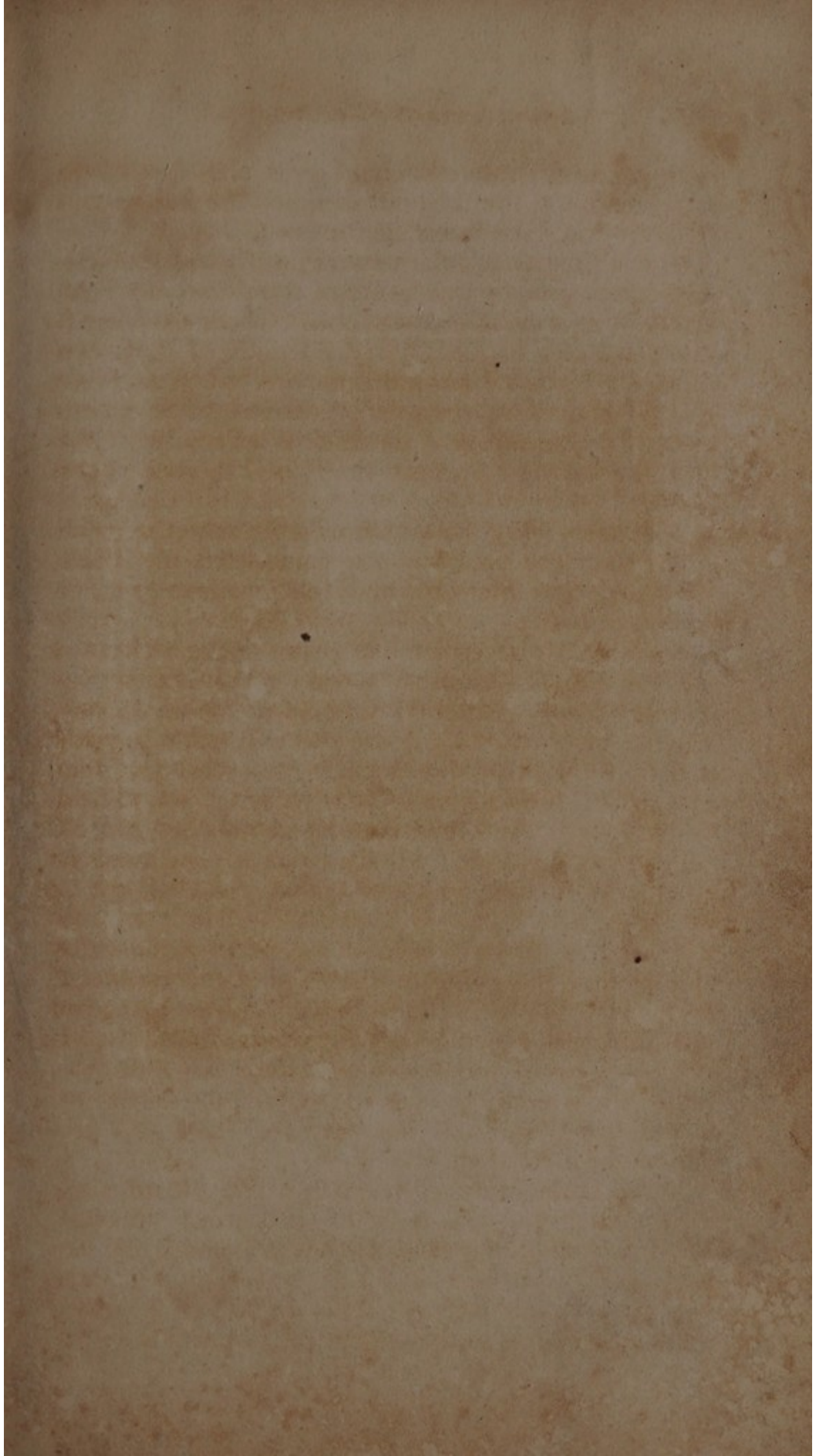
As the parties were conveying Blake to Newgate, they came by the house of the prosecutor; on which Wild said to the prisoner, "There's the ken;" and the latter replied, "Say no more of that, Mr. Wild, for I know I am a dead man; but what I fear is, that I shall afterwards be carried to Surgeon's Hall, and anatomized:" to which Wild replied, "No, I'll take care to prevent that, for I'll give you a coffin."

William Field, who was evidence on the trial, swore that the robbery was committed by Blake, Sheppard, and himself; and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty.

As soon as the verdict was given, Blake addressed the court in the following terms: "On Wednesday morning last, Jonathan Wild said to Simon Jacobs, a fellow prisoner, 'I believe you will not bring 40*l.* this time: I wish Joe (meaning me) was in your case; but I'll do my endeavour to bring you off as a single felon.' And then turning to me, he said, 'I believe you must die; I'll send you a good book or two, and provide you a coffin, and you shall not be anatomized.'"

Wild was to have been an evidence against this malefactor; but going to visit him in the Baildock, previous to his trial, Blake suddenly drew a clasped penknife, with which he cut Jonathan's throat, which prevented his giving evidence; but as the knife was blunt, the wound, though dangerous, did not prove mortal; and we shall see that Jonathan was preserved for a different fate.

While under sentence of death, Blake did not shew a concern proportioned to his calamitous situation. When asked if he was advised to commit the violence on Wild, he said, No; but that a sudden thought entered his mind; or he would have provided a knife, which would have cut off his head at once.





JOHN SHEPPARD.

On the nearer approach of death, he appeared still less concerned, and it was thought his mind was chiefly bent on meditating means of escaping; but seeing no prospect of getting away, he took to drinking, which he continued, even to the day of his death! for he was observed to be intoxicated even while he was under the gallows.

JOHN SHEPPARD,

*Executed at Tyburn, November 23, 1724, for
Highway Robbery.*

No public robber ever obtained more notoriety than the man whose life and adventures are now presented. No violator of the law had more "hair-breadth escapes" than Jack Sheppard. He found employment for the bar, the pulpit, and the stage.

He was, indeed, for a considerable time, the principal subject of conversation in all ranks of society. A pantomime entertainment was brought forward at the royal theatre of Drury-lane, called "Harlequin Sheppard," wherein his adventures, prison-breakings, and other extraordinary escapes, were represented. Another dramatic work was published, as a farce of three acts, called "The Prison Breaker; or, The Adventures of John Sheppard;" and a part of it, with songs, catches, and glees added, was performed at Bartholomew Fair, under the title of "The Quaker's Opera."

John Sheppard was born in Spital-fields, in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honest man; yet he had another son named Thomas, who, as well as Jack, turned out a thief.

The father dying while the boys were very young, they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a school in Bishopsgate-street, where he remained two years, and was then put apprentice to

a carpenter. He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when, frequenting the Black Lion alehouse in Drury lane, he became acquainted with some abandoned women, among whom, the principal was Elizabeth Lyon, otherwise called Edgworth Bess, from the town of Edgworth, where she was born.

While he continued to work as a carpenter, he often committed robberies in the houses where he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess; but not being suspected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence house breaker.

Exclusive of Edgworth Bess, he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who persuaded him to rob the house of Mr. Bains, a piece-broker in White Horse yard; and Jack having brought away a piece of fustian from thence, (which he deposited in his trunk,) went afterwards at midnight, and taking the bars out of the cellar-window, entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of 22l. which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his master suspected that he had made bad connections; and, searching his trunk, found the piece of fustian that had been stolen; but Sheppard, hearing of this, broke open his master's house in the night, and carried off the fustian, lest it should be brought in evidence against him.

Sheppard's master sending intelligence to Mr. Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods, and missing such a piece of fustian as had been described to him, suspected that Sheppard must have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into custody; but Jack, hearing of the affair, went to him, and threatened a prosecution for scandal; alledging that he had received the piece of fustian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spitalfields. The mother, with a view to screen

ner son, declared that what he had asserted was true, though she could not point out the place where she had made the purchase. Though this story was not credited, Mr. Bains did not take any farther steps in the affair.

Sheppard's master seemed willing to think well of him, and he remained some time longer in the family: but after associating himself with the worst of company, and frequently staying out the whole night, his master and he quarrelled, and the head-strong youth totally absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship, and became connected with a set of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the easier commission of robbery; and being employed to assist in repairing the house of a gentleman in May-Fair, he took an opportunity of carrying off a sum of money, a quantity of plate, some gold rings, and four suits of clothes.

Not long after this, Edgworth Bess was apprehended, and lodged in the round-house of the parish of St. Giles's where Sheppard went to visit her, and the beadle refusing to admit him, he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph: an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of August, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, brother to Jack, was indicted at the Old Bailey for two petty offences, and being convicted, was burnt in the hand. Soon after his discharge, he prevailed on Jack to lend him forty shillings, and take him as a partner in his robberies. The first fact they committed in concert, was the robbing of a public house in Southwark, whence they carried off some money, and wearing apparel; but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this, the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Bess, broke open the shop of Mrs.

Cook, a linen draper in Clare market, and carried off goods to the value of fifty-five pounds; and, in less than a fortnight afterwards, stole some articles from the house of Mr. Phillips in Drury-lane.

Tom Sheppard going to sell some of the goods stolen at Mrs. Cook's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence, he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess; but they were sought for in vain.

At length James Sykes, otherwise called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles's, enticed him into a public house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and while they were drinking, Sykes sent for a constable, who took Jack into custody, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him to St. Giles's Round-house: but he broke through the roof of that place, and made his escape in the night.

Within a short time after this, as Sheppard and an associate, named Benson, were crossing Leicester fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch, but failing in the attempt, the gentleman called out "A pick-pocket," on which Sheppard was taken and lodged in St. Ann's Round-house, where he was visited by Edgworth Bess, who was detained on suspicion of being one of his accomplices.

On the following day they were carried before a magistrate; and some persons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to New Prison; and as they passed for husband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate Ward.

Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintance, some of them furnished him with implements to make his escape, and early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters, and having made a hole in the wall, he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window; but as

the height from which he was to descend was twenty-five feet, he tied a blanket and sheet together, and making one of them fast to a bar in the window, Edgworth Bess first descended, and Jack followed her.

Having reached the yard, they had still a wall of twenty-two feet high to scale; but climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the prison, and effected a perfect escape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower order of people by this exploit; and the thieves of St. Giles's courted his company. Among the rest, one Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an associate in his robberies, alledging as a reason for this request, that the girl he kept was so extravagant, that he could not support her on the profits of his own thefts. Sheppard did not hesitate to make this new connection; but at the same time said that he did not admit of the partnership with a view to any advantage to himself, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making an acquaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical instrument maker, near St. Clement's church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's master; and, at two o'clock in the morning, Lamb let in the other villains, who stole money and effects to a large amount. They put the door open, and Lamb went to bed to prevent suspicion; but, notwithstanding this, his master did suspect him, and having him taken into custody, he confessed the whole affair before a magistrate, and being committed to Newgate, he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported.

On the same day Thomas Sheppard (the brother of Jack, was indicted for breaking open the dwelling-house of Mary Cook, and stealing her goods; and being convicted, was sentenced to transportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in custody, he and Blueskin committed a number of daring robberies, and sometimes disposed of the stolen goods to William Field. Jack used to say that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever existed.

Sheppard seems to have thought that courage consisted in villainy; and if this were the case, Field had an undoubted claim to the character of a man of courage: for in October, 1721, he was tried upon four indictments, for felony and burglary; and he was an accomplice in a variety of robberies. He was likewise an evidence against one of his associates, on another occasion.

Sheppard and Blueskin hired a stable near the Horse-ferry, in Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods, till they could dispose of them to the best advantage; and in this they put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr. Kneebone: for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the sessions held at the Old-Bailey, in August, 1724, he was indicted for several offences, and, among the rest, for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone, and stealing 108 yards of woollen cloth, and other articles; and being capitally convicted, received sentence of death.

We must now go back to observe, that Sheppard and Blueskin having applied to Field to look at these goods, and procure a customer for them, he promised to do so; nor was he worse than his word; for in the night he broke open their warehouse, and stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan Wild; in consequence of which they were apprehended.

On Monday the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts under sentence of death.

It is proper to observe, that in the old gaol of Newgate there was within the lodge a hatch, with large iron spikes, which hatch opened into a dark

passage, whence there were a few steps into the condemned-hold. The prisoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to speak with their friends, Sheppard, having been supplied with instruments, took an opportunity of cutting one of the spikes in such a manner that it might be easily broken off.

On the evening of the abovementioned 30th of August, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to visit him, he broke off the spike, and thrusting his head and shoulders through the space, the women pulled him through, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his escape he went to a public-house in Spitalfields, whence he sent for an old acquaintance, one Page, a butcher in Claremarket, and advised with him how to render his escape effectual for his future preservation. After deliberating on the matter, they agreed to go to Warnden, in Northamptonshire, where Page had some relations: and they had no sooner resolved than they made the journey; but Page's relations treating him with indifference, they returned to London, after being absent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet-street together, they saw a watch-maker's shop open, and only a boy attending; having passed the shop, they turned back, and Sheppard driving his hand through the window, stole three watches, with which they made their escape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintance informing him that strict search was making after him, he and Page retired to Finchley, in hope of laying there concealed till the diligence of the gaol-keepers should relax; but the keepers of Newgate having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into custody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such steps were now taken as were thought would be effectual to prevent his future escape. He was

put into a strong room, called the Castle, hand-cuffed, loaded with a very heavy pair of irons, and chained to a staple fixed in the floor.

The curiosity of the public being greatly excited by his former escape, he was visited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and scarce any one left him without making him a present in money, though he would have more gladly received a file, a hammer, or a chissel; but the utmost care was taken that none of his visitors should furnish him with such implements.

Notwithstanding this disadvantageous situation, Sheppard was continually employing his thoughts on the means of another escape. On the 14th of October, the sessions began at the Old Bailey, and the keepers being much engaged in attending the court, he thought they would have little time to visit him; and therefore the present juncture would be the most favourable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, one of the keepers carried him his dinner, and having carefully examined his irons, and finding them fast, he left him for the day.

Some days before this Jack had found a small nail in the room, with which he could, at pleasure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the staple in the floor; and in his own account of this transaction, he says, "that he was frequently about the room, and had several times slept on the barracks, when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair."

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his hand-cuffs, and then opened the padlock that fastened the chain to the staple. He next, by mere strength, twisted asunder a small link of the chain between his legs, and then drawing up his fetters as high as he could, he made them fast with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chimney; but had not advanced far before he was stopped by an iron bar that went across it; on which he descended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a small stone or two, about six feet from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long and an inch square, and proved very serviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a short time made such a breach, as to enable him to get into the red-room over the castle; and here he found a large nail, which he made use of in his farther operations. It was seven years since the door of this red-room had been opened; but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in less than seven minutes, and got into the passage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was bolted on the opposite side; but making a hole through the wall, he pushed the bolt back, and opened the door.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron spikes, which keeping for his farther use, he got into an entry between the chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably strong, and fastened with a large lock; and night now coming on Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark. Notwithstanding this disadvantage, he, in half an hour, forced open the box of the lock, and opened the door; but this led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked; however, he wrenched the fillet from the main post of the door, and the box and staples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no farther obstruction to his proceedings; for he had only one other door to open, which being bolted on the inside, was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

His next consideration was, how he should descend with the greatest safety; accordingly he found

that the most convenient place for him to alight on, would be the turner's house adjoining to Newgate; but as it would have been very dangerous to have jumped to such a depth, he went back for the blanket with which he used to cover himself, when he slept in the castle; and endeavoured to fasten his stocking to the blanket to ease his descent; but not being able to do so, he was compelled to use the blanket alone; wherefore he made it fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike that he took out of the chapel; and sliding down, dropped on the turner's leads just as the clock was striking nine. It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he stole softly down two pair of stairs, and heard some company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, "What noise is that?" and a man answered, "Perhaps the dog or cat."

Sheppard, who was exceedingly fatigued, returned to the garret, and laid down for more than two hours; after which he crept down once more, as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking leave of the family, and saw the maid light him down stairs. As soon as the maid returned, he resolved to venture all hazards; but in stealing down the stairs, he stumbled against a chamber door; but instantly recovering himself, he got into the street.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and passing by the the watch-house of St. Sepulchre, he bid the watchman good morrow, and going up Holborn, he turned down Gray's-inn-lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham-court, where he took shelter in a place that had been a cow-house, and slept soundly about three hours. His fetters being still on, his legs were greatly bruised and swelled, and he dreaded the approach of day-light, lest he should be discovered. He had now above forty shillings in his possession, but was afraid to send any person for assistance.

At seven in the morning it began to rain hard, and continued to do so all day, so that no person appeared in the fields: and during this melancholy day he would, to use his own expression, have given his right hand for "a hammer, a chissel, and a punch." Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured into a little chandler's shop in Tottenham-court-road, where he got a supply of bread and cheese, small beer, and some other necessities, hiding his irons with a long great coat. He asked the woman of the house for a hammer; but she had no such utensil; on which he retired to the cow-house, where he slept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's shop, supplied himself with provisions, and returned to his hiding-place. At six the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the basils of his fetters with a stone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to slip his heels through. In the afternoon the master of the cow-house coming thither, and seeing his irons, said, "For God's sake who are you?" Sheppard said he was an unfortunate young fellow, who having had a bastard-child sworn to him, and not being able to give security to the parish for its support, he had been sent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his escape. The man said that if that was all it did not much signify; but he did not care how soon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone Sheppard saw a journeyman shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard child, and offered him twenty shillings if he would procure a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening.

When night came on, our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in

several places, and likewise tore his coat and stockings, so as to have the appearance of a beggar; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing-cross, where he supped on roasted veal, and listened to the conversation of the company, all of whom were talking of the escape of Sheppard.

On the Monday he sheltered himself at a public-house of little trade, in Rupert-street, and conversing with the landlady about Sheppard, he told her it was impossible for him to get out of the kingdom; and the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days; on which the woman wished that a curse might fall on those who should betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Haymarket, where a crowd of people were surrounding two ballad singers, and listening to a song made on his adventures and escape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport-market, and soon afterwards, dressing himself like a porter, he went to Blackfriars, to the house of Mr. Applebee, printer of the dying speeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer, and the Ordinary of Newgate, and enclosed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawnbroker in Drury-lane, where he stole a sword, a suit of wearing apparel, some snuff-boxes, rings, watches, and other effects to a considerable amount.

Determining to make the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintance in Drury-lane and Clare-market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tie-wig, wore a ruffled shirt, a silver hilted sword, a diamond ring, and a gold watch; though he knew that diligent search was making after him at that very time.

On the 31st of October he dined with two women at a public-house in Newgate-street, and, about four in the afternoon they all passed under Newgate in a hackney-coach, having first drawn up the blinds.

Going in the evening to a public-house in May-pole alley, Clare-market, Sheppard sent for his mother, and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman dropped on her knees and begged he would immediately quit the kingdom, which he promised to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an excess of liquor, he wandered from ale-houses to gin-shops in the neighbourhood till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended in consequence of the information of an alehouse boy who knew him. When taken into custody he was quite senseless, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drank, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the least resistance, though he had two pistols then in his possession.

His fame was now so much increased by his exploits, that he was visited by great numbers of people, and some of them of the highest quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned: and when any nobleman came to see him, he never failed to beg that they would intercede with the king for a pardon, to which he thought that his singular dexterity gave him some pretensions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the court of King's Bench on the 10th of November, and the record of his conviction being read, and an affidavit being made that he was the same John Sheppard mentioned in the record, sentence of death was passed on him by Mr. Justice Powis; and a rule of court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel; but though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any degree of seriousness among the other prisoners on their return.

Even when the day of execution arrived, Sheppard

did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice; for having been furnished with a penknife, he put it in his pocket, with a view, when the melancholy procession came opposite Little Turnstile, to have cut the cord that bound his arms, and throwing himself out of the cart among the crowd, to have run through the narrow passage where the sheriff's officers could not follow on horseback; and he had no doubt but he should make his escape by the assistance of the mob.

It is not impossible but this scheme might have succeeded; but before Sheppard left the press-yard, one Watson, an officer, searching his pockets, found the knife, and was cut with it so as to occasion a great effusion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a farther view to his preservation, even after execution; for he desired his acquaintance to put him into a warm bed as soon as he should be cut down; and try to open a vein, which he had been told would restore him to life.

He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confessed the having committed two robberies, for which he had been tried and acquitted. He suffered in the 23d year of his age. He died with difficulty, and was much pitied by the surrounding multitude. When he was cut down, his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public-house in Long Acre, whence he was removed in the evening, and buried in the church-yard of St. Martin in the Fields.

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LEWIS HOUSSART,

*Executed at Swan-alley, Shoreditch, Dec. 7, 1724,
for Murder.*

THIS malefactor was born at Sedan in France ; but his parents being protestants, quitted that kingdom, in consequence of an edict of Lewis the Fourteenth, and settled in Dutch Brabant.

Young Houssart's father placed him with a barber-surgeon at Amsterdam, with whom he lived a considerable time, and then served as a surgeon on board a Dutch ship, which he quitted through want of health, and came to England.

He had been a considerable time in this country when he became acquainted with Ann Rondeau, whom he married at the French church in Spitalfields. Having lived about three years with his wife at Hoxton, he left her with disgust, and going into the city, passed for a single man, working as a barber and hair-dresser ; and getting acquainted with a Mrs. Hern, of Princess-street, Lothbury, he married her at St. Antholin's church.

No sooner was the ceremony performed, than the company went to drink some wine at an adjacent tavern, when the parish-clerk observed that Housart changed countenance, and some of the company asked him if he repented his bargain ; to which he answered in the negative.

It appears as if, even at this time, he had come to a resolution of murdering his first wife ; for he had not been long married before his second charging him with a former matrimonial connection, he desired her to be easy, for she would be convinced, in a short time, that he had no other wife but herself.

During this interval his first wife lived with her mother in Swan-alley, Shoreditch, and Mrs. Housart being in an ill state of health, her husband called

upon her about a fortnight before the perpetration of the murder, and told her that he would bring her something to relieve her; and the next day he gave her a medicine that had the appearance of conserve of roses, which threw her into such severe convulsion fits, that her life was despaired of for some hours; but at length she recovered.

This scheme failing, Houssart determined to murder her, to effect which, and conceal the crime, he took the following method:—Having directed his second wife to meet him at the Turk's Head, in Bishopsgate-street, she went thither and waited for him. In the meantime he dressed himself in a white great-coat, and walked out with a cane in his hand, and a sword by his side. Going to the end of Swan-alley, Shoreditch, he gave a boy a penny to go into the lodgings of his first wife, and her mother, Mrs. Rondeau, and tell the old woman that a gentleman wanted to speak with her at the Black Dog, in Bishopsgate-street.

Mrs. Rondeau saying she would wait on the gentleman, Houssart hid himself in the alley till the boy told him she was gone out, and then went to his wife's room, and cut her throat with a razor; and, thus murdered, she was found by her mother on her return from the Black Dog, after enquiring in vain for the gentleman who was said to be waiting for her.

In the interim Houssart went to his other wife, at the Turk's Head, where he appeared much dejected, and had some sudden starts of passion. The landlady of the house, who was at supper with his wife, expressing some surprise at his behaviour, he became more calm, and said he was only uneasy lest her husband should return, and find him so meanly dressed; and soon after this Houssart and his wife went home.

Mrs. Rondeau having found her daughter murdered, as abovementioned, went to her son, to whom

she communicated the affair: and he having heard that Houssart lodged in Lothbury, took a constable, went thither, and said he was come to apprehend him on suspicion of having murdered his wife; on which he laughed loudly, and asked if any thing in his looks indicated that he could be guilty of such a crime.

Being committed to Newgate, he was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, but acquitted, for want of the evidence of the boy, who was not found till a considerable time afterwards: but the court ordered the prisoner to remain in Newgate, to take his trial for bigamy.

In consequence hereof he was indicted at the next sessions, when full proof was brought of both his marriages; but an objection was made by his counsel, on a point of law, "Whether he could be guilty of bigamy, as the first marriage was performed by a French minister; and he was only once married according to the form of the church of England." On this the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges.

While Houssart lay in Newgate waiting this solemn award, the boy whom he had employed to go into the house of Mrs. Rondeau, and who had until now kept secret the whole transaction, being in conversation with his mother, asked her what would become of the boy if he should be apprehended? The mother told him, he would be only sworn to tell the truth. "Why, (said he,) I thought they would hang him." But the mother satisfying him that there was no danger of any such consequence, and talking farther with him on the subject, he confessed that he was the boy who went with the message.

Hereupon he was taken to Solomon Rondeau, brother of the deceased, who went with him to a justice of the peace; and the latter ordered a constable to attend him to Newgate, where he fixed on Houssart as the person who had employed him in the manner abovementioned.

In consequence hereof Solomon Rondeau lodged an appeal against the prisoner; but it appearing that there was some bad Latin in it, no proceedings could be had thereon; and therefore another appeal was lodged the next sessions, when the prisoner urging that he was not prepared for his trial, he was yet indulged till a subsequent sessions.

The appeal was brought in the name of Solomon Rondeau, as heir to the deceased; and the names of John Doe and Richard Roe were entered in the common form, as pledges to prosecute.

When the trial came on, the counsel for the prisoner stated the following pleas, in bar to, and abatement of the proceedings:—

1. That besides the appeal to which he now pleaded, there was another yet depending and undetermined.

2. A misnomer, because his name was not Lewis, but Louis.

3. That the addition of labourer was wrong, for he was not a labourer, but a barber-surgeon.

4. That there was no such persons as John Doe and Richard Roe, who were mentioned as pledges in the appeal.

5. That Henry Rondeau was the brother and heir to the deceased; that Solomon Rondeau was not her brother and heir, and therefore was not the proper appellant; and,

6. That the defendant was not guilty of the facts charged in the appeal.

The counsel for the appellant replied to these several pleas, in substance as follows:—

To the first, that the former appeal was already quashed, and therefore could not be depending and undetermined.

To the second, that it appeared that the prisoner had owned to the name of Lewis, by pleading to it on two indictments, the one for bigamy, the other for murder; and his hand-writing was produced, in which he had spelt his name Lewis; and it was

likewise proved that he had usually answered to that name.

To the third, it was urged that on the two former indictments he had pleaded to the addition of labourer; and a person swore that the prisoner had worked as a journeyman or servant, and did not carry on his business as a master.

To the fourth it was urged, that there were two such persons in Middlesex as John Doe and Richard Roe, the one a weaver, and the other a soldier; and this fact was sworn to.

In answer to the fifth, Ann Rondeau, the mother of the deceased, swore that she had no children except the murdered party, and Solomon Rondeau, the appellant: that Solomon was brother and heir to the deceased, which Henry Rondeau was not, being only the son of her husband by a former wife.

With regard to the last article, respecting his being not guilty, that was left to be determined by the opinion of the jury.

Hereupon the trial was brought on, and the same witnesses being examined as on the former trial, to which that of the boy was added, the jury determined that the prisoner was guilty; in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

His behaviour after conviction was very improper for one in his melancholy situation; and, as the day of execution drew nearer, he became still more thoughtless, and more hardened, and frequently declared that he would cut his throat, as the jury had found him guilty of cutting that of his wife.

His behaviour at the place of execution was equally hardened. He refused to pray with the ordinary of Newgate, and another clergyman, who kindly attended to assist him in his devotions.

THOMAS PACKER AND JOSEPH PICKEN,

Executed at Tyburn, February 1, 1725, for Highway Robbery.

THOMAS PACKER was a native of London, his father being a shoemaker in Butcherhall-lane, Newgate-street. He was bound apprentice to the master of the Ship tavern at Greenwich ; but not being content in his situation he was turned over to a vintner, who kept the Rummer tavern, near Red lion-square ; and having served the rest of his time, he lived as a waiter in different places.

He had not long been out of his time before he married ; but the expenses of his new connection, added to those arising from the extravagance of his disposition, soon reduced him to circumstances of distress.

Joseph Picken was likewise a native of London, being the son of a tailor in Clerkenwell ; but his father dying while he was an infant, he was educated by his mother, who placed him with a vintner near Billingsgate, with whom he served an apprenticeship, after which he married, and kept the tap of the Mermaid inn at Windsor ; but his wife being a bad manager, and his business much neglected, he was soon reduced to the utmost extremity of poverty.

Being obliged even to sell his bed and sleep on the floor, his wife advised him to go on the highway to supply their necessities. Fatally for him, he listened to her advice, and repaired to London, where, on the following day, he fell into company with Packer, who had been an old acquaintance.

The poverty of these unhappy men tempted them to make a speedy resolution of committing depredations on the public ; in consequence of which they hired horses as to go to Windsor ; but instead thereof they rode towards Finchley ; and in a road be-

tween Highgate and Hornsey, they robbed two farmers, whom they compelled to dismount, and turned their horses loose.

Hastening to London with their ill-gotten booty, they went to a public house in Monmouth-street, where one of them taking his handkerchief out of his pocket, accidentally drew out his pistol with it, which being remarked by a person in company, he procured a peace officer, who took them into custody on suspicion.

Having been lodged in the Round-house for that night, they were taken before a magistrate on the following day; and being separately examined, disagreed much in their tale; and the parties who had been robbed attending, and swearing to their persons, they were committed for trial.

When they were brought to the bar, they endeavoured to prove that they were absent from the spot at the time the robbery was committed; but failing in this, a verdict of guilty was given against them, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction they behaved with every sign of contrition. Picken was in a very bad state of health almost the whole time he lay under sentence of death; and complained much of the ingratitude of his wife, who first advised him to the commission of the crime, yet never visited him during his miserable confinement in Newgate. These unhappy men prepared to meet their fate with decent resignation, and received the sacrament with every sign of genuine devotion.

They were so shocked at the idea of their approaching dissolution, that they trembled with the dreadful apprehension, and were unable to give that advice to the surrounding multitude, which, however, might be easily implied from their pitiable condition.

This robbery, for any thing that appeared to the contrary, being their first offence against the law,

these unfortunate men were **surely** objects of royal clemency. In more merciful times, like the present, we are of opinion that our king would at least have remitted their punishment; but most likely have granted them a pardon.

VINCENT DAVIS,

*Executed at Tyburn, April 30, 1725, for the Murder
of his wife.*

WHENEVER a man ill treats a woman, who by every action of her life shews herself his friend, the partner of his toil, and the consoler of his mind under worldly misfortunes, it is abominable; but what punishment awaits the execrable wretch who sheds the blood of such a wife? Such, however, shocking to relate, befel the wife of this abhorred murderer, who appears to have possessed qualities deserving the protection of a good man.

We have already, in the duty we owe the reader, had occasion to present too many instances of the flagitious conduct of females—but to the good, we would repeat after the excellent poet Otway, and say,

“ There’s in you all that we believe in Heaven,
Amazing brightness, purity, and truth,
Eternal joy, and everlasting love.”

This shocking sinner, who followed the trade of a butcher in Smithfield, behaved with cruelty to his wife, and though he had been married some years, accustomed himself to keep company with women of ill fame.

Going out one Sunday morning he staid till noon; and coming home to dinner went out again soon afterwards, and was directly followed by his wife, who found him drinking with some bad women at a

house in Pye-corner ; and coming home, mentioned this circumstance to her neighbours.

Soon afterwards the husband returned ; and using some threatening expressions, the wife desired a lodger in the same house to go down stairs with her, lest he should beat her. The woman accordingly attended her, and was witness to Davis's beating her in a barbarous manner, and threatening to murder her because she had interrupted him while in the company of the other women. Hereupon the wife ran away and secreted herself for a time, but returning to her lodgings, begged admission into her landlady's room, who hid her behind the bed. In the interim the husband had been out ; but returning, went to bed ; and, when his wife thought he was asleep, she went into the room to search his pockets, in which she found only a few halfpence, and coming down stairs, said that her husband had laid a knife by the bed-side, from which she concluded that he had an intention of murdering her.

Mrs. Davis being concealed during the night, the landlady went into her husband's room in the morning and said, "What do you mean by threatening to commit murder in my house?" On this he snatched up his knife, and the landlady taking hold of a small cane, he took it from her, saying he valued it as his life ; as he kept it to beat his wife with.

In the evening of this day the wife and landlady finding him at the before-mentioned house in Pye-corner, he beat his wife most severely ; on which the landlady advised Mrs. Davis to swear the peace against him, and have him imprisoned, as she had done on a similar occasion.

About an hour after this he went home, and said to his wife, "What business have you here, or any where in my company? You shall follow me no more, for I am married to little Jenny.

The wife, who seems to have had more love for him than such a miscreant deserved, said she could

not help it, but she would drink with him and be friends; and on his taking his supper to an ale-house, she followed him; but soon returned with her hands bloody, saying he had cut her fingers.

On his return he directed his wife to light him to his room, which she did, and earnestly entreated him to be reconciled to her; but instead of making any kind of reply, he drew his knife, and followed her into the landlady's room, he there stabbed her in the breast.

Thus wounded the poor wretch ran down stairs, and was followed by the murderer. She was sheltered in a neighbouring house, where sitting down and pulling off her stomacher, she bled to death in about half an hour.

In the interim the landlady called the watchman, who soon apprehended Davis, and conducted him to the house where the dead woman lay; on which he said, "Betty, won't you speak to me?" A woman who was present said, "You will find to your sorrow that she will never speak more;" and to this

murderer replied, "Well, I know I shall be hanged; and I would as soon suffer for her as another."

Being committed to the care of a peace officer, he was conveyed to prison, in his way to which he said, "I have killed the best wife in the world, and I am certain of being hanged; but for God's sake don't let me be anatomized."

When he was brought to his trial, the above recited facts were proved by the testimony of several witnesses; and on the jury pronouncing the verdict of Guilty, he execrated the court with the most profane imprecations.

While he lay under sentence of death he affected a false bravery; but when orders were given for his execution, his assumed courage left him, and he appeared greatly terrified, as well indeed he might, at his approaching fate. He had such a dread of falling into the hands of the surgeons that he sent

letters to several of his acquaintance, begging they would rescue his body, if any attempt should be made to take it away.

He behaved in the most gloomy and reserved manner at the place of execution; and suffered without any signs of contrition or regret for his unmanly and inhuman crime.

ROBERT HARPHAM,

Coiner, executed at Tyburn, May 24, 1725.

THIS offender lived in Westminster, where he carried on the business of a carpenter for a considerable time with some success; but at length had the misfortune to become a bankrupt, after which he appears to have turned his thoughts to a very dishonest way of acquiring money.

Having engaged the assistance of one Fordham, he hired a house near St. Paul's Church-yard, and pretending to be a button-maker, he put up an iron press, with which he used to coin money, and Fordham, having aided him in the coinage, put off the counterfeit money thus made.

From hence they removed to Rosemary-lane, and there carried on the same dangerous business for some time, till the neighbours observing that great quantities of charcoal was brought in, and the utmost precaution taken to keep the door shut, began to form very unfavourable suspicions; on which Harpham took a cellar in Paradise-row, near Hanover-square, to which the implements were removed.

While in this situation, Harpham invited a gentleman to dine with him; and was imprudent enough to take him into his workshop, and shew him his tools. The gentleman wondering for what purpose they could be intended, Harpham said, "In this

press I can make buttons; but I will shew you something else that is a greater rarity." Having said this, he struck a piece of metal, which instantly bore the resemblance of half a guinea, except the milling on the edge; but another instrument being applied to it, the half guinea was completed.

Our coiners now removed to Jermyn-street, St. James's, where Harpham took an empty cellar, and, on the old pretence of button-making, gave orders to a bricklayer to put up a grate. The bricklayer remarking what a quantity of coals the grate would consume, the other said it was so much the better, for it was calculated to dress victuals either by baking, stewing, roasting, or boiling. Harpham kept the key of this cellar, permitting no one to enter but Fordham; and once in three weeks he had a quantity of charcoal and sea coal put in through the window.

The landlord of the place suspecting some illegal proceeding, desired his neighbours to watch the parties; in consequence of which Harpham was soon discovered in the attempt to put off counterfeit money; on which he and his assistant were apprehended and committed to Newgate; and Fordham being admitted an evidence, the other was convicted, and received sentence of death.

His behaviour after his commitment was unusually serious; for as he was not weak enough to flatter himself with unreasonable hopes of life, so he began to make an early preparation for the important change that awaited him.

He procured religious books, and exercised himself in the offices of devotion, in a very earnest manner. He likewise resolved to eat no more food than was absolutely necessary for the support of nature; and in this he persevered from the time of his conviction to the day of his death. He desired a person to awake him at three o'clock in the morning, and continued his devotions till midnight.

While he was thus properly employed, a person hinted to him that he might entertain some hope of a reprieve; but he said he did not regard a reprieve, on his own account; for that slavery in a foreign country, was as much to be dreaded as death. Some questions being asked him respecting any accomplices he might have, he declined charging any particular person with the crime, but gave the Ordinary of Newgate a list of the names of some people whom he desired him to send to, requesting that they would reform the error of their ways.

The sacrament was administered to him in private on the day before his execution at his own request, as he said he could not attend the duties of religion, while exposed to the observation of a curious multitude.

At the place of execution he exhorted the persons present to beware of covetousness, and be content in the station allotted them by Providence.

JONATHAN WILD,

(THE PRINCE OF ROBBERS,)

Executed at Tyburn, May 24, 1725.

Of all the thieves that ever infested London, this man was the most notorious.

Jonathan Wild, who for his consummate villainy and depravity has justly been denominated *The Prince of Robbers*, was born at Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, about the year 1682. He was the eldest son of his parents, who at a proper age put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he had gained a sufficient knowledge in reading, writing, and accounts, to qualify him for business. His father intended to bring him up to his own trade; but changed that design, and at about

the age of fifteen, apprenticed him for seven years to a buckle-maker in Birmingham. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he returned to Wolverhampton, where he married a young woman of good character, and gained a tolerable livelihood by following his business as a journeyman.

He had been married about two years, in which time his wife had a son, when he formed the resolution of visiting London, and very soon after deserted his wife and child, and set out for the metropolis, where he got into employment, and maintained himself by his trade; being of an extravagant disposition many months had not elapsed after his arrival in London when he was arrested and thrown into Wood-street Compter, where he remained a prisoner for debt upwards of four years. In a pamphlet which he published, and which we shall more particularly mention hereafter, he says, that during his imprisonment, "it was impossible but he must, in some measure, be let into the secrets of the criminals there under confinement; and particularly Mr. Hitchin's management."

During his residence in the Compter, Wild assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of the criminals who were his fellow-prisoners, and attended to their accounts of the exploits in which they had been engaged with singular satisfaction.

In this prison was a woman named Mary Milliner, who had long been considered as one of the most notorious pick-pockets and abandoned prostitutes on the town. After having escaped the punishment due to the variety of felonies of which she had been guilty, she was put under confinement for debt. An intimacy subsisted between them while they remained in the Compter.

They had no sooner obtained their freedom, than they lived under the denomination of man and wife. By their iniquitous practices they soon obtained a sum of money, which enabled them to open a little public-house in Cock-alley, facing Cripplegate church.

Milliner being personally acquainted with most of the notorious characters by whom London and its environs were infested, and perfectly conversant as to the manner of their proceedings, she was considered by Wild as a most useful companion; and indeed she very materially contributed towards rendering him one of the most accomplished characters in the arts of villainy.

Wild industriously penetrated into the secrets of felons of every denomination, who resorted in great numbers to his house in order to dispose of their booties; and they looked upon him with a kind of awe; for being acquainted with their proceedings, they were conscious that their lives were continually in his power.

Wild was at little difficulty to dispose of the articles brought to him by thieves at something less than its real value; for, at this period, no law existed for the punishment of the receivers of stolen goods; but the evil increasing to so enormous a degree, it was deemed expedient by the legislature to frame a law for its suppression. An act therefore was passed, consigning such as should be convicted of receiving goods, knowing them to have been stolen, to transportation for the space of fourteen years.

Wild's practices were considerably interrupted by the above-mentioned law: to obviate the intention of which, however, he suggested the following plan he called a meeting of all the thieves whom he knew and observed to them, that if they carried their booties to such of the pawn-brokers who were known to be not much troubled with the scruples of conscience, they would scarcely advance on the property one-fourth of its real value; and that if they were offered to strangers, either for sale or by way of deposit, it was a chance of ten to one but the parties were rendered amenable to the laws.

He observed that the most industrious thieves were now scarcely able to obtain a livelihood; and

that they must either submit to be half starved, or be in great and continual danger of Tyburn. He informed them that he had devised a plan for removing the inconveniences under which they laboured, recommending them to follow his advice, and to behave towards him with honour. He then proposed that when they had gained any booty they should deliver it to him instead of carrying it to the pawnbroker, saying he would restore the goods to the owners, by which means greater sums would be raised than by depositing them with the pawnbrokers, while the thieves would be perfectly secure from detection.

This proposal was received with general approbation, and it was resolved to carry it into immediate execution. All the stolen effects were to be given into the possession of Wild, who soon appointed convenient places wherein they were to be deposited, judging that it would not be prudent to have them left at his own house.

The infamous plan being thus concerted, it was the business of Wild to apply to persons who had been robbed, pretending to be greatly concerned at their misfortunes, saying some suspected property had been stopped by a very honest man, a broker, with whom he was acquainted, and that if their goods happened to be in the hands of his friend, restitution should be made. But he failed not to plead that the broker might be rewarded for his trouble and disinterestedness, and to use every argument in his power for exacting a promise that no disagreeable consequences should ensue to his friend, who had imprudently neglected to apprehend the supposed thieves.

Happy in the prospect of regaining their property without the trouble and expense necessarily attending prosecutions, people generally approved the conduct of Wild, and sometimes rewarded him even with one-half of the real value of the goods restored.

Persons who had been robbed, however, were not always satisfied with Wild's declaration; and sometimes they questioned him particularly as to the manner of their goods being discovered. On these occasions he pretended to be offended that his honour should be disputed, saying, that his motive was to afford all the service in his power to the injured party, whose goods he imagined might possibly be those stopped by his friend; but since his good intentions were received in so ungracious a manner, and himself interrogated respecting the robbers, he had nothing further to say on the subject, but must take his leave; adding, that his name was Jonathan Wild, and that he was every day to be found at his house in Cock-alley, Cripplegate

This affectation of resentment seldom failed to possess the people who had been robbed with a more favourable opinion of his principles; and the suspicion of his character being removed, he had an opportunity of advancing his demands.

Wild received no gratuity from the owners of stolen goods, but deducted his profit from the money which was to be paid the broker. Thus did he amass considerable sums without danger of prosecution, for his offence came under the description of no law then existing. For several years he preserved a tolerably fair character; so consummate was the art he employed in the management of all his schemes.

Wild's business greatly increasing and his name becoming exceedingly popular, he altered his mode of proceeding. Instead of applying to persons who had been robbed, he opened an office, to which great numbers resorted, in hopes of recovering their effects.

He made a great parade in his business, and assumed a consequence that enabled him more effectually to impose on the public. When persons came to his office, they were informed that they must each pay a crown in consideration of receiving

his advice. This ceremony being dispatched, he entered in his book the names and places of abode of the parties, with all the particulars which they could communicate, respecting the robberies, and the rewards that would be given provided the goods were recovered; and they were then desired to call again in a few days, when he hoped he should be able to give them some agreeable intelligence.

Upon calling to know the success of his enquiries, he informed them that he had received some information concerning their goods, but that the agent he had employed to trace them had informed him that the robbers pretended they could raise more money by pawning the property than by returning it for the proposed reward; saying, however, that if he could by any means procure an interview with the villains, he doubted not of being able to settle matters agreeable to the terms already proposed; but, at the same time, artfully insinuating that the most safe, expeditious, and prudent method would be, to make some addition to the reward.

Wild, at length, became eminent in his profession, which proved highly lucrative. When he had discovered the utmost sum that it was likely the people would give for the recovery of their property, he requested them to call again, and in the meantime he caused the goods to be ready for delivery.

He derived considerable advantages from examining persons who had been robbed; for he thence became acquainted with the particulars which the robbers omitted to communicate to him, and thereby was enabled to detect them if they concealed any part of their booties. Being in possession of the secrets of all the notorious robbers, they were under the necessity of complying with whatever terms he thought proper to exact; for they were conscious, that by opposing his inclination they should involve themselves in the most imminent danger of being sacrificed to the injured laws of their country.

Through the infamous practices of this man, ar-

ticles, which had been before considered as of no use but to the owners, now became matters claiming a particular attention from the thieves by whom the metropolis and its environs were infested. Books of accounts, pocket-books, watches, rings, trinkets, and a variety of articles of but small intrinsic worth, were now esteemed very profitable booty. Books of accounts, and other writings, being of great importance to the owners, produced very handsome rewards; and the same may be said of pocket-books, for they generally contained memorandums, and sometimes bank-notes, and other articles on which money could be readily procured.

Wild accumulated money so fast, that he considered himself a man of consequence; and to support his imaginary dignity, he dressed in laced clothes, and wore a sword. He first exercised his martial instrument on the person of his accomplice and reputed wife, Mary Milliner; who having on some occasion provoked him, he instantly struck at her with it, and cut off one of her ears. This event was the cause of a separation; but in acknowledgment of the great services she had rendered him, by introducing him to so lucrative a profession, he allowed her a weekly stipend till her decease.

Before Wild had brought the plan of his office to perfection, he for some time acted as an assistant to Charles Hitchen, the city-marshal, a man as wicked as himself. These celebrated co-partners in villainy, under the pretext of reforming the manners of the dissolute part of the public, paraded the streets from Temple-bar to the Minories, searching houses of ill fame, and apprehending disorderly and suspected persons; but such as complimented these *public* reformers with *private* douceurs were allowed to practise every species of wickedness with impunity.

Hitchen and Wild, however, becoming jealous of each other, and an open rupture taking place, they parted, each pursuing the business of thief-taking on his own account.

Wild's artful behaviour, and the punctuality with which he discharged his engagements, obtained him a great share of confidence among thieves of every denomination; insomuch, that if he caused it to be intimated to them that he was desirous of seeing them, and that they should not be molested, they would attend him with the utmost willingness, without entertaining the most distant apprehension of danger, although conscious that he had informations against them, and that their lives were absolutely in his power: but if they presumed to reject his proposals, or proved otherwise refractory, he would address them to the following effect: "I have given you my word that you should come and go in perfect safety, and so you shall: but take care of yourself, for if ever you see me again, you see an inveterate enemy."

The great influence that Wild obtained over the thieves, will not be thought a very extraordinary matter, if it is considered, that when he promised to use his endeavours for rescuing them from impending fate, he was always desirous, and generally able to succeed. Such as complied with his measures, he would never interrupt; but, on the contrary, afford them every encouragement for prosecuting their iniquitous practices; and if apprehended by any other person, he seldom failed of procuring their discharge. His most usual method (in desperate cases, and when matters could not be managed with more ease and expedition,) was to procure them to be admitted evidences, under pretext that it was in their power to make discoveries of high importance to the public. When they were in prison, he frequently attended them, and communicated to them from his own memorandums such particulars as he judged it would be prudent for them to relate to the court. When his accomplices were apprehended, and he was not able to prevent their being brought to trial, he contrived stratagems (in which his invention was amazingly fertile,) for keeping the principal

witnesses out of court; so that the delinquents were generally dismissed unpunished in defect of evidence.

Jonathan was ever a most implacable enemy to those thieves who were hardy enough to reject his terms, and dispose of their stolen effects for their own separate advantage. He was industrious to an extreme in his endeavours to surrender them into the hands of justice; and being acquainted with all their usual places of resort, it was scarcely possible for them to escape his vigilance.

By subjecting those who incurred his displeasure to the punishment of the law, he obtained the rewards for pursuing them to conviction; greatly extended his ascendancy over the other thieves, who considered him with a kind of awe; and, at the same time, established his character as being a man of great public utility.

It was the practice of Wild to give instructions to the thieves whom he employed, as to the manner in which they should conduct themselves; and if they followed his directions, it was seldom that they failed of success. But if they neglected a strict observance of his rules, or were, through inadvertency or ignorance, guilty of any kind of mismanagement or error in the prosecution of the schemes he had suggested, it was to be understood almost as an absolute certainty that he would procure them to be convicted at the next sessions, deeming them to be unqualified for the profession of roguery.

He was frequently asked, how it was possible that he could carry on the business of restoring stolen effects, and yet not be in league with the robbers; and his replies were always to this purpose: "My acquaintance among thieves is very extensive, and when I receive information of a robbery, I make enquiry after the suspected parties, and leave word at proper places, that if the goods are left where I appoint, the reward shall be paid, and no questions asked. Surely no imputation of guilt can fall upon

me ; for I hold no interviews with the robbers, nor are the goods given into my possession."

We shall now proceed to a relation of the most remarkable exploits of the hero of these pages ; and our account must necessarily include many particulars relating to other notorious characters.

A lady of fortune being on a visit in Piccadilly, her servants, leaving the sedan at the door, went to refresh themselves at a neighbouring public-house. Upon their return the vehicle was not to be found : in consequence of which the men immediately went to Wild, and having informed him of their loss and complimented him with the usual fee, they were desired to call upon him again in a few days. Upon their second application Wild extorted from them a considerable reward, and then directed them to attend the chapel in Lincoln's-inn-fields on the following morning during the time of prayers. The men went according to the appointment, and under the Piazzas of the chapel perceived the chair, which upon examination they found to contain the velvet seat, curtains, and other furniture, and that it had received no kind of damage.

A young gentleman named Knap, accompanied his mother to Sadler's Wells on Saturday, March 31, 1716. On their return they were attacked about ten at night, near the wall of Gray's-inn-gardens, by five villains. The young gentleman was immediately knocked down, and his mother being exceedingly alarmed called for assistance ; upon which a pistol was discharged at her, and she instantly fell down dead. A considerable reward was offered by proclamation in the Gazette for the discovery of the perpetrator of this horrid crime ; and Wild was remarkably assiduous in his endeavours to apprehend the offenders. From a description given of some of the villains, Wild immediately judged the gang to be composed of William White, Thomas Thurland, John Chapman alias Edward Darvel, Timothy Dun, and Isaac Rag.

On the evening of Sunday, April 8, Wild received intelligence that some of the above-named men were drinking with their prostitutes at a house kept by John Weatherly, in Newtoner's-lane. He went to Weatherly's, accompanied by his man Abraham, and seized White, whom he brought away about midnight in a hackney-coach, and lodged him in the Round-house.

White being secured, information was given to Wild that a man named James Aires was then at the Bell inn, Smithfield, in company with a woman of the town. Having an information against Aires, Wild, accompanied by his assistants, repaired to the inn, under the gateway of which they met Thurland, whose person had been mistaken for that of Aires. Thurland was provided with two brace of pistols; but being suddenly seized, he was deprived of all opportunity of making use of those weapons and taken into custody.

They went on the following night to a house in White-horse-alley, Drury-lane, where they apprehended Chapman, alias Darvel. Soon after the murder of Mrs. Knap, Chapman and others stopped the coach of Thomas Middlethwaite, Esq. but that gentleman escaped being robbed by discharging a blunderbuss and wounding Chapman in the arm, on which the villains retired.

In a short time after this, Wild apprehended Isaac Rag at a house which he frequented in St. Giles's, in consequence of an information charging him with a burglary. Being taken before a magistrate, in the course of his examination Rag impeached twenty-two accomplices, charging them with being house-breakers, footpads, and receivers of stolen effects; and in consequence hereof he was admitted an evidence for the crown.

Rag was convicted of a misdemeanor in January, 1714-15, and sentenced to stand three times in the pillory. He had concealed himself in the dust hole

belonged to the house of Thomas Powell, where being discovered, he was searched, and a pistol, some matches, and a number of pick-lock keys, were found in his possession. His intention was evidently to commit a burglary, but as he did not enter the house, he was indicted for a misdemeanor in entering the yard with intent to steal. He was indicted in October 1715, for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Stanwell on the 24th of August; but he was acquitted of this charge.

White, Thurland, and Chapman, were arraigned on the 18th of May, 1716, at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, on an indictment for assaulting John Knap, gent. putting him in fear, and taking from him a hat and wig on the 31st of March, 1716. They were also indicted for the murder of Mary Knap, widow: White by discharging a pistol loaded with powder and bullets, and thereby giving her a wound of which she immediately died, March 31, 1716. They were a second time indicted for assaulting and robbing John Gough. White was a fourth time indicted with James Russel for a burglary in the house of George Barklay. And Chapman was a fourth time indicted for a burglary, in the house of Henry Cross. These three offenders were executed at Tyburn on the 8th of June, 1716.

Wild was indefatigable in his endeavours to apprehend Timothy Dun, who had hitherto escaped the hands of justice by removing to a new lodging, where he concealed himself in the most cautious manner. Wild, however, did not despair of discovering this offender, whom he supposed must either perish through want of the necessaries of life, or obtain the means of subsistence by returning to his felonious practices; and so confident was he of success, that he made a wager of ten guineas that he would have him in custody before the expiration of an appointed time.

Dun's confinement at length became exceedingly irksome to him, and he sent his wife to make en

quiries respecting him of Wild, in order to discover whether he was still in danger of being apprehended. Upon her departure from Wild's he ordered one of his people to follow her home. She took water at Black-friars and landed at the Falcon, but suspecting the man was employed to trace her, she again took water and crossed to White-friars; observing that she was still followed, she ordered the waterman to proceed to Lambeth, and having landed there, it being nearly dark, she imagined she had escaped the observation of Wild's man, and therefore walked immediately home. The man traced her to Maid-lane near the Bank-side, Southwark, and perceiving her enter a house he marked the wall with chalk, and then returned to his employer with an account of the discovery he had made.

Wild, accompanied by a fellow named Abraham, a Jew, who acted the part he had done to the worthless marshal, one Riddlesden, and another man, went on the following morning to the house where the woman had been seen to enter. Dun hearing a noise, and thence suspecting that he was discovered, got through a back-window on the second floor upon the roof of the pantry, the bottom of which was about eight feet from the ground. Abraham discharged a pistol and wounded Dun in the arm; in consequence of which he fell from the pantry into the yard; after his fall Riddlesden discharged a pistol and wounded him in the face with small shot. Dun was secured and carried to Newgate, and being tried at the ensuing sessions, he was soon after executed at Tyburn.

Riddlesden was bred to the law, but he entirely neglected that business and abandoned himself to every species of wickedness. His irregular course of life having greatly embarrassed his circumstances, he broke into the chapel of Whitehall and stole the communion plate. He was convicted of this offence and received sentence of death; but through the exertion of a powerful interest a pardon was obtained,

on condition of transporting himself for the term of seven years. He went to America but soon returned to England, and had the address to ingratiate himself into the favour of a young lady, daughter of an opulent merchant at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Before he could get his wife's fortune, which was considerable, into his hands, he was discovered and committed to Newgate. His wife followed him, and was brought to bed in the prison. Her friends however being apprised of her unhappy situation, caused her to return home.

He contracted an intimacy with the widow of Richard Revel, one of the turnkeys of Newgate; and being permitted to transport himself again, the woman went with him to Philadelphia under the character of his wife.

In consequence of a disagreement between them, Mrs. Revel returned and took a public-house in Golden-lane; but what became of Riddlesden we have not been able to learn.

A thief of most infamous character named Arnold Powel, being confined in Newgate on a charge of having robbed a house in the neighbourhood of Golden-square, of property to a great amount, he was visited by Jonathan, who informed him, that in consideration of a sum of money, he would save his life; adding, that if the proposal was rejected, he should inevitably die at Tyburn for the offence on account of which he was then imprisoned. The prisoner, however, not believing that it was in Wild's power to do him any injury, bid him defiance. Powel was brought to trial; but through a defect of evidence he was acquitted.

Having gained intelligence that Powel had committed a burglary in the house of Mr. Eastlick near Fleet-ditch, he caused that gentleman to prosecute the robber. Upon receiving information that a bill was found for the burglary Powel sent for Wild, and a compromise was effected according to the terms which Wild himself proposed; in consequence of

which Powel was assured that his life should be preserved.

Upon the approach of the sessions, Wild informed the prosecutor that the first and second days would be employed in other trials, and as he was willing Mr. Eastlick should avoid attending with his witnesses longer than was necessary, he would give timely notice when Powel would be arraigned. But he contrived to have the prisoner put to the bar; and no persons appearing to prosecute, he was ordered to be taken away; but after some time he was again set to the bar, then ordered away, and afterwards put up a third time, proclamation being made each time for the prosecutor to appear. At length the jury were charged with the prisoner, and as no accusation was adduced against him, he was necessarily dismissed; and the court ordered Mr. Eastlick's recognizances to be be estreated.

Powel was ordered to remain in custody till the next sessions, there being another indictment against him; and Mr. Eastlick represented the behaviour of Wild to the court, who justly reprimanded him with great severity.

Powel put himself into a salivation in order to avoid being brought to trial the next sessions; but notwithstanding this stratagem he was arraigned and convicted, and executed on the 20th of March, 1716-17.

At this time Wild had quitted his apartments at Mrs. Seagoe's, and hired a house adjoining to the Coopers' Arms, on the opposite side of the Old Bailey. The unexampled villanies of this man were now become an object of so much consequence as to excite the particular attention of the legislature. In the year 1718 an act was passed deeming every person guilty of a capital offence, who should accept a reward in consequence of restoring stolen effects without prosecuting the thief.

It was the general opinion, at that time, that the above law would effectually suppress the iniquitous

practices of Wild; but after some interruptions to his proceedings, he devised means for evading the law, which were for several years attended with success.

He now declined the custom of receiving money from the persons who applied to him; but upon the second or third time of calling informed them, that all he had been able to learn respecting their business was, that if a sum of money was left at an appointed place their property would be restored the same day.

Sometimes as the person robbed was returning from Wild's house, he was accosted in the street by a man who delivered the stolen effects, at the same time producing a note expressing the sum that was to be paid for them.

In cases wherein he supposed danger was to be apprehended, he advised people to advertise, that whoever would bring the stolen goods to Jonathan Wild should be rewarded, and no questions asked them.

In the two first instances it could not be proved that he either saw the thief, received the goods, or accepted of a reward; and in the latter case he acted agreeable to the directions of the injured party, and there appeared no reason to criminate him as being in confederacy with the felons.

When he was asked what would satisfy him for his trouble, he told the persons who had recovered their property, that what he had done was without any interested view, but merely from a principle of doing good; that therefore he made no claim; but if he accepted a present he should not consider it as being his due, but as an instance of generosity which he should acknowledge accordingly.

Our adventurer's business increased exceedingly, and he opened an office in Newtoner's-lane, to the management of which he appointed his man Abraham. This Israelite proved a remarkable industrious and faithful servant to Jonathan, who

intrusted him with matters of the greatest importance.

A lady had her pocket picked of bank notes to the amount of seven thousand pounds. She related the particulars of her robbery to Abraham, who in a few days apprehended three pick-pockets, and conducted them to Jonathan's lodgings at Dulwich. Upon their delivering up all the notes Wild dismissed them. When the lady applied to Abraham he restored her property, and she generously made him a present of four hundred pounds, which he delivered to his employer.

These pick-pockets were afterwards apprehended for some other offences, and transported. One of them carefully concealed a bank-note for a thousand pounds in the lining of his coat. On his arrival at Maryland he procured cash for the note, and having purchased his freedom went to New York, where he assumed the character of a gentleman.

Wild's business would not permit him to remain long at Dulwich; and being under great inconvenience from the want of Abraham's assistance, he did not keep open his office in Newtoner's-lane for more than three months.

About a week after the return of Wild from Dulwich, a mercer in Lombard-street ordered a porter to carry to a particular inn a box containing goods to the amount of two hundred pounds. In his way the porter was observed by three thieves, one of them being more genteelly dressed than his companion, accosted the man in the following manner: "If you are willing to earn sixpence, my friend, step to the tavern at the end of the street, and ask for the roquelaure I left at the bar; but, lest the waiter should scruple giving it you, take my gold watch as a token. Pitch your burthen upon this bulk, and I will take care of it till you return; but be sure you make haste."

The man went to the tavern and having delivered his message, was informed that the thing he en-

quired for had not been left there; upon which the porter said, "Since you scruple to trust me, look at this gold watch which the gentleman gave me to produce as a token." What was called a gold watch being examined, proved to be only pewter lacquered. In consequence of this discovery the porter hastened back to where he had left the box, but neither that nor the sharpers were to be found.

The porter was with reason apprehensive that he should incur his master's displeasure if he related what had happened; and, in order to excuse his folly, he determined upon the following stratagem: he rolled himself in the mud and then went home, saying he had been knocked down and robbed of the goods.

The proprietor of the goods applied to Wild, and related to him the story he had been told by his servant. Wild told him he had been deceived as to the manner in which the trunk was lost, and that he should be convinced of it if he would send for his servant. A messenger was dispatched for the porter, and upon his arrival, Abraham conducted him into a room separated from the office only by a slight partition. "Your master, said Abraham, has just been here concerning the box you lost; and he desired that you might be sent for in order to communicate the particulars of the robbery. What kind of people were the thieves, and in what manner did they take the box away?" In reply, the man said, "Why, two or three fellows knocked me down, and then carried off the box." Hereupon Abraham told him, that "if they knocked him down there was but little chance of the property being recovered, since that offence rendered them liable to be hanged. But," continued he, "let me prevail upon you to speak the truth; for if you persist in a refusal, be assured we shall discover it by some other means. Pray do you recollect nothing about a token? Were you not to fetch a roquelaure from a tavern? and did you not produce a gold watch as a token to induce the waiter

to deliver it?" Astonished at Abraham's words, the porter declared he believed he was a witch, and immediately acknowledged in what manner he had lost the box.

One of the villains concerned in the above transaction lived in the house formerly inhabited by Wild, in Cock-alley, near Cripplegate. To this place Jonathan and Abraham repaired, and when they were at the door, they overheard a dispute between the man and his wife, during which the former declared that he would set out for Holland the next day. Upon this they forced open the door, and Wild saying he was under a necessity of preventing his intended voyage, took him into custody, and conducted him to the compter.

On the following day the goods being returned to the owner, Wild received a handsome reward; and he contrived to procure the discharge of the thief.

On the 23d or 24th of January, 1718-19, Margaret Dodwell and Alice Wright went to Wild's house, and desired to have a private interview with him. Observing one of the women to be with child, he imagined she might want a father to her expected issue; for it was a part of his business to procure persons to stand in the place of the real fathers of children born in consequence of illicit commerce. Being shewn into another room, Dodwell spoke in the following manner:—"I do not come, Mr. Wild, to inform you that I have met with any loss, but that I wish to find something. If you will follow my advice, you may acquire a thousand pounds, or perhaps many thousands."

Jonathan here expressed the utmost willingness to engage in an enterprise so highly lucrative, and the woman proceeded thus: "My plan is this; you must procure two or three stout resolute fellows who will undertake to rob a house in Wormwood-street, near Bishopsgate. This house is kept by a cane-

chair maker named James Cooke, who has a lodger, an ancient lady, immensely rich ; and she keeps her money in a box in her apartment ; she is now gone in the country to fetch more. One of the men must find an opportunity of getting into the shop in the evening, and conceal himself in a saw pit there ; he may let his companions in when the family are retired to rest. But it will be particularly necessary to secure two stout apprentices and a boy, who lay in the garret. I wish however no murder may be committed." Upon this Wright said, "Phoo ! phoo ! when people engage in matters of this sort, they must manage as well as they can, and so as to provide for their own safety." Dodwell now resumed her discourse to Jonathan ; "The boys now secured, no kind of difficulty will attend getting possession of the old lady's money, she being from home and her room under that where the boys sleep. In the room facing that of the old lady, Cooke and his wife lay : he is a man of remarkable courage ; great caution therefore must be observed respecting him and indeed I think it would be as well to knock him on the head ; for then his drawers may be rifled, and he is never without money. A woman and a child lay under the room belonging to the old lady ; but I hope no violence will be offered to them."

Having heard the above proposal, Wild took the women into custody and lodged them in Newgate. It is not to be supposed that his conduct in this affair proceeded from a principle of virtue or justice, but that he declined engaging in the iniquitous scheme, from an apprehension that their design was to draw him into a snare.

Dodwell had lived five months in Mr. Cook's house, and though she paid no rent he was too generous to turn her out, or in any manner to oppress her. Wild prosecuted Dodwell and Wright for a misdemeanor ; and being found guilty, they were sentenced each to suffer six months' imprisonment.

Wild had inserted in his book a gold watch, a quantity of fine lace, and other property of considerable value, which John Butler had stolen from a house at Newington-green; but Butler, instead of coming to account as usual, had declined his felonious practices, and lived on the produce of his booty. Wild, highly enraged at being excluded his share, determined to pursue every possible means for subjecting him to the power of justice.

Being informed that he lodged at a public-house in Bishopsgate-street, Wild went to the house early one morning, when Butler hearing him ascend the stairs, jumped out of the window of his room, and climbing over the wall of the yard, got into the street. Wild broke open the door of the room; but was exceedingly disappointed and mortified to find that the man in whom he was in pursuit had made his escape. In the meantime Butler ran into a house, the door of which stood open, and descending to the kitchen, where some women were washing, told them he was pursued by a bailiff; and they advised him to conceal himself in the coal-hole.

Jonathan coming out of the ale-house, and seeing a shop on the opposite side of the way open, he enquired of the master, who was a dyer, whether a man had not taken refuge in his house. The dyer answered him in the negative; saying, he had not left his shop more than a minute since it had been opened. Wild requested to search the house, and the dyer readily complied. Wild asked the women if they knew whether a man had taken shelter in the house, which they denied; but he informing them that the man he sought was a thief, they said he would find him in the coal-hole.

Having procured a candle, Wild and his attendants searched the place without effect; and they examined every part of the house with no better success. He observed that the villain must have made his escape into the street. On which the dyer said,

that could not be the case; that if he had entered, he must still be in the house, for he had not quitted the shop, and it was impossible that a man could pass to the street without his knowledge: and he advised Wild to search the cellar again. They now all went into the cellar, and after some time spent in searching, the dyer turned up a large vessel used in his business, and Butler appeared. Wild asked him in what manner he had disposed of the goods he stole from Newington-green, upbraided him of ingratitude, and declared that he should certainly be hanged.

Butler, however, knowing the means by which an accommodation might be effected, directed Wild to go to his lodging, and look behind the head of the bed, where he would find what would recompense him for his time and trouble. Wild went to the place, and found what perfectly satisfied him; but as Butler was apprehended in a public manner, the other was under a necessity of taking him before a magistrate, who committed him for trial. He was tried the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; but by the artful management of Wild, instead of being condemned to die, he was only sentenced to transportation.

Being at an inn in Smithfield, Wild observed a large trunk in the yard, and imagining that it contained property of value, he hastened home, and instructed one of the thieves he employed to carry it off. The man he employed in this matter was named Jeremiah Rann, and he was reckoned one of the most dexterous thieves in London. Having dressed himself so exactly as to resemble a porter, he carried away the trunk without being observed.

Mr. Jarvis, a whipmaker by trade, and the proprietor of the trunk, had no sooner discovered his loss, than he applied to Wild, who returned him the goods, in consideration of receiving ten guineas.

Some time after, a disagreement took place between Jonathan and Rann, and the former appre-

hended the latter, who was tried and condemned to die. The day preceding that on which Rann was executed, he sent for Mr. Jarvis, and related to him all the particulars of the trunk. Mr. Jarvis threatened Wild with a prosecution; but all apprehensions on that score were soon dissipated, by the decease of Mr. Jarvis.

Wild being much embarrassed in endeavouring to find out some method by which he might safely dispose of the property that was not claimed by the respective proprietors, revolved in his mind a variety of schemes; but at length he adopted that which follows: he purchased a sloop, in order to transport the goods to Holland and Flanders, and gave the command of the vessel to a notorious thief, named Roger Johnson.

Ostend was the port where this vessel principally traded; but when the goods were not disposed of there, Johnson navigated her to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, and other places. He brought home lace, wine, brandy, &c. and these commodities were generally landed in the night, without adding any increase in the business of the revenue-officers.

This trade was continued about two years, when five pieces of lace being lost, Johnson deducted the value of them from the mate's pay. Violently irritated by this conduct, the mate lodged an information against Johnson, for running a great quantity of various kinds of goods.

In consequence of the above circumstance the vessel was exchequered, Johnson cast in damages to the amount of 700*l.* and the commercial proceedings were entirely ruined.

A disagreement had for some time subsisted between Johnson and Thomas Edwards, who kept a house of resort for thieves, in Long-lane, concerning the division of some booty. Meeting one day in the Strand, they charged each other with felony, and were both taken into custody. Wild bailed Johnson, and Edwards was not prosecuted. The latter

had no sooner recovered his liberty, than he gave information against Wild, whose private warehouses being searched, a great quantity of stolen goods was there found. Wild arrested Edwards in the name of Johnson, to whom he pretended the goods belonged, and he was taken to the Marshalsea, but the next day he procured bail. Edwards determined to wreak his revenge upon Johnson, and for some time industriously sought for him in vain; but meeting him accidentally in Whitechapel-road, he gave him into the custody of a peace-officer, who conducted him to an adjacent ale-house. Johnson sent for Wild, who immediately attended, accompanied by his man, Quilt Arnold. Wild promoted a riot, during which Johnson availed himself of an opportunity of effecting an escape.

Information being made against Wild for the rescue of Johnson, he judged it prudent to abscond, and he remained concealed for three weeks; at the end of which time, supposing all danger to be over, he returned to his house. Learning that Wild had returned, Mr. Jones, high-constable of Holborn division, went to his house in the Old Bailey, on the 15th of February, 1725, and apprehended him and Quilt Arnold, and took them before Sir John Fryer, who committed them to Newgate, on a charge of having assisted in the escape of Johnson.

On Wednesday the 24th of the same month, Wild moved to be either admitted to bail, or discharged, or brought to trial that sessions. On the following Friday a warrant of detainer was produced against him in court, and to it was affixed the following articles of information:

1. That for many years past he had been a confederate with great numbers of highwaymen, pick-pockets, house-breakers, shop-lifters, and other thieves.

2. That he had formed a kind of corporation of thieves, of which he was the head or director; and that notwithstanding his pretended services, in de-

tecting and prosecuting offenders, he procured such only to be hanged as concealed their booty, or refused to share it with him.

3. That he had divided the town and country into so many districts, and appointed distinct gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their robberies. That he had also a particular set to steal at churches in time of divine service: and likewise other moving detachments to attend at court on birth-days, balls, &c. and at both houses of parliament, circuits, and country fairs.

4. That the persons employed by him were for the most part felon convicts, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported was expired; and that he made choice of them to be agents, because they could not be legal evidences against him, and because he had it in his power to take from them what part of the stolen goods he thought fit, and otherwise use them ill, or hang them, as he pleased.

5. That he had from time to time supplied such convicted felons with money and clothes, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them: particularly some, against whom there are now informations for counterfeiting and diminishing broad pieces and guineas.

6. That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods, as well as of writings of all kinds, for near fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate, and robbed along with the abovementioned convicted felons.

7. That, in order to carry on these vile practices, and to gain some credit with the ignorant multitude, he usually carried a short silver staff, as a badge of authority from the government, which he used to produce when he himself was concerned in any robbery.

8. That he had, under his care and direction, several warehouses for receiving and concealing stolen goods; and als a ship for carrying off jewels,

watches, and other valuable goods, to Hoiland, where he had settled a superannuated thief for his factor.

9. That he kept in pay several artists to make alterations, and transform watches, seals, snuff-boxes, rings, and other valuable things, that they might not be known, several of which he used to present to such persons as he thought might be of service to him.

10. That he seldom or never helped the owners to the notes and papers they had lost, unless he found them able exactly to specify and describe them, and then often insisted on more than half the value.

11. And, lastly, it appears that he has often sold human blood, by procuring false evidence to swear persons into facts they were not guilty of; sometimes to prevent them from being evidences against himself, and at other times for the sake of the great reward given by the government.

The information of Mr. Jones was also read in court, setting forth that two persons would be produced to accuse the prisoner of capital offences. The men alluded to in the above affidavit were John Follard and Thomas Butler, who had been convicted; but it being deemed expedient to grant them a pardon, on condition of their appearing in support of a prosecution against Wild, they pleaded to the same, and were remanded to Newgate till the next sessions.

Saturday the 12th of April, Wild by counsel moved that his trial might be postponed till the ensuing sessions, and an affidavit made by the prisoner was read in court, purporting, that till the preceding evening he was entirely ignorant of a bill having been found against him; that he knew not what offence was charged against him; and was unable to procure two material witnesses, one of them living near Brentford, and the other in Somersetshire. This

was opposed by the counsel for the crown, who urged, that it would be improper to defer the trial on so frivolous a pretext as that made by the prisoner; that the affidavit expressed an ignorance of what offence he was charged with, and yet declared that two nameless persons were material witnesses.

The prisoner informed the court that his witnesses were, — Hays, at the Pack-horse on Turnham-green, and — Wilson, a clothier at Frome; adding that he had heard it slightly intimated that he was indicted for a felony upon a person named Stret-ham. Wild's counsel moved that the names of Hays and Wilson might be inserted in the affidavit, and that it should be again sworn to by the prisoner.

The counsel for the prosecution observed, that justice would not be denied the prisoner, though it could not be reasonably expected that he would be allowed any extraordinary favours or indulgencies. Follard and Butler were at length bound each in the penalty of 500*l.* to appear at the ensuing sessions, when it was agreed that Wild's fate should be determined.

Saturday, May the 15th, 1725, Jonathan Wild was indicted for privately stealing in the house of Catharine Stretham, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, fifty yards of lace, the property of the said Catharine, on the 22d of January, 1724-5. He was a second time indicted for feloniously receiving of the said Catharine on the 10th of March ten guineas on account, and under pretence of restoring the said lace, without apprehending and prosecuting the felon who stole the property.

Previous to his trial, Wild distributed among the jurymen, and other persons who were walking on the leads of the court, a great number of printed papers, under the title of "A List of Persons discovered, apprehended, and convicted, of several Robberies on the High-Way; and also for Burglary and

House-Breaking; and also for returning from Transportation; by Jonathan Wild." This list contained the names of thirty-five for robbing on the high-way; twenty-two for house-breaking; and ten for returning from transportation. To the list was annexed the following *Nota Bene*.

"Several others have been also convicted for the like crimes; but, remembering not the persons' names who had been robbed, I omit the criminals' names.

"Please to observe, that several others have been also convicted for shop-lifting, picking of pockets, &c. by the female sex, which are capital crimes, and which are too tedious to be inserted here, and the prosecutors not willing of being exposed.

"In regard therefore of the numbers above convicted, some that have yet escaped justice, are endeavouring to take away the life of the said

JONATHAN WILD."

The prisoner being put to the bar, he requested that the witnesses might be examined apart, which was complied with. Henry Kelly deposed, that by the prisoner's direction he went, in company with Margaret Murphy, to the prosecutor's shop under pretence of buying some lace; that he stole a tin box, and gave it to Murphy in order to deliver to Wild, who waited in the street for the purpose of receiving their booty, and rescuing them if they should be taken into custody; that they returned together to Wild's house, where the box being opened contained eleven pieces of lace; that Wild said he could afford no more than five guineas, as he should not be able to get more than ten guineas for returning the goods to the owner; that he received as his share three guineas and a crown, and that Murphy had what remained of the five guineas.

Margaret Murphy was next sworn, and her evidence corresponded in every particular with that of the former witness.*

* Margaret Murphy was executed March 27, 1728, for stealing plate.

Catharine Stretham the elder deposed, that between three and four in the afternoon of the 22d of January, a man and woman came to her house pretending that they wanted to purchase some lace; that she shewed them two or three parcels, to the quality and price of which they objected; and that in about three hours after they had left the shop, she missed a tin box containing a quantity of lace, the value of which she estimated at 50*l*.

The prisoner's council observed that it was their opinion he could not be legally convicted, because the indictment positively expressed that *he stole* the lace *in* the house, whereas it had been proved in evidence that he was at a considerable distance when the fact was committed. They admitted that he might be liable to conviction as an accessory before the fact, or guilty of receiving the property knowing it to be stolen; but conceived that he could not be deemed guilty of a capital felony unless the indictment declared (as the act directs) that he did *assist, command, or hire*.

Lord Raymond presided when Wild was tried, and in summing up the evidence his Lordship observed, that the guilt of the prisoner was a point beyond all dispute; but that as a similar case was not to be found in the law books, it became his duty to act with great caution; he was not perfectly satisfied that the construction urged by the council for the crown, could be put upon the indictment; and, as the life of a fellow-creature was at stake, recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the jury, who brought in their verdict NOT GUILTY.

Wild was indicted a second time for an offence committed during his confinement in Newgate. The indictment being opened by the council for the crown, the following clause in an act passed in the 4th year of Geo. I. was ordered to be read:

“ And whereas there are divers persons who have secret acquaintance with felons, and who make it their business to help persons to their stolen goods,

and by that means gain money from them, which is divided between them and the felons, whereby they greatly encourage such offenders. Be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any person taketh money or reward, directly or indirectly, under pretence, or upon account of helping any person or persons to any stolen goods or chattels, every such person so taking money or reward as aforesaid (unless such person do apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, such felon who stole the same, and give evidence against him) shall be guilty of felony, according to the nature of the felony committed in stealing such goods, and in such and the same manner as if such offender had stolen such goods and chattels, in the manner, and with such circumstances, as the same were stolen."

Catharine Stretham deposed to the following effect. "A box of lace being stolen out of my shop on the 22d of January, I went in the evening of the same day to the prisoner's house, in order to employ him in recovering my goods; but not finding him at home I advertised them, offering a reward of fifteen guineas, and saying no questions should be asked. The advertisement proved ineffectual: I therefore went again to the prisoner's house, and by his desire gave the best description that I was able of the persons I suspected to be the robbers; and promising to make enquiry after my property, he desired me to call again in two or three days.

"I attended him a second time, when he informed me that he had learnt something concerning my goods, and expected more particular information in a short time. During this conversation we were joined by a man, who said he had reason to suspect that one Kelly, who had been tried for circulating plaited shillings, was concerned in stealing the lace. I went to the prisoner again on the day he was apprehended, and informed him that though I had advertised a reward of no more than fifteen, I would give twenty or twenty-five guineas, rather than not

recover my property ; upon which he desired me not to be in too great a hurry, and said the people who had the lace were gone out of town, but that he would contrive to foment a disagreement between them, by which means he should be enabled to recover the goods on more easy terms. He sent me word on the 10th of March, that if I would attend him in Newgate, and bring ten guineas with me the goods should be returned.

“ I went to the prisoner, who desired a person to call a porter, and then gave me a letter, saying it was the direction he had received where to apply for the lace. I told him I could not read, and gave the letter to the man he had sent for, who appeared to be a ticket-porter. The prisoner then told me I must give the porter ten guineas, that he might pay the people who had my goods, otherwise they would not return them. I gave the money, and the man went out of the prison ; but in a short time he returned with a box sealed up ; though it was not the box I lost, I opened it, and found all my lace, excepting one piece. I asked the prisoner what satisfaction he expected ; and he answered, not a farthing ; I have no interested views in matters of this kind, but act from a principle of serving people under misfortune. I hope I shall soon be able to recover the other piece of lace, and to return you the ten guineas, and perhaps cause the thief to be apprehended. For the service I can render you I shall only expect your prayers. I have many enemies, and know not what will be the consequence of this imprisonment.”

The prisoner's counsel argued, that as Murphy had deposed that Wild, Kelly, and herself, were concerned in the felony, the former could by no means be considered as coming within the description of the act on which the indictment was founded ; for the act in question was not meant to operate against the actual perpetrators of felony, but to subject such persons to punishment as held a correspondence with felons.

The counsel for the crown observed, that from the evidence adduced, no doubt could remain of the prisoner's coming under the meaning of the act, since it had been proved that he had engaged in combinations with felons, and had not discovered them.

The judge recapitulated the arguments enforced on each side, and was of opinion that the case of the prisoner was clearly within the meaning of the act; for it was plain that he had maintained a secret correspondence with felons, and received money for restoring stolen goods to the owners, which money was divided between him and the felons, whom he did not prosecute. The jury pronounced him guilty, and he was executed at Tyburn on Monday the 24th of May, 1725, along with Robert Harpham.

Wild, when he was under sentence of death frequently declared that he thought the service he had rendered the public in returning the stolen goods to the owners, and apprehending felons, was so great, as justly to entitle him to the royal mercy.

He said, that had he considered his case as being desperate, he should have taken timely measures for inducing some powerful friends at Wolverhampton to intercede in his favour; and that he thought it not unreasonable to entertain hopes of obtaining a pardon through the interest of some of the dukes, earls, and other persons of high distinction, who had recovered their property through his means. It was observed to him that he had trained up a great number of thieves, and must be conscious that he had not enforced the execution of the law from any principle of virtue, but had sacrificed the lives of a great number of his accomplices in order to provide for his own safety, and to gratify his desire of revenge against those who had incurred his displeasure.

He was observed to be in an unsettled state of mind, and being asked whether he knew the cause thereof, he said, he attributed his disorder to the many wounds he had received in apprehending felons.

and particularly mentioned two fractures of his skull, and his throat being cut by Blueskin.

He declined attending divine service in the chapel, excusing himself on account of his infirmities, and saying, that there were many people highly exasperated against him, and therefore he could not expect but that his devotions would be interrupted by their insulting behaviour. He said he had fasted four days, which had greatly increased his weakness. He asked the ordinary the meaning of the words, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree," and what was the state of the soul immediately after its departure from the body? He was advised to direct his attention to matters of more importance, and sincerely to repent of the crimes he had committed.

By his desire the ordinary administered the sacrament to him, and during the ceremony he appeared to be somewhat attentive and devout. The evening preceding the day on which he suffered, he enquired of the ordinary whether self-murder could be deemed a crime, since many of the Greeks and Romans, who had put a period to their own lives, were so honourably mentioned by historians. He was informed, that the most wise and learned heathens accounted those guilty of the greatest cowardice, who had not fortitude sufficient to maintain themselves in the station to which they had been appointed by the providence of heaven; and that the christian doctrine condemned the practice of suicide in the most express terms.

He pretended to be convinced that self-murder was a most impious crime; but about two in the morning he endeavoured to put an end to his life by drinking laudanum; however, on account of the largeness of the dose and his having fasted a considerable time, no other effect was produced than drowsiness, or a kind of stupefaction. The situation of Wild being observed by two of his fellow-prisoners, they advised him to rouse his spirits, that

he might be able to attend to the devotional exercises; and taking him by the arms they obliged him to walk, which he could not have done alone, being much afflicted with the gout. The exercise revived him a little, but he presently became exceedingly pale, then grew very faint; a profuse sweating ensued, and soon afterwards his stomach discharged the greatest part of the laudanum. Though he was somewhat recovered, he was nearly in a state of insensibility, and in this situation he was put into the cart and conveyed to Tyburn.

In his way to the place of execution, the populace treated this offender with remarkable severity, incessantly pelting him with stones, dirt, &c. and execrating him as the most consummate villain that had ever disgraced human nature.

Upon his arrival at Tyburn, he appeared to be much recovered from the effects of the laudanum; and the executioner informed him that a reasonable time would be allowed him for preparing himself for the important change that he must soon experience. He continued sitting some time in the cart; but the populace were at length so enraged at the indulgence shewn him, that they outrageously called to the executioner to perform the duties of his office, violently threatening him with instant death if he presumed any longer to delay. He judged it prudent to comply with their demands, and when he began to prepare for the execution, the popular clamour ceased.

About two o'clock on the following morning, the remains of Wild were interred in St. Pancras Churchyard; but a few nights afterwards the body was taken up (for the use of the surgeons as it was supposed.) At midnight, a hearse and six was waiting at the end of Fig-lane, where the coffin was found the next day.

Wild had by the woman he married at Wolverhampton, a son about 19 years old, who came to London a short time before the execution of his

father. He was a youth of so violent and ungovernable a disposition, that it was judged prudent to confine him while his father was conveyed to the place of execution, lest he should create a tumult, and prove the cause of mischief among the populace. Soon after the death of his father, he accepted a sum of money to become a servant in one of our plantations.

Besides the woman to whom he was married at Wolverhampton, five others lived with him under the pretended sanction of matrimony: the first was Mary Milliner; the second, Judith Nun, by whom he had a daughter; the third, Sarah Grigson, alias Perrin; the fourth, Elizabeth Man, who cohabited with him above five years; the fifth, whose real name is uncertain married some time after the death of Wild.

History cannot turnish an instance of such complicated villainy as was shewn in the character of Jonathan Wild, who possessed abilities, which, had they been properly cultivated, and directed into a right course, would have rendered him a respectable and useful member of society; but it is to be lamented, that the profligate turn of mind that distinguished him in the early part of his life, disposed him to adopt the maxims of the abandoned people with whom he became acquainted.

During his apprenticeship, Wild was observed to be fond of reading; but as his finances would not admit of his buying books, his studies were confined to such as casually fell in his way; and they unfortunately happened to contain those abominable doctrines to which thousands have owed the ruin both of their bodies and souls. In short, at an early period of life he imbibed the principles of Deism and Atheism; and the sentiments he thus early contracted, he strictly adhered to till nearly the period of his dissolution.

Voluminous writings were formerly beyond the purchase of persons in the inferior classes of life, but

the great encouragement that has of late years been given to the publication of weekly numbers, has so liberally diffused the streams of knowledge, that but few even of the lower ranks of mankind can be sensible of any impediment to the gratification of the desire of literary acquirements.

Wild trained up and instructed his dependants in the practice of villainy; and when they became the objects of his displeasure, he laboured with unrelenting assiduity to procure their deaths. Thus his temporal and private interest sought gratification at the expense of every religious and moral obligation. We must conceive it to be impossible for a man, acknowledging the existence of an Almighty Being, to implore his attention upon devising the means of corrupting his fellow-creatures, and cutting them off "even in the blossom of their sins;" but the Atheist, having nothing after this world either to hope or fear, is only careful to secure himself from detection; and the success of one iniquitous scheme naturally induces him to engage in others; and the latter actions are generally attended with circumstances of more aggravated guilt than the former.

There is a principle implanted in our nature that will exert itself when we are approaching to a state of dissolution, and impress our minds with a full confidence in the existence of an eternal God, who will reward or punish us according to our deserts or demerits. Thus it happened to the miserable subject of these pages; who, when he had relinquished the hope of surviving the sentence of the law, anxiously enquired into the meaning of several texts of scripture, and concerning the intermediate state of the soul. The horrors of his guilt rushed upon his conscience with such force, that reflection became intolerable: instead of repenting of his enormous crimes, he employed his last moments that were enlightened by reason in meditating the means of self-destruction.

EDWARD BURNWORTH, WILL. BLEWITT,
EMANUEL DICKENSON, THOS. BERRY,
JOHN LEGEE, JOHN HIGGS, and — MAR-
JORAM,

Another gang of Murderers and daring Robbers.

NOTWITHSTANDING Jonathan Wild, in the early career of his villainy, had been very active in bringing a number of thieves to condign punishment, yet London and its environs were never more infested with common depredators than about this time.

Burnworth and his gang seem to have risen to notoriety on the downfall of Wild; for about the time of his apprehension they were committing the most daring robberies; but they, however, did not survive him quite a single year.

The captain of this gang was born in Moorfields, London. His father was a painter, and placed his son Edward apprentice to a buckle-maker in Grub-street; in which situation he did not remain long, having given himself up to the company of loose and disorderly young men. His initiation into vicious habits took place at an infamous place of low diversion, called the Ring, near his father's place of residence, and where, it appears, he excelled in the vulgar art of cudgel-playing. He soon commenced pickpocket, and through the gradations in villainy which we have described, became a general thief. As a pickpocket, he frequented every public place in and near the city. He used to steal snuff-boxes, watches, handkerchiefs, pocket-books, &c. At length he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison, from which he found means to escape, and renewed his former occupation, but with more circumspection; usually lounging about the fields near London during the day-time, and returning to town at night in search of prey. He was a remarkable daring villain, and constantly carried

pistols about him, to aid him to make a readier escape in case of detection. Going into a public-house in the Old Bailey, the landlord told him that Quilt Arnold, one of Jonathan Wild's men, who had been seeking him some days, was then in the house. Hereupon Burnworth went backwards to a room where Arnold was sitting alone, and, presenting a pistol, upbraided him for endeavouring to injure his old acquaintance (Arnold having been a brother thief). Burnworth then called for a glass of brandy, and putting some gunpowder in it, compelled the other to drink it on his knees, and swear that he would never seek for him in future. He was once whipped at the cart's tail for a theft.

William Blewitt, another of this gang, was the son of poor parents near Cripplegate, who apprenticed him to a glover; but before he had served above three years of his time, he associated with ill company, and became a pickpocket and house-breaker. Having been apprehended and lodged in Newgate, he was tried for an offence, of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be transported for seven years; in consequence of which he was put on board a ship in the river, in company with other felons. Some of these had procured saws and files to be concealed in cakes of gingerbread; and by means of these instruments they hoped to effect their escape before the ship had sailed to any distance. Blewitt having discovered their intention, disclosed it to the captain of the vessel; who seized the implements, and gave Blewitt his liberty, as a reward for the information.* But he was no sooner at large, than he returned to his old practices; in consequence of which he was apprehended, and committed to Newgate. At the following sessions he was indicted for returning from transportation; and being convicted, received sentence of death: but he pleaded the service he had done, by preventing the

* This was assuming a power which was never given to any captain of a vessel.

escape of the prisoners in the river; on which he was reprieved till the return of the vessel from America: when his allegations being found to be true, he was pardoned, on the condition of transporting himself. This, however, he neglected to do; but got into the company of Burnworth, Berry, Legee, and Higgs, the three last having been thieves from their infancy.

At this time there was a gin-shop in the Mint, Southwark, kept by a man named Ball, whose character was similar to that of Jonathan Wild. Ball, who had been himself a thief, threatened that he would cause Burnworth to be taken into custody. The latter hearing of this circumstance, resolved on the murder of Ball, and engaged his accomplices in the execution of the plan.

Previous to this, while they were drinking at Islington, Burnworth proposed to break open and rob the house of a magistrate in Clerkenwell, who had distinguished himself by his diligence in causing thieves to be apprehended; and this robbery was proposed more from motives of revenge than of gain. They soon executed their design, and robbed the house of what they thought a large quantity of plate, which they carried to Copenhagen-House, at that time a public-house of ill fame; but, on examining the supposed treasure, they discovered that it was only brass covered with silver, on which they threw it into the New River. The following day, while they were carousing, one of their associates came and informed them that some peace-officers were waiting for them in Chick-lane, a place they greatly frequented. Thus informed, they kept in a body, and concealed their pistols and cutlasses under their clothes. On the approach of evening they ventured towards London, and having got as far as Turnmill-street, the keeper of Clerkenwell Bridewell happening to see them, called to Burnworth, and said he wanted to speak with him. Burnworth hesitated; but the other assuring him that he in-

tended no injury, and the thief being confident that his associates would not desert him, swore he did not regard the keeper, whom he advanced to meet with the pistol in his hand, the other rogues waiting on the opposite side of the street, armed with cutlasses and pistols. This singular spectacle attracting the attention of the populace, a considerable crowd soon gathered together; on which Burnworth joined his companions, who kept together, and facing the people, retired in a body, presenting their pistols, and swearing that they would fire on any one who should offer to molest them. Thus they retreated as far as Battle-bridge, and then making a circle round the fields, entered London by a different avenue, and going to Blackfriars, took a boat and crossed the Thames. Having landed at the Bankside, Southwark, they went to a place called the Music-house, which was at that time much frequented by people of dissolute characters. Here they continued drinking some time, and then went into St. George's-fields, where Burnworth re-proposed the murder of Ball, on account of the threat that he had issued. All the company readily agreed, except Higgs, who said he would have no concern in murder; however, the others forced him with them: it was dark when they arrived at Ball's house, and Higgs waited at the door while the rest went in. Ball's wife told them that he was at an alehouse in the neighbourhood, but she would go and call him, which she accordingly did. Ball had no sooner got to the door of his own house, than Burnworth seized him, and dragged him in, reproaching him with treachery, in intending to betray his old acquaintance. As these desperadoes were armed with pistols, Ball trembled with just apprehension for his life, and dropped on his knees, earnestly entreated that they would not murder him; but Burnworth, swearing that he should never obtain the reward for betraying him, shot him on the spot, while thus begging for his life.

The murder was no sooner perpetrated than they all sailed forth into the street; when Blewitt, supposing that the report of the pistol might alarm the neighbours, fired another into the air, saying, "We are now safe in town, and there is no fear of rogues;" thereby intimating that they had come out of the country whither they had taken pistols for their protection.

Higgs had left his companions as soon as the murder was committed; but on their way to the Falcon Stairs, where they intended to take a boat, they met with him again, when Burnworth proposed to murder him as they had done Ball; but Marjoram, an old acquaintance, whom they had just met, interceded for his life, which was granted, on condition that for the future, he should behave with greater courage. They now crossed the Thames, and went to the Boar's-head tavern, in Smithfield, where not being known, they were under no apprehension of detection. Here they remained till ten at night, and then parted in different gangs, to commit separate robberies. Some days after this, Dickenson, Berry, and Blewitt, having obtained a large booty, went to Harwich, and sailed in the packet-boat to Holland.

In the meantime, Higgs went to Portsmouth, and entered on board the Monmouth man of war; but his brother happening to meet the mate of a ship in London, gave him a letter to deliver to him. The mate going accidentally into a public-house in Smithfield, heard the name of Higgs mentioned by some people who were talking of the murder, among whom was a watchman, whom the mate told that he had a letter to carry to one Higgs. On this the watchman went to the under secretary of state, and mentioned what he had heard and suspected. Hereupon the watchman, and two of the king's messengers, being dispatched to Portsmouth, Higgs was taken into custody, brought to London, and committed to Newgate. Still Burnworth, and the rest

of his associates, continued to defy the laws in the most open manner. Having stopped the earl of Harborough's chair, during broad day-light in Piccadilly, one of the chairmen pulled out a pole of the chair and knocked down one of the villains, while the earl came out, drew his sword, and put the rest to flight: but not before they had raised their wounded companion, whom they took off with them.

The number of daring robberies which were now daily committed were so alarming, that the king issued a proclamation for apprehending the offenders, and a pardon was offered to any one who would impeach his accomplices, except Burnworth, who was justly considered as the principal of the gang.

Marjoram happened to be drinking at a public house in Whitecross-street one night, when a gentleman went in and read the royal proclamation. The company present knew nothing of Marjoram; but he apprehending that some of his accomplices would become an evidence if he did not, applied to a constable in Smithfield, and desired him to take him before the Lord Mayor. By this time the evening was far advanced, on which Marjoram was lodged in the Compter for that night, and being taken to Guildhall the next day, he discovered all the circumstances that he knew; and informing the Lord Mayor that Legee lodged in Whitecross-street, he was almost immediately apprehended, and committed to Newgate the same day.

The circumstance of Marjoram having turned evidence being now the public topic, John Barton, a fellow who had been sometime connected with Burnworth and his gang, provided a loaded pistol, and placing himself near Goldsmith's-hall, took an opportunity when the officers were conducting Marjoram before the Lord Mayor to fire at him; but Marjoram observing him advancing, stooped down, so that the ball grazed his back only. The sudden

ness of this action, and the surprise it occasioned, gave Barton an opportunity of effecting his escape.

About this time one Wilson, who had likewise belonged to the gang, quitted London, but being apprehended about two years afterwards, he was hanged at Kingston in Surrey.

In the meantime, Burnworth continued at large, committing depredations on the public, and appearing openly in the streets, notwithstanding the proclamation issued to apprehend him. He broke open the house of a distiller in Clare-market, and carried off a great number of bank-notes; in consequence of which another proclamation was issued, and three hundred pounds were offered for taking him into custody; notwithstanding he still appeared at large, and gave the following, among other proofs of his audacity. Sitting down at the door of a public-house in Holborn, where he was well known, he called for a pint of beer and drank it, holding a pistol in his hand, by way of protection; he then paid for his beer and went off with the greatest apparent unconcern.

At this time he kept company with two infamous women, one of whom was the wife of a man named Leonard, who having belonged to the gang, thought to recommend himself to mercy, by the apprehension of Burnworth. Having told his wife what he intended, she informed some magistrates of the proposed plan, and they sent six men to assist in carrying it into execution. Shrove Tuesday being the day appointed, the men waited at a public-house till they should receive a hint to proceed. About six in the evening Burnworth went to the lodgings of the women, to which there was a back-door that opened into a yard. It was proposed to have pancakes for supper, and while one of the women was frying them, the other went to the public-house for some beer, and on her return pretended to bolt the door, but designedly missed the staple; at that

moment six men rushed in and seized Burnworth before he had time to make any resistance, though he had a pistol in the pocket of his great coat. Being carried before three magistrates, he was committed to Newgate; but his accomplices were so infamously daring, as to attempt the murder of the woman who had occasioned his apprehension; a pistol was fired at her as she was entering the door of her own house, which being communicated to the magistrates, constables were appointed to watch nightly for her protection, till the desperadoes gave over their attempts.

Burnworth, while in Newgate, projected the following scheme of escape: having been furnished with an iron crow, he engaged some of the prisoners, who assisted him in pulling stones out of the wall, while others sung psalms, that the keepers might not hear what they were doing.

On the day following this transaction, which was carried on during the night, five condemned criminals were to be executed; but when the gaolers came to take them out, there was such an immense quantity of stones and rubbish to remove, that it was two o'clock in the afternoon, before the criminals could be got out of their cells.

This scheme of Burnworth occasioned his closer confinement. He was removed into a room, known by the name of the bilboes, and loaded with a pair of the heaviest irons in the prison; but he intended to have made his escape even from this place; and being furnished with files and saws from some of his acquaintance, he worked his way through a wall into a room in which were some women prisoners, one of whom acquainting the keeper with what had happened, Burnworth was chained to the floor of the condemned hold.

Application was made to the secretary of state, to take measures for the apprehension of Berry, Dickenson, and Blewitt, who had gone over to Holland; and hereupon instructions were sent to the English

ambassador at the Hague, empowering him to request of the States General, that the offenders might be delivered up to justice, if found any where within their jurisdiction.

The ambassador, on receiving the necessary instructions, made the application, and orders were issued accordingly, in consequence of which Blewitt was apprehended in Rotterdam, but Dickenson and Berry had taken refuge on board a ship at the Brill. Blewitt was lodged in the state-house prison, and then the officers who took him went immediately on board the ship and seized his two accomplices, whom they brought to the same place of confinement. They were chained to the floor till the English ambassador requested permission to send them home, which being readily obtained, they were guarded to the packet-boat by a party of soldiers, and were chained together as soon as they were put on board. When they reached the Nore, they were met by two of the king's messengers who conducted them up the river. On the arrival of the vessel, they were put into a boat opposite the Tower, which was guarded by three other boats, in each of which was a corporal and several soldiers. In this manner they were conducted to Westminster, where they were examined by two magistrates, who committed them to Newgate, to which they were escorted by a party of the foot-guards.

On sight of Burnworth, they seemed to pity his situation, while he, in a hardened manner, expressed his happiness at their safe arrival from Holland. On the approach of the ensuing assizes for the county of Surrey, they were handcuffed, put into a waggon, and in this manner a party of dragoons conducted them to Kingston.

Their insolence on leaving Newgate was unparalleled,—they told the spectators that it would become them to treat gentlemen of their profession with respect, especially as they were going a journey; and likewise said to the dragoons, that they

expected to be protected from injury on the road ; and during their journey they behaved with great indifference, throwing money among the populace, and diverting themselves by seeing them scramble for it.

A boy having picked up a halfpenny, one of a handful which Blewitt had thrown among the people, told him that he would keep that halfpenny, and have his name engraved on it, as sure as he would be hanged at Kingston, on which Blewitt gave him a shilling to pay the expense of engraving, and enjoined him to keep his promise, which, it is affirmed, the boy actually did.

On their arrival at Kingston, they were put in the prison called the Stockhouse, where they were chained to the floor ; and on the following day, bills of indictment were found against them. They were brought up for trial before Lord Chief Justice Raymond and Judge Denton, but some articles having been taken from Burnworth when he was apprehended, he refused to plead, unless they were restored to him. The judges made use of every argument to prevail on him to plead, but in vain ; in consequence of which sentence was passed that he should be pressed to death. Hereupon he was taken back to the Stockhouse, where he bore the weight of one hundred, three quarters, and two pounds, on his breast.

The high-sheriff, who attended him on this occasion, used every argument to prevail on him to plead, to which he consented, after bearing the weight an hour and three minutes, during great part of which time he endeavoured to kill himself by striking his head against the floor.

Being brought into court, he was tried and convicted with his companions. They were no sooner convicted, than orders were given for their being chained to the floor, but even then (so hardened were they in sin, and so little were they affected by their awful situation,) they diverted themselves by

recounting some particulars of their robberies, to such persons whose curiosity induced them to visit the gaol. Some people wished they would leave an account of their robberies, but Burnworth said the particulars could not be contained in an hundred sheets of paper. On passing sentence the learned judge most earnestly entreated them to prepare for another world, as their time in the present must necessarily be short. They begged that their friends might visit them; and this being complied with, files and saws were conveyed to them, to assist them in their escape.

Their plan was to have mixed opium in wine, to have made the keepers sleep; and if this had taken place, they then proposed to have set fire to some piles of wood near the prison, and in other parts of the town, and to get a considerable distance during the conflagration; but the keepers having listened to their discourse, they were more strictly guarded than before, and their whole scheme rendered abortive.

A short time before their execution Burnworth told one of the keepers, that, "If he did not see him buried in a decent manner, he would meet him after death in a dark entry, and pull off his nose."

When the day of execution arrived, the prisoners were put into a cart, and a company of foot soldiers escorted them to the fatal tree. On their way Blewitt saw a gentleman named Warwick, and having obtained permission to speak to him, most earnestly entreated his pardon for having attempted to shoot him, in consequence of an information which Mr. Warwick had given against him. Dickenson and Blewitt appeared more penitent than any of the rest. They wept bitterly at the place of execution, and said, they hoped their untimely fate would teach young men to avoid such courses as had brought them to their fatal end. They suffered April 12, 1726.

After execution, their bodies were brought to the

new gaol in Southwark, to be fitted with chains. The bodies of Burnworth and Blewitt were suspended on a gibbet in St. George's Fields, near where the murder was perpetrated. Legee and Higgs were hanged on Putney Common, and Berry and Dickenson on Kennington Common; but representation being made to the people in power, that Dickenson's father, when a lieutenant in the army, had died fighting for his country, in Flanders, permission was given to his friends to take down and bury the body, after he had hung one day. Marjoram, the evidence, obtained his liberty of course, when his accomplices were convicted; but in a few days afterwards he cut the string of a butcher's apron, and ran away with his steel.

Being pursued, he was apprehended, committed, and indicted for privately stealing, and being convicted, received sentence of death; but in consideration of his having been the means of bringing the abovementioned atrocious offenders to justice, the sentence of death was changed to that of transportation.

CATHARINE HAYES,

Burnt alive at Tyburn, May 9, 1726, for the Murder of her Husband.

THE dreadful crimes and severe punishment of this wicked, and consequently wretched woman, have, perhaps, never been exceeded and have seldom been equalled. The bare recital of them cannot fail to make a much deeper impression, than any reflections that could possibly be offered; we, therefore, present our readers with a simple but correct account of them.

Catharine Hayes, was the daughter of a poor man of the name of Hall, who lived near Birmingham. She remained with her parents till she was about

fifteen years old, and then, having a dispute with her mother, she left her home, and set out with a view of going to London. Her person being rather engaging, and some officers in the army meeting with her on the road, prevailed on her to accompany them to their quarters at Great Ombersley, in Worcestershire, where she remained with them a considerable time.

On being dismissed by these officers she strolled about the country, till arriving at the house of Mr. Hayes, a farmer in Warwickshire, the farmer's wife hired her as a servant. When she had continued a short time in this service, Mr. Hayes's son fell violently in love with her, and a private marriage took place, which was managed in the following manner: Catharine left the house early in the morning, and the younger Hayes, being a carpenter, prevailed on his mother to let him have some money to buy tools; but as soon as he had got it he set out, and meeting his sweetheart at a place they had agreed on, they went to Worcester, where the nuptial rites were celebrated.

At this time it happened that the officers, by whom she had been seduced, were at Worcester, and hearing of her marriage, they caused young Hayes to be taken out of bed from his wife, under pretence that he had enlisted in the army. Thus situated he was compelled to send an account of the whole transaction to his father, who, though offended with his son for the rash step he had taken, went to a magistrate, who attended him to Worcester, and demanded by what authority the young man was detained. The officers endeavoured to excuse their conduct: but the magistrate threatening to commit them to prison if they did not release him, the young fellow immediately obtained his liberty. The father, irritated at the imprudent conduct of his son, severely censured his proceedings, but considering that what had passed could not be

recalled, had good sense enough not to persevere in his opposition to an unavoidable event.

Mr. Hayes now furnished his son with money to begin business for himself; and the young couple were in a thriving way, and appeared to live in harmony; but Mrs. Hayes, being naturally of a restless disposition, prevailed on her husband to enlist for a soldier. The regiment in which he served being ordered to the Isle of Wight, Catharine followed him thither. He had not been long there before his father procured his discharge, which, as it happened in the time of war, was attended with an expense of 60*l*.

On the return of young Hayes and his wife the father gave them an estate of 10*l*. per annum, to which he afterwards added another of 16*l*. which, with the profit of their trade, would have been amply sufficient for their support. The husband bore the character of an honest, well disposed man; he treated his wife very indulgently, yet she constantly complained of the covetousness of his disposition; but he had much more reason to complain of her temper, for she was turbulent, quarrelsome, and perpetually exciting disputes among her neighbours.

The elder Mr. Hayes, observing with concern how unfortunately his son was matched, advised him to leave her, and settle in some place where she might not find him. Such, however, was his attachment to her, that he could not comply with this advice; and she had the power of persuading him to come to London, after they had been married about six years.

On their arrival in the metropolis Mr. Hayes took a house, part of which he let into lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal-trade, in which he was as successful as he could have wished. Exclusive of his profit by shop-keeping, he acquired a great deal of money by lending small sums on

pledges, for at this time the trade of pawnbroking was followed by any one at pleasure, it having been then subject to no regulation.

Mrs. Hayes's conduct in London, was still more reprehensible than it had been in the country. The chief pleasure of her life consisted in creating and encouraging quarrels among her neighbours; and, indeed, her unhappy disposition discovered itself on every occasion. Sometimes she would speak of her husband, to his acquaintance, in terms of great tenderness and respect; and at other times she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of every thing that was contemptible in human nature. On a particular occasion, she told a woman of her acquaintance, that she should think it no more sin to murder him than to kill a dog. At length her husband finding she made perpetual disturbances in the neighbourhood, thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham-court-road, where he carried on his former business; but not being as successful here as he could have wished, he took another house in Tyburn-road, since called Oxford-street. Here he continued his practice of lending small sums of money on pledges, till having acquired a decent competency, he left off housekeeping, and hired lodgings near the same spot.

Thomas Billings, a journeyman taylor, and a supposed son of Mrs. Hayes's, by her former connections, lodged in the house with Mrs. Hayes; and the husband having gone into the country on business, his wife and this man indulged themselves in every species of extravagance. On Hayes's return some of his neighbours told him how his wife had been wasting his substance, on which he severely censured her conduct, and a quarrel arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows. It was commonly thought that she formed the resolution of murdering him at this time, as the quarrel happened only six weeks before that dreadful event.

She now began to sound the disposition of Billings, to whom she said it was impossible for her to live any longer with her husband; and she urged all possible arguments to prevail on him to aid her in the commission of the murder, which Billings resisted for some time, but at length complied.

At this period, Thomas Wood, an acquaintance of Mr. Hayes, arrived from the country; and as he was apprehensive of being impressed, Hayes kindly took him into his house, and promised to use his interest in procuring him some employment. After a few days residence, Mrs. Hayes proposed to him the murder of her husband; but the man was shocked at the thought of destroying his friend and benefactor, and told her he would have no concern in so atrocious a deed. However, she artfully urged, that "he was an atheist, and it could be no crime to destroy a person who had no religion or goodness—that he was himself a murderer, having killed a man in the country, and likewise two of his own children, one of which he buried under a pear tree, and the other under an apple tree." She likewise said, that her husband's death would put her in possession of 1500*l.* of the whole of which Wood should have the disposal, if he would assist her and Billings in the perpetration of the murder.

Wood went out of town a few days after this, and on his return found Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and Billings in company together, having drank till they had put themselves into the utmost apparent good humour. Wood sitting down at Hayes's request, the latter said they had drank a guinea's worth of liquor, but notwithstanding this, he was not drunk. A proposal was now made by Billings, that if Hayes could drink six bottles of mountain without being drunk, he would pay for it; but that Hayes should be the paymaster if the liquor made him drunk, or if he failed of drinking the quantity.

This proposal being agreed to, Wood, Billings, and Mrs. Hayes, went to a wine-vault to buy the

wine, and on their way, this wicked woman reminded the men that the present would be a good opportunity of committing the murder, as her husband would be perfectly intoxicated. The mind of Wood was not yet wrought up to a proper pitch for the commission of a crime so atrocious as the murder of a man who had sheltered and protected him; and this too, at a time when his mind must necessarily be unprepared for his launching into eternity. Mrs. Hayes had therefore recourse to her former arguments, urging, that it would be no sin to kill him; and Billings seconded all she said, and declaring he was ready to take a part in the horrid deed, Wood was at length prevailed on to become one of the execrable butchers.

Thus agreed, they went to the wine-vault, where Mrs. Hayes paid half-a-guinea for six bottles of wine, which being sent home by a porter, Mr. Hayes began to drink it, while his intentional murderers regaled themselves with beer. When he had taken a considerable quantity of the wine, he danced about the room like a man distracted, and at length finished the whole quantity; but not being then in an absolute state of stupefaction, his wife sent for another bottle, which he likewise drank, and then fell senseless on the floor.

Having lain some time in this condition, he got, with much difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed. When he was asleep, his wife told her associates that now was the time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part. Accordingly Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently, that he fractured his skull.

At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow, made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and taking the hatchet out of Billings's hand, gave the poor man two more blows, which effectually dispatched him. A woman,

named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication; and going down stairs, she told Mrs. Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, her child, and herself. Catharine had a ready answer to this: she said, some company had visited them, and were grown merry, but they were on the point of taking their leave; with which answer Mrs. Springate returned to her room well satisfied.

The murderers then consulted on the best manner of disposing of the body, so as most effectually to prevent detection. Mrs. Hayes proposed to cut off the head, because if the body was found whole, it would be more likely to be known. The villains agreeing to this proposition, she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them going into the room, the men drew the body partly off the bed, when Billings supported the head, while Wood, with his pocket knife, cut it off; and the infamous woman held the pail to receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood.

This being done, they poured the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it; but notwithstanding all this care, Mrs. Springate observed some congealed blood the next morning; though at that time she did not in the least suspect what had passed. It was likewise observed, that the marks of the blood were visible on the floor for some weeks afterwards, though Mrs. Hayes had scraped it with a knife, and washed it.

When the head was cut off, this diabolical woman recommended the boiling it till the flesh should part from the bones; but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised the throwing it into the Thames, in ex-

pectation that it would be carried off by the tide and sink.

This agreed to, the head was put into the pail, and Billings took it under his great coat, being accompanied by Wood; but making a noise in going down stairs, Mrs. Springate called, and asked what was the matter; to which Mrs. Hayes answered, that her husband was going a journey, and with incredible dissimulation, she affected to take her leave of him, and as it was now past eleven, pretended great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour.

By this artifice Wood and Billings passed out of the house unnoticed, and went to Whitehall, where they intended to have thrown in the head; but the gates being shut, they went to a wharf near the horse-ferry, Westminster. Billings putting down the pail, Wood threw the head into the dock, expecting it would have been carried away by the stream; but at this time the tide was ebbing, and a lighterman, who was then in his vessel, heard something fall into the dock, but it was too dark for him to distinguish objects.

The murderers having thus disposed of the head, went home, and were let in by Mrs. Hayes, without the knowledge of the lodgers. On the following morning, soon after day-break, as a watchman, named Robinson, was going off his stand, he saw the pail, and looking into the dock, observed the head of a man. Having procured some witnesses to this spectacle, they took out the head, and observing the pail to be bloody, concluded that it was brought therein from some distant part.

The lighterman now said, that he had heard something thrown into the dock; and the magistrates and parish officers having assembled, gave strict orders that the most diligent search should be made after the body, which, however, was not found till some time afterwards; for when the murderers had conversed together on the disposal of the body

Mrs. Hayes had proposed that it should be put into a box and buried, and the other parties agreeing to this, she purchased a box, which on being sent home, was found too little to contain it; on which she recommended the chopping off the legs and arms, which was done; but the box being still too small, the thighs were likewise cut off, and all the parts packed up together, and the box put by till night, when Wood and Billings took out the pieces of the mangled body, and putting them into two blankets, carried them into a pond near Marybone; which being done, they returned to their lodgings, and Mrs. Springate, who had still no suspicion of what had passed, opened the door for them.

In the interim the magistrates directed that the head should be washed clean and the hair combed; after which it was put on a pole in the church-yard of St. Margaret, Westminster, that an opportunity might be afforded for its being viewed by the public. Orders were likewise given that the parish officers should attend this exhibition of the head, to take into custody any suspicious person who might discover signs of guilt on the sight of it. The high constable of Westminster, on a presumption that the body might on the following night be thrown where the head had been, gave private orders to the inferior constables, to attend during the night and stop all coaches, or other carriages, or persons with burdens, coming near the spot, and examine if they could find the body, or any of the limbs.

The head being exposed on the pole, so excited the curiosity of the public, that immense crowds of people, of all ranks, went to view it; and among the rest was a Mr. Bennet, apprentice to the king's organ-builder, who having looked at it with great attention, said, he thought it was the head of Hayes, with whom he had been some time acquainted; and hereupon he went to Mrs. Hayes, and telling her his suspicions, desired she would go and take a view of the head. In answer hereto she said, that her hus-

band was in good health, and desired him to be cautious of what he said, as such a declaration might occasion him a great deal of trouble, on which, for the present, Bennet took no farther notice of the affair.

A journeyman taylor, named Patrick, who worked in Monmouth-street, having likewise taken a view of the head, told his master, on his return, that he was confident it was the head of Hayes ; on which some other journeymen in the same shop, who had likewise known the deceased, went and saw it, and returned perfectly assured that it was so. As Billings worked at this very shop in Monmouth-street, one of these journeymen observed to him, that he must know the head, as he lodged in Hayes's house ; but Billings said he had left him well in bed when he came to work in the morning, and therefore it could not belong to him. On the following day Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a suit of clothes which belonged to her husband, and sent him to Harrow-on-the-Hill. As Wood was going down stairs with the bundle of clothes, Mrs. Springate asked him what he had got ; to which Mrs. Hayes readily replied, a suit of clothes he had borrowed of an acquaintance.

On the second day after the commission of the murder, Mrs. Hayes being visited by a Mr. Longmore, the former asked what was the news of the town ; when the latter said, that the public conversation was wholly engrossed by the head which was fixed in St. Margaret's church-yard. Hereupon Catharine exclaimed against the wickedness of the times, and said she had been told that the body of a murdered woman had been found in the fields that day.

Wood coming from Harrow-on-the-Hill on the following day, Catharine told him that the head was found, and giving him some other clothes that had belonged to her husband, and five shillings, said she would continue to supply him with money.

After the head had been exhibited four days, and no discovery made, a surgeon named Westbrook, was desired to put it in a glass of spirits to prevent its putrefying, and keep it for the farther inspection of all who chose to take a view of it, which was accordingly done.

Soon after this, Mrs. Hayes quitted her lodgings, and removed to the house of Mr. Jones a distiller, paying Mrs. Springate's rent also at the former lodgings, and taking her with her. Wood and Billings likewise removed with her, whom she continued to supply with money, and employed herself principally in collecting cash that had been owing to her late husband.

A sister of Mr. Hayes's, who lived in the country, having married a Mr. Davies, Hayes had lent Davies some money, for which he had taken his bond; which bond Catharine finding among Mr. Hayes's papers, she employed a person to write a letter in the name of the deceased, demanding ten pounds in part of payment, and threatening a prosecution in case of refusal. Mr. Hayes's mother being still living, and Davies unable to pay the money, he applied to the old gentlewoman for assistance, who agreed to pay the money on condition that the bond was sent into the country; and wrote to London, intimating her consent so to do, having no suspicion of the horrid transaction which had taken place.

In the meantime incredible numbers of people resorted to see the head, and among the rest a poor woman from Kingsland, whose husband had been absent from the very time that the murder was perpetrated. After a minute survey of the head, she believed it was that of her husband, though she could not be absolutely positive. However, her suspicions were so strong, that strict search was made after the body, on a presumption that the clothes might help her to ascertain it.

Mr. Hayes not being visible for a considerable

time, his friends could not help making enquiry after him. A Mr. Ashby, in particular, who had been on the most friendly terms with him, called on Mrs. Hayes, and demanded what was become of him. Catharine pretended to account for his absence by communicating the following intelligence, as a matter that must be kept profoundly secret:—

“Some time ago, (said she,) he happened to have a dispute with a man, and from words they came to blows, so that Mr. Hayes killed him. The wife of the deceased made up the affair, on Mr. Hayes’s promising to pay her a certain annual allowance; but he, not being able to make it good, she threatened to inform against him, on which he absconded.”

This method of accounting for the absence of his friend was by no means satisfactory to Mr. Ashby, who asked her, if the head that had been exposed on the pole, was that of the man who had been killed by her husband. She readily answered in the negative, adding, that the party had been buried entire; and that the widow had her husband’s bond for the payment of fifteen pounds a year. Ashby enquiring to what part of the world Mr. Hayes was gone, she said, to Portugal, in company with some gentlemen; but she had yet received no letter from him.

The whole of this story seemed highly improbable to Mr. Ashby, who went to a Mr. Longmore, a gentleman nearly related to Hayes, and it was agreed between them, that Mr. Longmore should call on Catharine, and have some conversation; but not let her know that Ashby had been with him, for they supposed that by comparing the two accounts together, they might form a very probable judgment of the matter of fact.

Accordingly, Longmore went to Catharine, and enquired after her husband. In answer to his questions, she said, she presumed Mr. Ashby had related the circumstance of his misfortune; but Long-

more replied, that he had not seen Ashby for a considerable time, and expressed his hope that her husband was not imprisoned for debt. "No, (she replied) it is much worse than that." "Why, (said Longmore) has he murdered any one?" To this she answered in the affirmative; and desired him to walk into another room, told him almost the same story as she had done to Mr. Ashby; but instead of saying he was gone to Portugal, said he was retired to Hertfordshire, and in fear of being attacked, had taken four pistols to defend himself.

It was now remarked by Mr. Longmore, that it was imprudent for him to travel thus armed, as he was liable to be taken up on suspicion of being a highwayman, and if such a circumstance should happen, he would find it no easy matter to procure a discharge. She allowed the justice of this remark, but said that Mr. Hayes commonly travelled in that manner. She likewise said that he was once taken into custody on suspicion of being a highwayman, and conducted to a magistrate, but a gentleman who was casually present happening to know him, gave bail for his appearance. To this Longmore observed, that the justice of peace must have exceeded his authority, for that the law required that two parties should bail a person charged on suspicion of having robbed on the highway.

In the course of conversation Mr. Longmore asked her what sum of money her husband had in his possession; to which she replied, that he had seventeen shillings in his pocket, and about twenty-six guineas sewed within the lining of his coat. She added, that Mrs. Springate knew the truth of all these circumstances, which had induced her to pay that woman's rent at the former lodgings and bring her away. Mrs. Springate having been interrogated by Longmore; averred the truth of all that Catharine had said, and added, that Mr. Hayes was a very cruel husband, having behaved with remarkable severity to his wife; but Mr. Longmore said this

must be false, for to his knowledge he was remarkably tender and indulgent to her.

Longmore went immediately to Mr. Ashby, and said that from the difference of the stories Catharine had told them, he had little doubt but that poor Hayes had been murdered. Hereupon they determined to go to Mr. Eaton, who was one of the life guards and nearly related to the deceased, and communicate their suspicions to him; but Eaton happening to be absent from home, they agreed to go again to Westminster and survey the head with more care and attention than they had hitherto done. On their arrival, the surgeon told them that a poor woman from Kingsland had in part owned the head as that of her husband, but she was not so absolutely certain as to swear that it was so, and that they were very welcome to take another view of it. This they did, and agreed in opinion that it was actually the head of Hayes. On their return therefore they called at Eaton's house, and took him with them to dine at Mr. Longmore's, where the subject of conversation ran naturally on the supposed discovery they had made.

A brother of Mr. Longmore coming in at this juncture listened to their conversation, and remarked, that they proposed that Mr. Eaton should go to Mrs. Hayes at the expiration of two or three days, and make enquiries after her husband similar to those which had been made by the other gentleman. To this Longmore's brother urged his objections, observing, that as they had reason to believe their suspicions so well founded, it would be ill policy to lose any time, since the murderers would certainly effect an escape if they should hear they were suspected; and as Wood and Billings were drinking with Mr. Hayes the last time he was seen, he advised that they should be immediately taken into custody. This advice appeared so reasonable, that all the parties agreed to follow it; and going soon after to Justice Lambert, they told him their suspicions and the reasons on which they were founded.

The magistrate immediately granted his warrant for the apprehension of Catharine Hayes, Thomas Wood, Thomas Billings, and Mary Springate, on suspicion of their having been guilty of the murder of John Hayes; and Mr. Lambert, anxious that there should be no failure in the execution of the warrant, determined to attend in person. Here-upon having procured the assistance of two officers of the life-guards, and taking with him the several gentlemen who had given the information, they went to Mr. Jones's the distiller (Mrs. Hayes's lodgings) about nine o'clock at night. As they were going up stairs without any ceremony, the distiller desired to know by what authority they made so free in his house; but Mr. Lambert informing him who he was, no further opposition was made to their proceedings.

The magistrate going to the door of Mrs. Hayes's room, rapped with his cane, on which she said, "Who is there?" and he commanded her to open the door immediately, or it should be broke open. To this she replied, that she would open it as soon as she had put on her clothes, and she did so in little more than a minute, when the justice ordered the parties present to take her into custody. At this time Billings was sitting on the side of the bed bare-legged; on which Mr. Lambert asked if they had been sleeping together; to which Catharine replied, "No;" and said that Billings had been mending his stockings. On this the justice observed, that "his sight must be extremely good, as there was neither fire nor candle in the room when they came to the door." Some of the parties remaining below to secure the prisoners, Mr. Longmore went up stairs with the justice and took Mrs. Springate into custody; and they were all conducted together to the house of Mr. Lambert.

This magistrate having examined the prisoners separately for a considerable time, and all of them positively persisting in their ignorance of any thing

respecting the murder, they were separately committed for re-examination on the following day, before Mr. Lambert and other magistrates. Mrs. Springate was sent to the Gate-house, Billings to New-prison, and Mrs. Hayes to Tothill-fields Bridewell.

When the peace officers, attended by Longmore, went the next day to fetch up Catharine to her examination, she earnestly desired to see the head; and it being thought prudent to grant her request, she was carried to the surgeon's; and, no sooner was the head shewed her than she exclaimed, "Oh! it is my dear husband's head! it is my dear husband's head!" She now took the glass in her arms and shed many tears while she embraced it. Mr. Westbrook told her that he would take the head out of the glass, that she might have a more perfect view of it, and be certain that it was the same. The surgeon doing as he had said, she seemed to be greatly affected, and having kissed it several times, she begged to be indulged with a lock of the hair; and on Mr. Westbrook expressing his apprehension that she had too much of his blood already, she fell into a fit; and on her recovery was conducted to Mr. Lambert's to take her examination with the other parties.

On the morning of this day, as a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields near Mary-le-bonne, they observed something lying in a ditch, and taking a nearer view of it, they found that it consisted of some of the parts of a human body. Shocked at the sight, the gentleman dispatched his servant to get assistance to investigate the affair farther; and some labouring men being procured, they dragged the pond, and found the other parts of the body wrapped in a blanket; but no head was to be found. A constable brought intelligence of this fact while Mrs. Hayes was under examination before the justices, a circumstance that contributed to strengthen the idea conceived of her guilt. Notwithstanding

this she still persisted in her innocence; but the magistrates paying no regard to her declarations, committed her to Newgate for trial. Wood being at this time out of town, it was thought prudent to defer the farther examination of Billings and Sprin-gate till he should be taken into custody. On the morning of the succeeding Sunday he came on horse-back to the house where Mrs. Hayes had lodged when the murder was committed; when he was told that she had removed to Mr. Jones's. Accordingly he rode thither and enquired for her; when the people knowing that he was one of the parties charged with the murder were disposed to take him into custody; however, their fear of his having pistols prevented their doing so; but unwilling that such an atrocious offender should escape, they told him that Mrs. Hayes was gone to the Green dragon in King-street on a visit, (which house was kept by Mr. Longmore,) and they sent a person with him to direct him to the place.

The brother of Longmore being at the door on his arrival, and knowing him well, pulled him from his horse, and accused him of being an accomplice in the murder. He was immediately delivered to the custody of some constables who conducted him to the house of Justice Lambert, before whom he underwent an examination; but refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell for farther examination. On his arrival at the prison he was informed that the body had been found; and not doubting but that the whole affair would come to light, he begged that he might be carried back to the justice's house. This being made known to Mr. Lambert, he sent for the assistance of two other magistrates, and the prisoner being brought up, he acknowledged the particulars of the murder and signed his confession. It is thought that he entertained some hope of being admitted an evidence; but as his surrender was not voluntary and as his accomplices were in custody, the magistrates

told him he must abide the verdict of a jury. This wretched man owned that since the perpetration of the crime, he had been terrified at the sight of every one he met, that he had not experienced a moment's peace, and that his mind had been distracted with the most violent agitations.

His commitment was made out for Newgate; but so exceedingly were the passions of the populace agitated on the occasion, that it was feared he would be torn to pieces by the mob; wherefore it was thought prudent to procure a guard of a serjeant and eight soldiers, who conducted him to prison with their bayonets fixed. A gentleman named Mercer, having visited Mrs. Hayes in Newgate the day before Wood was taken into custody, she desired he would go to Billings and urge him to confess the whole truth, as the proofs of their guilt was such, that no advantage could be expected from a farther denial of the fact. Accordingly the gentleman went to Billings, who, being carried before Justice Lambert, made a confession, agreeing in all its circumstances with that of Wood; and thereupon Mrs. Springate was set at liberty, as her innocence was evident from their concurrent testimony. Numbers of people now went to see Mrs. Hayes in Newgate; and on her being asked what could induce her to commit so atrocious a crime, she gave very different answers at different times; but frequently alleged that Mr. Hayes had been an unkind husband to her, a circumstance which was contradicted by the report of every person who knew the deceased.

In the history of this woman there is a strange mystery. She called Billings her son, and sometimes averred that he was really so; but he knew nothing of her being his mother, nor did her relations know any thing of the birth of such a child. To some people she would affirm he was the son of Mr. Hayes born after marriage: but his father having an aversion to him while an infant, he was put to nurse in

the country, and all farther care of him totally neglected on their coming to London. But this story is altogether incredible, because Hayes was not a man likely to have deserted his child to the frowns of fortune; and his parents had never heard of the birth of such a son.

Billings was equally incapable of giving a satisfactory account of his own origin. All he knew was, that he had lived with a country shoemaker who passed for his father, and had sent him to school, and then put him apprentice to a tailor. It is probable that she discovered him to be her son when she afterwards became acquainted with him in London; and as some persons who came from the same part of the kingdom, said that Billings was found in a basket near a farm-house, and supported at the expense of the parish, it may be presumed that he was dropped by his unnatural mother.

Thomas Wood was born near Ludlow in Shropshire, and brought up to the business of husbandry. He was so remarkable for his harmless and sober conduct when a boy, as to be very much esteemed by his neighbours. On the death of his father, his mother took a public-house for the support of her children, of whom this Thomas was the eldest, and he behaved so dutifully to his mother, that the loss of her husband was scarcely felt. He was equally diligent abroad and at home; for when the business of the house was insufficient to employ him he worked for the farmers, by which he greatly contributed to the support of the family. On attaining years of maturity he engaged himself as waiter at an inn in the country, from thence he removed to other inns, and in all his places preserved a fair character. At length he came to London; but being afraid of being impressed as already mentioned, obtained the protection of Mr. Hayes, who behaved in a very friendly manner to him, till the arts of a vile woman prevailed on him to imbrue his hands in the blood of his benefactor.

Billings and Wood having already made confessions, and being penetrated with the thought of the heinous nature of their offence, determined to plead guilty to the indictments against them; but Mrs. Hayes having made no confession, flattered herself there was a chance of her being acquitted, and therefore resolved to put herself on her trial, in which she was encouraged by some people that she met with in Newgate.

The indictment being opened, and the witnesses heard, the jury, fully convinced of the commission of the fact, found her guilty.

The prisoners being brought to the bar to receive sentence, Mrs. Hayes entreated that she might not be burnt, according to the then law for petty treason, alleging that she was not guilty, as she did not strike the fatal blow; but she was informed by the court, that the sentence awarded by the law could not be dispensed with. Billings and Wood urged, that having made so full and free a confession, they hoped they should not be hung in chains; but to this they received no answer.

After conviction, the behaviour of Wood was uncommonly penitent and devout; but while in the condemned hole, he was seized with a violent fever, and being attended by a clergyman, to assist him in his devotions, he confessed he was ready to suffer death, under every mark of ignominy, as some atonement for the atrocious crime he had committed; however, he died in prison, and thus defeated the final execution of the law.

At particular times Billings behaved with sincerity; but at others prevaricated much in his answers to the questions put to him. On the whole, however, he fully confessed his guilt, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and said no punishment could be adequate to the excess of the crime of which he had been guilty.

The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes, was somewhat si-

milar to her former conduct. Having an intention to destroy herself, she procured a phial of strong poison, which being casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, it burnt her lips; on which she broke the phial, and thereby frustrated the design. On the day of her death she received the sacrament, and was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution.

Billings was executed in the usual manner, and hung in chains, not far from the pond in which Mr. Hayes's body was found, in Mary-le-bone-fields.

When the wretched woman had finished her devotions, an iron chain was put round her body, with which she was fixed to a stake near the gallows. On these occasions, when women were burnt for petty treason, it was customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck, and pulled by the executioner, so that they were dead before the flames reached the body. But this woman was literally burnt alive; for the executioner letting go the rope sooner than usual, in consequence of the flames reaching his hands, the fire burnt fiercely round her, and the spectators beheld her pushing the faggots from her, while she rent the air with her cries and lamentations. Other faggots were instantly thrown on her; but she survived amidst the flames for a considerable time, and her body was not perfectly reduced to ashes in less than three hours.

MARGARET DIXON,

Murderer.

THE case of this criminal is remarkable on account of the extraordinary circumstance of her recovery after execution; doubts have arisen as to her being guilty of the unnatural and inhuman crime, with which she was charged; but this is certain, that

being condemned, she suffered the sentence of the law, and after having been suspended the usual time, was completely restored, and lived thirty years after that event.

She was the daughter of poor parents, who lived at Musselburgh, about five miles from Edinburgh, and who brought up their child in the practice of religious duties, having instructed her in such household business as was likely to suit her future situation in life. The village of Musselburgh, is almost entirely inhabited by gardeners, fishermen, and persons employed in making salt. The husbands having prepared the several articles for sale, the wives carry them to Edinburgh, and procure a subsistence by crying them through the streets of that city. When Margaret Dixon had attained years of maturity, she was married to a fisherman, by whom she had several children. But there being a want of seamen, her husband was impressed into the naval service; and during his absence from Scotland, his wife had an illicit connection with a man at Musselburgh, in consequence of which she became pregnant. At this time it was the law in Scotland, that a woman known to have been unchaste should sit in a distinguished place in the church, on three Sundays, to be publicly rebuked by the minister; and many poor infants have been destroyed, because the mother dreaded this public exposure, particularly as many Scotch ladies went to church to be witnesses of the frailty of a sister, who were never seen there on any other occasion.

The neighbours of Mrs. Dixon averred that she was with child; but this she constantly denied, though there was every appearance of it. At length, however, she was delivered of a child: but it is uncertain whether it was born alive or not.

Be this as it may, she was taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh. When her trial came on several witnesses deposed that she had been frequently pregnant; others proved that there were

signs of her having been delivered, and that a new-born infant had been found near the place of her residence

The jury giving credit to the evidence against her, brought in a verdict of guilty; in consequence of which she was doomed to die.

After her condemnation, she behaved in the most penitent manner, confessed that she had been guilty of many sins, and even owned that she had departed from the line of duty to her husband; but she constantly and steadily denied, that she had murdered her child, or even formed an idea of so horrid a crime. She owned that the fear of being exposed to the ridicule of her neighbours in the church had tempted her to deny that she was pregnant; and she said that being suddenly seized with the pains of child-birth, she was unable to procure the assistance of her neighbours; and that a state of insensibility ensued, so that it was impossible she should know what became of the infant.

At the place of execution her behaviour was consistent with her former declaration. She avowed her total innocence of the crime of which she was convicted, but confessed the sincerest sorrow for all her other sins.

After execution her body was cut down and delivered to her friends, who put it into a coffin, and sent it in a cart to be buried at her native place; but the weather being sultry, the persons who had the body in their care, stopped to drink at a village called Pepper-Mill, about two miles from Edinburgh. While they were refreshing themselves, one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and uncovering it, the woman immediately sat up, and most of the spectators ran off, with every sign of trepidation.

It happened that a person who was then drinking in the public-house, had recollection enough to bleed her, and in about an hour she was put to bed; and

by the following morning she was so far recovered as to be able to walk to her own house.

By the Scottish law, which is in part founded on that of the Romans, a person against whom the judgment of the court has been executed, can suffer no more in future, but is thenceforward totally exculpated; and it is likewise held, that the marriage is dissolved by the execution of the convicted party; which indeed is consistent with the ideas that common sense would form on such an occasion.

Mrs. Dixon, then being convicted and executed as abovementioned, the king's advocate could prosecute her no farther; but he filed a bill in the High Court of Justiciary against the sheriff, for omitting to fulfil the law. The husband of this revived convict married her publicly a few days after she was hanged! and she constantly denied that she had been guilty of the alleged crime. She was living as late as the year 1753. This singular transaction took place in the year 1728.

EDWARD BELLAMY,

Executed at Tyburn, March 27, 1728, for House-Breaking.

THIS malefactor was a native of London, and served his time to a taylor; but his apprenticeship was no sooner expired than he associated with some women of ill fame, and became a thief in order to support their extravagance. His commencement in the art of theft was with a number of young pick-pockets, and he soon became an adept in the profession. From this business they advanced a step further. They used to go three or four in company, to the shops of silversmiths in the evening, and while one of them cheapened some article of small

value, his companions used to secret something of greater. It was likewise a practice with them to walk the streets at night, and forcing up the windows of shops with a chissel, run off with any property that lay within their reach.

Having followed this infamous business about three years, he forged (an offence not then capital) a note, by which he defrauded a linen-draper of money to a considerable amount. Being taken into custody for this forgery, he was lodged in Newgate; but discharged without being brought to trial, his friends having found means to accommodate the matter with the injured party.

In a short time after he left Newgate, he formed a connection with Jonathan Wild, who used frequently to borrow money of a Mr. Wildgoose, who kept an inn in Smithfield; and Bellamy wishing to become acquainted with a man whom he thought he could make subservient to his interest, applied to Jonathan to recommend him to Wildgoose; but this the famous thief-taker absolutely refused.

Having often gone with messages and notes from Jonathan to Wildgoose, and being well acquainted with the hand-writing of the former, he forged a draft on the latter for ten guineas which Wildgoose paid without hesitation; and as soon as Bellamy had got the money, he omitted to pay his usual visits at Wild's office.

A few days after this transaction, Wild went to his acquaintance to borrow some money, when Wildgoose told him he had paid his draft for the above-mentioned sum, and producing the note, Jonathan could not be certain that it was not his own hand-writing, otherwise than by recollecting that he had never given such a draft. Wildgoose was unacquainted with Bellamy's name; but by the description of his person, Jonathan soon found who had committed the forgery, on which he ordered his myrmidons to be careful to apprehend the offender. Bellamy was soon found in a lodging in White-

friars, and Jonathan's men sent word to their master that they had him in custody, and begged he would give orders how they should dispose of him. In the interim, Bellamy, who expected no mercy from the old thief-taker, seized the advantage of the casual absence of his attendants from the room, fixed a rope to the bar of the window, and let himself into the street, though the room was three stories high.

He now entertained thoughts of accommodating the affair with Wild, imagining he should be treated with the utmost severity if he should be re-apprehended; but before he had proceeded in this negotiation, Wild's men seized him at a gin-shop in Chancery-lane, and sent to their master for instructions how to act. To this message Jonathan returned an answer, that they might give him his liberty, on the condition that he should come to the office, and adjust the business with himself.

Hereupon Bellamy was discharged; but knowing how dangerous it would be to affront Wild, he went the following morning to a public-house in the Old Bailey, where he sent for Jonathan to breakfast with him; and the latter sending for Wildgoose. Bellamy gave him a note for the money received, and no farther steps were taken in the affair.

As soon as this business was adjusted, Bellamy renewed his former plan of making depredations on the public, and committed an immense number of robberies. He and one of his gang having broken the sash of a silversmith's shop in Russel-court, Drury-lane, a person who lay under the counter fired a blunderbuss at them, which obliged them to decamp without their booty. This attempt failing, they went to the house of another silversmith, which they broke open, and finding the servant-maid sitting up for her master, they terrified her into silence, and carried off effects to a large amount.

Not long after this robbery, they broke open the shop of a grocer near Shoreditch, in the expectation

of finding cash to a great amount; but the proprietor having previously secured it, they got only about ten pounds of tea, and the loose money in the till.

Their next attempt was at the house of a hosier in Widegate-alley, from whose shop they carried off some goods of value, which they sold to the Jews on the following day.

From the shop of a silversmith in Bride-lane, they carried off plate to the amount of fifty pounds; and from the house of a haberdasher in Bishopsgate street, a load of various articles, the whole of which they disposed of to the Jews.

On another occasion, they broke open a tea shop near Gray's-Inn-lane; having removed the shutters, by cutting away part of them with chissels, they were going to lift up the sash, when a person from within hearing them, cried out thieves! on which they ran off without their booty.

Having broke into a tea-warehouse near Aldgate, they had packed up a valuable parcel of goods, when the maid servant came down stairs, undressed, and without a candle. Having gone into the yard, she returned, without knowing that they were in the house; but when she came into the shop, Bellamy seized her, and obliged her to lay on the floor, while they went off with their booty; and the same night they broke open the shop of a mercer in Bishopsgate-street, whence they carried off goods to a large amount.

Their next robbery was at the house of a grocer in Thames-street. The watchman passing by as they were packing up their booty, Bellamy seized him and obliged him to put out his candle, to prevent any alarm being given. Having kept him till they were ready to go off with their plunder, they took him to the side of the Thames, and threatened to throw him in, if he would not throw in his lantern and staff. It need not be said that the poor man was obliged to comply with their injunctions.

Soon after this they stole a large sum of money, and a quantity of goods, from the house of a grocer which they broke open in Aldersgate-street. A neighbour saw this robbery from his window, but was too much frightened to take any measures for the detection of the villains.

Their next exploit was at an old clothes-shop, kept by a woman in Shadwell, whence they carried off every valuable article; and after this they robbed the shop of a hosier in Coleman-street, and took away goods to the amount of seventy pounds, which the thieves divided into shares, and sold them to their old acquaintance the Jews.

They were disappointed in their next attempt, which was to break open the house of a linen-drapeer in Westminster: for some people coming up before they had completed their operations, they were obliged to decamp with precipitation.

On the evening after this transaction, observing the door of a shop shut in St. Clement's church-yard, they made it fast with a cord on the outside, and throwing up the sash, stole a very large number of silk handkerchiefs, while the woman in the shop made many fruitless attempts to open the door; and they stole a variety of plate, wearing apparel, and other effects, the same night, from two houses in Holborn.

Soon after this they stole goods to the amount of twenty pounds from a house which they broke open in Red Lion-street; and breaking open another the same night in Fulwood's-rents, obtained about an equal booty.

While they were thus rendering themselves the pests of society, they became intimate with an old woman who had opened an office near Leicester-fields, for the reception of stolen goods, something on the plan of that of Jonathan Wild. To this woman Bellamy and his companions used to sell much of their ill-gotten effects: but she having, on one

occasion, given a smaller price than they expected, Bellamy determined on a plan of revenge; in pursuance of which he went to her office with a small quantity of stolen plate; and while she was gone with it to a silversmith, he broke open her drawers, and carried off her cash to a large amount.

His next adventures were the breaking open of a house in Petticoat-lane, and another in Grocer's-alley in the Poultry, at both of which places he made large prizes: and soon afterwards he stopped a man near Houndsditch, and robbed him of his money.

At length he robbed a shop in Monmouth-street; but by this time he had rendered himself so conspicuous for his daring villanies, that a reward of 100*l.* was offered for the apprehending of him; in consequence of which he was taken, near the Seven Dials, on the following day, and committed to Newgate.

For this last fact he was tried, convicted, and received sentence. From this time till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he affected a cheerfulness of behaviour, and said, that he would be hung in his shroud. But the certainty that he should suffer, and the sight of his coffin, excited more serious ideas in his mind; and he received the sacrament a few days before his death, with evident marks of repentance for the many crimes of which he had been guilty. He was executed at Tyburn, and just before he was turned off made a speech to the surrounding multitude, in which he confessed his numerous offences, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence.

JOHN EVERETT,

Executed at Tyburn, February 20, 1729, for Highway Robbery,

WAS a native of Hitchen, in Herefordshire, and had been well educated, his father possessing 300*l.* per annum. He was apprenticed to a salesman; but running away from his master he entered into the army, and served in Flanders, where he behaved so well that he was promoted to the rank of serjeant. On the return of his regiment to England, he purchased his discharge, and repairing to London, bought the place of an officer in Whitechapel-court, in which he continued about seven years, but having given liberty to some persons whom he had arrested, one Charlesworth, a solicitor of that court, caused him to be discharged, and then sued him for the amount of the debts of the parties whom his inconsiderate good-nature had liberated. To evade imprisonment, Everett enlisted in lord Albemarle's company of foot-guards; soon after his engaging in the army, he fell into company with Richard Bird, with whom he had been formerly acquainted.

This Bird hinted, that great advantages might be acquired in a particular way, if Everett could be trusted; and the latter, anxious to know what the plan was, learnt that it was to go on the road; on which an agreement was immediately concluded. Hereupon they set out on their expedition, and robbed several stages in the counties adjacent to London, from which they obtained considerable booty, in jewels, money, and valuable effects.

Thus successful in their first exploits, they went to Hounslow-Heath, where they stopped two military officers, who were attended by servants armed with blunderbusses; but they obliged them to submit, and robbed them of their money and watches:

the watches were afterwards left, according to agreement, at a coffee-house near Charing Cross, and the thieves received twenty guineas for restoring them.

Soon after they stopped a gentleman in an open chaise, near Epsom. The gentleman drew his sword, and made several passes at them; yet they robbed him of his watch, two guineas, his sword, and some writings; but they returned the writings at the earnest request of the injured party.

They also made a practice of robbing the butchers and higglers on Epping Forest, on their way to London. One of these robberies was singular. Meeting with an old woman, a higgler, they searched the lining of a high-crowned hat, which she said had been her mother's, in which they found about three pounds; but returned her hat.

Soon after this they stopped a coach on Hounslow Heath, in which were two Quakers, who, calling them *sons of violence*, jumped out of the coach to oppose them; but their fellow-travellers making no resistance, and begging them to submit, all the parties were robbed of their money. Everett remarking that one of the Quakers wore a remarkable good wig, snatched it from his head, and gave him in return an old black tye, which he had purchased for half-a-crown, of a Chelsea pensioner. This sudden metamorphosis caused great mirth among the other company in the coach.

About ten days after this, he and his companion walked to Hillingdon Common, where, seeing two gentlemen on horseback, Everett stopped the foremost, and Bird the other, and robbed them of upwards of three guineas and their gold watches; they then cut the girths of the saddle, and secured the bride, to prevent a pursuit.

They now hastened to Brentford, where, understanding that they were followed, they got into the ferry to cross the Thames; and when they were three parts over, so that the river was fordable, they

gave the ferrymen ten shillings, and obliged them to throw their oars into the river. They then jumped overboard, and got on shore, while the spectators thought it was only a frolic, and the robbers got safe to London.

Some time after this, Everett was convicted of an attempt to commit a robbery on the highway, for which he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in New Prison, Clerkenwell. After some time, he was employed to act there as turnkey; and his conduct meeting with approbation, he remained in that station after the term of his imprisonment was expired; but the keeper dying he took a public-house in Turnmill-street.

He had not been long in this situation, when the new keeper who had been appointed, frequently called on him, and made him advantageous offers, on the condition of his re-assuming the office of turnkey. This he did; but when Everett had perfectly instructed him in the management of the prison, he dismissed him, without assigning any reason for so ungenerous a conduct.

Everett being now greatly in debt, and consequently obliged to remove within the rules of the Fleet prison, took a public-house in the Old Bailey. After which he took the Cock ale-house, in the same street, which he kept three years with reputation, when the warden of the Fleet persuaded him to keep the tap-house of the said prison.

While in this station, he was charged with being concerned with the keeper in some mal-practices, for which the House of Commons ordered him to be confined in Newgate; but he obtained his liberty at the end of the sessions, as no bill had been found against him. During his confinement, his brewer seized his stock of beer, to the amount of above 300*l*. which reduced him to circumstances of great distress; but he even now resolved on a life of industry, if he could have got employment; but his

character was such, that no person would engage him.

Thus distressed, he once more equipped himself for the highway, with a view, as he solemnly declared, after sentence of death, to raise only fifty pounds, as his brewer would have given him credit, if he could have possessed himself of that sum.

Having stopped a coach on the Hampstead-road, in which were a lady, her daughter, and a child about five years old, the child was so terrified at his presenting a pistol, that he withdrew it at the request of the lady, who gave him a guinea and some silver; and though he observed she had a watch and some gold rings, &c. he did not demand them. Some company riding up, he was followed to the end of Leather-lane, where he evaded the pursuit by turning into Hatton Garden, and going into the Globe tavern. Here he called for wine, and while he was drinking he saw his pursuers pass, on which he paid his reckoning, and slipped into a public-house in Holborn, where he again saw them pass. Thinking himself safe, he remained here a considerable time.

When he thought the pursuit was over, he called a coach at the end of Brook-street, and driving to Honey-lane market, purchased a duck for his supper, and a turkey for his Christmas dinner; he then went to his lodging in Newgate-market. On the following day, one Whitaker (called the boxing drover) circulated a report that Everett had committed a highway robbery; on which the latter loaded a brace of pistols, and vowed he would be revenged. He went to Islington in search of Whitaker, and visited several public-houses which he used to frequent; but not meeting with him, the perpetration of murder was happily prevented.

A woman in the neighbourhood of Newgate-market having buried her husband, who had left her enough to support herself and children with de-

cency; Everett repeatedly visited her, was received with too great marks of esteem, and assisted her in the dissipation of that money which should have provided for her family. The widow's son, jealous of this connection, remonstrated with his mother on the impropriety of her conduct, and told her it would end in her ruin. This made Everett and her more cautious in their meetings; but the son watched them with the utmost degree of vigilance and circumspection.

Having one evening observed them go into a tavern, he provided himself with a large and sharp knife, and entering the room where they were sitting, swore he would stab Everett to the heart; but the latter, by superiority of strength disarmed him. The young fellow was at length persuaded to sit down, when Everett assured him that he entertained the utmost respect both for himself and his mother; but the youth answered, that he was a liar, and the mutual destruction both of mother and children must follow their unlawful connection. As the lad grew warm, Everett affected great coolness and good-humour, and considered how he might most readily get rid of so unwelcome a guest; as he was unwilling so soon to part with the widow. At length he determined to make the young fellow drunk, and plied him with such a quantity of liquor that he fell fast asleep, in which condition he was left, while the other parties adjourned to a distant tavern, where they remained till morning, when Everett borrowed seven guineas of the widow, under pretence of paying her in a week.

Not long after this Everett was married to this very widow at Stepney church, by which he came into possession of money and plate to a considerable amount, and might have lived happily with her if he would have taken her advice; but the extravagance of his disposition led to his ruin. When he was in very low circumstances he casually met his old accomplice Bird, and joined with him in the

commission of a robbery in Essex. They were both taken and lodged in Chelmsford gaol; but Everett having turned evidence, the other was convicted and executed.

As soon as he obtained his liberty, he committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of London, the last of which was on a lady named Ellis, whom he stopped near Islington; but being taken into custody on the following day, he was tried, and capitally convicted.

He had been married to three wives, who all visited him after sentence of death. He was likewise visited by the son of the widow; but recollecting what had formerly passed between them, Everett would have stabbed him with a penknife, but was prevented by one of his wives; for which interposition he afterwards expressed the greatest happiness. What gave him most uneasiness was the crime of perjury, of which he had been guilty; with a view to take away the life of an innocent man.

One Picket, a cooper, having affronted him, he swore a robbery against him; but the jury not being satisfied with the evidence, the man was fortunately acquitted.

Mr. Nicholson, the then minister of Sepulchre's church, attended the prisoner while under sentence of death, and kindly exerted himself to convince him of the atrocious nature of his offences; but the numbers of people who visited him from motives of curiosity, took off his attention from his more important duties. However, he was at times serious, and would then advise his brethren in affliction to prepare for that death which now appeared unavoidable.

The gaol-distemper having seized him while in Newgate, a report was propagated that he had taken poison, but this was totally false. He wrote letters to some of his acquaintance, begging they would take warning by his unhappy fate, and avoid those steps which led him to his ruin.

At the place of execution he behaved in such a manner as induced the spectators to think that his penitence for his past crimes was unaffected.

JOHN GOW,

(CAPTAIN OF A NOTORIOUS GANG OF PIRATES,)

*Executed at Execution-Dock, Aug. 11, 1729, for
Piracy,*

WAS a native of one of the Orkney Islands, in the north of Scotland, and was instructed in maritime affairs, in which he became so expert, that he was appointed mate of a ship, in which he sailed on a voyage to Santa Cruz.

When the vessel was ready to weigh anchor from the place abovementioned, the merchants who had shipped goods on board her, came to pay a parting visit to the captain, and to give him their final instructions.

On this occasion, the captain, agreeable to custom, entertained his company under an awning on the quarter-deck; and while they were regaling, some of the sailors preferred a complaint of ill-treatment they pretended to have received, particularly with regard to short allowance.

The captain was irritated at so undeserved a charge, which seemed calculated to prejudice him in the opinion of his employers; but conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did not reply in anger, but only said, that there was a steward on board, who had the care of the provisions, and that all reasonable complaints should be redressed; on which the seamen retired, with apparent satisfaction.

The wind being fair, the captain directed his men

to weigh anchor as soon as the merchants had quit-
ted the vessel. It was observed that Paterson, one
of the complainants, was very dilatory in executing
his orders; on which the captain demanded why
he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails? to which
he made no direct answer; but was heard to mutter,
“As we eat, so shall we work.” The captain heard
this, but took no notice of it, as he was unwilling to
proceed to extremities.

The ship had no sooner sailed, than the captain
considered his situation as dangerous, on reflecting
that his conduct had been complained of, and his
orders disobeyed. Hereupon he consulted the mate,
and they agreed to deposit a number of small arms
in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case
of an attack. This precaution might have been ex-
tremely salutary, but that they spoke so loud, as to
be overheard by two of the conspirators who were
on the quarter-deck.

The captain likewise directed the mate to order
Gow, who was second-mate and gunner, to clean
the arms; a circumstance that must plainly insinuate
to the latter, that the conspiracy was at least
suspected.

Those who had overheard the conversation be-
tween the captain and mate, communicated the sub-
stance of it to Gow, and the other conspirators,
who thereupon resolved to carry the plan into im-
mediate execution. Gow, who had previously intended
to turn pirate, thought the present an admirable
opportunity, as there were several chests of money
on board the ship: wherefore he proposed to his
companions that they should immediately embark
in the enterprize; and they determined to murder
the captain, and seize the ship.

Half of the ship's company were regularly called
to prayers, in the great cabin, at eight o'clock in the
evening, while the other half were doing duty on
deck; and, after service, those who had been in the
cabin went to rest in their hammocks. The con-

trivance was to execute the plot at this juncture. Two of the conspirators only remained on duty; the rest being among those who retired to their hammocks.

Between nine and ten at night a kind of watchword was given, which was, "Who fires first?" On this some of the conspirators left their hammocks, and going to the cabins of the surgeon, chief-mate, and supercargo, they cut their throats while they were asleep.

The surgeon finding himself violently wounded, quitted his bed, and soon afterwards dropped on the floor and expired. The mate and supercargo held their hands on their throats, and going on the quarter-deck, solicited a momentary respite, to recommend their souls to heaven. But even this favour was denied; for the villains, who found their knives had failed to destroy them, dispatched them with pistols.

The captain hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it. The boatswain replied, that he did not know; but that he was apprehensive that some of the men had either fallen, or been thrown overboard. The captain hereupon went to look over the ship's side, on which two of the murderers followed, and tried to throw him into the sea; but he disengaged himself, and turned about to take a view of them; when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him: he now solicited mercy; but instead of granting it, the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger; and would have repeated his blow, but he had struck with such force, that he could not draw back the weapon.

At this instant Gow, who had been assisting in the murders between the decks, came on the quarter-deck, and fired a brace of balls into the captain's body, which put a period to his life.

The execrable villains concerned in this tragical affair having thrown all the dead bodies overboard,

Gow was unanimously appointed to the command of the ship.

Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy secreted themselves, some in the shrouds, some under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of sharing the fate of the captain and their murdered companions.

Gow now assembled his associates on the quarter-deck, appointed them their different stations on board; and it was agreed to commence pirates.

The new captain now directed that the men who had concealed themselves should be informed that no danger would happen to them, if they did not interfere to oppose the new government of the ship, but keep such stations as were assigned them. The men, whose terrors had taught them to expect immediate death, were glad to comply with these terms. But the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, appointed two men to attend with drawn cutlasses, to terrify the others into submission.

Gow and his companions now divided the most valuable effects of the cabin; and then ordering liquor to be brought on the quarter-deck, they consumed the night in drinking, while those unconnected with the conspiracy had the care of working the ship.

The ship's crew originally consisted of twenty-four men, of whom four had been murdered, and eight were conspirators; and before morning four of the other men had approved of the proceedings of the pirates: so that there were only eight remaining in opposition to the newly-usurped authority.

On the following day the new captain summoned these eight men to attend him; and telling them he was determined to go on a cruising voyage, said, that they should be well treated, if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He said that every man should fare in the same manner, and that good order and discipline was al-

that would be required. He said further, that the captain's inhumanity had produced the consequences which had happened; that those who had not been concerned in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill consequences from it; that they had only to discharge their duty as seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit.

To this address these unfortunate honest men made no kind of reply; and Gow interpreted their silence into an assent to measures which it was not in their power to oppose.

After this declaration of the will of the new captain, they were permitted to range the ship at their pleasure: but as some of them appeared to act very reluctantly, a strict eye was kept on their conduct; for as guilt is ever suspicious, the pirates were ever apprehensive of being brought to justice by means of some of these men.

A man named Williams now acted as lieutenant of the vessel; and being distinguished by the ferocity of his nature, he had an opportunity of exerting his cruelty, by beating the unhappy men: a privilege that he did not fail to exert with a degree of severity that must render his memory detestable.

The ship thus seized had been called the *George Galley*, but the pirates gave her the name of the *Revenge*; and having mounted several guns, they steered towards Spain and Portugal, in expectation of making a capture of wine, of which article they were greatly deficient.

They soon made prize of an English vessel, laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland to Cadiz; but having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men, who navigated the ship, which they sunk.

One of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel was named James Belvin, a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was by nature cruel, and by practice hardened in that cruelty. He said to Gow, that he was willing to

enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed to the practice of acts of barbarity. This man was thought a valuable acquisition to the crew as several of the others appeared to act from motives of fear rather than of inclination.

The next vessel taken by the pirates was a Scotch ship, bound for Italy, with pickled herrings. But this cargo, like the former, being of no use to them, they sunk the vessel, having first taken out the men, arms, ammunition, and stores.

After cruising eight or ten days, they saw a vessel about the size of their own, to which they gave chase. She hoisted French colours, and crouded all her sail in order to get clear of them; and, after a chase of three days and nights, they lost the French vessel in a fog.

Being distressed for water, they now steered towards the Madeira islands, of which they came in sight in two days; but not thinking it prudent to enter the harbour, they steered off and on for several days, in expectation of making prize of some Portuguese or Spanish vessel; but their expectations were frustrated.

Their distress increasing, they stood in for the harbour, and brought the ship to an anchor, but at a considerable distance from the shore. This being done, they sent seven men, well armed, in a boat, with instructions to board a ship, cut her cables, and bring her off; but if they failed in this, they were to attempt to make prize of wine and water, conveying it in the boats to the ships. But both these schemes were frustrated, since it was easily known, from the distance they lay at, that they were pirates.

When they had cruized off for some days, they found themselves in such distress, that it became absolutely necessary to seek immediate relief; on which they sailed to Port Santa, a Portuguese settlement, at the distance of about ten leagues.

On their arrival off this place, they sent their

boat on shore, with a present of salmon and herrings for the governor, and the name of a port to which they pretended to be bound. The persons sent on shore were civilly treated by the governor, who accompanied some of his friends on board the ship. Gow and his associates received the governor very politely, and entertained him and his company in the most hospitable manner; but the boat belonging to the pirates not coming on board with some provisions they had expected, and the governor and his attendants preparing to depart, Gow and his people threatened to take away their lives, unless they instantly furnished them with what they required.

The surprise of the Portuguese governor and his friends, on this occasion, is not to be expressed. They dreaded instant death; and, with every sign of extreme fear, solicited that their lives might be spared. Gow being peremptory in his demands, the governor sent a boat repeatedly on shore, till the pirates were furnished with such articles as they wanted.

This business being ended, the Portuguese were permitted to depart; and the pirates determined to steer towards the coast of Spain, where they soon arrived. After cruising a few days off Cape St. Vincent, they fell in with an English vessel, bound from the coast of Guinea to America, with slaves; but had been obliged to put into the port of Lisbon. However, it would have been of no use for them to have made capture of such a vessel; yet they did take it, and putting on board the captain and men they had heretofore taken, and taking out all the provisions, and some of the sails, they left the ship to proceed on her voyage.

Falling in with a French ship, laden with wine, oil, and fruit, they took out the lading, and gave the vessel to the Scotch captain, in return for the ship which they had sunk. The Scotchman was likewise presented with some valuable articles, and permitted to take his men to sail with him; all of

whom did so, except one, who continued with the pirates through choice.

The day previous to this affair they observed a French ship bearing down towards them, on which Gow ordered his people to lay to; but observing that the vessel mounted two and thirty guns, and seemed proportionably full of men, he assembled his people, and observed to them, that it would be madness in them to think of engaging so superior a force.

The crew in general were of Gow's opinion; but Williams the lieutenant said that Gow was a coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact is, that Gow possessed somewhat of calm courage, while Williams's impetuosity was of the most brutal kind. The latter, after behaving in the most abusive manner, demanded that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel; but Gow refusing to comply, the other presented his pistol to shoot him; but it only flashed in the pan.

This being observed by two of the pirates, named Winter and Patterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm, and the other in the belly. He dropped as soon as the pieces were discharged, and the other seamen thinking he was dead, were about to throw him overboard, when he suddenly sprang on his feet, jumped into the hold, and swore he would set fire to the powder-room; and as his pistol was yet loaded, there was every reason to think he would actually have done so, if he had not been instantly seized and his hands chained behind him, in which condition he was put among the French prisoners, who were terrified at the sight of him; for the savage ferocity and barbarity of his nature is not to be described; it being a common practice with him to beat the prisoners in the severest manner for his diversion (as he called 't,) and threaten to murder them.

No engagement happened with the French ship, which held on her way; and two days afterwards

the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt-fish, and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions and many of the stores, they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly-captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing, when they began to reflect in what manner that execrable villain Williams, should be disposed of.

At length it was determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn him over to the first English man of war he should meet with, that he should experience the justice due to his crimes ; and in the mean time to keep him in the strictest confinement.

The cruelty of Williams's disposition has been already mentioned, and the following is the most striking instance of it. Among the arguments used by Gow against engaging the French ship, one was, that they had already more prisoners than they had proper accommodation for, on which Williams proposed, that those in their possession might be brought up singly, their throats cut, and their bodies thrown overboard ; but Gow said there had been too much blood spilt already ; for this was too horrid a proposal for even pirates to consent to ; and few men, however wicked, who have committed murder, are so completely hardened as not to feel at times some remorse for it.

The fact is, that Williams would have been hanged at the yard-arm, if an opportunity had not offered of putting him on board the Bristol ship. When he learnt their intention respecting him, he earnestly besought a reconciliation ; but this being refused him, and he being brought on deck in irons, he begged to be thrown overboard, as he was certain of an ignominious death on his arrival in England ; but even this poor favour was denied him ; and his companions only wished him "a good voyage to the gallows."

When the captain of the Bristol ship reached the port of Lisbon, he delivered the prisoner on board an English man of war, which conveyed him to England, where he had afterwards the fate of being hanged with his companions, as we shall see in the sequel.

As soon as the Bristol ship had left them, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They were apprehensive, that as soon as intelligence of their proceedings reached Portugal, some ships would be sent in pursuit of them. Hereupon they called a kind of council, in which every one gave his opinion, as dictated by his hopes of profit, or by his fears.

Some of them advised going to the coast of Guinea, others to North America, and others again to the West Indies; but Gow proposed to sail to the Isles of Orkney, on the north of Scotland, where he said they might dispose of their effects, and retire, and live on the produce. To induce his people to comply with this proposal, Gow represented that they were much in want of water, and provisions of every kind; that their danger would be great, if they continued longer on the high seas; and, above all, that it was highly necessary for them to repair their ship, which they could not do with any degree of safety in a southern port.

He likewise said, that if any ships should be dispatched in quest of them, they would not think of searching for them in a northern latitude, so that their voyage that way would be safe; and, if they would follow his directions, much booty might be obtained by plundering the houses of the gentlemen residing near the sea-coast. The danger of alarming the country was objected to these proposals; but Gow said, that they should be able to dispatch all their business, and sail again, before such an event could happen.

Apparently convinced by this reasoning, they steered northward, and entering a bay of one of the

Orkney islands, Gow assembled his crew, and instructed them what tale they should tell to the country people, to prevent suspicion : and it is probable that they might, for the present, have escaped detection, if his instructions had been literally attended to.

These instructions were, to say they were bound from Cadiz to Stockholm, but contrary winds driving them past the Sound till it was filled with ice, they were under the necessity of putting in to clean their ship ; and that they would pay ready money for such articles as they stood in need of.

It happened that a smuggling-vessel lay at this time in the bay : it belonged to the Isle of Man ; and, being laden with brandy and wine from France, had come north-about, to steer clear of the custom-house cutters. In their present situation, Gow thought it prudent to exchange goods with the commander of the vessel ; though, in any other, he would hardly have been so ceremonious. A Swedish vessel entering the bay two days afterwards, Gow likewise exchanged some goods with the captain.

Now it was that the fate of the pirates seemed to be approaching ; for such of the men as had been forced into the service, began to think how they should effect their escape, and secure themselves, by becoming evidence against their dissolute companions.

When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow, who had been compelled to take part with the pirates, got away from the rest of the boat's-crew, and, after laying concealed some time at a farm-house, hired a person to shew him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, about twelve miles distant from the bay where the ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate ; said he had been forced into the service, and begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law, as the fear of death alone had induced him to be connected with the pirates.

Having given information of what he knew of their diabolical proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables, and other peace-officers, to call in the aid of the people to assist in bringing such villains to justice.

About this juncture ten of Gow's sailors, who had likewise taken an involuntary part with the pirates, seized the long-boat, and having made the main land of Scotland, coasted the country till they arrived at Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned on suspicion of being pirates.

Notwithstanding these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his own safety, that he did not immediately put to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of the gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions.

In pursuance of this resolution, he sent his boatswain, and ten armed men, to the house of a Mr. Honeyman, high-sheriff of the county; and the master being absent, the servants opened the door without suspicion. Nine of the gang went into the house to search for treasure, while the tenth was left to guard the door. The sight of men thus armed occasioned much terror to Mrs. Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, employed in the search of plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies.

Mrs. Honeyman running to the door, saw the man who stood guard there, whom she asked what could be the meaning of the outrage? to which he calmly replied, that they were pirates, and had come thither only to ransack the house. Recollecting that she had a considerable quantity of gold in a bag, she returned and put it in her lap, and ran by the man at the door, who had no other idea but that the wish to preserve her life occasioned her haste.

The boatswain missing this part of the expected treasure, declared that he would destroy the family writings; but this being overheard by Miss Honey-

man, she threw the writings out of the window, and jumping out after them, escaped unhurt, and carried them off. In the interim, the pirates seized the linen, plate, and other valuable articles, and then walked in triumph to their boat, compelling one of the servants to play before them on the bagpipes.

On the following day they weighed anchor; but on the evening of the same day came to an anchor near another island. Here the boatswain and some men were sent on shore in search of plunder, but did not obtain any. However, they met with two young women, whom they conveyed to the ship, where they detained them three days, and treated them in so shocking a manner, that one of them expired soon after they had put them on shore.

This atrocious offence was no sooner committed, than they sailed to an island called Calf Sound, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr. Fea, who had been an old school-fellow with Gow. This house was the rather pitched upon, as Gow supposed that Mr. Fea could not have heard of the transaction at Mr. Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken: though Fea could not oppose the pirates on that occasion, on account of the indisposition of his wife.

Mr. Fea's house was situated near the sea-shore: he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast; and these were by no means equal to a contest with the plunderers. It may not be improper to remark, that the tide runs so high among these islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger.

Gow, who had not boats to assist him in an emergency, and was unskilled in the navigation of those seas, made a blunder in turning into the bay of Calf Sound; for standing too near the point of a small island, called the Calf, the vessel was in the utmost danger of being run on shore. This little island was

merely a pasture for sheep belonging to Mr. Fea, who had at that time 600 feeding on it.

Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr. Fea, requesting that he would lend him another boat, to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out another anchor; and assuring him that he would not do the least injury to any individual.

As Gow's messenger did not see Mr. Fea's boat, the latter gave him an evasive answer; and, on the approach of night, ordered his servants to sink his own boat, and hide the sails and rigging.

While they were obeying this order, five of Gow's men came on shore in the boat, and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Fea's house. Hereupon the latter advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged that they would not enter the house, for that his wife was exceedingly ill; that the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her, and that the sight of them might probably deprive her of life. The boatswain replied, that they had no design to terrify Mrs. Fea, or any other person; but that the most rigorous treatment must be expected, if the use of the boat was denied them.

Mr. Fea represented how dangerous it would be for him to assist them, on account of the reports circulated to their discredit; but offered to entertain them at an adjacent alehouse; and they accepted the invitation, as they observed that he had no company. While they were drinking, Mr. Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boats, and when they had done so, to call him hastily out of the company, and inform him of it.

These orders were exactly complied with; and, when he had left the pirates, he directed six men, well armed, to station themselves behind a hedge, and if they observed him to come alone with the boatswain, instantly to seize him: but if he came

with all the five desperadoes, he would walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing without wounding himself.

After giving these orders, Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on the promise of their behaving peaceably, and said he would make them heartily welcome. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat; but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's company only, and would afterwards send for his companions.

This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, and walking with Mr. Fea till they came to the hedge where his men were concealed, he then seized him by the collar, while the others took him into custody before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his men; but Mr. Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, bound him hand and foot, and then left one of his own people to guard him, while himself and the rest went back to the public house.

There being two doors to the house, they went some to the one, and some to the other, and rushing in at once, they made prisoners of the other four men, before they had time to have recourse to their arms for defence.

The five pirates, being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village, and separately confined, and in the interim Mr. Fea sent messengers round the island, to acquaint the inhabitants with what had been done; to desire them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to, and steal them; and to request that no person would venture to row within reach of the pirates' guns.

On the following day the wind shifted to the north-west, and blew hard, on which the pirates conceived hopes of getting out to sea; but the person employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked, she turned

round, and the cable parting, the vessel was driven on Calf Island.

Reduced to this dilemma, without even a boat to assist in getting off the ship, Gow hung out a white flag, as an intimation that he was willing to treat on friendly terms ; but Mr. Fea, having now little doubt of securing the pirates, wrote to Gow, and told him he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him, that the whole country was alarmed, and that the most probable chance of securing his own life, would be by surrendering, and becoming an evidence against his accomplices.

Four armed men in an open boat carried this letter to Gow, who sent for answer that he would give goods to the value of a thousand pounds to be assisted in his escape ; but if this should be refused, he would set fire to the ship, rather than become a prisoner. He even said that he would trust to the mercy of the waves, if Mr. Fea would indulge him with a boat.

On reading this letter, Fea determined to persuade him to submit, and therefore took four men well armed, in a boat, and rowed towards the ship ; but previously placed a man with a flag in his hand at the top of his house, to make such signals as might be proper to prevent his falling a sacrifice to any artifice of the pirates.

The instructions given to the servant were, that he should wave the flag once, if he saw one of the pirates swim towards the shore ; but if he beheld four or more of them, he should wave it constantly till his master got out of danger. Mr. Fea, rowing forwards, spoke through a trumpet, asking Gow to come on shore, and talk with him, which the latter said he would. Hereupon Fea lay to, in waiting for him ; but at this juncture he saw a man swimming from the ship, with a white flag in his hand, on which the man on the house waved his flag : but soon afterwards he was observed to wave it conti-

nually, on which Mr. Fea's boat retired, and those in her presently saw five more of the pirates swimming towards them; but they returned to the ship as soon as they saw the others were aware of the artifice.

The first pirate, who carried the white flag, now retired to a corner of the island, and calling to Mr. Fea, told him that "the captain had sent him a bottle of brandy." Fea replied that he hoped to see Gow hanged, and that he was inclined to shoot the messenger for his insolence; on which the fellow decamped with great precipitation.

Soon after this Gow wrote a most humble letter to Mrs. Fea, imploring her interference in his behalf; and though she had determined not to interest herself in his favour, yet he resolved to go on shore; and taking a white flag in his hand, he made signals for a parley; on which Mr. Fea sent some armed men to seize him living or dead.

On their meeting, Gow insisted that one of the men should be left as a hostage; this circumstance being seen by Mr. Fea, from the windows of his house, he sailed over to the island, where he reprimanded his people for delivering the hostage; and likewise told Gow that he was his prisoner. Gow replied, that could not be, since a hostage had been delivered for him.

To this Mr. Fea replied, that he had issued no orders for delivering the hostage, and that the man who had foolishly engaged himself as such, must submit to the consequence; but he advised Gow, for his own sake, to make signals, that the man might obtain his liberty. This Gow refused to do; but Fea made signals which deceived the pirates, two of whom came on shore with the man, and were instantly taken into custody. Gow was now disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging to be shot with his sword in his possession.

The leader of the gang being thus secured, Mr.

Fea had recourse to stratagem to get all the rest into his power. He now compelled Gow to make signals for some of them to come on shore, which they readily did, and were apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived.

Fea now insinuated to Gow, that he would let him have a boat to escape, if he would send for his carpenter to repair it, and to bring with him two or three hands to assist him: Gow complied; the men came off, and were severally seized; but as there were other people still on board, Mr. Fea had recourse to the following contrivances to get them into his possession. He directed his own servants to provide hammers, nails, &c. and make a pretence of repairing the boat; and while this was doing, told Gow to send for his men, since he must have possession of the ship before he would deliver up the boat.

The pirates, on receiving their late captain's orders to come on shore, were very doubtful how to act; but, after a short debate, and having no officers to command them, they shared what money they possessed, and coming on shore, were all taken into custody. :

Thus by an equal exertion of courage, conduct, and artifice, did Mr. Fea secure these dangerous men, twenty eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded; and only with the aid of a few countrymen; a force apparently very insufficient to the accomplishment of such a business.

When all the prisoners were properly secured, Mr. Fea sent an express to Edinburgh, requesting that proper persons might be sent to conduct them to that city. In the interim, Mr. Fea took an inventory of all the effects in the ship, to be appropriated as the government might direct.

Six articles, of which the following are a copy, were found on board the ship, in Gow's handwriting. It is conjectured, that while they were entangled among the rocks of the Orkney Islands,

these articles were hastily drawn up, and arose from their distressed situation.

I. That every man shall obey his commander in all respects, as if the ship was his own, and as if he received monthly wages.

II. That no man shall give, or dispose of, the ship's provisions ; but every one shall have an equal share.

III. That no man shall open, or declare to any person or persons, who they are, or what designs they are upon ; and any persons so offending shall be punished with immediate death.

IV. That no man shall go on shore till the ship is off the ground, and in readiness to put to sea.

V. That every man shall keep his watch right and day ; and at the hour of eight in the evening every one shall retire from gaming and drinking, in order to attend his respective station.

VI. Every person who shall offend against any of these articles shall be punished with death, or in such other manner as the ship's company shall think proper.

The express from Mr. Fea being arrived at Edinburgh, another was forwarded to London, to learn the royal pleasure respecting the disposal of the pirates ; and the answer brought was, that the Lord Justice Clerk should immediately send them to London, in order to their being tried by a court of admiralty, to be held for that purpose.

When these orders reached Edinburgh, a guard of soldiers marched to fetch them to that city ; and on their arrival, they were put on board the Greyhound frigate, which immediately sailed for the Thames.

On their arrival in the river a detachment of the guards from the Tower attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshalsea prison, where they once more saw lieutenant Williams, who had been conveyed to England by the man of war which received him from the Bristol captain, at Lisbon, as

above mentioned. This Williams, though certain of coming to an ignominious end, took a malignant pleasure in seeing his companions in like circumstances of calamity.

A commission was now made out for their trial; and soon after their commitment, they underwent separate examinations before the judge of the Admiralty Court, in Doctors' Commons, when five of them, who appeared to be less guilty than the rest, were admitted evidences against their accomplices.

Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey, when Gow, Williams, and six others, were convicted, and received sentence of death; but the rest were acquitted, as it seemed evident that they had been compelled to take part with the pirates.

The behaviour of Gow, from his first commitment, was reserved and morose. He considered himself as an assured victim to the justice of the laws, nor entertained any hope of being admitted an evidence, as Mr. Fea had hinted to him that he might be.

When brought to trial he refused to plead, in consequence of which he was sentenced to be pressed to death in the usual manner. His reason for this refusal was, that he had an estate which he wished might descend to a relation, and which would have been the case had he died under the pressure.

But when the proper officers were about to inflict this punishment, he begged to be taken again to the bar to plead, of which the judge being informed, humanely granted his request; and the consequence was that he was convicted, as abovementioned, on the same evidence as his accomplices.

While under sentence of death, he was visited by some Presbyterian ministers, who laboured to convince him of the atrociousness of his crime; but he seemed deaf to all their admonitions and exhortations.

Williams's depravity of mind exceeds all descrip-

tion. He seemed equally insensible to the hope of happiness, or the fear of torment in a future state. He boasted, to those who visited him, of his constantly advising Gow "to tie the prisoners back to back, and throw them into the sea," to prevent their giving evidence against them.

Gow, Williams, and six of their accomplices, were executed together.

A remarkable circumstance happened to Gow at the place of execution. His friends, anxious to put him out of his pain, pulled his legs so forcibly that the rope broke and he dropped down; on which he was again taken up to the gibbet, and when he was dead, was hung in chains on the banks of the Thames.

WILLIAM SMITH,

*A notorious Horse-Stealer, executed at Chelmsford,
April 13, 1731.*

IN the former part of the last century, horse stealing was a very common theft. Thieves could then dispose of their stolen booty with much more facility than at present; the laws being better maintained and carried into execution than formerly.

The subject of the present enquiry was not only a horse, but a cattle-stealer of every description. Smith was born in Cambridge, bred a clothier, had been a soldier, then degraded to the post of footman to a private family; and from that lazy, saucy kind of life, became connected with horse-stealers. Owing to his person, not yet known in the scenes of their depredations, he for some time acted as the receiver of the gang. He returned some of the stolen property for the reward offered, cut out or altered the marks of others, and drove the remainder to a distance for sale. From a rich farmer in Essex, he stole four fine large colts, and gave them to a colo-

nel in the French service, hoping to be rewarded by a commission in his regiment; but Monsieur, though he liked the young horses, despised the thief; and Smith found that he had been outwitted. In revenge, he defrauded a farmer of six horses, pretending to purchase them.

Becoming now known in Essex, he changed his depredations to Surrey, and soon cheated a farmer's widow of two cows. Having next stolen a horse and a mare, he was about to drive the whole off for sale, when, on the 27th of May, 1731, he was apprehended. The cows were found yoked together, and tied to the horses' tails! and he was in the very act of cutting off the ears of the former, in order to deface them, having already altered the marks of the horses.

He was tried for the offences committed in Essex, at Chelmsford, and found guilty of felony, in horse-stealing. In the interim between his condemnation and execution, he gave out that he could inform persons how to recover their property of which he had robbed them, and cheated many out of sums of money by false tales, and other deceitful acts; the produce of this shocking depravity he wasted in drinking and gaming, which shameful practice he continued to the day of his execution. He suffered at Chelmsford, along with Thomas Willer, another horse-stealer, on the 13th of August, 1731.

At the next assize for the same county another horse-stealer was convicted and executed. This man's name was *John Doe*, against whom *thirty-nine* bills of indictment were found by the grand jury! He belonged to a numerous gang of depredators, who stole cattle of every description, and drove them to Smithfield-market, where he had the effrontery to sell them.

ROBERT HALLAM,

Executed at Tyburn, Feb. 14, 1732, for Murder,

WAS a native of London, and intended by his parents for a maritime life, in preparation for which they had him instructed in navigation, and then apprenticed him to the captain of a trading vessel. He served his time with fidelity, acquired the character of an able seaman, and afterwards served on board several vessels as a mate, and was held in great reputation.

On his return to London, he married a young woman, who being averse to his going again to sea, he purchased two of the Gravesend wherries, and continued to get his living on the Thames nine years.

His family being increased by several children, he took a public-house, which was chiefly attended by his wife, while he still pursued his business as proprietor of the Gravesend boats.

The taking an alehouse was an unfortunate circumstance for Hallam: for the house being frequented by the lowest of the people, and his wife being addicted to drinking, the place was a perpetual scene of riot and confusion.

Hallam returning from his business one evening, found his wife intoxicated; and being irritated by this circumstance, he expressed his sentiments with great freedom; and she replying with some warmth, he beat her so as to leave evident marks of his resentment on her face.

Hallam's son now told his father, that a waterman who lodged in the house frequently slept with his mother; and some person present likewise hinting that this was probable, from some familiarities they had observed between the woman and the waterman, Hallam charged his wife with being unfaithful to his bed; and she confessed that she had

been so ; on which he beat her in a more severe manner than before.

Not long after this he came home late at night, and knocked at the door ; but no one coming to let him in, he procured a ladder to get in at the window ; when his wife appeared, and admitted him. On his asking the reason why she did not sooner open the door, she said she had been asleep, and did not hear him : but she afterwards confessed that she had a man with her, and had let him out at a back window before she opened the door to her husband.

The infidelity of Hallam's wife tempted him to equal indulgence of his irregular passions ; he had illicit connections with several women ; and, in particular, seduced the wife of a waterman, who broke his heart and died in consequence of the affair.

On a particular night Hallam came home very much in liquor, and went to bed, desiring his wife to undress herself, and come to bed likewise. She sat partly undressed on the side of the bed, as if afraid to go in ; while he became quite enraged at her paying no regard to what he said. At length she ran down stairs, where he followed her, and locked the street-door to prevent her going out. On this she ran up into the dining-room, whither he likewise followed her, and struck her several times. He then went into another room for his cane, and she locked him in.

Enraged at this, he broke open the door, and seizing her in his arms, threw her out of the window, with her head foremost, and her back to the ground, so that on her falling, her back was broken, her skull fractured, and she instantly expired. A person passing just before she fell, heard her cry out " Murder ! for God's sake ! for Christ's sake ! for our family's sake ! for our children's sake, don't murder me, don't throw me out of the window !"

The circumstances which we have related, were sworn to on the trial, in consequence of which the

jury found Hallam guilty, who received sentence of death; but denied the fact, insisting that she threw herself out of the window before he got into the room; and persisted in avowing his innocence to the last hour of his life.

After sentence of death, he was visited by his father, to whom he solemnly declared that he had not thrown his wife out of the window, though in other respects he confessed that he had treated her with great severity. He made the same solemn declaration to the ordinary of Newgate at Tyburn.

WILLIAM SHELTON,

Executed at Tyburn, October 9, 1732, for Highway Robbery,

WAS born of respectable parents near Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, and received a liberal education in the learned languages. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an apothecary at Enfield; but his master applied to his father to take him back at the end of two years, as his conduct was so irregular that he did not choose to have any further connection with him.

In consequence of this he was placed with an apothecary at Stoke Newington; and though he still kept gay company, he served six years with a fair character.

About this time he became violently enamoured of his mistress's sister, who was by no means insensible to his addresses. She lived in the family; but no person suspected their intimacy, till the mistress accidentally heard her sister freely represent to Shelton the disagreeable consequence that must arise from keeping bad company and late hours.

Shelton's master and his wife both disapproved of the intended match, on account of his keeping too

much gay company; and his own parents objected to it from the same reason, wishing him to acquire greater steadiness of mind before he married.

When his seven years were complete, he took leave of the young lady with professions of lasting love; and his father having supplied him with money, he engaged in business, and was for some time greatly successful; but his immoderate attachment to pleasure lost him much of his business and many of his friends.

He had not been long in trade before he became enamoured of a young lady, daughter of a widow in his neighbourhood; and having made an acquaintance with her unknown to her mother, he conveyed her out of a back window of the house, and married her at the Fleet. So soon had he forgot his vows to the former lady!

The father of the bride having been a citizen of London, her fortune had been deposited in the hands of the chamberlain, who readily paid it to the husband.

Shelton was still in considerable business; but his attachment to company was such that his expenses exceeded his income; so that he grew daily poorer; and his father dying about this time, left all his fortune to his widow, for her life; so that Shelton had nothing to expect till after the death of his mother.

He now made acquaintance with some people of abandoned character, and took to a habit of gaming, by which his circumstances became still more embarrassed, and he was obliged to decline business after he had followed it only two years.

Thus distressed, he entered as surgeon on board a ship bound to Antigua, and was received with such singular tokens of respect by the inhabitants of the island, that he resolved to settle there as a surgeon, and write to England for his wife to come over to him; but an unfortunate circumstance prevented the carrying this scheme into execution.

In the island of Antigua it is customary to exercise the militia weekly, when the officers on duty treat their brethren in rotation, and invite what company they please. Mr. Shelton being invited by Colonel Ker, the latter gave a generous treat, and urged his friends to drink freely. On the approach of night, some of them would have gone home; but the colonel prevailed on them to stay till the next day, hinting that it might be dangerous to meet some negroes who had quitted the plantation.

Shelton agreed, among others, to stay; but he had not been long in bed, when the liquor he had drank occasioned the most excruciating pain in his bowels. The next morning he took some medicines to abate the pain, and the end was answered for the present; but he determined to embark for England, as he thought he felt the symptoms of an approaching consumption.

Hereupon he sailed for his native country, and arrived to the surprise of his friends, who had been taught to expect that he would continue in Antigua. They, however, advised him to settle at Buntingford, in Hertfordshire, where there was a vacancy occasioned by the death of an apothecary.

Shelton having inquired into the affair, and finding no prospect worth his notice, his wife's mother persuaded him to take a house at Brassin, a village near Buntingford, intimating that she would live with him, and be at the expense of house-keeping. This proposal was accepted; but when the leases were drawn, the old lady refused to execute them, so that Shelton was obliged to abandon his agreeable prospect, in a way that appeared not very reputable to himself.

Distressed in mind, and not knowing how to support himself he determined to commence highwayman; and having hired a horse, and furnished himself with pistols, he rode to Finchley Common; but after looking out some hours, and meeting with no booty there, he returned towards London, in his

way to which he took about thirty shillings from four ladies, whom he stopped in a coach, and obtained three shillings and sixpence from a gentleman he met on the road.

He now put on a mask; and, thus disguised, robbed the passengers in three stage-coaches on Epping Forest of their watches and money. Some persons on horseback immediately pursued him, and were very near him at Waltham Abbey, but taking a different road, he went round by Cheshunt, and escaped to London, where he, the next day, heard that his pursuers had galloped after him to Enfield.

The watches he sold to a Jew, and having spent the money, he rode out to Hounslow Heath, where he demanded a gentleman's money, and, after some hesitation on the part of the latter, robbed him of thirty-two guineas and some silver. This done, he crossed the Thames at Richmond, where he dined, and afterwards stopped two ladies in a coach, on Putney Common, but got no booty from them, as they had just before been robbed by another highwayman.

On the same evening he robbed a quaker of nine pounds; and, early on the following morning, he stopped the Northampton stage, and robbed the passengers of twenty-seven pounds. The reason for these rapid robberies was, that he had a debt to discharge which he had contracted at the gaming table: which being done, he appeared among his former companions as before.

Soon after this he rode towards Chiswick, in the hope of meeting a colonel in the army: but as the gentleman knew him, he was apprehensive of being recollected by his voice, though he wore a mask. The colonel seeing a man masked coming forward, produced a pistol, and on the other coming up, fired at him, and grazed the skin of his horse's shoulder. Shelton now fired, and wounded the colonel's horse, on which the colonel discharged his other pistol,

but without effect. Hereupon the highwayman demanded his money, which having received, to the amount of about 50*l*. he took a circuit round the country, and came into London at night.

On the week following this robbery, he obtained a booty of ten guineas, some silver, and two gold watches, on Finchley Common ; but, being pursued by some gentlemen on horseback, he concealed himself on Enfield Chace, and having eluded his pursuers, he rode to London, but in his way robbed a gentleman and lady of between thirty and forty shillings, on Muswell Hill.

On the following evening he took a ride, but did not rob any person ; but on his return through Islington, he heard somebody cry out, " Stop the highwayman !" on which he rode hastily up a lane, where his horse had nearly stuck fast in a slough ; but, getting through it, he stopped in a field, and saw his pursuers waiting in expectation of him. He, therefore, made a circle, and got down Goswell-street, to the end of Old-street, where he again heard the cry of " A highwayman !" on which he rode to Dog-House-Bar, and escaped by the way of Moorfields.

Soon after this he rode to Enfield Chace, and putting on a mask, robbed one of the northern stages, while the driver was watering his horses at a pond. Some men who were playing at skittles seeing this robbery, surrounded his horse ; but, on his firing a pistol, they ran away, and he pursued his journey to London.

Having one day committed a robbery on the Hertford road, he was returning to town, when he overtook two farmers, who had been drinking at an ale-house till they were valiant, and were wishing to meet Dr. Shelton, whom they would certainly take : and wondered how people could permit him to proceed unmolested. On this Shelton presented his pistol, and they delivered their money with every sign of fear : the money was but trifling, which he

returned, laughing at them for their assumed courage.

His next robbery was on Finchley Common, where he took several watches, and sixteen pounds, from the company in the Northampton stage; the name of Shelton was now become so eminent, that many other robbers courted his acquaintance; among whom were two men who had formed a design of robbing the turnpike man on Stamford Hill, but had not resolution to carry their plan into execution.

This design was no sooner mentioned to Shelton, than he agreed to be concerned: whereupon they went on foot from London at ten o'clock at night; but before they reached the spot, Shelton's companions relented, and would go no farther; on which they came to town, in their way to which they robbed a gentleman of a few shillings; but Shelton determined to have no farther connection with these people.

His next robbery was on two gentlemen in a chaise, both of them armed with pistols, on the road from Hounslow, from whom he took 16*l*. and soon after this, being destitute of cash, and determined to make a bold attempt, he robbed several coaches one evening, and acquired a booty of 90*l*. exclusive of rings and watches.

In consequence of these repeated robberies, a proclamation was issued for taking Shelton into custody, in which a minute description was given of his person; on which he concealed himself some time in Hertfordshire; but he had not been there long, before a person, who recollected him, informed a neighbouring magistrate, on which he was taken into custody, and conveyed to London.

He was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for several robberies in Middlesex; and being convicted was sentenced to die.

While in prison he affected great gaiety of disposition, and was fond of entertaining his visitors with

the history of his exploits. At times indeed he would be more serious ; but he soon recurred to his former volatility.

On the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he seemed greatly agitated, and it was remarked that he shed some tears ; but having recourse to the bottle, he dissipated those ideas that had given him uneasiness.

At the place of execution he refused to perform the customary devotions.

JOSEPH POWIS.

A strolling player executed for house-breaking.

There have been few thieves who have committed more depredations than the subject of the following narrative ; he appears to have possessed considerable talents, and had it not been for his unsteady disposition, and the dissolute company into which he fell, he might have been a credit to society. He was a native of St. Martin in the Fields ; and his father dying while he was an infant, his mother married a smith in St. Martin's-lane, who was remarkable for his ingenuity.

The father-in-law going to Harfleur, in Normandy, with many other skilful artists, to be concerned in an iron manufactory, took Powis with him when he was only eight years of age.

They had not been long there before the father-in-law received a letter, advising him of the death of his wife ; on which he left the boy to the care of an Englishman, and coming to London, in order to settle his affairs, soon returned to Normandy.

But the scheme in which they had embarked failing, they soon came back to England, and the man marrying a second wife, took a shop in Chancery-lane, London, and sent young Powis to school,

where he made such progress, that a little time gave hope of his becoming a good Latin scholar.

But he had not been long at school before his father-in-law took him home, to instruct him in his own business; and hence his misfortunes appear to have arisen; for such was his attachment to literature, that when he was sent on an errand, he constantly loitered away his time reading at the stall of some bookseller.

When he had been about four years with his father, two lads of his acquaintance persuaded him to take a stroll into the country; and they wandered through the villages adjacent to London, for about a week, in a condition almost starving; and sometimes begging food to relieve the extremities of hunger; but distress compelled them to return to town.

The father-in-law of Powis received him kindly, forgave his fault, and he continued about a year longer with him; but having read a number of plays, he imbibed such romantic notions as disqualified him for business.

Inspired with an idea of going on the stage, he offered his service to Mr. Rich, late manager of Covent-Garden Theatre; but having repeated some parts of the tragedy of Julius Cæsar, Mr. Rich told him he was disqualified for the stage, and advised him to attend to his trade.

Soon after this Powis again quitted his father-in-law, and rambled through the country some days; but returning on a Sunday, in the absence of the family, he broke open a chest, and taking out his best clothes, again decamped.

Powis's father, finding that nothing had been taken except the boy's clothes, easily judged who must be the thief; wherefore he went with a constable in search of the youth, whom he took before a magistrate, in the hope of making him sensible of his folly.

The justice threatening to commit him unless he

made a proper submission, he promised to go home and do so; but dropping his father-in-law in the street, he went to an acquaintance, to whom he communicated his situation, and asked his advice how to act. His friend advised him to go home and discharge his duty: but this not suiting his inclination, and it being now the time of Bartholomew fair, he engaged with one Miller, to act a part in a farce exhibited in Smithfield.

His next adventure was the going to Dorking in Surrey, with one Dutton, a strolling player, by whom he was taught to expect great things: but Dutton, having previously affronted the inhabitants, met with no encouragement: on which they proceeded to Horsham in Sussex, where they were equally unsuccessful.

Powis now slept in a hay-loft, near the kitchen of an inn, and being almost starved, he used to get in at the window and steal victuals, while the family were in bed. He likewise stole a new pair of shoes belonging to the landlord: but the latter soon discovering the thief, took the shoes from him, and gave him an old pair in the stead.

About this time Dutton took Powis's clothes from him, and gave him others that were little better than rags.

Having left this town, they put up at an inn, where the landlord obliged the company to sleep in the hay-loft, admitting none but the manager to come within the house. At night Powis crept into the kitchen, and devoured the remains of a cold pye; and stole a pair of boots, and a pair of stockings, with which he retreated to the hay-loft. He continued to steal provisions several nights, till the landlord and Dutton watched, with loaded guns, in expectation of the thief, who, however, came not that night.

Powis having obtained a few halfpence by one of his petty thefts, stole out from the hay-loft to drink

at a public-house; but the landlord happening to be there, knew the boots to be his; on which our unfortunate adventurer hastily retreated to his hay-loft, where he expected to lie secure: but the landlord, Dutton, and others, following him, seized him, and took him into the kitchen for examination. He readily confessed that he had stolen the victuals; on which he was delivered into the custody of two countrymen, to guard him till the next day, when it was proposed to take him before a magistrate.

The family having retired to bed, Powis pretended to fall fast asleep; on which one of his guard said, "How the poor fellow sleeps, notwithstanding his misfortunes;" to which the other said, "Let me sleep an hour, and then I will watch while you sleep."

In a few minutes both the men were asleep: on which Powis thinking to escape, attempted to put on the boots; but making some noise, the landlord heard him, and coming down stairs Powis affected to sleep as before. The landlord awakened the guardians, and bid them take more care of their prisoner; which they promised to do, but soon fell asleep again.

Powis now took the boots in his hand, and getting out of the inn-yard, ran with the utmost expedition till he had got out of the town, and then drawing on the boots he proceeded on his journey to London. However, he missed his way, and getting on a common, knew not how to proceed; but going into a cow-house, in which was a quantity of flax, he laid down to rest. In the morning the owner of the flax found him, and inquiring what business he had there, Powis said that, being intoxicated, he had lost his way: on which the other directed him into the right road, in which he hastened forward, in the apprehension of being pursued.

Towards evening he arrived near Dorking, but did not enter the town till it was dark; and as he was going through the street, he heard a door open; and turning round, a woman, who had a candle in

ner hand, called him, and on his demanding what she wanted, she said to another woman, "Sure enough it is he."

This woman, who had washed the players' linen, said that two men had been in pursuit of him; and that his best way would be to avoid the high-road, and get to London some other way, with all possible expedition.

Powis immediately took this advice, and quitting the turnpike-road, got to a farm-house, where he stole three books, and some other trifles, eat some provisions, and then proceeded towards London, stopping at Stockwell at a house kept by the mother of his father-in-law's wife. All this happened in the night: but, knowing the place, he went into the back-yard, and laid down to sleep on some straw.

Observing some threshers come to work in the morning, he concealed himself under the straw till night, when he crept out, went to a public-house, drank some beer, and returned to his former lodging.

Inspired by the liquor he had drank, he began to sing, which drawing some people round him, they conducted him into the house. His mother-in-law happening to be there on a visit, spoke with great kindness to him, and advised him to remain there till she had communicated the affair to her husband.

In a few days the father-in-law came to him, and expressed his readiness to take him home, if he would but attend his business, and decline his present vagrant course of life. This he readily agreed to, and continued to, and continued steady during the winter: but, on the approach of summer, he again left his friends, and rambled about near a month, subsisting on the casual bounty of his acquaintance.

Falling into company with Joseph Patterson, whom he had known among the strolling players, Patterson engaged him to perform a part in the tragedy of the Earl of Essex, at Windmill-Hill, near Moorfields, which was then the place of resort for the lower class of spouters in and near London.

The part of Lord Burleigh being assigned to Powis, and it being intimated in the printed bills that this part was to be performed by a young gentleman, being his first appearance on the stage, the curiosity of the public was somewhat excited, so that there was a full house. Unfortunately Lord Burleigh was dressed in the shabbiest manner; and being little better than a compound of rags and dirt, it was with some difficulty the minister of state went through his part, amidst the laughter and ridicule of the spectators.

Returning home through Ludgate-street, after the play, he saw a gentleman who said he had dropped three guineas, but had picked up one of them. Powis happening to find the other two, kept one for himself, and gave the other to the owner, who, not knowing that he had retained one, insisted on his drinking a glass of wine, and thanked him for his civility.

Soon afterwards, Powis being stopped one night in Chancery-lane, by a violent shower of rain, climbed over a gate, and got under the shelter of a pent-house belonging to the Six Clerks' Office, where he remained till morning, when the clerks came to their business; and he was then afraid to appear, lest he should be taken for a thief from the shabbiness of his dress.

Leaning against a plaistered wall, part of it broke; but as the place he stood in was very dark, no one observed it, on which he resolved to profit by the accident: in consequence of which he, at night, made the breach wider, and got into the office, when he stole six guineas, and about fifty shillings in silver.

Having spent this money, he determined to join his old companions on Windmill-Hill; and, in his way thither, he observed a fellow pick a countryman's pocket of a bag of money, in Smithfield; and a cry of "Stop thief," being immediately circulated, the pickpocket dropped the bag, which

Powis picked up unobserved, and retiring to a public nonse, examined the contents of the bag, which he found to amount to above fifty pounds.

Having put the money in his pocket, he threw away the bag, and retired to his lodgings. This money, a greater sum than he had ever before possessed, was soon spent in extravagance, and he was again reduced to great extremities.

Thus distressed, he got into the area of a coffee-house, in Chancery-lane, and attempted to force the kitchen-window; but not succeeding, he secreted himself in the coal-cellar till the following evening, when he got into the house, and hid himself in a hole behind the chimney.

When the family were gone to rest, he stole some silver spoons, and about three shillings worth of halfpence from the bar, and having now fasted thirty hours, he ate and drank heartily; but hearing a person come down stairs, he pulled off his shoes, and retiring hastily, got into a hole where broken glass was kept; by which his feet were cut in a shocking manner.

It happened to be only the maid-servant who came down stairs; and going into the kitchen, Powis put on his shoes, and ran through the coffee-room into the street.

Being again reduced, he broke into the Chancery-Office, where he stole about 4l. 10s. which being spent, he looked out for a fresh supply. Going to St. Dunstan's Church, at the time of morning prayers, he hid himself in the gallery till night, and then stole some of the prayer-books, which he proposed to have carried off the next morning, when the sexton, more terrified than the thief, appeared, and ran to procure the assistance of another man; but in the mean time Powis had so secreted himself that they could not find him after a search of two hours; which they at length gave up, concluding that he had got out through one of the windows. However, he remained in the church all

that day, and at the hour of prayer the next morning, went off with as many books as produced him a guinea.

On the following night he visited an acquaintance in Ram-alley, Fleet-street, where he observed a woman deposit some goods in a room, the door of which she fastened with a padlock. On this he concealed himself in the cellar till towards morning, when he opened the padlock with a crooked nail, and stole two gold rings, and a guinea, being baulked in his expectation of a much more valuable prize.

One of the prayer-books which he had stolen from St. Dunstan's Church, he sold to a bookseller in the Strand; and while the lady who had lost it was inquiring at the bookseller's if such a book had fallen into his hands, Powis happened to stop to speak with a gentleman at the door; on which the bookseller said, "There is the man who sold it me; and the lady replied, "He is a thief, and has stolen it."

The bookseller calling Powis into his shop, asked if he had sold him that book, which he acknowledged; and being desired to recollect how he had obtained it, he said he could not; on which the bookseller threatened to have him committed to prison; but the lady now earnestly looking at him, asked if his name was Powis. He said it was; on which she burst into tears, and said, "I am sorry for you, and for your poor father: you are the cause of all his unhappiness." The bookseller, happening likewise to know Powis's father, delivered the book to the lady, and permitted the young thief to depart, on promise to pay for it on the following day; but the day of payment never came.

A few nights after this he climbed up the signpost belonging to a pastry-cook in Fleet-street, and got in at a chamber-window, whence he descended into the shop; but not finding any money in the till, he stole only two or three old books, and

filled his pockets with tarts, with which he decamped.

Calling some days afterwards at the same shop to buy a tart, he found the people of the house entertaining themselves with the idea of the disappointment the thief had met with : and a lady who lodged in the house produced her gold watch, saying she supposed that had been the object of his search.

This circumstance encouraged him to make another attempt ; wherefore, on the following night, he again ascended the sign-post, and got in at the window ; but hearing a person coming down stairs without shoes, he got back to the sign-post, descended, and ran off. He was instantly pursued ; but escaped through the darkness of the night.

Chagrined at this disappointment, he sauntered into the fields, and lay down under a hay-rick. He slumbered awhile ; but being distressed in mind, he imagined he heard a voice crying, " Run, run, fly for your life ; for you are pursued, and if you are taken, you will be hanged." He started with wild affright, and large drops of sweat ran down his face, occasioned by the agitation of his mind.

Finding that he had only been disturbed by a dream, he again lay down, but the stings of his conscience again haunting him, he dreamt that a person came to him, saying, " Young man, you must go away from hence ; for were I to suffer you to remain here, I should expect a judgment to fall on me ; so go away, or I will fetch a constable who shall oblige you to go." Being again terrified, he walked round the hay-rick, calling out, " Who is there ?" but receiving no answer, he laid down again and dreamt that his father-in-law stood by him, and spoke as follows : " Oh son ! will you never take warning till justice overtakes you ? The time will come when you will wish, but too late, that you had been warned by me."

Unable now to sleep, through the agonies of his mind, he wandered about till morning, and had

formed a resolution of returning to his father-in-law; but, as he was going to him, he met an old acquaintance, who paid him a debt of a few shillings; and going to drink with him, Powis soon forgot the virtuous resolutions he had formed.

On parting from this acquaintance, he went to the house of another, where he slept five hours, and then, being extremely hungry, went to a public-house, where he supped, and spent all his money, except eight-pence.

Thus reduced, he resolved to make a fresh attempt on the Chancery-Office, for which purpose he broke through the wall, but found no booty.

In the meantime his father-in-law exerted his utmost endeavours to find him, to consult his safety; and having met with him, told him it would be imprudent for him to stay longer in London, as people began to be suspicious of him: wherefore he advised him to go to Cambridge, and work as a journeyman with a smith of his acquaintance.

Young Powis consenting, the father bought him new clothes, furnished him with some good books, and gave him money to proceed on his journey. He now left the old gentleman; but soon afterwards meeting with six strolling players, one of whom he had formerly known, they sat down to drinking, at which they continued till all Powis's money was spent, and then he sold his new clothes.

Our young adventurer now became so hardened in guilt, that there appeared no prospect of his reformation. One Sunday morning early he attempted to break open the house of a baker in Chancery-lane; but the family being alarmed, he was obliged to decamp without his booty, though not without being known. This affair coming to the knowledge of the father, he commissioned some friends to tell the boy, if they should meet him, that he was still ready to receive him with kindness, if he would mend his conduct.

Powis, being now very much distressed, applied

to his still generous relation, who advised him to go to the West Indies, as the most effectual method of being out of danger; and he promised to furnish him with necessaries for the voyage.

Powis, accepting the offer, was properly fitted out and sent on board a ship in the river, where he was confined in the hold to prevent his escaping. In a day or two afterwards he was allowed the liberty of the ship; but most of the seamen now going on shore to take leave of their friends, he resolved to seize the opportunity of making his escape, and of taking something of value with him.

Waiting till it was night, he broke open a chest belonging to a passenger, and having stolen a handsome suit of clothes, he took the opportunity of the people on watch going to call others to relieve them, and dropping down the side of the ship, got into a boat; but having only a single oar, he was unable to steer her; and after striving a considerable time, he was obliged to let her drive; the consequence of which was that she ran on shore below Woolwich.

Quitting the boat he set off towards London; but near Deptford he met with two men, who asked him to sell his wig, on which he went into a public house with them, where they told him that a friend of theirs had been robbed of such a wig, and they suspected him to be the robber.

Powis saw through the artifice, and calling the landlord, desired that a constable might be sent for, to take the villains into custody: but the men immediately threw down their reckoning, and ran off in the utmost haste.

Our adventurer proceeding to London, changed his clothes, and took to his former practice of house-breaking, in which, however, he was remarkably unsuccessful. Strolling one night to the house, where he had formerly been at Stockwell, he got in at the window, and stole a bottle of brandy, a great coat, and some other articles; but the family being alarmed, he was pursued and taken.

As he was known by the people of the house, they threatened to convey him to the ship; but he expressed so much dread at the consequence, that they conducted him again to his father-in-law, whose humanity once more induced him to receive the returning prodigal with kindness.

Powis now lived regularly at home about nine weeks, when, having received about a guinea as Christmas-box money, he got into company, and spent the whole. after which he renewed his former practices.

Having concealed himself under some hay in a stable in Chancery-lane, he broke into a boarding-school adjoining to it, whence he stole some books, and a quantity of linen: and soon after this he broke in the house of an attorney, and getting into a garret, struck a light; but some of the family being alarmed, there was an outcry of "Thieves!" A man ascending a ladder, being observed by Powis, he attempted to break through the tiling; but failing in this, the other cried, "There is the thief!" Terrified by these words, he got into a gutter, whence he dropped down to a carpenter's yard adjoining; but could get no farther.

While he was in this situation the carpenter, going into the yard with a candle, took him into custody, and lodged him in the Round-house; but on the following day his father-in-law exerted himself so effectually, that the offence was forgiven; and he was once more taken home to the house of his ever-indulgent relation.

After he had been three months at home, the father-in-law was employed to do some business for Mr. Williams, a Welch gentleman of large fortune, who having brought his lady to London to lay in, she died in child-bed, and it was determined that she should be buried in Wales. Hereupon Powis's father-in-law was sent for, to examine all the locks, &c. that the effects might be safe in the absence of Mr. Williams.

Powis being employed as a journeyman in this business, found a box of linen that was too full, on which he took out some articles. In removing the linen, he found a small box remarkably heavy which, on examination, appeared to contain diamonds, jewels, rings, a gold watch, and other articles, to the amount of more than 200*l.* all which he stole, and put the box in its place. This being done, he called the maid to see that all was safe, and delivered the key of the larger box.

Powis being possessed of this booty, consulted an acquaintance as to the method of disposing of it; who advised him to melt the gold, and throw the jewels into the Thames. This being agreed to, the acquaintance kept the jewels; and the gold being sold for eleven guineas, Powis had seven of them, which he soon squandered away.

About a fortnight after the effects were stolen Powis was apprehended on suspicion of the robbery, and committed to Newgate; and, being tried at the next sessions, was sentenced to be transported for seven years, the jury having given a verdict that he was guilty of stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings.

He lay in Newgate a considerable time; till at length his father-in-law, after repeated entreaties, and a promise of a total reformation of manners, made such interest, that he was burnt in the hand, and set at large.

Once more did the father-in-law take this ungracious boy into his house, where he continued about seven months, when meeting with one of his dissolute companions, he spent all his money, and was then afraid to return home.

He now refrained some time from acts of theft, and taking lodgings in an alley in Fleet-street, subsisted by borrowing money of his acquaintance. Soon afterwards, however, he broke open a trunk at his lodgings, and stole some linen, which he pawned for five shillings and six-pence.

On the next day the landlord charged him with the robbery; but not intending to prosecute him, was content with recovering his linen from the pawnbrokers, and took Powis's word for making good the deficient money.

In less than a week after adjusting this affair, our young, but hardened villain, broke open the coffee-house in Chancery-lane, which we have already mentioned, and stole a few articles, which produced him about thirty shillings: and soon afterwards he broke into the Chancery-office, where he stole two books, which he sold for half-a crown.

On the following evening, he went again to the office, and hid himself under the stair-case: but, being heard to cough by a man who had been left to watch, he was taken into custody, and conveyed to a tavern in the neighbourhood; where his father-in-law attended, and pleaded so forcibly in his behalf, that he was permitted to go home with him for the night.

On the following day some gentlemen came to examine him, when he denied the commission of a variety of crimes of which he had been charged; but the gentlemen having consented to his escape for this time, advised him not to appear again in that neighbourhood, as the masters in chancery had given strict orders for prosecuting him.

After receiving some good advice from his father-in-law, he was recommended to work with a smith in Milford-lane, in the Strand: but Powis had a brother who called upon him a few days afterwards, and told him that a warrant was issued to apprehend him for robbing the Chancery-office; which obliged him to abscond.

Strolling one evening into the Spa-fields, near Islington, some constables apprehended him as a vagrant, and lodged him, with several others, in the New Prison; and on the following day most of the prisoners were discharged by a magistrate, and Powis was ordered to be set at liberty; but not

having money to pay his fees, he was taken back to the prison, where he remained a few days longer, and was then set at liberty by the charity of a gentleman, who bid him "Thank God, and take care never to get into trouble again."

In a short time after his discharge, he broke into the Earl of Peterborough's house at Chelsea, and stole some trifling articles from the kitchen, which he sold for four shillings: and on the following night he robbed another house in the same neighbourhood of some effects, which he sold for ten shillings.

This trifling sum being soon spent, he broke open a house in Lincoln's-Inn Fields, where he got a considerable sum of money; and to prevent persons who knew him suspecting that he was the thief, he forged a letter, as coming from his grandfather in Yorkshire, purporting that he had sent him such a sum.

In a short time afterwards, at a kind of ball given by one of his companions, to celebrate his birthday, Powis fell in love with a girl who made one of the company.

The girl paying no attention to his addresses, Powis waited on her mother, and, after some conversation with her, was permitted to pay his personal respects to the daughter, to whom he pretended that his grandfather in Yorkshire would leave him a large sum of money; and in proof of what he said he shewed her some counterfeit letters, appearing to have the post-mark on them.

The girl made no objection to him as a husband; but said it would be prudent in him to visit his grandfather, and ask his consent to the match, which would contribute to her peace of mind. On this he left her, and broke open a house that evening, whence he stole a few things, which he sold for fifteen shillings, and calling on her the next day, took his leave, as if preparing for his journey.

His plan was to commit some robbery, by which he might obtain a considerable sum, and then, con-

cealing himself for some time, return to his mistress, and pretend that his grandfather had given him the money.

Going to see the Beggar's Opera he was greatly shocked at the appearance of Macheath on the stage in his fetters. and could not forbear reflecting what might be his own future fate; yet, about a week afterwards, he broke open a cook's shop, and stole some articles, the sale of which produced him a guinea.

On the following day he called at Newgate, and treated the prisoners to the amount of seven shillings, and, on his quitting the prison, met two girls whom he knew; and with them he went to Hampstead, where he treated them to the amount of twelve shillings and sixpence, so that only eighteen pence remained of his last ill-gotten guinea.

On the following day Powis went to the Black Raven, in Fetter-lane, where he observed the landlord put some gold into a drawer, of which he determined, if possible, to possess himself. About midnight he went away, having first stolen the pin that fastened the cellar-window.

Returning at two in the morning, he got into the cellar, and attempted to open the door of the tap-room; but, failing, in this, he was about to return by the way he had entered, when a watchman coming by, and seeing the window open, alarmed the family.

Powis now escaped into a carpenter's yard, and hid himself: but the landlord coming down, and several persons attending, he was apprehended; but not till one person had run a sword through his leg, and another had struck him a blow on the head that almost deprived him of his senses; circumstances of severity that could not be justified, as he made no resistance.

The offender was lodged in the Compter for the present, and being removed to Newgate, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, convicted of the burglary, and received sentence of death: but the jury

considering the cruelty with which he had been treated, recommended him to mercy: however, the royal favour was not extended to him, as he had before been sentenced to transportation.

When brought up to receive sentence, he begged to be represented as an object worthy of the royal favour: but he was told not to expect such indulgence. He likewise wrote to his sweetheart, to exert her influence, which she promised; but could do nothing to serve him.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 9th of October, 1732, along with William Shelton, at the age of 22 years, after admonishing the spectators to take warning by his fatal end, and expressing the utmost detestation of the irregularities of his life,

SARAH MALCOLM,

(TEMPLE LAUNDRESS.)

Executed in Fleet-street, March 7, 1773, for the murder of her employer, and robbing a set of chambers.

THE Temple, and the other Inns of Court, were originally built for the convenience of lawyers only. They are divided into apartments containing two, or three, and some of them four rooms each, fitted up for single gentlemen; there being no kind of accommodation for a family in any of them; but in consequence of the lawyers taking private houses, where they could both transact their business, and bring up their families, the chambers were neglected, and the owners, preferring other tenants to none at all, let them out to any that would take them, in consequence of which many private families lived in them.

To each set of chambers there is a servant under

the name of a laundress, who now and then sweeps the rooms, and daily makes the students' bed, for the wages of a yearly servant. Thus one of these laundresses, will attend six, eight, and even ten, sets of chambers; and, calculating the average hire of female servants in London at ten pounds, the place of a laundress, including the profits of washing, mending, &c. &c. may be, in several instances, valued at 100%. a year.

One of these laundresses was Sarah Malcolm, who lately betrayed her trust, and murdered her employer. Her father was a man of some property in the county of Durham, where she was born in the year 1711, but being much addicted to pleasure and extravagance, the estate became soon mortgaged. He then, in company with his wife and daughter, set out for Dublin, the place of his wife's nativity; where he purchased a place in one of the public offices belonging to that city, the profits of which enabled him to live in credit, and to give his daughter an education superior to that of the common class of people.

Our unfortunate heroine, being naturally of a sprightly disposition, wholly engaged the affections of her parents, with whom she lived on terms of reciprocal esteem.

Some years after, her father having some business of consequence to settle, they came to London; where his wife dying, in a short time, he married another; who not being agreeable to his daughter's disposition occasioned a separation between them.

In consequence of the above, Sarah, who was now arrived at woman's estate, was obliged to have recourse to servitude for a subsistence. In this station she lived in many reputable families, with great credit, being much commended for her diligence and sobriety. At last, unfortunately for her she became a servant at the black Horse, a public house near Temple-Bar: where she contracted an acquaintance with one Mary Tracy, a woman of

light character, and two young men who were brothers, named Thomas and James Alexander.

From this house she was recommended as a laundress, and to take care of gentlemens' chambers in the temple; and amongst her employers was a Mr. Kerril, a young gentleman from Ireland. She officiated also as a chairwoman to Mrs. Lydia Duncomb, a lady of about eighty years of age, who had chambers also in the temple, where she kept two servants, Elizabeth Harrison, aged sixty, and Ann Price, about seventeen.

This lady being reputed very rich, a scheme was formed by Sarah for robbing her chambers, in order as it was supposed, by dint of money, to gain one of the Alexanders as a husband.

On Saturday, the 3d of February, 1733, Sarah called at Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, where she staid till about eight o'clock in the evening under a pretence of visiting Mrs. Harrison, who was just recovered from a fit of sickness, Mrs. Love, a lady who had engaged to dine with Mrs. Duncomb the next day, being present at the time.

It was generally imagined the true meaning of her visit was either to secrete the key of the door, or to spoil the lock, so as to gain an easier admittance to put her diabolical design into execution; as the horrid murders were either committed that night, or early the next morning.

On Sunday the following day, about nine in the morning, a Mr. Gahagan, who had chambers on the same floor, breakfasted with Mr. Kerril, after which they went to the Commons together: during which time, Mrs. Love (already mentioned) coming to Mrs. Duncomb's chambers could not gain admittance: after waiting a considerable time she went down stairs, when meeting with Mrs. Oliphant, she inquired whether she had seen any of Mrs. Duncomb's family; who replying she had not, it made her conclude, that the old maid, Elizabeth Harri-

son was dead, and that Ann Price was gone to acquaint her sister with the news.

Mrs. Oliphant then went to Mrs. Rhymer (executrix to Mrs. Duncomb,) who returned with her to the chambers, but could make no one hear; when seeing Sarah Malcolm at the Bishop of Bangor's door, they called to her, and begged she would fetch a smith to force open the door, to which she immediately consented, but returned without one: when Mrs. Love expressing her fears that they were all dead, Mrs. Oliphant proposed getting out of her master's window into the gutter, where, by breaking a pane of glass, she could easily open Mrs. Duncomb's casement; which was accordingly effected. Mrs. Love, Mrs. Rhymer, and herself, then went in, and the first object that presented itself in the passage was the body of Ann Price, laying on her bed, wallowing in blood, with her throat cut from ear to ear.

In the next room lay Elizabeth Harrison, strangled; and in an adjoining room the poor old lady lay, also strangled on her bed: the box where she kept her money being broke open, and stripped of its contents, excepting a few papers only.

The neighbourhood became soon alarmed with the news of these shocking murders. Mr. Gahagan and Mr. Kerril happened to pass at the time, and seeing a crowd of people about the chambers, inquired what was the matter. And were informed of the shocking murders committed on Mrs. Duncomb and her servants.

As they walked on, Mr. Gahagan said to Mr. Kerril, "Mrs. Duncomb was your Sarah's acquaintance," which the latter passed unnoticed. On their arrival at a coffee-house in Covent-Garden, these horrid murders engrossed the conversation of the whole company, who seemed to be unanimous in the opinion, that they must have been committed by some laundress, who was well acquainted with the chambers.

From the coffee-house, these gentlemen adjourned to the Horse-shoe and Magpye, in Essex-street; where they continued till about one in the morning; when they both returned to Mr. Kerril's chambers. On their entrance they found Sarah Malcolm, with the door open, lighting the fire. "So, Sarah, (says Mr. Kerril) are you here at this time of the morning? you knew Mrs. Duncomb; have you heard of any body that is taken up for the murder?"—"No," said she, "but a gentleman who had chambers under her, has been absent two or three days, and he is suspected." He replied thus: "Nobody who was acquainted with Mrs. Duncomb shall be in my chambers, till the murderer is discovered; and therefore look up your things, and be gone."

In the interim two watchmen were called, who found her turning over some linen in a box. On being asked who it belonged to, she replied it was her own. Mr. Kerril then missing two waistcoats, inquired what she had done with them. She then called him aside, and told him she had pawned them for two guineas, at Mr. Williams's in Drury-lane; praying his forgiveness, and assuring him that he might depend upon her redeeming them.

Mr. Kerril then informed her that he was not so much displeased with her on account of the waistcoats, but suspected her to be concerned in the murders. He then observed a bundle lying on the floor, which she informed him was her gown; with some linen tied up in it, which she hoped decency would forbid him opening: which he accordingly declined.

On a stricter search he missed several things belonging to himself, and finding others, not his property, he immediately ordered the watchmen to secure her, giving them a strict charge not to let her escape.

When she was gone, he requested Mr. Gahagan to assist him in a thorough search; and looking into a close-stool, they discovered more linen, and a

silver pint tankard, the handle of which was bloody. On calling up the watchmen again, they informed the gentlemen that they had set her at liberty, on her promising to surrender at ten o'clock the next morning. They were ordered immediately to find her again at all events: and, calling to their brother watchmen at the gate, they luckily found she had not left the Temple; and in a few minutes she was brought back to the chambers. Upon being shewn the bloody tankard and linen, and asked, who they belonged to, she asserted that they had been left her by her mother; that the blood was in consequence of having cut her finger; and, making some frivolous excuses, she was again ordered into custody of the watchmen till morning.

On searching her in the watch-house, a green silk purse, containing twenty-one counters, was found in her bosom. The next morning, after a full examination, she was committed to Newgate.

On her entering Newgate, she saw a room belonging to the debtors, and inquired whether she could not have that room. She was answered by Roger Johnson, a turnkey, that it would cost a guinea; she replied, that she could send for a friend that would raise two or three guineas if necessary. She then went into the tap-room, and talked very freely with the felons. Johnson then took her into a room where there was no other prisoner; and on searching her he found a bag concealed under her hair, containing 20 moidores, 18 guineas, five broad pieces, (one of which was of twenty-five shillings value, the others twenty-three shillings each,) a half broad piece, five crowns, and two or three shillings. On being asked by Johnson where she had the money, she replied, it was some of Mrs. Duncomb's; "but, Mr. Johnson," says she, "I'll make you a present of it, if you will but keep it to yourself, and let nobody know any thing of the matter; for the other things against me are nothing but circumstances, and I shall come off well enough; and

therefore I only desire you to let me have three-pence or six-pence a day till the sessions are over, and then I shall be at liberty to shift for myself." He accordingly took the money, which he sealed up in the bag, and which was produced in Court on her trial.

She also informed Johnson that she had engaged three men, for a trifling sum of money, to swear, that the tankard belonged to her grandmother, adding that was all she wanted, for as to the rest she could do well enough; she said the names of two of the men were Denny and Smith, the other she had forgot; but that she feared they were not to be depended on. She then, (confiding in Johnson,) put a piece of mattrass in her hair to make it appear in bulk as before, and by that means prevent a discovery.

She afterwards told Johnson, that she was the contriver of the robbery, but two men and a woman were concerned with her; that she watched on the stairs while they committed the fact; but that she was no way concerned in the murder.

She also said, that one William Gibbs had been with her, by whom she had sent ten guineas to the two Alexanders before-mentioned, who she said were the men that were concerned with her; and she continued to charge them with the guilt even after her condemnation.

Soon after her commitment to Newgate, she declared herself a dead woman; and it being the general opinion that she would destroy herself, she was ordered to be put into one of the cells, and a proper person was appointed as a guard on her.

Being seized with violent fits, a surgeon was sent for, as it was imagined she had taken poison: but he gave it as his opinion, that they arose from the consciousness of her guilt, and that the terror of her approaching fate had caused the preternatural hurry of her spirits.

When questions were asked her, she prevaricated

so much in her answers, and appeared withal so extremely hardened, that little regard was paid to what she said. She would by no means suffer any of her acquaintance to see her; but the two Alexanders and Mrs. Tracy being taken, she desired to be confronted with them, saying, she should die with pleasure now they were taken.

They were accordingly ordered to be conducted into her presence; when she charged them in the boldest manner with the murder, crying out, "Aye, these are the persons that committed the murder." Then, turning to Mary Tracy, she said, "You know this to be true; see what you have brought me to; it is through you, and the two Alexanders, that I am brought to this shame, and death must follow; you all declared that you would do no murder, but, to my great surprise, I found the contrary."

When she was requested one day, by some gentlemen in the press-yard, to make a full discovery of this bloody transaction, she replied with great warmth, "After I am laid in my grave it will be found out." They then inquired if she was satisfied in her mind, and was resolved not to make any further confession: she answered, "that she was not concerned in the murder, she hoped God would accept her life as an atonement for her manifold sins."

When brought to her trial, the strongest circumstantial proof appeared against her, from the evidence of Mr. Kerril, Mr. Gahagan, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Oliphant, with the two watchmen, and many other witnesses; so that not a person in the whole Court entertained a doubt of her guilt. When called on for her defence, she spoke to the following purport:

That she freely acknowledged her crimes were deserving of death, but that she was entirely innocent of the murder; that the robbery was contrived by Mary Tracy and herself; that they met at Mr. Kerril's Chambers on the Sunday before the robbery was committed, he being from home when the rob-

bing Mrs. Duncomb was proposed. That she told Tracy she could not do it by herself. "No," says Tracy, "there are the two Alexanders will help us." That the next day she had seventeen pounds sent her from the country, which she deposited in Mr. Kerrril's drawers. That they all met the Friday following in Cheapside, when it was agreed to put their scheme in execution on the following night.

That the next evening, between seven and eight, she went to see Elizabeth Harrison, who was ill; with whom she staid a short time, and then went to meet Mary Tracy and the two Alexanders, who proposed going about the robbery immediately, to which she objected, as being too soon. Mary Tracy persisting, she told her she would go and see, and accordingly went up stairs, and they followed her; that she met the maid on the stairs, with a blue mug, going for milk to make a sack-posset, who inquired who those people were that followed. She told her they were going to Mr. Knight's. When gone, she said to Tracy, "Now do you and Tom Alexander go down; I know the door is left a-jar, because the old maid is ill, and can't get up to let the young maid in when she comes back." That James Alexander then went in, and hid himself under the bed; that she going down again, met the maid coming up, who inquired if she had spoke to Mrs. Betty: she answered no, and going down, spoke with Tracy and Alexander, then went to her master's chambers, where staying about a quarter of an hour, she went back, and found Tom Alexander and Tracy sitting on Mrs. Duncomb's stairs. At twelve o'clock they heard Mr. Knight come in and shut his door. It being a very stormy night, there was nobody stirring except the watchmen when they cried the hour.

About two, another gentleman came to light his candle with the watchman, upon which she removed farther up stairs. Soon after she heard Mrs. Duncomb's door open; and James Alexander came out,

and said "now is the time." Tracy and Tom Alexander then went in, she waiting upon the stairs to watch. Between four and five they returned; one of them called to her softly, "Hip! how shall I shut the door?" She replied, "it is a spring lock; pull it to, and it will be fast," which they accordingly did.

That they then proposed sharing the money upon the stairs, to which she objected; they then went under the arch by Fig-tree court; and she inquired how much they had got; when they informed her, that in the maid's purse they found fifty guineas and some silver, in the drawers about one hundred pounds, exclusive of the tankard, money in the box, and other valuable things, amounting in the whole to about three hundred pounds.

That they then informed her, that they had gagged the old lady and her maids. That she received the tankard, a sum of money, and some linen, for her share, they reserving a silver spoon, ring, and the remainder of the money to themselves. That they next advised her to be very cautious to conceal the money under ground, and not to appear to possess any: and that they then appointed a meeting at Greenwich, which was afterwards forgot.

Her defence being ended, the Jury withdrew for about a quarter of an hour, when they returned with a verdict of guilty.

While under sentence of death she seemed to feel all the horrors of guilt, and would frequently fall into violent fits, which appeared to be attended with agonies, expressive of the utmost perturbation of mind. In one of these fits the keeper inquiring what was the matter, she replied that she was affected by being informed that she was to be executed amongst all her acquaintance in Fleet-street, the thoughts of which were insupportable. In answer to this the keeper told her, "that could not be the truth; as he made her acquainted with the place where she was to die, on the dead warrant's coming

down; therefore it was not probable that it could have such an effect on her at that time." He then, by the most forcible arguments, recommended her to make a full confession of her guilt, as the only means of quieting her conscience; but to this advice she made no reply.

About ten o'clock the same evening, she called to a fellow-prisoner in the opposite cell, who was to die the next day; exhorting him to take comfort, and offering for him her prayers, which he begged her to do, and which she accordingly did for a considerable time. After which, calling to him again, she said, "Your time is short as well as mine, and I wish I was to go with you: as to the ignominy of your fate, let not that trouble you; none but the vulgar will reflect either on your friends or relations; good parents may have unhappy children, and pious children may have unhappy parents; neither are answerable for the other. As to the suddenness of our death, consider, we have had time to prepare for it, whereas many die so suddenly, that they have not time to call for mercy."

The bell-man coming at the usual time, he exhorted her to attend to what he said, which she accordingly did; and then throwing him a shilling, bid him call for a pint of wine.

Notwithstanding this unhappy woman attended prayers very constantly during the time of her being in Newgate, there is great reason to imagine, from many circumstances, that she was brought up in the Roman Catholic religion; which suspicion is confirmed by a letter she received from a priest of that persuasion a few days before she suffered; though it is certain, from the last actions of her life, that she adhered to no principles of religion whatever.

Her behaviour was far from sincere, and she generally contradicted herself in whatever questions were asked her; so that, instead of preparing for that awful state on which she was then entering, she

daily added to her other crimes the sin of hypocrisy.

On the morning of execution, she appeared more composed than she had been for some time past, and seemed to join in prayers with the ordinary, and another gentleman who attended, with much sincerity.

When in the cart she wrung her hands, and wept most bitterly. The accumulated guilt of the very enormous crimes she had committed seemed now to press heavily on her, and she appeared almost ready to sink under a load of affliction.

At the place of execution she behaved with the utmost devoutness and resignation; but when the ordinary, in his prayers, recommended her soul to God, she fainted, and with much difficulty recovered her senses. On the cart's driving off, she turned towards the Temple, crying out, "Oh! my master! my master! I wish I could see him;" and then, casting her eyes towards heaven, called upon Christ to receive her soul.

CAPTAIN JOHN PORTEOUS,

Convicted of murder, but murdered by the mob.

FEW cases have excited more attention than that of Captain Porteous, who was convicted of murder and sentenced to death; but who having rendered himself obnoxious to the people, was dragged out of prison, and killed by an enraged mob. The magistrates of Edinburgh, the town in which the riot took place, were fined for neglect of their duty, and rendered incapable of acting again in any judicial capacity, and the royal proclamation was issued, in which a large reward was offered for the apprehension of the murderers, but from such an immense

mob as that which seized Porteous, it was impossible to select any individuals.

John Porteous was born of indigent parents, near the city of Edinburgh, who bound him apprentice to a tailor, with whom, after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he worked as a journeyman.

Porteous was soon noticed by several reputable gentlemen, as a young man of good address and fine accomplishments, and one whom they entertained a desire to serve.

It happened at this time, that a gentleman who had been lord provost of Edinburgh, growing tired of his mistress, wished to disengage himself from her in a genteel manner: and knowing Porteous to be very poor, he proposed his taking her off his hands, by making her his wife.

When the proposition was first made to the lady she rejected it with much disdain, thinking it a great degradation to match with a journeyman tailor; but on the gentleman's promising her a fortune of five hundred pounds, she consented, and they were married accordingly.

Porteous now commenced master, and met with good success for some time; but being much addicted to company, he neglected his business; by which means he lost many of his customers. His wife, in consequence, was obliged to apply to her old friend the provost, to make some other provision for them.

In Edinburgh there are three companies of men, of twenty-five each, who are employed to keep the peace, and take up all offenders, whom they keep in custody till examined by a magistrate. An officer is appointed to each of these companies, whom they style captain, with a salary of 80*l.* a year, and a suit of scarlet uniform, which in that part of the world is reckoned very honourable.

A vacancy happening by the death of one of these captains, the provost immediately appointed his friend Porteous to fill up the place; who being now

advanced to honour, forgot all his former politeness, for which he was so much esteemed when a tradesman ; and assumed all the consequence of a man in authority.

If a riot happened in the city, Porteous was generally made choice of by the magistrates to suppress it, he being a man of resolute spirit and unacquainted with fear. On these occasions he would generally exceed the bounds of his commission, and would treat the delinquents with the utmost cruelty, by knocking them down with his musket, and frequently breaking legs and arms.

If sent to quell a disturbance in a house of ill fame, notwithstanding he was a most abandoned debauchee himself, he would take pleasure in exposing the characters of all those he found there, thereby destroying the peace of many families : he would treat the unhappy prostitutes with the greatest inhumanity, and even drag them to a prison, though many of them had been seduced by himself.

Amongst the many instances of cruelty he committed, we shall mention the following, because it procured him the universal hatred of the people in that city :

A vacancy happening in the lectureship of a neighbouring church, two young gentlemen were candidates ; and having each an equal number of votes, the dispute was referred to the presbytery ; who declared in favour of Dawson. The other candidate, Mr. Wotherspoon, appealed to the synod, who reversed the order of the presbytery. As the parishioners were much exasperated, and a tumult being apprehended at the church on the day Mr. Wotherspoon was to preach his first sermon, Porteous was ordered there to keep the peace, but finding, on his arrival, Mr. Dawson had got possession of the pulpit, he went up the steps without the least ceremony, seized him by the collar, and dragged him down like a thief. In consequence of the wounds he received at this time, Mr. D. died a few weeks after.

Mr. Wotherspoon coming in at the time of the affray, Mr. Dawson's friends were so enraged, that they immediately fell on him, whom they beat in such a terrible manner, that he also died about the same time as Mr. Dawson.

Thus the lives of two amiable young gentlemen were sacrificed to the brutality of this inhuman monster. Many men, women, and children, were also much wounded in the affray; yet this wretch escaped unpunished: no notice being taken of the many instances of his barbarity.

Nothing gave more pleasure to this fellow than his being employed to quell riots, which, to the disgrace of the magistrates, he was too much encouraged in. On these occasions he never wanted an opportunity of exercising his savage disposition.

Smuggling was so much practised in Scotland at that time, that no laws could restrain it. The smugglers assembled in large bodies, so that the revenue officers could not attack them without endangering their lives.

The most active persons in striving to suppress these unlawful practices was Mr. Stark, collector for the county of Fife, who being informed that one Andrew Wilson had a large quantity of contraband goods at his house, persuaded a number of men to accompany him; and they seized the goods, and safely lodged them (as they thought) in the Custom-House, but Wilson being a man of enterprising spirit, went in company with one Robertson, and some more of his gang, to the Custom-House, when, breaking open the doors, they recovered their goods, which they brought off in carts, in defiance of all opposition.

Mr. Stark hearing that such a daring insult had been committed, dispatched an account thereof to the Barons of the Exchequer, who immediately applying to the Lord Justice Clark, his lordship issued his warrant to the sheriff of Fife, commanding him to assemble all the people in his jurisdiction to seize the delinquents, and replace the goods.

In consequence of the above order, many were apprehended, but all discharged again for want of evidence, except Wilson and Robertson, who were both found guilty and sentenced to die.

A custom prevailed in Scotland at that time, of taking the condemned criminals to church every Sunday, under the care of three or four of the city guards. The above two criminals were accordingly taken to one of the churches on the Sunday before they were to suffer; when, just getting within the door, Wilson (though handcuffed) assisted in his companion's escape, by seizing hold of one soldier with his teeth, and keeping the others from turning upon him, while he cried out to Robertson to run.

Robertson accordingly took to his heels, and the streets being crowded with people going to church, he passed uninterrupted, and got out of one of the city gates just as they were going to shut it: a custom constantly observed during divine service.

The city being now alarmed, Porteous was immediately dispatched in search of him, but all in vain, as Robertson met with a friend who knocked off his handcuffs, and procured him a horse; and the same evening got on board a vessel at Dunbar, which landed him safe in Holland.

He was living in the year 1756, and kept a public-house with great credit, near the bridge at Rotterdam.

On the following Wednesday a temporary gallows was erected in the grass-market, for the execution of Wilson, who was ordered to be conducted there by fifty men, under the command of Porteous.

Porteous being apprehensive that an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoner, represented to the provost the necessity there was for soldiers to be drawn up ready to preserve the peace. On which five companies of the Welsh fuzileers, commanded by a major, were ordered to be in readiness in the lawn-market, near the place of execution.

No disturbance arising, the prisoner finished his

devotions, ascended the ladder, was turned off, and continued hanging the usual time; at the expiration of which, the hangman going up the ladder to cut him down, a stone struck him on the nose, and caused it to bleed. This stone was immediately followed by many others, at which Porteous was so much exasperated, that he instantly called out to his men "Fire and be damned;" discharging his own piece at the same time, and shooting a young man, who was apprentice to a confectioner, dead on the spot.

Some of the soldiers more humanely fired over the heads of the people; but unfortunately killed two or three who were looking out at the windows. Others of the soldiers wantonly fired amongst the feet of the mob, by which many were so disabled as to be afterwards obliged to suffer amputation.

Porteous now endeavoured to draw off his men, as the mob grew exceedingly outrageous, throwing stones with every thing else they could lay their hands on, and continuing to press on the soldiers; on which Porteous, with two of his men, turned about and fired, killing three more of the people, which amounted to nine in the whole that were left dead upon the spot; and many wounded.

A serjeant was sent by the major of the Welsh fuzileers to inquire into the cause of the disturbance, but the mob was so outrageous that he could gain no intelligence. Porteous, being assisted by the Welsh fuzileers, at last conducted his men to the guard, when, being sent for by the provost, he passed a long examination, and was committed to prison in order to take his trial for murder.

On the 6th of July, 1736, the trial came on before the lords of the justiciary, previous to which Porteous made a judicial confession that the people were killed as mentioned in the indictments; but pleaded self-defence. His council then stated the following point of law to be determined by the judges, previous to the jury being charged with the prisoner:

“Whether a military officer with soldiers under his command, who fires, or orders his men to fire, when assaulted by the populace, is not acting consistently with the nature of self-defence, according to the laws of civilized nations?”

The council being ordered to plead to the question by the court, they pronounced, as their opinion, “That if it was proved that Captain Porteous either fired a gun, or caused one or more to be fired, by which any person or persons was or were killed, and if the said firing happened without orders from a magistrate properly authorized, then it would be murder in the eye of the law.”

Thus the question being decided against him, and the jury impannelled, forty-four witnesses were examined for and against the prosecution.

The prisoner being now called on for his defence, his council insisted that the magistrates had ordered him to support the execution of Wilson, and repel force by force, being apprehensive of a rescue; that powder and ball had been given them for the said purpose, with orders to load their pieces.

They insisted also, that he only meant to intimidate the people by threats, and actually knocked down one of his own men for presenting his piece; that finding the men would not obey orders, he drew off as many as he could; that he afterwards heard a firing in the rear, contrary to his orders. That in order to know who had fired he would not suffer their pieces to be cleaned till properly inspected, and that he never attempted to escape, though he had the greatest opportunity, and might have effected it with the utmost ease.

They farther insisted, that admitting some excesses had been committed, it could not amount to murder, as he was in the lawful discharge of his duty, and that it could not be supposed to be done with premeditated malice.

In answer to this the council for the crown argued, that the trust reposed in the prisoner ceased when

the execution was over; that he was then no longer an officer employed for that purpose for which the fire-arms had been loaded, and that the reading the riot act only could justify their firing, in case a rescue had actually been attempted.

The prisoner's council replied, that the magistrates, whose duty it was to have read the act, had deserted the soldiery, and took refuge in a house for their own security, and that it was hard for men to suffer themselves to be knocked on the head when they had lawful weapons put into their hands to defend themselves.

The charge being delivered to the Jury, they retired for a considerable time, when they brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death.

The king being then at Hanover, and much interest being made to save the prisoner, the queen, by the advice of her council, granted a respite till his Majesty's return to England. The respite was only procured one week before his sentence was to be put in execution, of which, when the populace were informed, such a scheme of revenge was meditated as is perhaps unprecedented.

On the 7th of September, 1736, between nine and ten in the evening, a large body of men entered the city of Edinburgh, and seized the arms belonging to the guard; they then patrolled the streets, crying out, "All those who dare avenge innocent blood, let them come here." They then shut the gates, and placed guards at each.

The main body of the mob, all disguised, marched in the mean time to the prison; when finding some difficulty in breaking open the doors with hammers, they immediately set fire to it; taking great care that the flames should not spread beyond their proper bounds. The outer door was hardly consumed before they rushed in, and, ordering the keeper to open the door of the captain's apartment, cried out, "Where is the villain, Porteous?" He replied,

“ Here I am ; what do you want with me ? ” To which they answered, that they meant to hang him in the Grass Market, the place where he had shed so much innocent blood.

His expostulations were all in vain, they seized him by the legs and arms, and dragged him instantly to the place of execution.

On their arrival, they broke open a shop to find a rope suitable to their purpose, which they immediately fixed round his neck, then throwing the other end over a dyer’s pole, hoisted him up ; when he, endeavouring to save himself, fixed his hands between the halter and his neck, which being observed by some of the mob, one of them struck him with an axe, which obliging him to quit his hold, they soon put an end to his life.

When they were satisfied he was dead, they immediately dispersed to their several habitations, unmolested themselves, and without molesting any one else.

Such was the fate of Captain John Porteous, a man possessed of qualifications which, had they been properly applied, might have rendered him an honourable and useful servant of his country. His undaunted spirit and invincible courage would have done honour to the greatest hero of antiquity. But being advanced to power, he became intoxicated with pride, and instead of being the admiration of his fellow-citizens, he was despised and hated by all who knew him. The fate of this unhappy man, it is hoped, will be a caution to those who are in power not to abuse it ; but, by a humane as well as diligent discharge of their duty, to render themselves worthy members of society.

JOHN RICHARDSON AND RICHARD COYLE,

Executed at Execution-Dock, January 25, 1738, for piracy and murder.

THE crime of murder was in this instance, as it generally is, added to that of piracy; in order, if possible, to prevent detection. But the perpetration of this horrid crime, as it is an addition to their guilt, is so far from affording any security to the offenders, that it exposes them to certain death in case of discovery, which it seldom or never prevents.

Richardson who, besides being a murderer and a pirate, was a notorious swindler and adulterer, was born in the city of New York, where he went to school until he was fourteen years old; he was then put under the care of his brother, who was a cooper; but not liking that business, he sailed on board a merchant-ship, commanded by his name-sake, Captain Richardson.

After one voyage, he served five years to a carpenter; but having made an illicit connection with his master's daughter, who became pregnant, he quitted his service, and entered on board a ship bound to Jamaica; but on his arrival there he was impressed, put on board a man of war, and brought to England.

The ship's crew being paid at Chatham, he came to London, took lodgings in Horsley-down, and soon spent all his money. On this he entered as boatswain on board a vessel bound to the Baltic; but being weary of his situation, he soon quitted that station, having first concerted and executed the following scheme of fraud.

Knowing that there was a merchant in the country, with whom the Captain had dealings, he went to a tavern and wrote a letter, as from the captain, desiring that the merchant would send him a hun-

dred rix dollars. This letter he carried himself, and received the money from the merchant, who said he had more at the captain's service if it was wanted.

Being possessed of this sum, he, the next day, embarked on board a Dutch vessel bound to Amsterdam; and soon after connected himself with a woman whose husband had sailed as a mate of a Dutch East-India ship. With this woman he cohabited about eight months, when she told him that it would be necessary for him to decamp, as she daily expected her husband to return from his voyage.

Richardson agreed to depart, but first determined to rob her; and having persuaded her to go to the play, he took her to a tavern afterwards, where he plied her with liquor till she was perfectly intoxicated. This being done, he attended her home, and having got her to bed, and found her fast asleep, he took the keys out of her pocket, and unlocking the warehouse, stole India goods to the amount of two hundred pounds, which he conveyed to a lodging he had taken to receive them. He then replaced the keys; but finding some that were smaller, he with those opened her drawers, and took out 60*l*. Some years after this, he saw this woman at Amsterdam, but she made no complaint of the robbery; by which it may reasonably be supposed that she was afraid her husband might suspect her former illicit connection.

Having put his stolen goods on board one of the Rotterdam boats, he sailed for that place, where he found the Captain of a vessel bound to New England, with whom he sailed at the expiration of four days.

On their arrival at Boston, Richardson went to settle about fifty miles up the country, in expectation that the property he possessed might procure him a wife of some fortune. Having taken his lodgings at a farmer's, he deposited his goods in a kind of warehouse.

It being now near the Christmas holidays, many of the country people solicited that he would keep the festival with them. His offers were so numerous, that he scarce knew how to determine; but at length accepted the invitation of a Mr. Brown, to which he was influenced by his having three daughters, and four maid-servants, all of them very agreeable young women.

Richardson made presents of India handkerchiefs to all the girls, and so far ingratiated himself into their favour that in a short time they were all pregnant. But before this circumstance was discovered, there happened to be a wedding, to which the daughter of a justice of the peace was invited as a bride-maid, and Richardson as a bride-man.

Our adventurer, soon becoming intimate with the young lady, persuaded her to go and see his lodgings and warehouse, and offered to make her a present of any piece of goods which she might deem worth her acceptance. At length she fixed on a piece of chintz, and carried it home with her.

Two days afterwards Richardson wrote to her, and her answer being such as flattered his wishes, he likewise wrote to her father, requesting his permission to pay his addresses to the daughter. The old gentleman readily admitted his visits, and, at the end of three months, gave his consent that the young people should be united in wedlock.

There being no licences for marriage in that country, it is the custom to publish the banns three successive Sundays in the church. On the first day no objection was made; but on the second Sunday all the girls from the house where he had spent his Christmas, made their appearance, to forbid the banns, each of them declaring that she was with child by the intended husband.

Hereupon Richardson slipped out of the church, leaving the people astonished at the singularity of the circumstance; but he had no reason to suppose that it would not be long before he should hear from

the father of the young lady, whom he had already seduced.

In a few days he received a letter from the old gentleman, begging that he would decline his visits, as his conduct furnished a subject of conversation for the whole country; and with his request Richardson very cheerfully complied; but in about four months he was sent for, when the justice offered him 300*l.* currency, to take his daughter as a wife. He seemed to hesitate at first; but at length consenting, the young lady and he went to a village at the distance of forty miles, where the banns were regularly published, and the marriage took place, before the other parties were apprized of it.

However, in a little time after the wedding, he was arrested by the friends of the girls whom he had debauched, in order to compel him to give security for the maintenance of the future children; on which his father-in-law engaged that he should not abscond, and paid him his wife's fortune.

Having thus possessed himself of the money, and being sick of his new connection, he told his wife and her relations that, not being fond of a country life, he would go to New-York, and build him a ship, and would return at the expiration of three months. The family having no suspicion of his intentions, took leave of him with every mark of affection: but he never went near them any more.

Having previously sent his effects to Boston he went to that place, where he soon spent his money amongst the worst kind of company, and no person being willing to trust him, he was reduced to great distress. It now became necessary that he should work for his bread; and being tolerably well skilled in ship-building, he got employment under a master-builder who was a Quaker, who treated him with the greatest indulgence.

The Quaker was an elderly man, who had a young wife, with whom Richardson wished to be better acquainted; and one day quitted his work, and

went home to the house; but was followed by the old man who came in search of him, and found him talking to his wife. The Quaker asked him what business he had there, and why he did not keep at his work. Richardson replied, that he only came home for an augur; to which the Quaker said, "Ah! friend John, I do not much like thee: my wife knows nothing of thy tools, and I fear thou hadst some evil thoughts in thy head."

Hereupon Richardson went back to his work without making any reply, but soon afterwards demanded his wages. The Quaker hesitated to pay him, hinting that he was apprehensive that his wife had paid him already: on which Richardson said he would sue him for the debt, and desired him to consider, that if he made such an excuse in open court, he would be disgraced through the country.

On this the quaker paid his demand, but absolutely forbad him ever to come within his house again; and Richardson promised to obey the injunction.

About eight days afterwards the old gentleman having some business up the country to purchase timber, desired his young wife to accompany him, to prevent any ill consequences that might arise in his absence. To avoid his journey the lady feigned an indisposition, and took to her bed.

The husband had not been long gone before Richardson, meeting the maid-servant in the street, asked after the health of her mistress, who, the girl said, wanted to see him; and he promised to wait upon her about nine in the evening.

Punctual to his engagement, he attended the lady, and renewed his visits to her till the return of her husband was apprehended, when he broke open a chest, and stole about 70*l*. and immediately agreed with Captain Jones for his passage to Philadelphia.

When he arrived at the last-mentioned place, he took lodgings at the house of a widow who had two daughters; and paying his addresses to the mo-

ther, he was so successful, that for four months, while he continued there, he acted as if he had been the master of the house.

After his intimacy with the mother had continued some time, he became attached to one of the daughters; and on a Sunday, when the rest of the family was absent, found an opportunity of being alone with her; but the mother returning at this juncture, interrupted their conversation, and expressed her anger in the most violent terms.

Nor was this all; for when she was alone with the offender she severely reproached him; but he made his peace by pretending an uncommon attachment to her; yet within a month she found him taking equal freedoms with her other daughter. Incensed at this, she became outrageous, and told him that the consequence of his connection with the other girl, was that she was already pregnant. Richardson now quarrelled in his turn, and told her that if her daughter was breeding she must procure her a husband, for he would have nothing to do with her.

At length, when the old woman's passions were in some degree calmed, he represented to her the impossibility of his marrying both her daughters; but said that if she could procure a husband for one of them, he would take the other.

The old lady soon procured a young man to marry one of her daughters, and then the mother constantly teased Richardson to wed the other, which he steadily refused to do unless she would advance him a sum of money. She hesitated for some time; but at length said she would give him a hundred pounds, and half her plate; on which he consented, and the marriage was solemnized; but he had no sooner possessed himself of this little fortune than he embarked on board a ship bound for South Carolina.

Within a month after his arrival in this colony he became acquainted with one Captain Roberts, with whom he sailed as mate and carpenter to Jamaica,

and during the voyage was treated in the most friendly manner. The business at Jamaica being dispatched, they returned to Carolina.

The owner of the ship living about ten miles up the country, and the winter advancing, the captain fixed on Richardson as a proper person to sleep on board, and take care of the vessel. This he did for some time, till about a week before Christmas, when he was invited to an entertainment to be given on occasion of the birth-day of his owner's only daughter.

A moderate share of skill in singing and dancing recommended Richardson to the notice of the company, and in particular to that of the young lady, by which he hoped to profit on a future occasion.

In the following month it happened that a wedding was to be celebrated at the house of a friend of the owner, on which occasion Richardson was sent for; and when he appeared, the young lady welcomed him, wishing that he would oblige the company with a dance; to which he replied, that he should be happy to oblige the company in general, and her in particular.

Richardson being a partner with the young lady during the dancing at the wedding, begged leave to conduct her home; and when the ceremonies of the wedding were ended, he had the honour to attend her to her abode. When they had got into the midst of a thick wood, he pretended to be ill, and said he must get off his horse, and sit down on the ground. She likewise dismounted, and they walked together under the shade of a chesnut-tree, where they remained till the approach of evening, when he conducted her home, after having received very convincing proofs of her kindness.

Going to his ship for that night, he went to her father's house on the following day, and found an opportunity of speaking to her, when he entreated her to admit of his occasional visits; but she said

there were so many negro servants about the house that it would be impossible. On this he said he would conduct her to the ship, when the family were asleep, and the girl foolishly consenting to this proposal, the intrigue was carried on for a fortnight, when she became so apprehensive of a discovery that she would go no longer.

But the lovers being uneasy asunder, they bribed an old female negro, who constantly let Richardson into the young lady's chamber when the rest of the family were retired to rest.

At length the mother discovered that her daughter was with child, and charged her to declare who was the father, on which she confessed that it was Richardson. The mother acquainting her husband with the circumstance, the old gentleman sent for Richardson to supper, and after rallying him on his prowess, told him that he must marry and support his daughter. Richardson said it was out of his power to support her; but the father promising his assistance, the marriage took place.

Soon afterwards the old gentleman gave his son-in-law the ship, and a good cargo, as a marriage-portion, and Richardson embarked on a trading voyage, to Barbadoes: but he had not been many days at sea when a violent storm arose, in which he lost his vessel and cargo, and he and his crew were obliged to take to the boat to save their lives.

After driving some days at sea, they were taken up by a vessel which carried them to St. Kitt's, where Richardson soon met with captain Jones, who told him that the wife he had married in Pennsylvania had died of a broken heart. This circumstance, added to that of the loss of his ship, drove him distracted; so that he was confined to his chamber for four months.

On his recovery, he went mate with the captain who had carried him to St. Kitts; but quitting this station in about five months, he sailed to Antigua, where a young gentleman who happened to be in

company with Richardson, was so delighted with his skill in dancing a hornpipe, that he invited him to his father's house, where he was entertained for a fortnight with the utmost hospitality.

One day as he was rambling with the young gentleman, to take a view of some of the plantations, Richardson stopped on a sudden, and putting his hand to his pocket, pretended to have lost his purse, containing twenty pistoles. The young gentleman told him there was more money in Antigua. "True, (said Richardson,) but I am a stranger here; I am a Creolian from Meovis."—To this the other asked, "Do you belong to the Richardsons at Meovis? I know their character well."

Our adventurer, knowing that the governor of Meovis was named Richardson, had the confidence to declare that he was his son; on which the other exclaimed, "You his son, and want money in Antigua! No, no; only draw a bill upon your father, and I will engage that my father shall help you to the money."

The project of raising money in this manner delighted Richardson, whom the young gentleman introduced to his father, who was no sooner acquainted with the pretended loss, than he expressed a willingness to supply him with a hundred pistoles, on which he drew a bill on his supposed father for the abovementioned sum, and received the money.

About a week afterwards he wrote a letter to his imputed father, informing him how generously he had been treated by his friends in Antigua, and subscribed himself his dutiful son. This letter he entrusted to the care of a person in whom he could confide, with strict orders not to deliver it; and when as much time had elapsed as might warrant the expectation of an answer, he employed the mate of a ship to write a letter to the old gentleman, as from his supposed father, thanking him for his civilities to his son.

The gentleman was greatly pleased at the receipt

of this letter, which he said contained more compliments than his conduct had deserved: and he told Richardson that he might have any farther sum of money that he wanted. On this our adventurer, who was determined take every advantage of the credulity of his new acquaintance, drew another bill for a hundred pistoles, and soon afterwards decamped.

He now embarked on board a vessel bound to Jamaica, and, on his arrival at Port Royal, purchased a variety of goods of a Jew merchant, which, with other goods that the Jew gave him credit for, he shipped on board a ship for Carthagená, where he disposed of them: but he never went back to discharge his debt to the Jew.

From Carthagená he sailed to Vera Cruz, and thence to England, where he took lodgings with one Thomas Ballard, who kept a public-house at Chatham. Now it happened that Ballard had a brother, who, having gone abroad many years before, had never been heard of. Richardson bearing a great resemblance to this brother, the publican conceived a strong idea that he was the same, and asked him if his name was not Ballard. At first he answered in the negative; but finding the warm prepossession of the other, and expecting to make some advantage of his credulity, he at length acknowledged that he was his brother.

Richardson now lived in a sumptuous manner, and without any expense, and Ballard was never more uneasy than when any one doubted of the reality of the relationship: at length Ballard told Richardson that their two sisters were living at Sittingbourne, and persuaded him to go with him on a visit to them. Richardson readily agreed; but the two sisters had no recollection of the brother; however, Ballard persuaded them that he was the real brother who had been so long absent: on which great rejoicings were made on account of his safe arrival in his native country.

After a week of festivity it became necessary for Ballard to return to his business at Chatham: but the sisters unwilling to part with their newly-found brother, persuaded him to remain awhile at Sittingbourne, and told him that their mother, who had been extremely fond of him, had left him 20*l*. and the mare on which she used to ride; and in a short time he received the legacies.

During his residence with his presumptive sisters, he became acquainted with Anne and Sarah Knolding, and finding that their relations were deceased, and that Anne was left guardian to her sister, he paid his addresses to the former, who was weak enough to trust him with her money, bonds, writings, and the deeds of her estate. Hereupon he immediately went to Chatham, where he mortgaged the estate for 300*l*. and thence went to Gravesend, where he shipped himself on board a vessel bound to Venice.

On his arrival in that place, he hired a house, and lived unemployed till he had spent the greater part of his money, when he sold off his effects, and went to Ancona, where he became acquainted with captain Benjamin Hartley, who had come thither with a lading of pilchards, and on board whose ship was Richard Coyle, the accomplice of this foul murder.

Mr. Hartley being in want of a carpenter, Richardson agreed to serve him in that capacity; and the ship sailed on a voyage to Turkey, where the captain took in a lading of corn, and sailed for Leghorn. On the first night of this voyage, Coyle, who was chief mate, came on the deck to Richardson, and asked him if he would be concerned in a secret plot, to murder the captain, and seize the vessel. Richardson at first hesitated; but at length he agreed to take his share in the villany.

The plan being concerted, they went to the captain's cabin about midnight, with an intention of murdering him; but getting from them, he ran up the shrouds, whither he was followed by Richard-

son, and a seaman named Larson. The captain descended too quick for them, and as soon as he gained the deck, Coyle attempted to shoot him with a blunderbuss, which missing fire, Mr. Hartley wrested it from his hands, and threw it into the sea.

This being done, Coyle and some others of the sailors threw the captain overboard; but, as he hung by the ship's side, Coyle gave him several blows which rather stunned him; but as he did not let go his hold, Richardson seized an axe, with which he struck him so forcibly that he dropped into the sea.

Coyle now assumed the command of the ship, and Richardson being appointed mate, they sailed towards the island of Malta, where they intended to have refitted: but some of the crew objecting to putting in there, they agreed to go to Minorca. When they came opposite Cape Cona, on the coast of Barbary, the weather became so foul that they were compelled to lay to for several days, after which they determined to sail for Foviniano, an island under the dominion of Spain.

When they arrived at the place, they sent on shore for water and fresh provisions; but as they had come from Turkey, and could not produce letters of health, it was not possible for them to procure what they wanted.

It had been a practice with the pirates to keep watch alternately, in company with some boys who were on board; but during the night, while they lay at anchor off this place, two of the men destined to watch fell asleep: on which two of the boys hauled up a boat, and went on shore, where they informed the governor of what had passed on board.

One of the pirates who should have watched being awaked, ran and called Richardson, whom he informed that the boys were gone; on which Richardson said it was time for them to be gone likewise; on which they hauled up the long-boat without loss of time, and putting on board her such things

as would be immediately necessary, they set sail, in the hope of making their escape.

In the interim the governor sent down a party of soldiers to take care of the ship, and prevent the escape of the pirates; but it being very dark they could not discern the vessel, though she lay very near the shore; but when they heard the motion of the oars, they fired at the pirates, who all escaped unwounded.

Steering towards Tunis, they stopped at a small island called Maritime, where they diverted themselves with killing of rabbits: for though the place is little more than a barren rock, yet it so abounds with these animals that a man may easily kill a thousand in a day.

Leaving this place, they stopped twelve miles short of Tunis, where Richardson was apprehended, and carried before the governor, who asking whence he came, he told him that he was master of a vessel which having been lost off the coast of Sardinia, he was necessitated to take to his long-boat, and had been driven thither by distress of weather.

This story being credited, the governor seemed concerned for the fate of him and his companions, and recommended them to the house of an Italian, where they might be accommodated; and in the meantime sent to the English consul to inform him that his countrymen were in distress.

When they had been about a fortnight in this place Richardson sold the long-boat, and having divided the produce among his companions, he went to Tunis, to be examined by the English consul, to whom he told the same story that he had previously told to the governor: on which the consul ordered him to make a formal protest thereof for the benefit of the owners, and their own security.

Hereupon the consul supplied him with money, which he shared with his companions. Coyle kept himself continually drunk with the money he had received, and during his intoxication spoke so freely

of their transactions, that he was taken into custody by order of the consul, and sent to England; and Richardson would have been apprehended; but, being upon his guard, and learning what had happened to his companion, he embarked on board a ship bound for Tripoli, where he arrived in safety.

At this place he drew a bill on an English merchant at Leghorn, by which he obtained twenty pounds, and then embarked for the island of Malta; he sailed from thence to Saragossa, in the island of Sicily, whence going to Messina, he was known by a gentleman who had lived at Ancona, and remembering his engaging in the service of captain Hartley, had him apprehended on suspicion of the murder.

He remained in prison at Messina nine months: on which he wrote a petition to the king of Naples, setting forth that he had been a servant to his father, and praying the royal orders for his release. In consequence of this petition the governor of Messina was commanded to set him at liberty, on which he travelled to Rome, and thence to Civita Vecchia where he hoped to get employment on board the Pope's gallies, in consequence of his having turned Roman Catholic.

While he was at Civita Vecchia he became known to captain Blomet, who invited him, with other company, on board his ship; when the company were gone, the captain shewed him a letter, in which he was described as one of the murderers of captain Hartley. Richardson denied the charge; but the captain calling down some hands, he was put in irons, and sent to Leghorn, whence he was transmitted to Lisbon where he remained three months, and being put on board the packet-boat, and brought to Falmouth, he was conveyed to London; and being lodged first in the Marshalsea, was removed to Newgate, and being tried at the Old Bailey, received sentence of death along with Coyle, for the murder of captain Hartley.

Richard Coyle was a native of Devonshire, and

born near Exeter. His parents having given him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a maritime life, he was apprenticed to the master of a trading vessel, and served his time with reputation to himself, and satisfaction to his employer.

When his time was expired, he made several voyages in ships of war, and likewise served on board several merchantmen; and he had also been master of a ship for seventeen years, generally sailing from, and returning to, the port of London. In this command he maintained a good character; but meeting with misfortunes he was reduced to serve as mate, in different ships; and at length sailed with captain Hartley, bound to the Levant, when he became acquainted with Richardson as already related.

After conviction Coyle acknowledged the equity of the sentence against him, and in some letters to his friends, confessed his penitence for the crime of which he had been guilty, and his readiness to yield his life as an atonement for his offences.

With respect to Richardson, he seemed regardless of the dreadful fate that awaited him; and having lived a life of vice and dissipation, appeared altogether indifferent to the manner in which that life should end.

It does not appear that Coyle had been guilty of any notorious crime, but that for which he died; but the life of Richardson was such a continued scene of fraud, and vice, as is almost unequalled. His treachery to the many unhappy women of whom he pretended to be enamoured, was alone deserving of the punishment which finally fell to his lot.

The abovementioned malefactors were hanged at Execution-dock, on the 25th of January, 1738.

WILLIAM UDALL,

(A PROFLIGATE APPRENTICE,)

Executed at Tyburn, March 14, 1738.

THIS reprobate was the son of an eminent distiller, in Clerkenwell, London. He had a good education, and was bound apprentice to a watch-maker, in Leadenhall-street, where he was very idle, but soon learnt from some abandoned journeymen the trick of scraping gold from the inside of watch-cases, which he sold, and then squandered away his ill-gotten pelf. His master died before he was detected, and he was turned over to another, whom he offended before he served a quarter of a year. He then went to live with one Mr. Stanbridge, of Clerkenwell, who engaged to procure him his freedom at the expiration of the term for which he was originally apprenticed.

He had not been long in the service of Stanbridge, before he connected himself with a number of young pick-pockets, with whom he used to go out of an evening, and steal watches, swords, hats, and any thing they could lay their hands on, which they deposited with one Williams, in Hanging-sword Alley, Fleet-street, who disposed of the effects, and shared the booty with the young thieves.

Udall's father was apprised of his living in an irregular manner; but had no idea that he had proceeded to such lengths, as to become a robber. However, to reclaim him from his evil courses, he took a house for him, and put him into business in a very reputable way.

One of Udall's companions was a youth named Raby, who having served his time to a barber, his friends likewise put him into business, and for some months the young fellows appeared to attend the duties of their respective professions: but they had

not quitted their old connections; for they used to go almost every night to Drury-lane, to a house of ill-fame, which was kept by a woman named Bird.

In this place they associated with several young fellows of abandoned character, who taught them the arts of gaming: so that in a short time Udall quitted his business, though he had a great prospect of success in trade. Being in possession of a number of watches belonging to his customers, he sold them to a Jew, and appropriated the produce to the purposes of his own extravagance.

Having dissipated all his money, his associates hinted to him, that as he was acquainted with a number of watch-makers, he might easily take up work in the name of his late master, and sell the articles for his own emolument. He followed this pernicious advice, and was for some time a gainer by the project.

He had likewise another artifice, by which he frequently obtained money. He would sell watches which he declared to be worth five or six guineas each; but take only half the money, till the purchasers were convinced of their goodness; and as he knew that these watches would not go well they were always returned to be rectified; on which he sold them to other people, and the original purchasers were defrauded.

At length Udall and Raby agreed to commence highway-men, and committed a number of robberies in and near Epping Forest, Finchley Common, &c. one of which was attended with a circumstance of unusual barbarity.

These associates in wickedness having stopped the St. Alban's coach, robbed the passengers of about five pounds, and immediately put spurs to their horses; but they had not rode far before Udall said, that a lady in the coach had a remarkably fine ring on her finger. On this Raby rode back, and the lady being unwilling to part with the ring, the re

morseless villain drew a knife, and cut off her finger for the sake of the paltry prize.

This horrid action being perpetrated, they rode to Hampstead, and having robbed some other people the same evening, they hastened to Drury-lane, where they divided the spoil.

These companions in vice had another scheme, which was frequently successful. When the company was coming out of the theatres, one of them would accost a lady or gentleman, pretending to know the party, and in the interim the other seldom failed of making prize of a watch.

On one occasion Udall and two of his accomplices, named Baker and Wager, stopped a coach on the road to Uxbridge. A guard being behind the coach, with a blunderbuss, Baker threatened him with instant death if he did not throw it away, and the man obeyed. Wager and Udall guarded the coachman and postillion, while Baker robbed the company; but this was no sooner done, than the guard produced a horse pistol, with which he fired at Udall, and brought him to the ground; on which Baker shot the guard, who instantly expired.

Udall was conveyed to a farm-house near Uxbridge, by his accomplices, and lay there six weeks before he recovered; but soon afterwards they killed the person who guarded another coach, as it was going over Turnham-green.

In a short time after the commission of this atrocious crime, Udall knocked down a young woman in Fenchurch-street, whom he robbed of a cloak, a handkerchief, and her pocket, which contained only a few halfpence.

Udall's father, distressed at his son's proceedings, and wishing to save him from an ignominious fate, procured him to be arrested and lodged him in the Compter, hoping, that when his companions were disposed of by the operation of the law, he might be out of future danger; but it happened that Ramsey, one of his old associates, was confined in

the same prison at the same time, which coming to the knowledge of Udall's father, he got his son released.

Ramsey being enlarged soon afterwards, they met at an ale-house, and having resolved to go on the highway, they went to a livery stable at London-wall, where they hired horses, and going on the Stratford road, procured a considerable booty in money and watches, from the passengers in several coaches.

Udall kept company with a woman named Margaret Young, who had likewise lived with several other men. Being one day distressed for cash, he robbed this woman of five gold rings; in consequence of which she had him apprehended by a judge's warrant, and he was lodged in the house of a tip-staff, Mrs. Young swearing that the rings were the property of another man with whom she had cohabited.

During Udall's confinement, the supposed owner of the rings offered to decline the prosecution, if he would enter into a bond, never again to live with Mrs. Young; but, as he rejected this offer, an order was made for his commitment to the King's Bench; but he and another prisoner effected their escape from the house of the tip-staff, by forcing the keys from the maid-servant.

Not long after this adventure, Udall and some of his associates robbed a physician in the Strand, for which they were all of them apprehended; but Udall became an evidence against his accomplices, by which he escaped the fate which he had so frequently merited.

Soon after Udall had thus obtained his liberty, he casually met with Margaret Young, in company with the presumptive owner of the rings above-mentioned, who threatened to arrest Udall for the value of them, unless he would give him a note for four pounds. Udall complying with this demand, and being unable to pay the note when it became

due, was arrested, and standing trial, was cast, and ordered to discharge both debt and costs.

Udall's relations, who had been put to great expense on his account, refused to pay his debt, so that he became a prisoner in the Marshalsea; but some of his acquaintance having furnished him with saws and ropes, he made his escape, in company with another prisoner, named Man; while they were escaping, a neighbour would have stopped them, but they threatened his life with the most dreadful imprecations.

After this adventure, Udall went to see his relations, and promised that he would go to Holland, if they would only supply them with money to pay for his passage. This they readily did, and promised to remit him a sum once a year, towards his support, on the condition of his continuing abroad; but he had no sooner possessed himself of the present cash, than he went to a house of ill-fame, in Charter-house-lane, where he spent the whole of the money.

Being thus impoverished, he and his fellow-prisoner, Man, agreed to go on the highway; and the woman of the house having furnished them with pistols, they rode beyond Edmonton, where they robbed four ladies in a coach, and returning to London, spent their ill-gotten gains in Charter-house-lane.

On the following day they took three gold watches, five pounds, and some silver, from the passengers in a waggon on the western road, near Brentford; and soon afterwards they robbed two gentlemen near Epping Forest; on their return from which expedition Udall fell from his horse, and was so bruised as to be obliged to keep his bed for several days.

When his health was somewhat re-established, and his money expended, they went again on the road; and having supped at the Castle at Hollaway, they robbed three gentlemen near Islington, and

spent their money at their old place of resort in Charter-house-lane.

About this time information was given to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison of the place of their resort; on which he sent a number of men to take them into custody; but just as they were entering at the door, our adventurers, having notice of their approach, escaped over the roof of the house.

The runners of the prison being disappointed in getting possession of the men, took into custody the mistress of the house and her servant; but these were soon afterwards dismissed, on their engaging to assist in the apprehension of the prison-breakers.

Some days afterwards, when Man and Udall were strolling in the neighbourhood of Islington, in search of prey, they met their old landlady, in company with two of the runners of the Marshalsea; on which the robbers produced pistols, and vowed vengeance against the first person who should molest them. The woman said that they had nothing to fear, for there was no intention of injuring them, and persuaded them to walk in company as far as Pancras, to drink at a public-house.

Having continued drinking some time, one of the men spoke privately to Udall, and made him the offer of his liberty, if he would assist in apprehending his companion who had been confined for a large debt.

Udall said that he was unwilling that Man should be taken while in his company, lest he should be deemed treacherous to his trust; but he would leave him as soon as they reached London, when the others might take him into custody. This, however, was only a trick of Udall's; for when he had got into the fields he privately communicated what had passed to Man, and both of them turning round at the same instant, presented pistols, and threatened immediate destruction to the other parties unless they immediately retired; which they thought it prudent to do for their own security.

The accomplices now committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of Epping Forest; and Udall having one night left his horse at a public-house on the forest, went to Man's lodgings in an absolute state of intoxication. While he was in this situation Man went out, and locked the door on pretence of care that the men from the Marshalsea should not apprehend his companion: but he immediately delivered himself into custody, and gave the key to the runners, who, entering the house, seized Udall in bed, and conveyed them both to their former apartments.

Man now seriously reflected on his situation; and being apprehensive that he might be seen by some person who might charge him with a capital offence, he begged to be conducted to a magistrate, before whom he was admitted an evidence against his companion, on a charge of his having committed several robberies on the highway.

Hereupon Udall was committed to Newgate, and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was convicted, principally on the evidence of Man, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he seemed at once to give up all hopes of life; conscious that his offences were so numerous, and so aggravated, that he had no reason to expect an extension of the royal mercy in his favour.

He acknowledged that from the time when he was first apprenticed, he had been a total stranger to common honesty; and that his father had paid and expended four hundred pounds in fruitless endeavours to save him from utter ruin.

JOHN TOON AND EDWARD BLASTOCK,

Executed at Tyburn, May 26, 1738, for highway robbery.

THE parents of John Toon were respectable inhabitants of Shoreditch, who having bestowed on him a liberal education, apprenticed him to a capital ironmonger, who had married his sister; but not being happy in this situation, his father sent him to sea at the expiration of three years.

After two voyages to Barbadoes, he grew tired of the life of a seaman, which he quitted to live with his uncle, who was a carman, and in whose service he behaved so unexceptionably, that on the death of the uncle, which happened soon afterwards, he took possession of four hundred pounds, which his relation had bequeathed him, as the reward of his good conduct.

Soon after becoming possessed of this property, he married the sister of Edward Blastock, and began to live in a most extravagant manner. When he had dissipated half his little fortune, Blastock proposed that they should go into Yorkshire, and embark in public business.

This proposal being accepted, they took an inn at Sheffield, the place of Blastock's birth; but both the landlords being better calculated to spend than to get money, Toon soon found his circumstances embarrassed.

Thus situated, he reflected on Blastock for advising him to take the inn; and the other recriminated, by recounting the faults of Toon. In consequence of this dissention, Blastock brought his wife to London, whither Toon and his wife soon followed, after selling off their effects.

Toon, who was now totally reduced, met his own elder brother one day in Cheapside. This brother, who was a dyer in Shoreditch, took little notice of

the other; but as Toon imagined he was going out for the day, he went to his house, and met with his wife, who entreated him to stay to dinner, to which he consented, and in the meantime he went to see the men at work, and finding one among them of genteel appearance, whom he learnt was his brother's book-keeper, he became extremely enraged that his brother should employ a stranger in that capacity in preference to himself, at a time when he was in circumstances of distress.

In this agitation of mind he returned into the house; and whilst his sister-in-law was gone into another room, he stole a small quantity of silver plate and decamped: and having soon spent the produce of this theft, he determined on the dangerous and fatal resource of the highway.

His first expedition was to Epping Forest, where he waited a long time in expectation of a booty, and at length observing a coach come from Lord Castlemain's seat, he used the most dreadful imprecations to compel the coachman to stop, and robbed two ladies of near three pounds, with a girdle-buckle, and an etwee case.

He now imagined that he had got a valuable prize; but he at length pawned the buckle and etwee for twelve shillings, finding that the latter was base metal, though he had mistaken it for gold, and the former set with crystal stones, instead of diamonds, as they had appeared to his eye.

He soon spent his ill-gotten treasure; and going again on the highway, stopped and robbed several persons, amongst whom was a gentleman named Currier, who earnestly exhorted him to decline his present course of life, not only from the immorality but the danger of it. The robber thanked the gentleman for his advice; but said that he had no occasion for it, as he was sufficiently apprized of his danger, but he must have his money on pain of instant death; and having robbed him of three guineas, he decamped with the utmost expedition.

One of his next robberies was on Epping Forest, where he dispossessed a gentleman of his money, and a gold watch, which he left in the hands of a receiver of stolen goods, to dispose of to the best advantage: but the watch being of value, and in high estimation with the owner, he advertised it, with a reward of eight guineas; on which the receiver delivered it, and took the money, but gave Toon only seven of them, pretending that was all he could obtain.

Toon not having read the advertisement, was ignorant of the trick that had been put upon him; but being some days afterwards upon Epping Forest, and having in vain waited some time for a booty, he went to the Green Man, by Lord Castlemain's house, where he heard one of his lordship's footmen recounting the particulars of the robbery, and saying that the watch had been recovered on giving eight guineas for it.

This circumstance determined Toon never to lodge any of his future booties in the hands of this man. But it will now be proper to say something of the other malefactor, whose story makes a part of this narrative.

Edward Blastock was a native of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, and was apprenticed in London, to a peruke-maker in the Temple: but his master dying when he had served about five years, his mistress declined trade, and gave the young fellow his indentures, on the representation of the gentlemen of the law, that they wished him, rather than any other, to succeed her late husband.

But the rent of the house being high, Blastock was afraid to enter on business so early in life, as he was at that time only eighteen years of age: on which he took two rooms in White-Friars, where he began to practice in his business, and met with great success.

Coming by this means into the possession of money before he knew the value of it, he attached

himself to the fashionable pleasures of the town, by which he soon incurred more debts than he could discharge; and consequently was obliged to decline business, and have recourse to the wretched life of a strolling player; refusing to accept of a good situation which was offered him by a gentleman of the Temple.

Soon afterwards Blastock married, and had several children; and being reduced to great distress, went into Yorkshire with Toon, as hath been already mentioned.

On his return from Yorkshire, he again engaged himself as a strolling player, and after some time, casually meeting with Toon, the latter represented the advantages to be made by the life of a highwayman, and wished him to embark in that business; which he declined on the double score of its danger and immorality.

Not long after this refusal, Blastock was seized with an indisposition, which threatened his life, and confined him so long that his wife was obliged to pawn almost all her effects for his support; and being visited by Toon during his illness, the latter again wished him to commence highwayman.

Blastock had no sooner recovered his health, than, depressed by want, he yielded to the dangerous solicitation, and went with his accomplice to Epping Forest, where they stopped the chariot of a gentleman, whom they robbed of a few shillings and a pocket-piece, and then came to London.

On the following day they went again towards the forest; but, in crossing Hackney-Marsh, Toon's horse sunk in a slough, where he continued for so long a time that they found it impossible to achieve any profitable adventure for that night.

Thus disappointed, they returned to London, and on the 27th of February following, set out on another expedition, which proved to be their last of the kind. While Toon was loading his pistols, he was prepossessed with the idea that his fate was speedily

approaching; nevertheless he resolved to run every hazard: on which they rode as far as Muswell-Hill, where they stopped a gentleman named Seabroke, and demanded his money.

The gentleman gave them eighteen shillings, saying it was all he had, and adding, "God bless you, gentlemen, you are welcome to it." Toon then demanded his watch, which Mr. Seabroke delivered, expressing himself again in the same words.

This robbery being committed, they galloped hard towards Highgate, and their horses being almost tired, Blastock stung with the guilt of his conscience, looked frequently behind him, in apprehension that he was pursued; and so strong was the terror of conscience, "which makes cowards of us all," that both of them agreed to quit their horses, and make their escape.

They now ran through a farm-yard, and taking the back road which leads from Highgate to Hampstead, they got to London on foot; and Blastock now declared his determination never to embark in such another project, while he congratulated himself on his narrow escape.

They now took a solemn oath that, if either of them should be apprehended, neither would impeach the other; and the watch obtained in the last robbery being sold for two guineas, Blastock received his share, and went to join a company of strolling players at Chatham.

The stolen watch being advertised, the purchaser carried it to Mr. Seabroke, telling him that he knew Toon, and would assist in taking him into custody; the consequence of which was, that the offender was lodged in Newgate on the same day.

Toon kept his oath in declining to give any information against his accomplice; but Blastock having agreed to go with the players to a greater distance from London than Chatham, returned to town to bid his wife and children adieu.

When he arrived, which was about midnight, his

wife and her sister were in bed: and the former having opened the door, he was informed that Toon was in custody, and advised to seek his safety by an immediate flight.

This advice, however, he did not take; and in the morning, Toon's wife desired he would stay while she visited her husband, declaring that she would not mention his having returned to London.

On her return from this visit she wept much, and expressed her wishes for the approach of night, that he might retire in safety. In the evening, while supper was providing, she went out, under pretence of a visit to her husband; but instead thereof, she went to Toon's brother, who taking her before a magistrate, some peace-officers were sent to take Blastock into custody.

Mrs. Toon directed the officers to the room where Blastock was, in company with two men of his acquaintance, who were advising him on the emergency of his affairs. Blastock, suspecting some foul play, concealed himself in a closet; and when the officers came in, they first seized one, and then the other, of the persons present; but were soon convinced that neither of them was the party they were in search of.

On this the officers made a stricter search, and finding Blastock in the closet, took him into custody. Having taken leave of his wife and children, they carried him before a magistrate, who asked him if he had not a worse coat than that which he then wore. Blastock owned that he had, and actually sent for it; and it was kept to be produced in evidence against him.

While the officers were conducting him to Newgate, in a coach, they told him that Mrs. Toon had given the information against him; at which he was so shocked, that it was some time before he could recover his recollection, being absolutely insensible when he was lodged in prison.

These malefactors being tried at the next sessions

at the Old Bailey, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; and, after conviction, were confined in the same cell: but being unhappy together, from their mutual recriminations of each other, the keeper caused them to be separated.

They both exhibited an uncommon degree of unfeigned penitence and contrition.

They embraced each other at the place of their death, and Blastock delivered the following speech to the surrounding multitude:

“ Dear Friends,

“ I do not come here to excuse myself, although I have been first led into the crime for which I suffer, and then basely betrayed; no, I am sensible of my guilt, nor should I have made the world acquainted with this barbarous treatment that I have met with, even from a near relation, had it not been with a view of preventing the ruin of many young persons.

“ Let my fate be an example to them, and never let any man in trade think himself above his business, nor despise the offers of those who would serve him. Let them purchase wisdom at my cost, and never let slip any opportunity that bids fair to be of the least advantage to them; for experience tells me that, had I done as I now advise you I had never come to this end.

“ The next thing is, never to trust your life in the hands of a near relation: for money will make those who pretend to be your nearest friends your most bitter enemies. Never be persuaded to do any thing that you may be sorry for afterwards, nor believe the most solemn oaths, for there is no truth in imprecations; rather take a man's word, for those that will swear will lie. Not but that I believe there are some in the world who would suffer the worst of deaths rather than betray the trust reposed in them.

“What I have here declared, as I am a dying man, I protest before God is true; and here, before God and the world, I freely forgive those who betrayed me, and die in peace with all mankind.

“I implore the forgiveness of that God who has promised pardon and forgiveness to all those who sincerely repent; and I hope I have done my best endeavours, while in prison, to make my peace with a justly-offended God: I hope, the moment I leave this troublesome world, my soul will be received into eternal happiness, through the merits of Jesus Christ.

“I conclude with my prayers for the welfare of my poor unhappy wife and children, who are now reduced to misery; and taking a long farewell of the world, I commit my spirit into the hands of Him who gave me being.”

JOSEPH JOHNSON,

(A GENERAL THIEF FOR NEAR HALF A CENTURY.)

Executed at Tyburn, July 19, 1738.

THIS hoary-headed sinner, who was both a pick-pocket and a swindler, was permitted to proceed in his career of villany for a longer time than any who have as yet fallen under our notice. There is no species of robbery which he did not commit, or in which habitual practice had not made him a proficient. His parents resided in the Old Jewry, and being very poor, his education was entirely neglected. He kept bad company almost from his infancy, and became a pick-pocket when quite a child, which he continued to be till he was upwards of twenty years old. He then began the practice of meeting porters and errand-boys in the streets, and, by a variety of false pretences used to get possession of the goods entrusted to their care. For one of

those offences he was taken into custody, and tried at the Old Bailey, but was acquitted on account of defect of evidence.

Having obtained his liberty, he had recourse to his former practices, till he was apprehended for stealing a sword, when he was tried and convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years' transportation.

It happened that one of his fellow-convicts was possessed of a stolen bank-note, which was changed, it is presumed, with the captain of the vessel, who had a gratuity for their liberty: for, when they arrived in America, they were set at large, and took lodgings at New York, where they lived some time in an expensive manner; and the captain, on his return to England, stopped at Rotterdam, where he offered the stolen note to a banker: on which he was lodged in prison, and did not obtain his liberty without considerable difficulty.

Johnson and his associate having quitted New York, embarked for Holland, whence they came to England, where they assumed the dress and appearance of people of fashion, and frequented all the places of public diversion. Thus disguised, Johnson used to mix with the crowd, and steal watches, &c. which his accomplice carried off unsuspected.

The effects thus stolen were constantly sold to Jews, who sent them to Holland, where they were sold, and the robbers escaped undetected.

In the summer time, when London was thin of company, Johnson and his companion used to ride through the country, the former appearing as a gentleman of fortune, the latter as his servant.

On their arrival at an inn, they inquired of the landlord into the circumstances of the farmers in the neighbourhood; and when they had learnt the name and residence of one who was rich, with such other particulars as might forward their plan, the servant was dispatched to tell the farmer that the Esquire

would be glad to speak with him at the inn ; and he was commissioned to hint that his master's property in the public funds was very considerable.

This bait generally succeeded: the farmer hastened to the inn, where he found the Esquire in an elegant undress ; who, after the first compliments, informed him that he was come down to purchase a valuable estate in the neighbourhood, which he thought so well worth the buying, that he had agreed to pay part of the money that day: but not having sufficient cash in his possession, he had sent for the farmer to lend him part of the sum ; and assured him that he should be no loser by granting the favour.

To make sure of his prey, he had always some counterfeit jewels in his possession, which he used to deposit in the farmer's hands, to be taken up when the money was repaid ; and, by artifices of this kind, Johnson and his associate acquired large sums of money ; the former not only changing his name, but disguising his person, so that detection was almost impossible.

This practice he continued for a succession of years: and, in one of his expeditions of this kind, got possession of a thousand pounds, with which he escaped unsuspected.

In order to avoid detection, he took a small house in Southwark, where he used to live in the most obscure manner, not even permitting his servant maid to open the window, lest he should be discovered.

Thus he continued committing these kind of frauds, and living in retirement on the profits arising from them, till he reached the age of sixty years ; when, though he was poor, he was afraid to make fresh excursions to the country ; but thought of exercising his talents in London.

Hereupon he picked the pockets of several persons of as many watches as produced money enough to furnish him with an elegant suit of clothes, in which he went to a public ball, where he walked a minuet

with the kept mistress of a nobleman, who invited him to drink tea with her on the following day.

He attended the invitation, when she informed him, that she had another engagement to a ball, and should think herself extremely honoured by his company. He readily agreed to the proposal; but, while in company, he picked the pocket of Mr. Pye, a merchant's clerk, of a pocket-book, containing bank-notes to the amount of 500*l*.

Pye had no idea of his loss till the following day, when he should have accounted with his employer. When the discovery was made, immediate notice was sent to the bank to stop payment of the notes: and Johnson was actually changing one of them to the amount of 50*l*. when the messenger came thither. Hereupon he was taken into custody, and being tried at the next sessions at the old Bailey, for privately stealing, was capitally convicted, and sentenced to death.

His behaviour after condemnation was consistent with his former character; he expressed neither remorse nor repentance, but seemed perfectly insensible to the awful fate which awaited him.

He died without making any confession of his crimes, and refused even to join in the customary devotions at the place of execution.

GEORGE MANLEY,

*Executed at Wicklow, in Ireland, in August, 1738
for murder.*

WE have no information respecting the life of this criminal, or the particulars of the horrid crime for which he suffered, and it is probable that his fate would not have been recorded had it not been for the remarkable speech which he made immediately before his execution.

Having arrived at the place of execution, he behaved in a strange and undaunted manner, and addressed the spectators in the following words :

“ My Friends,

“ You assemble to see—What?—A man take a leap into the abyss of death. Look, and you shall see me go with as much courage as Curtius, when he leapt into the gulph to save his country from destruction. What then will you say of me?—You say, that no man without virtue can be courageous. You see, I am courageous. You’ll say, I have killed a man.—Marlborough killed his thousands, and Alexander his millions : Marlborough and Alexander, and many others who have done the like, are famous in history for Great Men.—But I killed one solitary man.—Ay, that’s the case.—One solitary man. I’m a little murderer, and must be hanged. Marlborough and Alexander plundered countries.—They were Great Men. I ran in debt with the ale-wife, I must be hanged.

“ Now, my friends, I have drawn a parallel between two of the greatest men that ever lived, and myself ; but these were men of former days. Now I’ll speak a word of some of the present days : how many men were lost in Italy and upon the Rhine, during the last war, for settling a king in Poland ! Both sides could not be in the right ; they are Great Men ; but I killed a solitary man, I’m a little fellow. The King of Spain takes our ships, plunders our merchants, kills and tortures our men ; but what of all that ? What he does is good ; he’s a great man, he is clothed in purple, his instruments of murder are bright and shining, mine was but a rusty gun ; and so much for comparison.

“ Now I would fain know, what authority there is in scripture for a rich man to murder, to plunder, to torture, to ravage whole countries ; and what law it is, that condemns a poor man to death for killing

a solitary man, or for stealing a solitary sheep to feed his family. But bring the matter closer to our own country: what is the difference between running in a poor man's debt, and by the power of gold, or any other privilege, preventing him from obtaining his right, and clapping a pistol to a man's breast, and taking from him his purse? Yet the one shall thereby obtain a coach and honours, and titles, &c. The other—What?—A cart and a rope.

“ From what I have said. my brethren, you may perhaps, imagine that I am hardened: but believe me, I am fully convinced of my follies, and acknowledge the just judgment of God has overtaken me; I have no hopes, but from the merits of my Redeemer, who I hope will have mercy on me, as he knows that murder was far from my heart, and what I did was through rage and passion, being provoked thereto by the deceased.

Take warning, my dear comrades: Think! Oh think!

What would I now give, that I had lived another life.

WILLIAM NEWINGTON.

Executed at Tyburn, August 26, 1738, for forgery.

THIS unhappy young man was born at Chichester, in Sussex, and was the son of respectable parents, who, having given him a good education, placed him with Mr. Cave, an attorney of that town, with whom he served his clerkship: and then coming to London, lived as a hackney writer with Mr. Studley, in Nicholas-lane, for about two years and a half.

But being of a volatile disposition, and much disposed to keeping company and irregular hours, Mr. Studley discharged him from his service; on which

he went to live with Mr. Leaver, a scrivener, in Friday-street, with whom he continued between two and three years, and served him with a degree of fidelity that met with the highest approbation.

He quitted this service about a year before he was convicted of the offence which cost him his life ; in the interval he lived in a gay manner, without having any visible means of support, and paid his addresses to a young lady of very handsome fortune, to whom he would soon have been married, if he had not been guilty of the crime for which he was executed, which it is presumed he was tempted to commit, being distressed for money to support his expensive way of life, and to carry on his amour.

He went to Child's coffee-house, in St. Paul's Church-yard, where he drew a draft on the house of Child and company, bankers, in Fleet-street, in the following words :

“ Sir Francis Child and Comp.

“ Pray pay to Sir Rowland Hill, Bart. or order, the sum of one hundred and twenty pounds, and place it to the account of

“ Your humble servant,

“ To Sir Fra. Child and
Comp. Temple-bar.”

THOMAS HILL.

The draft he dispatched by a porter, but was so agitated by his fears while he wrote it, that he forgot to put any date to it ; otherwise, as Mr. Thomas Hill kept cash with the bankers, and, as the forgery was admirably executed, the draft would have been paid : but, at the instant the porter was about to put his indorsement on it, one of the clerks said he might go about his business, for that they did not believe the draft was a good one.

The porter returned to the coffee-house without the draft, which the bankers' clerks had refused to

deliver him: but on his return he found that the gentleman was gone.

At the expiration of two hours, the bankers' clerks came to Child's coffee-house, and inquired for the person who had made the draft; but he was not to be found; for, in the absence of the porter, he had inquired for the Faculty-Office in Doctors-Commons, saying he had some business in that place, and would return in half an hour.

About two or three hours afterwards, the porter's son told him that a gentleman wanted him at the Horn and Feathers, in Carter-lane, where he went, and told Newington, that the bankers had refused to pay the note; "Very well, (said he,) stay here till I go and put on my shoes, and I will go with you and rectify the mistake."

When the porter had waited near three hours, and his employer did not return, he began to suspect that the draft was forged, and some hours afterwards, calling in at the Fountain ale-house in Cheapside, he saw Newington; on which he went and fetched a constable, who took him into custody, and lodged him in the Compter.

Being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was convicted; and as forgery had, by a then recent Act of Parliament, been made a capital offence, he received sentence of death, notwithstanding nine gentlemen appeared to give him an excellent character: when he then delivered the following address to the judge:

"May it please your Lordship,

"This my most melancholy case was occasioned by the alone inconsiderate rashness of my inexperienced years. The intent of fraud is, without doubt, most strongly, and most positively, found against me; but I assure your Lordship, I was not in want; nor did I ever think of such a thing in the whole

course of my life, till within a few minutes of the execution of this rash deed.

“ I hope your Lordship has some regard for the gentlemen who have so generously appeared in my behalf; and as this is the first crime though of so deep a die, my youth and past conduct may, I hope in some measure, move your Lordship’s pity, compassion, and generous assistance.”

After conviction, Newington flattered himself that, through the intercession of his friends, he should escape the punishment of death. When the warrant for execution, in which his name was included, was brought to Newgate, he appeared to be greatly shocked; but recollecting and composing himself, he said, “ God’s will be done!” and then immediately bursting into tears, he lamented the misery which his mother would endure, when she should be informed of his wretched fate.

The dreadful tidings being conveyed to his mother, she left Chichester to visit her unhappy son; but it was a week after her arrival in London, before she could acquire a sufficient degree of resolution to see him.

At length she repaired to his gloomy abode: but when she saw him in fetters, she was so overwhelmed with grief that it was with the utmost difficulty she could be kept from fainting. She hung round his neck, while he fell on his knees, and implored her blessing and forgiveness; and so truly distressing was the scene, that even the gaolers themselves, though accustomed as they were to scenes of horror, shed tears at the sight of it.

GEORGE PRICE,

Convicted of the murder of his wife, but died in Newgate before the time appointed for his execution.

THIS man, who was guilty of one of the most shocking murders that ever was committed, both on account of the malicious premeditation of it, and the cruel manner in which it was carried into execution, was a native of the Hay, in Brecknockshire, where he lived as a servant to a widow lady, who was so extremely partial to him, that the neighbours circulated reports to their mutual prejudice. Having lived in this station seven years, he repaired to London, where he got places in two respectable families, and then returned to his former service in Wales; when his mistress treated him with such distinction, that the country people became more severe in their censures than before.

On his quitting this lady a second time, she made him a present of a valuable watch, which he brought to London; and then engaged in the service of — Brown, Esq. of Golden-square, who used to make frequent excursions to Hampstead, attended by his servant.

Price now became acquainted with Mary Chambers, servant to a publick-house at Hampstead, whom he married at the expiration of a fortnight from his first paying his addresses to her: but Mr. Brown disapproving of the match, dismissed him from his service.

Soon after this he took his wife into Brecknockshire, and imposed her on his relations as the daughter of a military officer, who would become entitled to a large fortune. He was treated in the most friendly manner by his relations; and the young couple returning to London, the wife went to lodge

at Hampstead, while Price engaged in the service of a gentleman in New Broad-street.

Mrs. Price being delivered of twins, desired her husband to buy some medicines to make the children sleep, which he procured; and the children dying soon afterwards a report was circulated that he had poisoned them; but this circumstance he denied to the last moment of his life.

In a short time, Price's master removed into Kent, whither he attended him; and, in the interim, his wife was again brought to bed, a circumstance that greatly chagrined him; as he had now made other connections, and grew weary of the support of his own family. Shortly afterwards Mrs. Price was again pregnant, on which he told her he could not support any more children, and recommended her to take medicines to procure an abortion; which was accordingly done, and the horrid intention was answered.

Price now paid his addresses to a widow in Kent, and conceiving his wife an obstacle between him and his wishes, he formed the infernal resolution of murdering her.

Having been bruised by a fall from his horse; and his master having business in London, he was left behind, to take his passage in a Margate hoy, as soon as his health would permit: and on his arrival at Billingsgate, his wife was waiting to receive him, in the hope of obtaining some money towards her present support.

Price no sooner beheld her than he began to concert the plan of the intended murder; on which he told her that he had procured the place of a nursery-maid for her in the neighbourhood of Putney, and that he would attend her thither that very day. He then directed her to clean herself, and meet him at the Woolpack, in Monkwell-street.

In her way to her lodgings, she called at the house of her husband's master, where the servants advised her not to trust herself in her husband's company;

but she said she had no fear of him, as he had treated her with unusual kindness. Accordingly she went home and dressed herself, (having borrowed some clothes of her landlady,) and met her husband, who put her in a chaise, and drove her out of town towards Hounslow.

As they were riding along, she begged he would stop while she bought some snuff, which he, in a laughing manner, refused to do, saying she would never want any again. When he came on Hounslow-Heath it was near ten o'clock at night, when he suddenly stopped the chaise and threw the lash of the whip round his wife's neck: but drawing it too hastily, he made a violent mark on her chin; but immediately finding his mistake, he placed it lower; on which she exclaimed, "My dear! my dear! for God's sake—if this is your love, I will never trust you more."

Immediately on her pronouncing these words, which were her last, he pulled the ends of the whip with great force: but the violence of his passion abating, he let go before she was quite dead: yet resolving to accomplish the horrid deed, he once more put the thong of the whip about her neck, and pulled it with such violence that it broke; but not till the poor woman was dead.

Having stripped the body, he left it almost under a gibbet where some malefactors hung in chains, having first disfigured it to such a degree that he presumed it could not be known. He brought the clothes to London, some of which he cut in pieces, and dropped in different streets: but knowing that the others were borrowed of the landlady he sent them to her; a circumstance that materially conducted to his conviction.

He reached London about one o'clock in the morning; and being interrogated why he came at such an unseasonable hour, he said that the Margate Hoy had been detained in the river by contrary winds.

On the following day, the servants, and other people, made so many inquiries respecting his wife, that, terrified at the idea of being taken into custody, he immediately fled to Portsmouth, with a view of entering on board a ship; but no vessel was then ready to sail.

While he was drinking at an ale-house in Portsmouth, he heard the bell-man crying him as a murderer, with such an exact description of him, that he was apprehensive of being seized; and observing a window which opened to the water, he jumped out and swam for his life.

Having gained the shore, he travelled all night, till he reached a farm-house, where he inquired for employment. The farmer's wife said he did not appear as if he had been used to country-work; but he might stay till her husband's arrival.

The farmer regarded him with great attention, and said he wanted a ploughman, but he was certain that he would not answer his purpose, as he had the appearance of a person who had absconded for debt; or possibly there might be some criminal prosecution against him.

Price expressed his readiness to do any thing for an honest subsistence; but the farmer refused to employ him; though he said he would give him a supper and a lodging. But when bed-time came, the farmer's men refused to sleep with Price, in the fear of his robbing them of their clothes: in consequence of which he was obliged to lay on some straw in the barn.

On the following day he crossed the country towards Oxford, where he endeavoured to get into service, and would have been engaged by a physician, but happening to read a newspaper, in which he was advertised, he immediately decamped from Oxford, and travelled into Wales.

Having stopped at a village a few miles from Hay, at the house of a shoe-maker, to whom his brother was apprenticed, the latter obtained his master's

permission to accompany his brother home; and while they were on their walk, the malefactor recounted the particulars of the murder, which had obliged him to seek his safety in flight.

The brother commiserated his condition; and, leaving him at a small distance from his father's house, went in, and found the old gentleman reading an advertisement describing the murderer. The younger son bursting into tears, the father said he hoped his brother was not come; to which the youth replied, "Yes, he is at the door; but being afraid that some of the neighbours were in the house, he would not come in till he had your permission."

The offender being introduced, fell on his knees, and earnestly besought his father's blessing; to which the aged parent said, "Ah! George, I wish God may bless you; and what I have heard concerning you may be false." The son said, "It is false; but let me have a private room: make no words: I have done no harm: let me have a room to myself."

Being accommodated agreeable to his request, he produced half a crown, begging that his brother would buy a lancet, as he was resolved to put a period to his miserable existence: but the brother declined to be any way aiding to the commission of the crime of suicide; and the father, after exerting every argument to prevent his thinking of such a violation of the laws of God, concealed him for two days.

It happened that the neighbours observing a fire in a room where none had been for a considerable time before, a report was propagated that Price was secreted in the house of his father; whereupon he thought it prudent to abscond in the night: and having reached Gloucester, he went to an inn, and procured the place of an ostler.

The terrors of his conscience now agitated him to such a degree that the other servants could not help asking what ailed him; to which he replied, that a girl he had courted having married another man

he had never been able to enjoy any peace of mind since.

During his residence at Gloucester two of the sons of the lady, with whom he had first lived as a servant, happened to be at a school in that city, and Price behaved to them with so much civility, that they wrote to their mother, describing his conduct; in reply to which, she informed them, that he had killed his wife, and desired them not to hold any correspondence with him.

The young gentlemen mentioning this circumstance, one of Price's fellow-servants said to him, "You are the man that murdered your wife on Hounslow-heath. I will not betray you; but if you stay longer, you will certainly be taken into custody."

Stung by the reflections of his own conscience, and agitated by the fear of momentary detection, Price knew not how to act; but at length he resolved to come to London, and surrender to justice; and calling on his former master, and being apprehended, he was committed to Newgate.

At the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he was brought to his trial, and convicted on almost the strongest circumstantial evidence that was ever adduced against any offender. He had prepared a written defence; but declined reading it, as he found it was so little likely to operate with any effect in his favour.

He was sentenced to death, but died of the Gaoi Fever, in Newgate, before the law could be executed on him, on the 22d of October, 1738.

DAVID ROBERTS,

Executed for high treason, in diminishing the gold coin of the realm, April 3, 1739.

THE subject of the following remarkable narrative was a native of Chepstow, in Monmouthshire, and was apprenticed to a joiner; but quitting his master's service, he worked some time as a journeyman at the Devizes in Wiltshire, where he married a wife with a fortune of 300*l*.

His wife dying in childbed, he remained at the Devizes a considerable time, during which he dissipated all his wife's fortune, except about 40*l*. with which he came to London, and took lodgings with a widow, who kept a public-house. Roberts soon became so intimate with the widow, that she told him it was necessary he should marry her. He did not hesitate to embrace the proposal, imagining that the marriage would procure him a decent establishment in life; but being frequently arrested for debts contracted by his wife previous to the marriage, he determined to abandon her; with which view he sold the household furniture to a broker, and left his wife to provide for herself.

He now engaged in partnership with his brother, who was a carpenter in Southwark, and having saved a considerable sum of money during this connection, he embarked in business for himself, and obtained a large share of credit from the timber-merchants; but, when his debts became due, he took lodgings within the rules of the King's Bench, of which place he became a prisoner in order to evade the payment of them.

Even while in this situation he undertook a piece of work by which he made 300*l*. profit: and might have been a greater gainer, but that he quarrelled with his employer. At this period one Sarah Britow, who had been transported for felony, returned

after the expiration of a year, and becoming acquainted with David Roberts, lived with him as his wife for a considerable time.

He now took his new wife to Bristol, where he rented an inn, and furnished it by the help of those people who would trust him : but one of his London creditors getting notice of the place of his retreat, arrested him ; and Roberts standing trial, cast him on account of some informality in the taking out of the writ.

Roberts, however, thought it imprudent to remain in his present station ; and therefore, shipping his effects for London, he and Mrs. Bristow came to town, and lodged again within the rules of the King's Bench, of which Roberts became again a prisoner.

Notwithstanding his situation, he took an inn that was at that time to be let at Coventry ; but while he was giving directions for the putting up of a new sign, he was observed by a timber-merchant, named Smith, to whom he owed 55*l*.

Mr. Smith rode forward to another inn, where he learnt that Roberts had taken the house where he had seen him ; and, on his return to London, he sent a commission to an attorney to arrest him for the sum abovementioned. Roberts found means to compromise this affair ; but his other creditors learning whither he had retired, it soon became necessary for him to conceal himself.

Roberts thinking it would be unsafe to remain long in Coventry, commissioned Mrs. Bristow to purchase all such goods as she could get on credit, and send them to the inn, with a view to carry them off to some place where they were not known.

After some goods had been obtained in this manner, Roberts was necessitated to make a precipitate retreat, owing to the following circumstance.---An attorney and bailiff having procured a search-warrant, employed some dragoons who were quartered in the town, to search Roberts's house, on pretence

of finding stolen goods: but the dragoons were no sooner entered than they were followed by the bailiffs, on which Roberts dropped from the window of a room where he had concealed himself, and escaped through the garden of his next neighbour.

As it now became necessary that he should retire from Coventry, he left Mrs. Bristow, and came to London, directing that she should send the goods she had obtained by a waggon, and direct them to him in a fictitious name.

Pursuant to his instructions, she loaded a waggon with these ill-gotten effects; but some of the creditors having obtained intelligence of what was intended attached the goods.

Hereupon Mrs. Bristow wrote word to Roberts, giving a short account of what had happened; on which he sent one Carter to obtain a full information respecting the affair: but Carter staying much longer than he was expected to do, Roberts set out for Coventry, notwithstanding the risk to which he knew he exposed himself by appearing in that place.

On his arrival, he found the house stripped of every thing but a small quantity of beer, with some benches and chairs; and observed that Mrs. Bristow and Carter were in a high degree of intimacy. However, he did not stay long to examine into the state of affairs; for the woman told him it would be prudent for him to conceal himself in some retired place till she came to him.

Pursuant to this advice he waited at the extremity of the town more than three hours, when the other parties came to him, and advised him to retire to London with all possible expedition; but did not give him money to defray his expenses. He was greatly incensed at this behaviour; but did not express his resentment, as he was fearful of being arrested if he should provoke the other parties.

He was soon followed to London by Mrs. Bristow and Carter; but as they brought no more money with them than about fifteen pounds, he was exceed-

ingly mortified; however, as he was still in possession of the leases of the house, he knew he could not be legally deprived of it, while he duly paid the land tax and ground rent.

Roberts now moved the court of King's Bench for a rule against his creditors, to show cause why they had attached his goods; and the court recommending to each party to settle the matter by arbitration, it awarded that Roberts should receive 130*l.* and give his creditors a bill of sale for the lease and effects; but Roberts not having paid for the fixtures, the owner of them instituted a suit for recovery; and on the day his other creditors took possession of the house, an execution was returned from the Court of Common Pleas.

Another suit arose from this circumstance; "but a writ of inquiry being directed to the sheriff of Coventry, a verdict was found for the creditors under the award, because that order had been made prior to the execution."

While these matters were depending, Roberts, being distressed for cash, borrowed five pounds, for the payment of which Carter was the security: but the debt not being paid when due, Carter was arrested for the money, while Roberts secreted himself in a lodging at Hoxton, where he received the 130*l.* decreed to him by the award abovementioned.

Carter soon finding Roberts's place of retreat, a quarrel arose between them; but at length the former asked Roberts to lend him 20*l.* saying he could acquire a fortune by the possession of such a sum; and that he would repay the money at twenty shillings a month, and give a good premium for the use of it.

Roberts asking how this money was to be employed to such advantage, the other said it was to purchase a liquid which would dissolve gold; whereupon the former said he would not lend him the money; in revenge for which Carter caused him to be arrested for the five pounds abovementioned.

Roberts took refuge within the rules of the King's Bench, while Carter who had found means to raise money for his purposes, took to the practice of diminishing the coin, in which he was so successful that he soon abounded in cash ; on which Roberts became very anxious to know the secret, which the other refused to discover, saying, he had been ill treated in their former transactions.

Carter's method of diminishing the coin was by a chemical preparation ; and Roberts imagined he had learned how to do it, for which purpose he purchased a crucible : but his experiment failed in the first attempt. Hereupon he again sought for Carter, whom he found in company with some other diminishers of the coin, and offered him money to give him the necessary instructions.

Carter took the money, and desired Roberts to wait till he fetched some tools ; but in fact he went for two sheriff's officers to arrest him. The transaction had passed in a public house, and Roberts seeing the bailiffs crossing the street, made his escape by a back window ; but, in his hurry, went off with Carter's hat instead of his own.

Having thus escaped from immediate danger, he became apprehensive that Carter might be base enough to indict him for felony ; on which he returned the hat, with a letter, earnestly entreating a reconciliation : Carter went to him, and told him that, for twenty guineas, he would teach him his art : but Roberts offering him a much inferior price, no agreement took place.

Roberts now again took refuge within the rules of the King's Bench ; and having failed obtaining the desired secret, determined on a practice equally dishonest and dangerous, which was that of filing of gold.

Mrs. Bristow still cohabited with him ; and when he had filed off as much dust as was worth 10*l*. he put it into a tobacco-box, under his bed, which she stole, and sold the contents ; but after this he ob-

tained a considerable sum of money, by employing a person at half a crown a day, to sell the filings.

After some time, not agreeing with the person whom he had thus employed, he determined to act for himself; and having sold a quantity of dust to a refiner, he went to a public-house near Hicks's-Hall, kept by a Mr. Rogers, whom he asked to give him a bank-note for some gold. Rogers, on feeling the guineas, found that some of the gold stuck to his fingers; on which he said, "What have we got here? The fellow who filed these guineas ought to be hanged, for doing his business in so clumsy a manner." Without saying more, he stepped out, and procured a constable, who took Roberts into custody: but at length, after detaining him six hours, discharged him on his own authority.

Roberts was no sooner at liberty than he prosecuted the publican and constable in the Court of King's Bench for false imprisonment: but he failed in this suit, and an evidence whom he had subpoenaed in his behalf was committed on a charge of perjury, while the publican was bound to prosecute Roberts, who taking out a writ of error, to prolong time, lodged privately at the Three Hats, a public-house at Islington.

While he was in this retreat, and forming a design to go to Lisbon, Mrs. Bristow brought him a newspaper, in which his person was described; whereupon they went together to Chatham, where they saw another advertisement, offering a reward for apprehending them both. On this Roberts offered the captain of a ship five guineas to carry them to Dunkirk: but this was refused, on account of the boisterousness of the weather.

Thus disappointed, they repaired to Ramsgate, where they met Mrs. Bristow's brother, who was likewise included in the advertisement, and they all went on board a vessel bound for Calais; but quarrelling among themselves, the captain gave orders that they should be landed at Dover. Provoked by

this, Roberts threw the captain into the sea, and if the boat had not been sent to take him up, he must infallibly have been drowned.

The captain was no sooner on board than Roberts took the helm, and steered the vessel to her port; but on their landing, Mrs. Bristow's brother making the Custom-house officers acquainted with Roberts's character, his boxes were searched, and the implements for filing money found; but he escaped to Dunkirk while they were making the search.

At Dunkirk he made an acquaintance with Henry Justice, who, having stolen some books at Cambridge, had been transported for the offence. To this man he told the secrets of his trade; but he advised him to decamp, as he would infallibly be pursued from Calais.

Hereupon Roberts went to Ostend, and sending for Mrs. Bristow to that place, they embarked for England, and took lodgings in Fountain-court, in the Strand, which they quitted after a residence of six weeks.

Roberts could not detach himself from the idea of procuring a subsistence by filing money; and, in pursuit of this illicit practice, he took a house at Bath, where he used to work at his occupation during the night.

Going to a chemist's shop one morning to purchase a liquid, he saw a gentleman who knew him, on which he went home immediately, and told Mrs. Bristow that he was apprehensive of being taken into custody. His presages were but too just, for some officers came to his house almost immediately, and conveyed him before a justice of peace, who committed him to prison, and sent notice to London of his being in custody.

During his confinement at Bath, he was supplied with instruments for filing off his irons; but discovery of this affair being made, he was kept in the strictest confinement till he was transmitted to London.

Being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, he was convicted on the fullest evidence, and received sentence of death: and after his conviction, till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he scarcely mentioned any circumstances respecting his conduct; but afterwards his behaviour was much more explicit.

On the night before his execution he acknowledged to the keeper of Newgate, that he had murdered his first wife, during her lying-in.

The second wife went to visit him in prison; but he declined seeing her, alleging that her company would only disturb him in his preparations for that awful state on which he was about to enter. The rest of his conduct was highly becoming his melancholy situation.

RICHARD TURPIN,

(HIGHWAYMAN, HORSE-STEALER, AND MURDERER.)

Executed at York, April 10, 1739.

THIS notorious character was for a long time the dread of travellers on the Essex road, on account of the daring robberies which he daily committed; was also a noted house-breaker, and was for a considerable time remarkably successful in his desperate course, but was at length brought to an ignominious end, in consequence of circumstances which, in themselves, may appear trifling. He was apprehended in consequence of shooting a fowl, and his brother refusing to pay sixpence for the postage of his letter occasioned his conviction.

He was the son of a farmer at Thackstead in Essex; and, having received a common school education, was apprenticed to a butcher in Whitechapel;

but was distinguished from his early youth for the impropriety of his behaviour, and the brutality of his manners. On the expiration of his apprenticeship, he married a young woman of East Ham, in Essex, named Palmer: but he had not been long married before he took to the practice of stealing his neighbours' cattle, which he used to kill and cut up for sale.

Having stolen two oxen belonging to Mr. Giles, of Plaistow, he drove them to his own house; but two of Giles's servants, suspecting who was the robber, went to Turpin's, where they saw two beasts of such size as had been lost: but as the hides were stripped from them, it was impossible to say that they were the same: but learning that Turpin used to dispose of his hides at Waltham-Abbey, they went thither, and saw the hides of the individual beasts that had been stolen.

No doubt now remaining who was the robber, a warrant was procured for the apprehension of Turpin; but, learning that the peace-officers were in search of him, he made his escape from the back window of his house, at the very moment that the others were entering at the door.

Having retreated to a place of security, he found means to inform his wife where he was concealed; on which she furnished him with money, with which he travelled into the hundreds of Essex, where he joined a gang of smugglers, with whom he was for some time successful; till a set of the Custom-house officers, by one successful stroke, deprived him of all his ill-acquired gains.

Thrown out of this kind of business, he connected himself with a gang of deer-stealers, the principal part of whose depredations were committed on Epping Forest, and the parks in its neighbourhood: but this business not succeeding to the expectation of the robbers, they determined to commence house-breakers.

Their plan was to fix on houses that they pre-

sumed contained any valuable property ; and, while one of them knocked at the door, the others were to rush in, and seize whatever they might deem worthy of their notice.

The first attack of this kind was at the house of Mr. Strype, an old man who kept a chandler's shop at Watford, whom they robbed of all the money in his possession, but did not offer him any personal abuse.

Turpin now acquainted his associates that there was an old woman at Loughton, who was in possession of seven or eight hundred pounds ; whereupon they agreed to rob her ; and when they came to the door, one of them knocked, and the rest forcing their way into the house, tied handkerchiefs over the eyes of the old woman and her maid.

This being done, Turpin demanded what money was in the house ; and the owner hesitating to tell him, he threatened to set her on the fire if she did not make an immediate discovery. Still, however, she declined to give the desired information ; on which the villains actually placed her on the fire, where she sat till the tormenting pains compelled her to discover her hidden treasure ; so that the robbers possessed themselves of above 400*l.* and decamped with the booty.

Some little time after this they agreed to rob the house of a farmer near Barking ; and knocking at the door, the people declined to open it ; on which they broke it open ; and having bound the farmer, his wife, his son-in-law, and the servant maid, they robbed the house of above 700*l.* ; which delighted Turpin so much that he exclaimed, " Aye, this will do if it would always be so ! " and the robbers retired with their prize, which amounted to above 80*l.* for each of them.

This desperate gang, now flushed with success, determined to attack the house of Mr. Mason, the keeper of Epping Forest ; and the time was affixed when the plan was to be carried into execution ; but

Turpin having gone to London, to spend his share of the former booty, intoxicated himself to such a degree, that he totally forgot the appointment.

Nevertheless, the rest of the gang resolved, that the absence of their companion should not frustrate the proposed design; and having taken a solemn oath to break every article of furniture in Mason's house, they set out on their expedition.

Having gained admission, they beat and kicked the unhappy man with great severity. Finding an old man sitting by the fire-side, they permitted him to remain uninjured; and Mr. Mason's daughter escaped their fury, by running out of the house, and taking shelter in a hog-sty.

After ransacking the lower part of the house, and doing much mischief, they went up stairs, where they broke every thing that fell in their way, and among the rest a china punch-bowl, from which dropped one hundred and twenty guineas, which they made prey of, and effected their escape. They now went to London, in search of Turpin, with whom they shared the booty, though he had not taken an active part in the execution of the villany.

On the 11th of January, 1735, Turpin and five of his companions went to the house of Mr. Saunders, a rich farmer at Charlton in Kent, between seven and eight in the evening, and having knocked at the door, asked if Mr. Saunders was at home. Being answered in the affirmative, they rushed into the house, and found Mr. Saunders, with his wife and friends, playing at cards in the parlour. They told the company that they should remain uninjured, if they made no disturbance. Having made prize of a silver snuff-box which lay on the table, a part of the gang stood guard over the rest of the company, while the others attended Mr. Saunders through the house, and breaking open his escrutoires and closets, stole above 100*l.* exclusive of plate.

During these transactions the servant maid ran up stairs, barring the door of her room, and called out, "Thieves!" with a view of alarming the neigh-

bourhood; but the robbers broke open the door of her room, secured her, and then robbed the house of all the valuable property they had not before taken. Finding some minced-pies, and some bottles of wine, they sat down to regale themselves; and meeting with a bottle of brandy, they compelled each of the company to drink a glass of it.

Mrs. Saunders fainting through terror, they administered some drops in water to her, and recovered her to the use of her senses. Having staid in the house a considerable time, they packed up their booty and departed, having first declared, that if any of the family gave the least alarm within two hours, or advertised the marks of the stolen plate, they would return and murder them at a future time.

The division of the plunder having taken place, they, on the 18th of the same month, went to the house of Mr. Sheldon, near Croydon, in Surrey, where they arrived about seven in the evening. Having got into the yard, they perceived a light in the stable, and going into it, found the coachman attending his horses. Having immediately bound him, they quitted the stable, and meeting Mr. Sheldon in the yard, they seized him, and compelling him to conduct them into the house, they stole eleven guineas, with the jewels, plate, and other things of value, to a large amount. Having committed this robbery, they returned Mr. Sheldon two guineas, and apologized for their conduct.

This being done, they hastened to the Black Horse, in the Broad-way, Westminster, where they concerted the robbery of Mr. Lawrence, of Edgware, near Stanmore, in Middlesex, for which place they set out on the 4th of February, and arrived at a public-house in that village, about five o'clock in the evening. From this place they went to Mr. Lawrence's house, where they arrived about seven o'clock, just as he had discharged some people who had worked for him.

Having quitted their horses at the outer gate, one

of the robbers going forwards, found a boy who had just returned from folding his sheep; the rest of the gang following, a pistol was presented, and instant destruction threatened if he made any noise. They then took off his garters, and tied his hands, and told him to direct them to the door, and when they knocked, to answer, and bid the servants open it, in which case they would not hurt him; but when the boy came to the door he was so terrified that he could not speak; on which one of the gang knocked, and a man servant, imagining it was one of the neighbours, opened the door, whereupon they all rushed in, armed with pistols.

Having seized Mr. Lawrence and his servant, they threw a cloth over their faces, and taking the boy into another room, demanded what fire-arms were in the house; to which he replied, only an old gun, which they broke in pieces. They then bound Mr. Lawrence and his man, and made them sit by the boy; and Turpin searching the old gentleman, took from him a guinea, a Portugal piece, and some silver; but not being satisfied with this booty, they forced him to conduct them up stairs, where they broke open a closet, and stole some money and plate: but that not being sufficient to satisfy them, they threatened to murder Mr. Lawrence, each of them destining him to a different death, as the savageness of his own nature prompted him. At length one of them took a kettle of water from the fire, and threw it over him; but it providentially happened not to be hot enough to scald him.

In the interim, the maid servant who was churning butter in the dairy, hearing a noise in the house, apprehended some mischief; on which she blew out her candle to screen herself; but being found in the course of their search, one of the miscreants compelled her to go up stairs, where he gratified his brutal passion by force. They then robbed the house of all the valuable effects they could find, locked the family in the parlour, threw the key into the garden, and took their ill-gotten plunder to London.

The particulars of this atrocious robbery being represented to the king, a proclamation was issued for the apprehension of the offenders, promising a pardon to any one of them who would impeach his accomplices; and a reward of 50*l.* was offered, to be paid on conviction. This, however, had no effect; the robbers continued their depredations as before; and, flushed with the success they had met with, seemed to bid defiance to the laws.

On the 7th of February, six of them assembled at the White-Bear Inn, in Drury-lane, where they agreed to rob the house of Mr. Francis, a farmer near Mary-le-bone. Arriving at the place, they found a servant in the cow-house, whom they bound fast, and threatened to murder, if he was not perfectly silent. This being done, they led him into the stable, where finding another of the servants, they bound him in the same manner.

In the interim Mr. Francis happening to come home, they presented their pistols to his breast, and threatened instant destruction to him, if he made the least noise or opposition.

Having bound the master in the stable with his servants, they rushed into the house, tied Mrs. Francis, her daughter, and the maid servant, and beat them in a most cruel manner. One of the thieves stood as a sentry while the rest rifled the house, in which they found a silver tankard, a medal of Charles the First, a gold watch, several gold rings, a considerable sum of money, and a variety of valuable linen and other effects, which they conveyed to London.

Hereupon a reward of 100*l.* was offered for the apprehension of the offenders: in consequence of which two of them were taken into custody, tried, convicted on the evidence of an accomplice, and hanged in chains: and the whole gang being dispersed, Turpin went into the country to renew his depredations on the public.

On a journey towards Cambridge, he met a man genteely dressed, and well mounted: and expecting a good booty, he presented a pistol to the supposed

gentleman, and demanded his money. The party thus stopped happened to be one King, a famous highwayman, who knew Turpin; and when the latter threatened destruction if he did not deliver his money, King burst into a fit of laughter, and said, "What, dog eat dog?—Come, come, brother Turpin; if you don't know me, I know you, and shall be glad of your company."

These brethren in iniquity soon struck the bargain, and immediately entering on business, committed a number of robberies; till at length they were so well known, that no public-house would receive them as guests. Thus situated they fixed on a spot between the King's-Oak and the Loughton Road, on Epping Forest, where they made a cave, which was large enough to receive them and their horses.

This cave was inclosed within a sort of thicket of bushes and brambles, through which they could look and see passengers on the road, while themselves remained unobserved.

From this station they used to issue, and robbed such a number of persons, that at length the very pedlars who travelled the road, carried fire-arms for their defence: and, while they were in this retreat, Turpin's wife used to supply them with necessaries, and frequently remained in the cave during the night.

Having taken a ride as far as Bungay, in Suffolk, they observed two young women receive fourteen pounds for corn, on which Turpin resolved to rob them of the money. King objected, saying it was a pity to rob such pretty girls: but Turpin was obstinate, and obtained the booty.

Upon their return home on the following day, they stopped a Mr. Bradele, of London, who was riding in his chariot with his children. The gentleman, seeing only one robber, was preparing to make resistance, when King called to Turpin to hold the horses. They took from the gentleman his watch, money, and an old mourning ring; but re-

turned the latter, as he declared that its intrinsic value was trifling, yet he was very unwilling to part with it.

Finding that they readily parted with the ring, he asked them what he must give for the watch: on which King said to Turpin, "What say ye, Jack?—Here seems to be a good honest fellow; shall we let him have the watch?"—Turpin replied, "Do as you please;" on which King said to the gentleman, "You must pay six guineas for it: we never sell for more, though the watch should be worth six and thirty." The gentleman promised that the money should be left at the Dial, in Birchin-lane.

On the 4th of May, 1737, Turpin was guilty of murder, which arose from the following circumstance: A reward of 100*l.* having been offered for apprehending him, one Thomas Morris, a servant of Mr. Thompson, one of the keepers of Epping Forest, accompanied by a higgler, set out in order to apprehend him. Turpin seeing them approach near his dwelling, Mr. Thompson's man having a gun, he mistook them for poachers; on which he said, there were no hares near that thicket: "No, (said Morris) but I have found a Turpin;" and presenting his gun required him to surrender.

Hereupon Turpin spoke to him, as in a friendly manner, and gradually retreated at the same time, till having seized his own gun, he shot him dead on the spot, and the higgler ran off with the utmost precipitation.

This murder being represented to the Secretary of State, the following proclamation was issued by government, which we give a place to, from its describing the person of this notorious depredator.

"It having been represented to the King, that Richard Turpin did, on Wednesday, the 4th of May last, barbarously murder Thomas Morris, servant to Henry Thompson, one of the keepers of Epping Forest, and commit other notorious felonies and robberies, near London, his Majesty is pleased

to promise his most gracious pardon to any of his accomplices, and a reward of 200*l.* to any person or persons that shall discover him, so that he may be apprehended and convicted. Turpin was born at Thackstead, in Essex, is about thirty, by trade a butcher, about five feet nine inches high, very much marked with the small-pox, his cheek-bones broad, his face thinner towards the bottom; his visage short, pretty upright, and broad about the shoulders."

Turpin, to avoid the proclamation, went further into the country in search of his old companion King: and in the mean time sent a letter to his wife, to meet him at a public-house at Hertford. The woman attended according to this direction; and her husband coming into the house soon after she arrived, a butcher, to whom he owed five pounds, happened to see him; on which he said, "Come, Dick, I know you have money now; and if you will pay me, it will be of great service."

Turpin told him that his wife was in the next room; that she had money, and that he should be paid immediately; but while the butcher was hinting to some of his acquaintance, that the person present was Turpin, and that they might take him into custody after he had received his debt, the highwayman made his escape through a window, and rode off with great expedition.

Turpin having found King, and a man named Potter, who had lately connected himself with them, they set off towards London, in the dusk of the evening; but when they came near the Green Man, on Epping Forest, they overtook a Mr. Major, who riding on a very fine horse, and Turpin's beast being jaded, he obliged the rider to dismount, and exchange horses.

The robbers now pursued their journey towards London, and Mr. Major going to the Green Man, gave an account of the affair; on which it was conjectured that Turpin had been the robber, and that the horse which he exchanged must have been stolen.

It was on a Saturday evening that this robbery was committed; but Mr. Major being advised to print hand-bills immediately, notice was given to the landlord of the Green Man, that such a horse as Mr. Major had lost, had been left at the Red Lion, in Whitechapel. The landlord going thither, determined to wait till some person came for it; and, at about eleven at night, King's brother came to pay for the horse, and take him away: on which he was immediately seized, and conducted into the house.

Being asked what right he had to the horse, he said he had bought it; but the landlord examining a whip which he had in his hand, found a button at the end of the handle half broken off, and the name of Major on the remaining half. Hereupon he was given into the custody of a constable; but as it was not supposed that he was the actual robber, he was told, that he should have his liberty, if he would discover his employer.

Hereupon he said, that a stout man, in a white duffil coat, was waiting for the horse in Red Lion-street; on which the company going thither, saw King, who drew a pistol attempted to fire it, but it flashed in the pan; he then endeavoured to draw out another pistol, but he could not, as it got entangled in his pocket.

At this time Turpin was watching at a small distance, and riding towards the spot, King cried out, "Shoot him, or we are taken;" on which Turpin fired, and shot his companion, who called out, "Dick, you have killed me;" which the other hearing, rode off at full speed.

King lived a week after this affair, and gave information that Turpin might be found at a house near Hackney-marsh; and, on inquiry, it was discovered that Turpin had been there on the night that he rode off, lamenting that he had killed King, who was his most faithful associate.

For a considerable time did Turpin skulk about

the forest, having been deprived of his retreat in the cave since he shot the servant of Mr. Thompson. On the examination of this cave there were found two shirts, two pair of stockings, a piece of ham, and a part of a bottle of wine.

Some vain attempts were made to take this notorious offender into custody; and among the rest, the huntsman of a gentleman in the neighbourhood went in search of him with blood-hounds. Turpin perceiving them, and recollecting that King Charles II. evaded his pursuers under covert of the friendly branches of the oak, mounted one of those trees under which the hounds passed, to his inexpressible terror, so that he determined to make a retreat into Yorkshire.

Going first to Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, he stole some horses, for which he was taken into custody, but he escaped from the constable as he was conducting him before a magistrate, and hastened to Welton, in Yorkshire, where he went by the name of John Palmer, and assumed the character of a gentleman.

He now frequently went into Lincolnshire, where he stole horses, which he brought into Yorkshire, and either sold or exchanged them.

He often accompanied the neighbouring gentlemen on their parties of hunting and shooting; and one evening, on a return from an expedition of the latter kind, he wantonly shot a cock belonging to his landlord. On this Mr. Hall, a neighbour, said, "You have done wrong in shooting your landlord's cock;" to which Turpin replied, that if he would stay while he loaded his gun, he would shoot him also.

Irritated by this insult, Mr. Hall informed the landlord of what had passed; and application being made to some magistrates, a warrant was granted for the apprehension of the offender, who being taken into custody, and carried before a bench of justices, then assembled at the quarter-sessions, at Beverley,

they demanded security for his good behaviour, which he being unable, or unwilling to give, was committed to Bridewell.

On inquiry it appeared that he made frequent journies into Lincolnshire, and on his return always abounded in money, and was likewise in possession of several horses; so that it was conjectured he was a horse-stealer and highwayman.

On this the magistrates went to him on the following day, and demanded who he was, where he lived, and what was his employment? He replied in substance, "that about two years ago he had lived at Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, and was by trade a butcher, but that having contracted several debts, for sheep that proved rotten, he was obliged to abscond, and come to live in Yorkshire."

The magistrates not being satisfied with this tale, commissioned the clerk of the peace to write into Lincolnshire, to make the necessary inquiries respecting the supposed John Palmer. The letter was carried by a special messenger, who brought an answer from a magistrate in the neighbourhood, importing that John Palmer was well known, though he had never carried on trade there: that he had been accused of sheep-stealing for which he had been in custody, but had made his escape from the peace officers: and that there were several informations lodged against him for horse-stealing.

Hereupon the magistrates thought it prudent to remove him to York Castle, where he had not been more than a month, when two persons from Lincolnshire came and claimed a mare and foal, and likewise a horse, which he had stolen in that county.

After he had been about four months in prison, he wrote the following letter to his brother in Essex:

" Dear Brother,

York, Feb. 6, 1739.

" I am sorry to acquaint you, that I am now under confinement in York Castle, for horse-stealing.

If I could procure an evidence from London to give me a character, that would go a great way towards my being acquitted. I had not been long in this county before my being apprehended, so that it would pass off the readier. For Heaven's sake dear brother, do not neglect me; you will know what I mean, when I say,

“ I am yours,

“ JOHN PALMER.”

This letter being returned, unopened, to the Post-Office in Essex, because the brother would not pay the postage of it, was accidentally seen by Mr. Smith, a school-master, who having taught Turpin to write, immediately knew his hand, on which he carried the letter to a magistrate, who broke it open; by which it was discovered that the supposed John Palmer was the real Richard Turpin.

Hereupon the magistrates of Essex dispatched Mr. Smith to York, who immediately selected him from all the other prisoners in the castle. This Mr. Smith, and another gentleman, afterwards proved his identity on his trial.

On the rumour that the noted Turpin was a prisoner in York Castle, persons flocked from all parts of the country to take a view of him, and debates ran very high whether he was the real person or not. Among others who visited him, was a young fellow who pretended to know the famous Turpin, and having regarded him a considerable time with looks of great attention, he told the keeper he would bet him half a guinea that he was not Turpin; on which the prisoner, whispering the keeper, said, “ Lay him the wager, and I'll go your halves.”

When this notorious malefactor was brought to trial, he was convicted on two indictments, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he wrote to his father, imploring him to intercede with a gentleman and lady of rank

to make interest that his sentence might be remitted; and that he might be transported. The father did what was in his power: but the notoriety of his character was such, that no persons would exert themselves in his favour.

This man lived in the most gay and thoughtless manner after conviction, regardless of all considerations of futurity, and affecting to make a jest of the dreadful fate that awaited him.

Not many days before his execution, he purchased a new fustian frock and a pair of pumps, in order to wear them at the time of his death: and, on the day before, he hired five poor men, at ten shillings each, to follow the cart as mourners: and he gave hatbands and gloves to several other persons: and he also left a ring, and some other articles, to a married woman in Lincolnshire, with whom he had been acquainted.

On the morning of his death he was put into a cart, and being followed by his mourners, as above-mentioned, he was drawn to the place of execution, in his way to which he bowed to the spectators with an air of the most astonishing indifference and intrepidity.

When he came to the fatal tree, he ascended the ladder; when his right leg trembling, he stamped it down with an air of assumed courage, as if he was ashamed of discovering any signs of fear. Having conversed with the executioner about half an hour, he threw himself off the ladder, and expired in a few minutes.

The spectators of the execution were affected at his fate, as he was distinguished by the comeliness of his appearance. The corpse was brought to the Blue Boar, in Castle-Gate, York, where it remained till the next morning, when it was interred in the churchyard of St. George's parish, with an inscription on the coffin, with the initials of his name, and his age. The grave was dug remarkably deep, but notwithstanding the people who acted as mourners took

such measures as they thought would secure the body : it was carried off about three o'clock on the following morning ; the populace, however, got intimation whither it was conveyed, and found it in a garden belonging to one of the surgeons of the city.

Having got possession of it they laid it on a board, and carried it through the streets in a kind of triumphal manner, they then filled the coffin with unslacked lime, and buried it in the grave where it had been before deposited.

JAMES CALDCLOUGH,

Executed at Tyburn, July 2, 1739, for robbery.

THIS offender was born in the city of Durham, he was the son of people of good character, and having received a decent education, he was apprenticed to a shoemaker, with whom he lived about three years, but having contracted a habit of idleness, and being attached to bad company, he quitted his master, and enlisted in the second regiment of foot-guards.

He had not been long in London before he became acquainted with a fellow, named Thomas, who offered to put him into an easy way of getting money ; Caldcrough listened to his invitation, dined with him and some of his associates, on a sunday, at a public-house ; and afterwards attended them to Newington-Green, where they continued drinking for some time, and at the approach of evening set out towards London, with a view of robbing such persons as they might meet.

As they crossed the fields towards Hoxton, they stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of a watch, and some silver, and tying him to a gate, they retired to a public-house in Brick-lane, Old-street, where they spent the night in riot and drunkenness.

Caldcrough being a young fellow of genteel ap-

pearance, and remarkable spirit, his accomplices advised him to commence highwayman; but none of them having money to purchase horses, and other necessaries to equip them in a genteel manner, it was determined that two of the gang should commit a robbery which might put them in a way of committing others.

With this view they went into Kent, and stole two horses, which they placed at a livery-stable near Moorfields: after which the gang went in a body to Welling, in Hertfordshire, where they broke open a house, and stole about 14*l.* in money, and some things of value, which furnished them with clothes, and the other requisites for their intended expedition.

Thus provided, they rode to Enfield Chace, where they robbed the passengers in a stage-coach of their watches and money; and soon afterwards stopped another coach on the road to Epping Forest, from which they got a large booty, which they divided at their place of meeting in Brick lane, Old-street, and spent the night in licentious revelry.

A short time after this robbery, Caldclough and one of his companions rode to Epping-Forest, and stopped a coach in which were two gentlemen and a young lady; a servant that was behind the coach would have attacked the robbers, but the gentlemen desired him to desist, that the young lady might not be terrified. The gentlemen then gave the robbers their money, apologizing for the smallness of the sum, and saying that they should have been welcome to more had it been in their possession.

As they were riding towards London, after committing this robbery, they quitted their horses and fastened them to a tree, in order to rob the Woodford stage-coach, which they observed to be full of passengers: but the coachman suspecting their intent, drove off with such expedition, that they could not overtake him.

Disappointed in this attempt they rode towards

Wanstead, where they saw another coach, which they intended to have robbed: but as a number of butchers from London rode close behind it, they thought proper to desist from so dangerous an attempt.

Thus disappointed of the expected booty, Caldcrough and Thomas, on the following day, which was Sunday, rode to Stamford-Hill, where they robbed three persons of their watches, and about four pounds in cash. Flushed with this success they determined to put every person they should meet under contribution: in consequence of which they robbed seven persons more before they reached London, from whom they obtained about ten guineas, with which they retired to the old place of resort in Brick-Lane.

Soon after this they rode to Finchley Common, but having met with only empty carriages, they were returning to London, when they met the Barnet coach, near Islington, and robbed the company of about fifteen shillings. On the following day they collected six shillings and six-pence from another of the Barnet coaches, and nine shillings from the Highgate stage, on their return to town: which was the whole of the poor booty they obtained this day, at the imminent risk of their lives.

A few days afterwards, Caldcrough and another of the gang, stopped a person of very decent appearance near Hackney, and demanded his money: but the gentleman, bursting into tears, said he was in circumstances of distress, and possessed only eighteen pence; on which, instead of robbing him, they made him a present of half a crown; a proof that the sentiments of humanity may not be utterly banished, even from the breast of a thief. On their return to town they robbed a man of fourteen shillings, and then went to their old place of retreat.

On the day after this transaction they went to the Red Lion ale-house, in Aldersgate-street, where, having drank all day, and being unable to pay the

reckoning, they called for more liquor, and then quitted the house, saying that they would soon return. Going immediately towards Islington, they met a gentleman, to whom they said that they wanted a small sum to pay their reckoning. On this the gentleman called out thieves, and made all possible resistance; notwithstanding which they robbed him of a gold watch, which they carried to town and pawned, and then going to the ale-house, defrayed the expences of the day.

In a little time after this one of the gang sold the two horses which had been stolen as above-mentioned, and appropriated the money to his own use; after which he went into the country, and spent some time with his relations; but finding it difficult to abstain from his old practices, he wrote to Caldclough, desiring he would meet him at St. Alban's, where it was probable a good booty might be obtained.

Caldclough obeyed the summons; and on his arrival, found that the scheme was to rob the pack-horses belonging to the Coventry carrier. The man having stopped to drink at a house near St. Alban's, permitted the horses to go forward, when Caldclough and his accomplice, who had hid themselves behind a hedge, rushed out and stopped them; and having robbed the packages to the amount of 50*l.* carried their booty to London, where they disposed of it.

Having dissipated in extravagance the money acquired by this robbery, they went into Hertfordshire to rob a gentleman whom they had learnt was possessed of a considerable sum of money. Getting into the yard near midnight, the owner of the house demanded what business they had there; to which they replied, "Only to go through the yard;" whereupon the gentleman fired a gun, which, though it was loaded with powder only, terrified them so much, that they decamped without committing the intended robbery.

Caldclough, and one of his accomplices named

Robinson, being reduced to circumstances of distress, determined to make depredations on the road between London and Kensington. While they were looking out for prey, two gentlemen, named Swaffard and Banks, were observed on the road behind them; but Mr. Swaffard being at some distance before his companion, Caldcrough and Robinson, who were provided with hangers, robbed him of some silver: but not till they had first wounded him in a most shocking manner. Mr. Banks coming up soon afterwards, they robbed him of five guineas; and then hurrying towards Kensington, went over the fields to Chelsea, where they took a boat and crossed the Thames; they then walked to Lambeth, and took another boat, which carried them to Westminster.

In the mean time Mr. Banks, who had missed his friend, proceeded to Kensington, where he made enquiry for him; but finding that he had not reached that place, and being apprehensive that he might have been murdered, he went back with a gentleman in search of him, and found him weltering in his blood, with his nose cut almost off.

Mr. Swaffard was immediately removed to the house of a surgeon, where proper care being taken of him, he recovered his health, but his wounds were of such a kind as totally to disfigure the features of his face, his nose having been cut so as to hang over his mouth.

The villains were taken into custody on the very day after the perpetration of this horrid deed, when Robinson being admitted an evidence against his accomplice, he was brought to trial at the next sessions, convicted, and sentenced to death.

After conviction he seemed to entertain no hopes of a pardon; but appropriating all his time in contrition for the vices of his past life, prepared for futurity, and appeared to be a sincere penitent.

He made the following speech to the surrounding multitude:

" I humbly beg that all you young men whom I leave behind me, would take warning in time, and avoid bad houses as well as bad company. Remember my dying words, lest some of you come to the same end, which I pray God you never may. What I am now going to suffer is the just punishment for my crimes; for although I did not commit murder, yet I look upon myself equally guilty, as the poor gentleman must have died had he not met with assistance.

" Were I able to make satisfaction to those whom I have wronged, I would do it; but alas! I cannot, and therefore I pray that they will forgive me. I hope my life will be at least some satisfaction, as I have nothing besides to give: and as I die in charity with all mankind, may the Lord Jesus receive my soul!"

THOMAS BARKWITH,

Executed at Tyburn, December 21, 1739, for his first robbery.

THE following is one of the most lamentable cases we have met with. This unfortunate young man was of an amiable disposition, and had received a very liberal education, but, through the allurements of a coquette, a character both despicable and dangerous, he was driven to commit the disgraceful deed for which he suffered, in order to supply the expenses which she incurred.

This unfortunate young gentleman was the descendant of a respectable family in the Isle of Ely. At a very early period of life he was observed to possess a strength of understanding greatly beyond what could be expected at his years; and this determined his father to add to such extraordinary gifts of nature the advantages of a liberal education, the necessary attention was also given to impress

upon his mind a just idea of the principles of religion, and the absolute necessity of practical virtue.

Before he had arrived at his fourteenth year, he obtained great proficiency in the Greek, Latin, French, and Italian languages; and afforded an indisputable proof of the depth of his penetration, and the brilliancy of his fancy, in the production of a variety of poetical and prose essays. His figure was pleasing, and improved by a graceful deportment; his manner of address was insinuating, he excelled in the arts of conversation, and these qualifications, added to his extensive knowledge in the the several branches of polite literature, rendered him an object of esteem and admiration.

Soon after he had passed his fourteenth year, he received an invitation to visit an aunt residing in the metropolis. He had not been many days at this lady's house, before he became equally conspicuous, throughout the whole circle of her acquaintance, on the score of his mental powers, and personal qualifications: and he was dissuaded by his friends from returning into the country, it being their unanimous opinion, that London was, of all others, the place where opportunities, which the youth might improve to the advancement of his fortune, would be most likely to occur.

A short time after his arrival in the metropolis, he procured a recommendation to a master in chancery of high reputation and extensive practice; this gentleman appointed him to the superintendence of that department of his business which related to money matters, and in this office he acquitted himself entirely to the satisfaction of his employer, who considered him as a youth in whom he might safely repose an unlimited confidence. He possessed the particular esteem of all those who had the happiness of his acquaintance; and it was their common opinion that his fine talents, and great capacity for business, could not fail to introduce him to some considerable station in life.

The gentleman, in whose service Barkwith had engaged being under the necessity of going into Wales, on some business respecting an estate there, he commissioned him to receive the rents of a number of houses in London.

In the neighbourhood of the solicitor lived a young lady, of whom Barkwith had for some time been passionately enamoured: and immediately upon the departure of his employer for Wales, he determined to avail himself of the first opportunity of making a declaration of honourable love.

Though the young lady did not mean to unite herself in marriage with Mr. Barkwith, she encouraged his addresses; and, to her disingenuous conduct is to be attributed the fatal reverse of his fortune, from the most flattering prospect of acquiring a respectable situation in the world, to the dreadful event of suffering an ignominious death at Tyburn.

So entirely was his attention engrossed by the object of his love, that his master's most important business was wholly neglected: and he appeared to have no object in view but that of ingratiating himself into the esteem of his mistress; to gratify whose extravagance and vanity he engaged in expenses greatly disproportioned to his income, by making her valuable presents, and accompanying her to the theatres, balls, assemblies, and other places of public entertainment. In short, he was continually proposing parties of pleasure; and she had too little discretion to reject such invitations as flattered the levity of her disposition, and yielded satisfaction to her immoderate fondness for scenes of gaiety.

Upon the return of the solicitor, he found the affairs which he had entrusted to Barkwith, in a very embarrassed situation; and, upon searching into the cause of this unexpected and alarming circumstance, it was discovered that the infatuated youth had embezzled a considerable sum. The gentleman having made a particular enquiry into the conduct of Bark

with, received such information as left little hopes of his reformation; and therefore he, though reluctantly, yielded to the dictates of prudence, and resolved to employ him no longer; but, after having dismissed him from his service, he omitted no opportunity of shewing him instances of kindness and respect; and generously exerted his endeavours to render him offices of friendship, and promote his interest on every occasion that offered.

Barkwith now hired chambers, in order to transact law business on his own account; but as he had not been admitted an attorney, he was under the necessity of acting under the sanction of another person's name; whence it may be concluded that his practice was not very extensive. He might, however, by a proper attention to his business, and a moderate economy in his expenses, have retrieved his affairs in a short time: but unhappily his intercourse with the young lady was still continued, and he thought no sacrifice too great for convincing her of the ardour of his affection.

He resided at his chambers about six months. Being arrested for a considerable sum, he put in bail to the action; and though he paid the money before the writ became returnable, his credit received a terrible shock from the news of his late misfortune being circulated among his creditors, who had not hitherto entertained the least suspicion of his being under pecuniary difficulties: but they now became exceedingly importunate for him immediately to discharge their several demands.

Thus distressed, he made application to the persons whom he considered as his most valuable friends: but his hopes were disappointed, the whole which he obtained amounting to a mere trifle: and what was particularly mortifying to him was, the repulse he met with from several on whom he had conferred considerable obligations.

His necessities were so pressing as to drive him almost to desperation: but it must be observed that

his greatest distress was occasioned by the reflection that he was no longer in a capacity to indulge his mistress in that perpetual succession of pleasurable amusements to which she had been so long familiarized. The idea that poverty would render him contemptible in the opinion of his acquaintance, and that he should be no longer able to gratify the inclinations of the object on whom his warmest affections were fixed, was too mortifying for the pride of Barkwith to endure; and therefore he determined upon a desperate expedient, by which he vainly imagined that he should be enabled to provide for some pressing exigencies, flattering himself that before his expected temporary supply would be exhausted, a more favourable turn would take place in his affairs, and remove every incitement to a repetition of guilt.

Barkwith took horse in the morning of the 13th of November, pretending that he was going to Denham, in Buckinghamshire, in order to transact some important business in relation to an estate which was to devolve to a young lady, then in her minority. It is not now known whether he went to Denham; but about four o'clock in the afternoon he stopped a coach upon Hounslow-heath, and robbed a gentleman who was in the vehicle of a sum in silver not amounting to twenty shillings.

In a short time a horseman came up, who was informed by the coachman that his master had been robbed by Barkwith, who was yet in sight. The horseman immediately rode to an adjacent farmhouse, where he procured pistols, and persuaded a person to accompany him in search of the highwayman, whom, in about a quarter of an hour, they overtook, being separated from him only by a hedge. The gentleman now, pointing a pistol at Barkwith, said, if he did not surrender, he would instantly shoot him; upon which the robber urged his horse to the creature's utmost speed, and continued to gain so much ground, that he would have escaped, had

he not alighted to recover his hat, which had blown off: he regained the saddle, but soon observed that the delay occasioned by dismounting had enabled his pursuers nearly to overtake him, he again quitted his horse, hoping to elude the pursuit by crossing the fields.

In order to facilitate his escape, he disencumbered himself of his great coat, but this circumstance raising the suspicion of some labouring people near the spot, they advanced to secure him, when he snapped two pistols at them; neither of them was loaded, but he thought the sight of fire-arms might perhaps deter the countrymen from continuing their pursuit. His spirits being violently agitated, his strength nearly exhausted, and there appearing but little probability of effecting an escape, he at length surrendered, saying to the people who surrounded him, that he was a gentleman heavily oppressed with misfortunes, and supplicating in the most pathetic terms that they would favour his escape: but his entreaties had no effect.

He was properly secured during that night, and the next morning conducted before a magistrate for examination. He was ordered to London, where he was re-examined, and then committed to Newgate.

He was tried at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, and condemned to suffer death. While he remained in Newgate, he conducted himself in a manner perfectly consistent with his unhappy circumstances: his unassuming and quiet behaviour secured him from the insults of his fellow-prisoners; and upon such of them as were not absolutely callous to the stings of conscience, the sincerity of his repentance had a favourable effect.

He was conveyed to Tyburn, on the 21st of December, 1739. He prayed to Almighty God with great fervency, and exhorted young people carefully to avoid engaging in expenses disproportioned to their incomes; saying, that the perpetrator of villainy, however successful, was continually in a state

of insupportable misery, through the silent upbraidings of an internal monitor; and that though justice was, for a time eluded, imagination never failed to anticipate all the horrors attendant on public ignominy and a violent death.

EDWARD JOINES,

Executed for the murder of his wife, Dec. 21, 1739.

THOUGH nothing can be offered in extenuation of the horrid crime of murder, yet, provocation and passion, creating a temporary madness, have sometimes precipitated men to do an act from which they would at any other time have recoiled with horror.

The parents of Edward Joines were respectable housekeepers in Ratcliffe-highway, who being desirous that the boy should be qualified for business, placed him under the direction of the master of a day-school in Goodman's-fields, where he continued a regular attendance about five years, but without gaining any considerable improvement.

Soon after he had completed his fourteenth year, he was removed from the school, and his father informed him, that he was endeavouring to find some reputable tradesman who would take him as an apprentice: but the youth expressed an aversion to any occupation but that of a gardener. Finding that he had conceived a strong prepossession in favour of this business, they bound him to a gardener at Stepney, whom he served in an industrious and regular manner, for the space of seven years; and with whom he continued for some time afterwards in the capacity of a journeyman, his parents being so reduced through misfortunes, that they could not supply him with money to carry on business on his own account.

A short time after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he married a milk-woman, by whom he

had seven children in the course of twenty years, during which time he lived in an amicable manner with his wife, earning a tolerable subsistence by honest industry.

His children all died in their infancy, and upon the decease of his wife he procured employment at Bromley; and that he might lose but little time in going to, and returning from, his work, he hired a lodging at the lower end of Poplar, in a house kept by a widow, with whom he, in a few days, contracted a criminal familiarity. They had lived together about a twelvemonth, jointly defraying the household expenses, when she, more frequently than usual, gave way to the natural violence of her temper, threatening that he should not continue in the house unless he would marry her: which he consenting to do, they adjourned to the Fleet, where the ceremony was performed.

After their marriage their disagreements became more frequent and violent; and upon the wife's daughter leaving her service, and coming to reside with them, she united with her mother in pursuing every measure that could tend to render the life of Joines insupportably miserable. On his return from work, one evening, a disagreement, as usual, took place, and being aggravated by her abusive language, he pushed her from him, and she fell against the grate, by which her arm was much scorched. In consequence of this she swore the peace against him; but when they appeared before the magistrate who had granted the warrant for the apprehension of Joines, they were advised to compromise their dispute, to which they mutually agreed.

By an accidental fall, Mrs. Joines broke her arm, about a month after the above affair; but timely application being made to a surgeon, she, in a short time, had every reason to expect a perfect and speedy recovery.

Joines being at a public-house on Sunday after-

noon, the landlord observed his daughter-in-law carrying a pot of porter from another ale-house, and mentioned the circumstance to him, adding, that the girl had been served with a like quantity at his house but a short time before. Being intoxicated, Joines took fire at what the publican had imprudently said, and immediately went towards the house, which was on the opposite side of the street, with an intention of preventing his wife from drinking the liquor. He struck the pot out of her hand, and then seizing the arm that had been broke, twisted it till the bone again separated.

The fracture was again reduced, but such unfavourable symptoms appeared, that an amputation was judged necessary for preserving the life of the patient. In a short time afterwards, however, she was supposed to be in a fair way of recovery; and calling one day at the gardens where her husband was employed, she told his fellow-labourers that she had great hopes of her arm being speedily cured, adding, that she was then able to move her fingers with but very little difficulty.

The hopes of this unfortunate woman were falsely grounded; for on the following day she was so ill, that her life was judged to be very precarious. She sent for Joines from his work; and, upon his coming to her bed-side, he asked, if she had any accusation to allege against him; upon which, shaking her head, she said, she would forgive him, and hoped the world would do so too. She expired the next night, and in the morning he gave some directions respecting the funeral, and then went to work in the gardens as usual, not entertaining the least suspicion that he should be accused as the cause of his wife's death; but, upon his return in the evening he was apprehended on suspicion of murder.

An inquest being summoned to enquire whether the woman was murdered, or died according to the

course of nature, it appeared in evidence, that her death was occasioned by the second fracture of her arm; the jury therefore brought in a verdict of wilful murder against Joines, who was, in consequence, committed to Newgate to be tried.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, he was arraigned on an indictment for the wilful murder of his wife. In the course of the trial it appeared, that the prisoner had frequently forced the deceased into the street, at a late hour of the night, without regard to her being without clothes, or the severity of the weather. The surgeon who attended her deposed, that a gangrene appeared on her arm, in consequence of its being broken the second time, which was indisputably the cause of her death.

Near three months had elapsed from the time of her arm being first broke, to that of her decease; but not more than ten days had passed from the second fracture to the consequent mortification. The law expresses that, if a person violently wounded, dies within twelve calendar months, the offender causing such wound or wounds, shall be deemed guilty of a capital felony. As it was evident that his wife died in consequence of his cruelty, within the time limited by law, Joines was pronounced to be guilty of murder, and sentenced to suffer death.

During his confinement in Newgate, he did not appear to entertain a proper sense of his guilt. As his wife did not die immediately after the fracture of her arm, it was with difficulty he could be persuaded that the jury had done him justice, in finding him guilty of murder. He had but a very imperfect notion of the principles of religion; but the ordinary of the prison took great pains to inspire him with a just sense of his duty towards his Creator. Though he was distressed for all the necessities of life during the greater part of his confinement, his daughter-in-law, who had taken possession

of his house and effects, neither visited him, nor afforded him any kind of assistance; and he was violently enraged against the young woman on account of this behaviour.

He was executed at Tyburn, with Thomas Barkwith

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

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THE
NEWGATE CALENDAR
IMPROVED;
BEING
INTERESTING MEMOIRS
OF
NOTORIOUS CHARACTERS,

Who have been convicted of Offences

AGAINST THE LAWS OF ENGLAND,

DURING THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY; AND CONTINUED TO THE
PRESENT TIME, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED;

COMPRISING

Traitors,	Highwaymen,	Pickpockets,
Murderers,	Footpads,	Fraudulent Bankrupts,
Incendiaries,	Housebreakers,	Money Droppers,
Ravishers,	Rioters,	Impostors,
Pirates,	Extortioners,	And Thieves of every
Mutineers,	Sharppers,	Description.
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AND

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Moral Reflections and Observations on particular Cases;
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LAST EXCLAMATIONS OF SUFFERERS.

To which is added

A CORRECT ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS MODES OF PUNISHMENT
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BY GEORGE THEODORE WILKINSON, ESQ.

VOL. II.

London:

PRINTED FOR THOMAS KELLY, 17, PATERNOSTER-ROW

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And Thieves of every	Religiousmen,	Plots,
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THE
NEWGATE CALENDAR

IMPROVED.

MARY YOUNG, alias JENNY DIVER,

(THE HEAD OF A NUMEROUS GANG OF THIEVES OF
EVERY DESCRIPTION, AND MAY BE CALLED THE FE-
MALE MACHEATH.)

Executed at Tyburn, March 18, 1740.

WE have seldom heard of any more skilled in the various arts of imposition and robbery, than Mary Young. Her depredations, executed with undaunted courage, and artful deception, are surpassed by none which we have, as yet, met with.

Mary Young was born in the north of Ireland; her parents were in indigent circumstances; and dying while she was in a state of infancy, she had no recollection of them.

At about ten years of age she was taken into the family of an old gentlewoman, who had known her father and mother, and who caused her to be instructed in reading, writing, and needle-work; and in the latter she attained to a proficiency unusual to girls of her age.

Soon after she had arrived to her fifteenth year, a young man, servant to a gentleman who lived in the neighbourhood, made pretensions of love to her; but the old lady being apprized of his views, declared that she would not consent to their marriage, and positively forbad him to repeat his visits at her house.

Notwithstanding the great care and tenderness

with which she was treated, Mary formed the resolution of deserting her generous benefactor, and of directing her course towards the metropolis of England; and the only obstacle to this design was, the want of money towards her support till she could follow some honest means of earning a subsistence.

She had no strong prepossession in favour of the young man, who had made a declaration of love to her; but she, determining to make his passion subservient to the purpose she had conceived, promised to marry him on condition of his taking her to London. He joyfully embraced this proposal, and immediately engaged for a passage in a vessel bound for Liverpool.

A short time before the vessel was to sail, the young man robbed his master of a gold watch and eighty guineas, and then joined the companion of his flight, who was already on board the ship, vainly imagining that his infamously-acquired booty would contribute to the happiness he should enjoy with his expected bride. The ship arrived at the destined port in two days: and Mary being indisposed in consequence of her voyage, her companion hired a lodging in the least frequented part of the town, where they lived a short time in the character of man and wife, but avoiding all intercourse with their neighbours; the man being apprehensive that measures would be pursued for apprehending him.

Mary being restored to health, they agreed for a passage in a waggon that was to set out for London in a few days. On the day preceding that fixed for their departure, they accidentally called at a public-house, and the man being observed by a messenger dispatched in pursuit of him from Ireland, he was immediately taken into custody. Mary, who a few hours before his apprehension, had received ten guineas from him, voluntarily accompanied him to the mayor's house, where he acknowledged himself guilty of the crime alleged against him, but without giving the least intimation that she was an accessory

in his guilt. He being committed to prison, Mary sent him all his clothes, and part of the money she had received from him, and the next day took her place in the waggon for London. In a short time her companion was sent to Ireland, where he was tried, and condemned to suffer death, but his sentence was changed to that of transportation.

Soon after her arrival in London, Mary contracted an acquaintance with one of her country-women named Anne Murphy, by whom she was invited to partake of a lodging in Long Acre. Here she endeavoured to obtain a livelihood by her needle, but not being able to procure sufficient employment, her situation in a little time became truly deplorable.

Murphy intimated to her, that she could introduce her to a mode of life that would prove exceedingly lucrative; adding, that the most profound secrecy was required. The other expressed an anxious desire of learning the means of extricating herself from the difficulties under which she laboured, and made a solemn declaration that she would never divulge what Murphy should communicate. In the evening, Murphy introduced her to a number of men and women, assembled in a kind of club, near St. Giles's. These people gained their living by cutting off women's pockets, and stealing watches, &c. from men in the avenues of the theatres, and at other places of public resort; and, on the recommendation of Murphy, they admitted Mary a member of the society.

After Mary's admission, they dispersed, in order to pursue their illegal occupation; and the booty obtained that night consisted of 80*l.* in cash, and a valuable gold watch. As Mary was not yet acquainted with the art of thieving, she was not admitted to an equal share of the night's produce, but it was agreed that she should have ten guineas. She now regularly applied two hours every day in qualifying herself for an expert thief, by attending to the instructions of experienced practitioners; and, in a

short time, she was distinguished as the most ingenious and successful adventurer of the whole gang.

A young fellow of genteel appearance, who was a member of the club, was singled out by Mary as the partner of her bed; and they cohabited for a considerable time as husband and wife.

In a few months our heroine became so expert in her profession, as to acquire great consequence among her associates, who, as we conceive, distinguished her by the appellation of Jenny Diver, on account of her remarkable dexterity; and by that name we shall call her in the succeeding pages of this narrative.

Jenny, accompanied by one of her female accomplices, joined the crowd at the entrance of a place of worship in the Old Jewry, where a popular divine was to preach, and observing a young gentleman with a diamond ring on his finger, she held out her hand, which he kindly received in order to assist her; and at this juncture she contrived to get possession of the ring, without the knowledge of the owner; after which she slipped behind her companion, and heard the gentleman say, that as there was no probability of gaining admittance, he would return. Upon his leaving the meeting he missed his ring, and mentioned his loss to the persons who were near him, adding, that he suspected it to be stolen by a woman whom had endeavoured to assist in the crowd: but as the thief was unknown, she escaped.

The above robbery was considered as such an extraordinary proof of Jenny's superior address, that her associates determined to allow her an equal share of all their booties, even though she was not present when they were obtained.

In a short time after the above exploit, she procured a pair of false hands and arms to be made; and concealing her real ones under her clothes, she put something beneath her stays to make herself appear as if she was in a state of pregnancy, she

repaired on a Sunday evening to the place of worship abovementioned, in a sedan chair, one of the gang going before, to procure a seat among the genteeler part of the congregation, and another attending in the character of a footman.

Jenny being seated between two elderly ladies, each of whom had a gold watch by her side, she conducted herself with great seeming devotion; but when the service was nearly concluded, she seized the opportunity, when the ladies were standing up, of stealing their watches, which she delivered to an accomplice in an adjoining pew. The devotions being ended, the congregation were preparing to depart, when the ladies discovered their loss, and a violent clamour ensued: one of the injured parties exclaimed, that "her watch must have been taken either by the devil or the pregnant woman;" on which the other said, she "could vindicate the pregnant lady, whose hands, she was sure, had not been removed from her lap during the whole time of her being in the pew."

Flushed with the success of the above adventure, our heroine was determined to pursue her good fortune; and as another sermon was to be preached the same evening, she adjourned to an adjacent public-house, where, without either pain or difficulty, she soon reduced the protuberance of her waist, and having entirely changed her dress, she returned to the meeting, where she had not remained long before she picked a gentleman's pocket of a gold watch, with which she escaped unsuspected.

Her accomplices also were industrious and successful; for on a division of the booty obtained this evening, they each received thirty guineas. Jenny had now obtained an ascendancy over the whole gang, who, conscious of her superior skill in the arts of thieving, came to a resolution of yielding an exact obedience to her directions.

Jenny again assumed the appearance of a pregnant woman, and, attended by an accomplice, as a

footman, went towards St. James's Park, on a day when the king was going to the House of Lords, and there being a great number of persons between the Park and Spring-gardens, she purposely slipped down, and was instantly surrounded by many of both sexes, who were emulous to afford her assistance; but affecting to be in violent pain, she intimated to them that she was desirous of remaining on the ground till she should be somewhat recovered. As she expected, the crowd increased, and her pretended footman and her accomplice were so industrious as to obtain two diamond girdle-buckles, a gold watch, a gold snuff-box, and two purses, containing altogether upwards of forty guineas.

The girdle-buckles, watch, and snuff-box, were the following day advertised, and a considerable reward was offered, and a promise given that no questions should be asked the party who should restore the property. Anne Murphy offered to carry the things to the place mentioned in the advertisement, saying, the reward offered exceeded what they would produce by sale: but to this Jenny objected, observing, that she might be traced, and the association utterly ruined. She called a meeting of the whole gang, and informed them that she was of opinion that it would be more prudent to sell the things, even at one half of their real value, than to return them to the owners for the sake of the reward; as, if they pursued the latter measure, they would subject themselves to great hazard of being apprehended. Her associates coincided entirely in Jenny's sentiments: and the property was taken to Duke's-place, and there sold to a Jew.

Two of the gang being confined to their lodgings by illness, Jenny, and the man with whom she cohabited, generally went in company in search of adventures. They went together to Burr-street, Wapping, and observing a genteel house, the man, who acted as Jenny's footman, knocked at the door, and saying that his mistress was on a sudden taken

extremely ill, begged she might be admitted. This was readily complied with, and while the mistress of the house and her maid-servant were gone up stairs for such things as they imagined would afford relief to the supposed sick woman, she opened a drawer, and stole sixty guineas; and after this, while the mistress was holding a smelling-bottle to her nose, she picked her pocket of a purse, which, however, did not contain money to any considerable amount. In the mean time the pretended footman, who had been ordered into the kitchen, stole six silver table spoons, a pepper-box, and a salt-cellar. Jenny, pretending to be somewhat recovered, expressed the most grateful acknowledgments to the lady, and, saying she was the wife of a capital merchant in Thames-street, invited her, in the most pressing terms, to dinner on an appointed day, and then went away in a hackney-coach, which by her order had been called to the door by her pretended servant.

She practised a variety of felonies of a similar nature in different parts of the metropolis and its environs; but the particulars of the above transactions being inserted in the newspapers, people were so effectually cautioned, that our adventurer was under the necessity of employing her invention upon the discovery of other methods of committing depredations on the public.

The parties, whose illness we have mentioned being recovered, it was resolved that the whole gang should go to Bristol, in search of adventures during the fair, which is held in that city every summer; but being unacquainted with the place, they deemed it good policy to admit into their society a man who had long subsisted there by villainous practices.

Being arrived at the place of destination, Jenny and Anne Murphy assumed the characters of merchant's wives, the new member and another of the gang appeared as country traders, and our heroine's favourite retained his former character of footman.

They took lodgings at different inns, and agreed that, if any of them should be apprehended, the others should endeavour to procure their release by appearing to their characters, and representing them as people of reputation in London. They had arrived to such a proficiency in their illegal occupation, that they were almost certain of accomplishing every scheme they suggested; and when it was inconvenient to make use of words, they were able to convey their meaning to each other by winks, nods, and other intimations.

Being one day in the fair, they observed a west country clothier giving a sum of money to his servant, and heard him direct the man to deposit it in a bureau. They followed the servant, and one of them fell down before him, expecting that he would also fall, and that, as there was a great crowd, the money might be easily secured. Though the man fell into the channel, they were not able to obtain their expected booty, and therefore they had recourse to the following stratagem: One of the gang asked whether his master had not lately ordered him to carry home a sum of money; to which the other replied in the affirmative. The sharper then told him he must return to his master who had purchased some goods, and waited to pay for them.

The countryman followed him to Jenny's lodging, and being introduced to her, she desired him to be seated, saying, his master was gone on some business in the neighbourhood, but had left orders for him to wait till his return. She urged him to drink a glass of wine, but the poor fellow repeatedly declined her offers with awkward simplicity; the pretended footman having taught him to believe her a woman of great wealth and consequence. However, her encouraging solicitations conquered his bashfulness, and he drank till he became intoxicated. Being conducted into another apartment he was soon fast locked in the arms of sleep, and while in that situation he was robbed of the money he had

received from his master, which proved to be 100*l*. They were no sooner in possession of the cash than they discharged the demand of the inn-keeper, and set out in the first stage for London.

Soon after their return to town, Jenny and her associates went to London-bridge in the dusk of the evening, and observing a lady standing at a door to avoid the carriages, a number of which were passing, one of the men went up to her, and under pretence of giving her assistance, seized both her hands, which he held till his accomplices had rifled her pockets of a gold snuff-box, a silver case, containing a set of instruments, and thirty guineas in cash.

On the following day, as Jenny and an accomplice, in the character of a footman, were walking through Change-alley, she picked a gentleman's pocket of a bank-note for 200*l*. for which she received 130*l*. from a Jew, with whom the gang had very extensive connexions.

Our heroine now hired a real footman, and her favourite, who had long acted in that character, assumed the appearance of a gentleman. She hired lodgings in the neighbourhood of Covent-garden, that she might more conveniently attend the theatres. She proposed to her associates to reserve a tenth part of the general produce for the support of such of the gang as might, through illness, be rendered incapable of following their iniquitous occupations: and to this they readily assented.

Jenny dressed herself in an elegant manner, and went to the theatre one evening when the king was to be present; and during the performance she attracted the particular attention of a young gentleman of fortune from Yorkshire, who declared, in the most passionate terms, that she had made an absolute conquest of his heart, and earnestly solicited the favour of attending her home. She at first declined a complance, saying she was newly married, and that the appearance of a stranger might alarm her husband. At length she yielded to

his entreaty, and they went together in a hackney-coach, which set the young gentleman down in the neighbourhood where Jenny lodged, after he had obtained an appointment to visit her in a few days, when she said her husband would be out of town.

Upon Jenny's joining her companions, she informed them that while she remained at the play-house, she was only able to steal a gold snuff-box; and they appeared to be much dissatisfied on account of her ill success: but their good humour returned upon learning the circumstances of the adventure with the young gentleman, which they had no doubt would prove exceedingly profitable.

The day of appointment being arrived, two of the gang appeared equipped in elegant liveries, and Anne Murphy appeared as waiting-maid. The gentleman came in the evening, having a gold-headed cane in his hand, a sword with a gold hilt by his side, and wearing a gold watch in his pocket, and a diamond ring on his finger.

Being introduced to her bed-chamber, she contrived to steal her lover's ring; and he had not been many minutes undressed before Anne Murphy rapped at the door, which being opened, she said, with an appearance of the utmost consternation, that her master was returned from the country. Jenny, affecting to be under a violent agitation of spirits, desired the gentleman to cover himself entirely with the bed-clothes, saying she would convey his apparel into another room, so that if her husband came there, nothing would appear to awaken his suspicion: adding that, under pretence of indisposition, she would prevail upon her husband to sleep in another bed, and then return to the arms of her lover.

The clothes being removed, a consultation was held, when it was agreed by the gang that they should immediately pack up all their moveables, and decamp with their booty, which, exclusive of the cane, watch, sword, and ring, amounted to an hundred guineas.

The amorous youth waited in a state of the utmost impatience till the morning, when he rang the bell, and brought the people of the house to the chamber-door, but they could not gain admittance, as the fair fugitive had turned the lock, and taken away the key; when the door was forced open the gentleman represented in what manner he had been treated; but the people of the house were deaf to his expostulations, and threatened to circulate the adventure throughout the town, unless he would indemnify them for the loss they had sustained. Rather than hazard the exposure of his character, he agreed to discharge the debt Jenny had contracted; and dispatched a messenger for clothes and money, that he might take leave of a house of which he had sufficient reason to regret having been an inhabitant.

Our heroine's share of the produce of the above adventure amounted to 70%. This infamous association was now become so notorious a pest to society, that they judged it necessary to leave the metropolis where they were apprehensive that they could not long remain concealed from justice. They practised a variety of stratagems with great success in different parts of the country: but, upon revisiting London, Jenny was committed to Newgate, on a charge of having picked a gentleman's pocket: for which she was sentenced to transportation.

She remained in the above prison near four months, during which time she employed a considerable sum in the purchase of stolen effects. When she went on board the transport-vessel, she shipped a quantity of goods, nearly sufficient to load a waggon. The property she possessed ensured her great respect, and every possible convenience and accommodation during the voyage; and on her arrival in Virginia she disposed of her goods, and for some time lived in great splendour and elegance.

She soon found that America was a country where she could expect but little emolument from the

practices she had so successfully followed in England, and therefore she employed every art that she was mistress of to ingratiate herself into the esteem of a young gentleman who was preparing to embark on board a vessel bound for the port of London. He became much enamoured of her, and brought her to England: but while the ship lay at Gravesend, she robbed him of all the property she could get into her possession, and, pretending an indisposition, intimated a desire of going on shore, in which her admirer acquiesced: but she was no sooner on land than she made a precipitate retreat.

She now travelled through several parts of the country, and by her usual wicked practices obtained many considerable sums. At length she returned to London, but was not able to find her former accomplices.

She now frequented the Royal Exchange, the Theatres, London-bridge, and other places of public resort, and committed innumerable depredations on the public. Being detected in picking a gentleman's pocket upon London-bridge, she was taken before a magistrate, to whom she declared that her name was Jane Webb, and under that name she was committed to Newgate.

On her trial, a gentleman, who had detected her in the very act of picking the prosecutor's pocket deposed, that a person had applied to him, offering 50*l.* on condition that he should not appear in support of the prosecution: and a lady swore, that on the day she committed the offence for which she stood indicted, she saw her pick the pockets of more than twenty different people. The record of her former conviction was not produced in court; and therefore she was arraigned for privately stealing, and on the clearest evidence the Jury pronounced her guilty. The property being valued at less than one shilling, she was sentenced to transportation.

A twelvemonth had not elapsed before she returned from transportation a second time; and, on

her arrival in London, she renewed her former practices.

A lady going from Sherborne-lane to Walbrooke, was accosted by a man, who took her hand, seemingly as if to assist her in crossing some planks that were placed over the channel for the convenience of passengers: but he squeezed her fingers with so much force as to give her great pain, and in the mean time Jenny picked her pocket of thirteen shillings and a penny. The gentlewoman, conscious of being robbed, seized the thief by the gown, and she was immediately conducted to the compter. She was examined the next day by the lord-mayor, who committed her to Newgate, and at the ensuing sessions, she was tried on an indictment for privately stealing, and the jury brought in their verdict, "guilty;" in consequence of which she received sentence of death.

After conviction she seemed sincerely to repent of the course of iniquity in which she had so long persisted, punctually attending prayers in the chapel, and employing great part of her time in private devotions. The day preceding that on which she was executed, she sent for the woman who nursed her child, then about three years old; and after informing her that there was a person who would pay for the infant's maintenance, earnestly entreated that it might be carefully instructed in the duties of religion, and guarded from all temptations to wickedness, and then, after acknowledging that she had long been a daring offender against the laws, both of God and man, she entreated the woman to pray for the salvation of her soul; she then took her leave, apparently deeply impressed with the sentiments of contrition.

On the following morning she appeared to be in a serene state of mind: but being brought into the press-yard, the executioner approached to put the halter about her, when her fortitude abated: but in a short time her spirits were again tolerably composed.

She was conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning-coach, being attended by a clergyman, to whom she declared her firm belief in all the principles of the Protestant religion; and at the place of execution she employed a considerable time in fervent prayer. Her remains were, by her particular desire, interred in St. Pancras church-yard.

We should always allow due force to the advice of our friends; and if the conduct that is recommended to us points to happiness, what folly is it to neglect it, in order to gratify an inclination, the indulgence of which will yield but a temporary gratification, and may prove the source of lasting sorrow.

Disgusted at the prudent conduct of the old lady, in discountenancing her amour with the footman, the unfortunate young woman, whose memoirs are recorded in the preceding narrative, resolved to desert her benevolent patroness, from whom she had experienced all the tenderness of maternal affection: and this act of indiscretion led to those crimes which were followed by an untimely and ignominious death. Hence, then, it appears, that we cannot employ too much solicitude for avoiding a conduct that conscience cannot entirely approve.

WILLIAM DUELL,

Was executed for murder; and came to life again while preparing for dissection in Surgeon's Hall.

WE are not acquainted with the particulars of this man's crime and trial, but think the following short account worthy of insertion, on account of the remarkable circumstance of his restoration to life after execution.

This man met a better fate than a criminal in a similar situation in Germany. The body of a notorious malefactor was stretched out upon the table,

before the body of German surgeons, for dissection. The operator, in placing it in a proper position, felt life in it; whereupon he thus addressed his brethren of the faculty, assembled to witness the operation :

“ I am pretty certain, Gentlemen, from the warmth of the subject, and the flexibility of the limbs, that by a proper degree of attention and care, the vital heat would return, and life, in consequence take place. But, when it is considered what a rascal we should again have among us, that he was hanged for so cruel a murder, and, that should we restore him to life, he would kill somebody else.—I say, gentlemen, all these things considered, it is my opinion, that we had better proceed in the dissection.” Whether this harangue, or the fear of being disappointed in so sumptuous a surgical banquet as a dissection, operated on their consciences, we cannot tell; but certain it is, they nodded accordance; and the operator, on the signal, plunged his knife into the breast of the culprit, thereby at once precluding all dread of future assassinations—all hopes of future repentance.

William Duell was convicted of occasioning the death of Sarah Griffin, at Acton, by robbing and ill-treating her, and having suffered the sentence of the law, Nov 24, 1740, at Tyburn, with Thomas Clock, Wm. Meers, Margery Stanton, and Eleanor Munoman, (who had been convicted of several burglaries and felonies,) he was brought to Surgeon's Hall, to be dissected : but after he was stripped and laid on the board, and one of the servants was washing him in order to cut him up, he perceived life in him, and found his breath to come quicker and quicker, on which a surgeon bled him, and in two hours he was able to sit up in his chair. In the evening he was again committed to Newgate, and his sentence which might have been again inflicted was changed to transportation.

GILBERT LANGLEY.

A man of superior talents and education, sentenced to death ; which was remitted for transportation.

GILBERT LANGLEY was born of Roman Catholic parents in London, where his father was an eminent goldsmith, and who sent his son to the seat of his grandfather in Derbyshire, when he was only three years of age.

Having continued in this situation four years, his mother's anxiety induced her to fetch him home ; soon after which he was entered in the school of the Charter-house, where he soon became a tolerably good classical scholar.

The father now wished to send his son abroad for further education, and that he might not fail of being brought up a strict Catholic ; but this was warmly opposed by the mother, through tenderness to her child ; but her death soon left the father to act as he pleased.

The prior of the Benedictine convent at Douay being in London, Langley's father agreed for his board and education, and committed him to the care of his new master, with whom he proceeded to Dover, sailed for Calais, and travelled thence to St. Omers, and on the following day reached Douay, where young Langley was examined by the prior and fellows of the college, and admitted of the school.

At the end of three years he became a tolerable master of the French language, exclusive of his other literary acquirements ; so that, at the Christmas following, he was chosen king of the class, which is a distinction bestowed on one of the best scholars, whose business it is to regulate the public entertainments of the school.

It is the custom at Douay for officers to attend at the gates of the town, to detect any persons bring-

ing in contraband liquors, because the merchants of the place pay a large duty on them, which duty is annually farmed by the highest bidder.

During the Christmas holidays, Langley and three of his school-fellows quitted the town, to purchase a small quantity of brandy at an under price; but being observed by a soldier, who saw their bottles filled, he informed the officers of the affair; the consequence of which was, that the young gentlemen were stopped, and the liquor found, hid under their cassocks. They offered money for their release; but it was refused, and they were conducted to the house of the Farmer-general.

At the instant of their arrival, two Franciscan friars seeing them said it was illegal to take students before the civil magistrates, because the superior of their own college was accountable for their conduct.

Hereupon they were taken home to the prior; and the Farmer-general making his demand of the customary fine, the prior thought it extravagant, and refused to pay it: but at length the matter was settled by arbitration.

In the Catholic colleges, the students live in a very meagre manner during the season of Lent, having little to subsist on but bread and sour wine; a circumstance that frequently tempts them to supply their wants by acts of irregularity.

At this season Langley and five of his companions, oppressed by the calls of hunger, determined to make an attack on the kitchen; but at the instant they had forced open the door, they were overheard by the servants, the consequence of which was, that many furious blows were exchanged by the contending parties.

On the following day the delinquents were summoned to attend the prior, who was so incensed at this outrage, against the good order of the society, that he declared they should be expelled as soon as a consistory of the monks could be held.

But when the consistory assembled, they resolved to pardon all the offenders on acknowledging their faults, and promising not to renew them, except one, named Brown, who had twice knocked down the shoemaker of the college, because he had called out to alarm the prior.

The young gentlemen, chagrined at losing their associate, determined to be revenged on some one at least of the servants who had given evidence against them; and after revolving many schemes, they determined that the man who lighted the fires should be the object of their vengeance, because he had struck several of them during the rencounter.

This being resolved on, they disguised themselves, and went to a wood-house adjacent to the college, and being previously provided with rods, they waited till the man came with his wheel-barrow to fetch wood, when one of them going behind him, threw a cloak over his head, which being immediately tied round his neck, the rest stripped him, and flogged him in the most severe manner, while he in vain, and unheard, called for assistance, our heroes having taken care to shut the door of the wood-house.

The flagellation was just ended when the bell rung for the students to attend their evening exercise; on which they left the unhappy victim of their revenge, and repaired to the public hall.

In the mean time the poor sufferer ran into the cloysters, exclaiming, "Le Diable! Le Diable!" as if he had really thought the devil had tormented him: and hence he ran to the kitchen, where he recounted the adventure to his fellow-servants, who dressed his wounds, carried him to bed, and gave him something to nourish him.

A suspicion arising that the students had been the authors of this calamity to the poor fellow, the servants communicated the circumstances of it to the prior, who promised his endeavours to find out and punish the delinquents; and with this view

went into the hall, with a look at once penetrating and indignant: but the young gentlemen having bound themselves by an oath, no discovery could be made.

Young Langley, having distinguished himself by his attention to literature for the space of two years, the monks began to consider him as one who would make a valuable acquisition to their society, for which reason they treated him with singular respect: and at length prevailed upon him to agree to enter into the fraternity, if his father's consent could be obtained.

As Langley was in no want of money, he frequently went into the town, to habituate himself into the manners of the people, and to observe their customs. Thursday being a holiday, he and one of his school-fellows named Meynel, asked the prior permission to walk on the ramparts, which being denied, they went out without leave, and repairing to a tavern, drank wine till they were intoxicated.

In this condition they went to the ramparts, where having been for some time the laughing-stock of the company, they went home to bed. Being missed at evening prayers, some of the other students apologised for their absence, by saying they were ill; and the excuse was very readily admitted: but in a few days afterwards a gentleman called on the prior, and told him what a ridiculous figure his students had made on the ramparts.

Incensed at this violation of their duty, the prior sent for them to his chamber, and gave orders that they should be flogged with great severity. This indignity had such an effect on the mind of Langley, that he grew reserved and morose, and would have declined all his studies had not one of the monks, called Father Howard, restored him to his good humour by his indulgent treatment, and persuaded him to pay his usual attention to literature.

Father Howard's considerate conduct had such an

effect on Langley, that he spent the greater part of his time with that gentleman, who instructed him in the principles of logic, and was about to initiate him in those of philosophy, when his father wrote a letter requiring him to return to his native country.

The society being unwilling to lose one whom they thought would become a valuable member, the prior wrote to England, requesting that the youth might be permitted to complete his education; but the father insisted on his return.

Hereupon the young gentleman left the college, and proceeding by the way of St. Omer's, reached Calais in two days. As the wind was contrary, it was some days longer before the company embarked for England, when, instead of putting into Dover, the vessel came round to the Thames, and the passengers were landed at Gravesend.

Langley having spent all his money at Calais, now affected an air of unconcern, saying that he had no English money in his possession, from his having been so long abroad; on which one of the company lent him money, and on the following day he arrived at his fathers' house in London.

When he had reposed himself some days after his journey, the father desired him to make choice of some profession; on which he mentioned his inclination to study either physic or law: but the old gentleman, who had no good opinion of either of these professions, persuaded him to follow his own trade of a goldsmith.

For the present, however, he was placed at an academy, in Chancery-lane, that he might be instructed in those branches of knowledge requisite for a tradesman; but becoming acquainted with some young gentlemen of the law, he found that his father's allowance of pocket-money was insufficient for his use; and being unwilling that his new acquaintance should think that he was deficient in cash, he purloined small sums from a drawer in his father's shop, and when he did not find any money

there, stole some pieces of broken gold, which he disposed of to the Jews.

Mr. Langley the elder, having sent his son with some plate to the house of a gentleman in Grosvenor-square, the youth saw a beautiful woman go into a shop opposite a public-house; on which he went into the latter, and enquiring after her, found she had gone to her own lodgings. Having ascertained this, he delivered his plate, and formed a resolution of visiting the lady on the Sunday following.

When the Sunday came, the old gentleman went out, and, as the son imagined, to smoke his pipe at an adjacent public-house; and in the mean time the son stole seven guineas from three different bags, that his father might not discover the robbery, and immediately repaired to the lodgings of the lady whom he had seen.

From her lodgings they went to a tavern, where they continued till the following day, having no idea of a detection: but it happened that Mr. Langley, senior, instead of going to the public-house as usual, watched the son to the tavern abovementioned.

On the following day the father interrogated the youth respecting his preceding conduct; and particularly asked where he had been the day before. The young fellow said he had been at church, where he met with some acquaintance, who prevailed on him to go to the tavern.

The father, knowing the falsehood of his tale, corrected his son in a severe manner, and forbade him to dine at his table till his conduct should be reformed. Thus obliged to associate with the servants, young Langley became soon too intimate with the kitchen-maid, and robbed his father to buy such things as he thought would be acceptable to her.

Among other things he purchased her a pair of shoes laced with gold, which he was presenting to her in the parlour, at the very moment that his father knocked at the door. The girl instantly

quitted the room ; but the old gentleman interrogating the son respecting the shoes, the latter averred that a lady, who said she had bought them in the neighbourhood, desired leave to deposit them at their house till the following day.

After this the father permitted the son to dine with him as usual ; but it was not long before he caught him in a too intimate a connection with the maid servant in the kitchen ; on which the girl was dismissed from her service, and Mr. Langley threatened to disinherit his son, unless he would reform his conduct.

A middle-aged woman of grave appearance was now hired as servant ; but the evil complained of was far from being cured, as an intimacy between her and the young gentleman was soon discovered by the father.

It was not long after the servant girl abovementioned had been discharged before she swore herself pregnant by the son : on which he was taken into custody by a warrant ; the consequence of which was that the father paid 15*l.* to compromise the affair ; after which he received the son to his favour, and forgave all the errors of his former conduct.

The death of the old gentleman put his son in possession of a considerable fortune, exclusive of a settled good trade ; and for the first year he applied himself so closely to business that he made a neat profit of 700*l.* : but he did not long continue this course of industry ; for having formerly made connections with women of ill-fame, particularly in the purlieus of Drury-lane, he now renewed his visits to those wretched victims to, and punishers of, the vices of men.

A man of genteel appearance, named Gray, having ordered plate of Langley to the amount of 100*l.* invited him to a tavern to drink. In the course of the conversation, the stranger said he had dealt with his late father, and would introduce him to a lady

who had 30,000*l.* to her fortune. This was only a scheme to defraud Langley, who delivered the plate, and took a draft for the money on a vintner in Bartholomew-close; but when he went to demand payment the vintner was removed.

On the following day the vintner's wife went to Langley, and informed him that Gray had defrauded her husband of 450*l.*; and Langley being of a humane disposition, interested himself so far in behalf of the unfortunate man, that a letter of license for three years was granted him by his creditors.

Langley now took out an action against Gray, but was not able to find him; when one day he was accosted by a man in Fleet-street, who asked him to step into a public-house, and he would tell him where he should meet with the defrauder. Langley complying with the proposal, the stranger said he would produce Gray within an hour, if the other would give him a guinea; which being done, the stranger went out, but returned no more.

Exasperated by this circumstance, which seems to have been a contrivance of one of Gray's accomplices, Mr. Langley employed an attorney, who soon found the delinquent, against whom an action was taken out, in consequence of which he was confined several years in the Marshalsea.

Langley now became a sportsman on the turf at Newmarket, under the instruction of a vintner in Holborn, whose niece entered into his service; but who soon fell a victim to his unbounded passion for the sex.

Langley becoming acquainted with some young fellows in the Temple, three of them, and four women of the town, went with him to Greenwich, where they gave the ladies the slip, and took a boat to London; but the women pursuing them, overtook them in the river, and attempting to board their boat, afforded great diversion to the spectators: but our adventurers' watermen rowing hard, they

reached the Temple, and concealed themselves in one of the chambers, a few minutes before the ladies landed.

Soon after this Langley made another excursion to Greenwich to visit a lady and gentleman, who having a remarkably handsome servant maid, our adventurer found means to seduce her; the consequence of which was that she became pregnant, and made repeated applications to him for support: whereupon he gave her a considerable sum of money, and heard no more of her from that period.

Thus living in a continual round of dissipation, his friends recommended matrimony as the most likely step to reclaim him; in consequence of which he married a young lady named Brown, with a handsome fortune.

He had not been long married before he determined to borrow all the cash and jewels he could, and decamp with the property. As he had the reputation of being in ample circumstances, he found no difficulty in getting credit for many articles of value, with which he and his wife embarked for Holland: and in the mean time his friends took out a commission of bankruptcy against him.

When Langley came to Rotterdam, he applied to the States General for protection, in apprehension of being pursued by his creditors; but the States not being then sitting, the creditors made application to Lord Chesterfield, then ambassador at the Hague, which frustrated his intention.

In the interim his creditors found out his lodgings in a village near Rotterdam; but he eluded their search, leaving his wife with 400*l.* in the care of a friend; but did not tell her the place of his retreat, to prevent any possibility of a discovery.

After skulking from place to place, he went back to Rotterdam, and surrendered to his creditors; but found that his wife was gone with an English captain to Antwerp. On his arrival in England he

was examined before the commissioners, and treated with the customary lenity shewn to unfortunate tradesmen in such circumstances.

After his affairs were adjusted he sailed to Barbadoes, where he soon contracted so many debts that he was glad to take his passage to Port-Royal, in Jamaica: and soon after his arrival there he went to visit a planter at some distance, who would have engaged him as a clerk.

Langley told the planter that he owed twenty dollars at Port-Royal, for which he had left his chest as a security. The gentleman instantly giving him the money to redeem it, he went to Port Royal, assumed the name of Englefield, embarked on board a man of war as midshipman, and came to England, where the ship was paid off at the expiration of six months.

Taking lodgings at Plymouth, he paid his addresses to a young lady, whom he might have married, with the consent of her father; but being then in an ill state of health, he pretended to have received a summons from his friends in London, to repair immediately to that city on an important affair; but that, as soon as it was adjusted, he would return, and conclude the marriage.

On his arrival in town, he sent for a man who had formerly lived with his father, from whom he learnt that his creditors had not made any dividend under the bankruptcy, and were engaged in a law-suit respecting a part of the property. This faithful old servant of his father told him that his wife had retired to the North of England: and, giving him money, recommended it to him to lodge privately in Southwark.

This advice he followed; and kept himself retired for some time: but passing through Cheapside, he was arrested, and conducted to the Poultry Compter, where he continued many months, during which he was supported by the benevolence of the old servant abovementioned. While in the Compter he made

some very bad connections; and being concerned with some of the prisoners in an attempt to escape, he was removed to Newgate, as a place of greater security.

While in this prison, he fell ill of a disorder, which threatened his life; whereupon his friends discharged the debt for which he had been arrested, and removed him to lodgings, where he soon recovered his health.

Soon afterwards he got recommended to a captain in the Levant trade, with whom he was to have sailed; but an unhappy attachment to a woman of ill fame prevented his being ready to make the voyage.

Langley's friends were chagrined at this fresh instance of his imprudence; and soon afterwards he was arrested, and carried to a spunging-house, where he attempted to dispatch himself by a halter; but the rope breaking, he escaped with life. The bailiff and his wife happening to be now absent, and only two maid servants in the house, Langley made them both drunk, and effecting his escape, crossed the water in the Borough, where he worked some time with a colour-grinder.

Disgusted with a life attended with so much labour, he contracted with the captain of a Jamaica ship, who took him to that island on condition of selling him as a slave; and, on his arrival, sold him to Colonel Hill, who employed him to educate his children: but Langley soon running from his employer went on board a ship bound to England; but was impressed on his arrival in the Downs, put on board a man of war, and carried round to Plymouth.

Langley and another man having deserted from the ship, strolled to London, and took up their residence in a two-penny lodging: but as Langley found no friends to support him, he contracted with one of those persons called crimps, who used to agree with unhappy people to go as slaves to the

colonies. His contract was to sail to Pennsylvania; but while the ship lay in the Thames, he and a weaver from Spitalfields made their escape, and travelling to Canterbury, passed themselves as Protestant refugees.

Going hence to Dover, they embarked for Calais; and after some weeks residence in that place, Langley sailed to Lisbon, where he remained only a short time before he contracted debts, which obliged him to seek another residence, wherefore he went to Malaga in Spain.

His poverty was now extreme; and while he sat melancholy one day by the sea-side, some priests asked him from what country he came. He answered in Latin "From England."

Hereupon they conducted him to a convent, relieved his distresses, and then began to instruct him in the principles of the Roman Catholic religion. Langley disguised his sentiments; and after being apparently made a convert, was recommended as a page to a Spanish lady of distinction.

In this situation he continued several months; but having an affair of gallantry with the niece to the old lady, he was compelled to make a precipitate retreat from a window, and shelter himself in the house of an Irish tailor, who procured a passage for him to Gibraltar, in the first ship that sailed.

On his arrival at Gibraltar, he would have entered into the army; but being refused, because he was not tall enough, his distress compelled him to work as a labourer, in repairing the barracks; but he soon quitted this business, and officiated as a waiter in the Tennis-Court belonging to the garrison; but it being intimated to the governor that he was a spy, he was lodged in a dungeon, where he remained more than a fortnight.

On obtaining his discharge, he embarked on board a Spanish vessel bound to Barbary with corn and; on his return to Spain, applied to the monks of a convent, who charitably relieved him, and the

prior agreed to take him a voyage to Santa Cruz: but having no great prospect of pecuniary advantage in this way of life, he went to Oratava, where some English merchants contributed to his support: but he soon sailed to Genoa, as he could get no settled employ at Oratava.

From Genoa the vessel sailed to Cadiz; and Langley being now appointed steward to the captain, in the course of his reading some letters, found one directed to Messrs. Ryan and Mannock; and having been a school-fellow with Mr. Mannock, he requested the captain's permission to go on shore, and was received in the most friendly manner by Mr. Mannock, who offered to serve him in any way within his power; when Langley said that what he wished was a discharge from his present situation.

Hereupon Mannock wrote to the captain desiring him to pay the steward, and discharge him; but this being refused, Langley took a lodging, to which he was recommended by his friend, who desired he would dine daily at his table, till he procured a passage for England. He likewise gave him money and clothes, so as to enable him to appear in the character of a gentleman.

Langley behaved with great regularity for some time; but the season of a carnival advancing, he got into company with a woman of ill fame, with whom he spent the evening; and on his return, was robbed of his hat, wig, and a book, which he had borrowed of his friend.

On the following day, Mr. Mannock saw the book laying at a shop for sale; which chagrined him so much, that he asked Langley for it, who thereupon acknowledged the whole affair; and Mr. Mannock, supposing the woman was privy to the robbery, he took out a warrant against her; by which he recovered his book, which he greatly esteemed.

This matter being adjusted, Langley, by the help of his friends, procured a passage for England; but just when he was going to embark, he met with a

woman, who detained him till the ship had sailed; on which he took a boat, and passed over to St. Lucar, where he went on board an English vessel, which brought him to his native country.

On his arrival in London, he found that his creditors, under the bankruptcy, had received ten shillings in the pound, which gave him reason to hope that he should have a sum of money returned to him, with which he proposed to engage in a small way of business; and in that view applied to his wife's mother for her assistance, and also to inform him where he might find his wife; but she positively refused to comply with either request.

Langley now gave himself up to despair, associated with the worst of company, and though he had some money left him at this juncture, he dissipated the whole in the most extravagant manner.

He now made an acquaintance with one Hill, a young fellow who was in similar circumstances; and having agreed to go to Paris together, they walked as far as Dover; but, on their arrival, finding that an embargo had been laid on all vessels in the port, they determined to return to London.

Being now destitute of cash, they demanded a man's money on the highway; but on his saying he had not any, they searched him, and took from him three farthings, which they threw away almost as soon as they had got it; but for this offence they were apprehended on the same day, and being tried at the next assises for Kent, were capitally convicted; but the sentence was changed to transportation for seven years, through the lenity of the judge.

Langley was transported in the month of December, 1740.

CAPTAIN HENRY SMYTHER,

Executed at Dorchester, April 12, 1741, for the murder of the female whom he had seduced.

HENRY SMYTHER was brought up to a sea-faring life, and succeeded his father in the command of a large merchant ship, in a foreign trade.

After he had made several voyages, a storm obliged him to put into the harbour of Pool, in Dorsetshire, where he saw a young lady, the daughter of a merchant, to whom he paid his addresses, and was in a short time married. His wife's father dying soon after their marriage, Mr. Smyther declined going any longer to sea, engaged in the mercantile business, and employed his leisure hours in rural diversions.

One day, when out with his gun, he wandered so far from home that he lost his way, and being very hungry, he strolled to a cottage kept by a poor widower, named Ralph Mew, who had an only daughter, equally distinguished by the elegance of her form, and the simplicity of her manners.

Mr. Smyther requested the favour of some food; but the countryman suspecting that he meant to take some undue advantage of him, told him he might be supplied at a public-house a mile distant. Smyther, to convince the countryman that he was no impostor, shewed him a diamond ring, a purse of gold, and his watch; on which he was asked to sit down; and Jane Mew, the daughter, fried some bacon and eggs for him, while her father drew some of his best ale.

After the repast, he recounted some of his adventures in foreign parts; but in the mean time regarded the daughter with an eye of desire, and being struck with her superior charms, resolved to get possession of her, if possible.

On his quitting the house, the old man told him

that if he came that way another time, he should be welcome to any thing in his cottage except his daughter. On the following day he went to the cottage, and gave the old man a tortoise-shell snuff-box, as a compliment for his hospitable behaviour the day before.

The old cottager going out, Mr. Smythee paid his warmest addresses to the daughter, to whom he presented some jewels: but she no sooner judged of his design, than she said, "Is it thus, sir, you make returns for my father's hospitality, and my civility? And can you be such a wretch, as to think that my poverty will make me guilty of a dishonourable action."

Saying this she rejected his presents with contempt; while he, struck with the force of what she had urged, remained some time speechless, and then attributed his conduct to the violence of his passion, and offered to make her all the satisfaction in his power, by marriage.

The girl acquainting her father with what had passed, Mr. Smythee was permitted to pay his addresses in an honourable way: but such were his artifice and villainy, that his solemn vows of marriage soon prevailed over the too credulous girl; and her ruin was the consequence.

When the father found that his daughter was pregnant, he died with grief, leaving the unhappy girl a prey to the pungent sorrows of her own mind. Distressed as she was, she wrote to her seducer, but as he took no notice of her letter, she went to Pool, and being directed to his house, the door was opened by Mrs. Smythee, who demanded her business, and said she was the wife of the person for whom she enquired. The poor girl was so shocked to find that Mr. Smythee had a wife, that it was with difficulty she was kept from fainting.

When somewhat recovered, she said that she was with child by Mr. Smythee, who had seduced her

under promise of marriage. Hereupon the wife censured her conduct with unreasonable severity, and threatened that she should be lodged in prison if she did not immediately quit the town.

Leaving the house, the unhappy creature fainted in the street, and was soon surrounded by a number of females, who insulted her with every term of reproach.

When she recovered her senses, she went to a public-house, where she intended to have lodged; but the landlady threatening to send for the beadle, she was obliged to quit the house.

In the interim, Mr. Smythee came to his own house, and was compelled to listen to the reproaches of his wife on the infidelity of his conduct.

After attending to this disagreeable lecture, he went out, and desired a person to call on the young woman, and appoint her to meet him at a place without the town.

The unfortunate girl met him accordingly. What passed between them it is impossible to know; but on the following day she was found with her throat cut, and a bloody knife laying by her. Smythee absconding, it was generally supposed that he had been the murderer; and on his return to Pool, about a month afterwards, he was taken into custody, and lodged in the county gaol.

In his defence at his trial, he urged that the reason of his absence from his family was a quarrel with his wife, in consequence of the unhappy discovery that had been made by the deceased: but as he could bring no proof of his being absent from the spot when the murder was committed, no doubt remained of his guilt, and he was sentenced to die.

After conviction, he was visited by several gentlemen, who exerted themselves to impress him with a due sense of his awful situation. As his death approached, he became still more resigned, acknowledged the many errors of his life, and con-

fessed that he deserved to undergo the rigour of the law.

He walked to the place of execution, amidst an immense surrounding multitude: and having ascended the cart, addressed the populace, advising them to refrain from yielding to the first impulses of temptation, as they would wish to be preserved from the violation of the Divine laws. After the usual devotions, he drew his cap over his face, and saying, "To thee, O Lord, I resign my soul," he was launched into eternity.

CAPT. S. GOODERE, A FRATRICIDE; MATTHEW MAHONY, AND C. WHITE, HIS ACCOMPLICES IN THE MURDER OF SIR JOHN DINELY GOODERE, BART.

Executed at the Hot Wells, Bristol, April 20, 1741.

SIR JOHN DINELY GOODERE succeeded his father, Sir Edward, in the possession of an estate of 3000*l.* a year, situated near Eversham, in Worcestershire.

His brother Samuel, the subject of this narrative, was bred to the sea, and at length was advanced to the rank of captain of a man of war.

Sir John married the daughter of a merchant, and received 20,000*l.* as a marriage portion; but mutual unhappiness was the consequence of this connection: for the husband was brutal in his manners, and the wife, perhaps, not strictly observant of the sacred vow she had taken; for she was too frequently visited by Sir Robert Jansen; and after frequent recriminations between the married pair, Sir John brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas, for criminal conversation, and 500*l.* damages were averred by the jury.

Sir John's next step was to indict his lady for a conspiracy, and a conviction following, she was fined, and imprisoned a year in the King's Bench.

He likewise petitioned for a divorce; but the matter being heard in the House of Lords, his petition was thrown out.

Sir John having no children, Captain Samuel Goodere formed very sanguine expectations of possessing the estate; but finding that the brother had docked the entail in favour of his sister's children, the captain sought the most diabolical means of revenge for the supposed injury.

While the captain's vessel lay in the port of Bristol, Sir John went to that city on business; and being engaged to dine with an attorney, named Smith, Captain Goodere prevailed on the latter to permit him to make one of their company, under pretence of being reconciled to his brother: Mr. Smith consented, and used his good offices to accommodate the difference: and a sincere reconciliation appeared to have taken place; but such was the treachery and cruelty of the captain, that he was at that time taking measures for the murder of his brother, which, as it will appear in the course of this narrative, was perpetrated with every circumstance of barbarity that could aggravate so dreadful and unnatural a crime.

This visit was made on the 10th of January, 1741, and the captain, having previously concerted his measures, brought some sailors on shore with him, and left them at a public-house, in waiting to seize the baronet in the evening.

Accordingly, when the company broke up, the captain attended his brother through the streets, and when they came opposite to the public-house, the seamen ran out, seized Sir John, and conveyed him to a boat that had been appointed to wait for his reception.

Some persons who were witnesses to this outrage would have rescued the unfortunate gentleman; but the captain telling them that he was a deserter, and the darkness of the evening preventing them from judging by his appearance, this violation of the law was permitted to pass unobstructed.

As soon as the devoted victim was in the boat, he said to his brother, "I know you have an intention to murder me, and if you are ready to do it, let me beg that it be done here, without giving yourself the trouble to take me on board:" to which the captain said, "No, brother, I am going to prevent your rotting on land; but, however, I would have you make your peace with God this night."

Sir John being put on board, applied to the seamen for help: but the captain put a stop to any efforts they might have made to assist him, by saying he was a lunatic, and brought on board to prevent his committing an act of suicide.

White and Mahony now conveyed him to the purser's cabin, which the captain guarded with a drawn sword, while the other villains attempted to strangle him, with a handkerchief which they found in his pocket, the wretched victim crying out "murder!" and beseeching them not to kill him, and offering all he possessed as a compensation for his life.

As they could not strangle him with the handkerchief, the captain gave them a cord; with which Mahony dispatched him, while White held his hands, and trod on his stomach. The captain now retired to his cabin; and the murder being committed, the perpetrators of it went to him, and told him "the job was done;" on which he gave them money, and bade them seek their safety in flight.

The attorney with whom the brothers had dined, having heard of the commission of a murder, and knowing of the former animosity of the captain to his brother, immediately conjectured who it was that had fallen a sacrifice; on which he went to the mayor of Bristol, who issued his warrant to the water-bailiff, who, going on board, found that the lieutenant and cooper had prudently confined the captain to his cabin.

The offender being brought on shore, was committed to Newgate, and Mahony and White being

taken in a few hours afterwards, were lodged in the same prison.

At the sessions held at Bristol on the 26th of March, 1741, these offenders were brought to trial: and being convicted on the fullest evidence, received sentence of death.

After conviction, Mahony behaved in the most hardened manner imaginable: and when the goalers were putting irons on him, he said he should not regard dying on the following day, if he could be attended by a priest, to whom he might confess his sins. This man and White were both Irishmen, and Roman Catholics.

Captain Goodere's time, after conviction, was spent chiefly in writing letters to persons of rank, to make interest to save his life; and his wife and daughter presented a petition to the king: but all endeavours of this kind proving ineffectual, he employed a man to hire some colliers to rescue him on his way to the fatal tree: but this circumstance transpiring, the sheriff took care to have a proper guard to carry the law into effectual execution.

Captain Goodere's wife and daughter, dressed in deep mourning, took a solemn leave of him on the day before his death. He went in a mourning-coach to the place of execution, to which his accomplices were conveyed in a cart.

They were hanged near the Hot Wells, Bristol, on the 20th of April, 1741, within view of the place where the ship lay when the murder was committed.

Along with them suffered a woman, named Jane Williams, for the murder of her bastard child, who had been brought up in such a wretched state of ignorance that she knew not, until instructed by the clergyman who attended her dying moments, that there is a God.

JAMES HALL,

Executed in the Strand, September 15, 1741, for murdering his master.

THE terror which this man evinced, after he had committed the dreadful crime for which he had suffered, was one principal cause of its being discovered; and we scarcely recollect an instance in which a criminal has suffered greater agony from the stings of a guilty conscience.

He was descended of honest parents, of Wells, in Somersetshire, who gave him such an education as might qualify him for any ordinary rank of life.

Being unwilling to remain in the country, he came to London, and lived some time with a corn-chandler; and after a continuation in this service, he married, and had several children: but not living happily with his wife, articles of separation were executed between them. After this he married another woman, by whom he had one child, and who visited him after his being in custody for the murder.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in August 1741, he was indicted for the murder of John Penny, gentleman, and pleading guilty, received sentence of death.

Mr. Penny had chambers in Clements Inn; and Hall had lived with him seven years before he committed the murder; nor had he formed any design of being guilty of the horrid deed till within about a month of its perpetration! but having kept more company than his circumstances could afford, he had involved himself in difficulties, which made him resolve to murder and rob his master.

On the 7th of June, 1741, he intoxicated himself with liquor, and then determined to carry his design into execution. Mr. Penny coming home between eleven and twelve at night, Hall assisted in undressing him in the dining-room; and while he was

walking towards the bed, the villain followed him with a stick, which he had concealed for the purpose, and struck him one blow with such force that he never spoke afterwards; and continued his blows on the head till he was apparently dead.

Willing, however, to be certain of completing the horrid tragedy, and to avoid detection, he went into the dining-room, and stripping himself naked, he took a small fruit-knife belonging to his master, and returning to the chamber, cut his throat with it, holding his neck over the chamber-pot. Mr. Penny bled very freely; for when the blood was mixed with a small quantity of water, it almost filled the pot five times; and three of the pots thus mixed the murderer threw into the sink, and two in the coal-hole. He then took his master's waistcoat, which was lined with duffil, and bound it round his neck, to suck up the remainder of the blood.

This being done, he took the body on his shoulders, carried it to the necessary, and threw it in head foremost; and flying back immediately to the chambers, under the most dreadful apprehensions of mind, he took his master's coat, bloody shirt, the stick that he had knocked him down with, and some rags that he had used in wiping up the blood, and running a second time naked to the necessary-house, threw them in at a hole on the opposite side of it.

The body being thus disposed of, he stole about thirty-six guineas from his master's pocket, and writing-desk; and such was the confusion of his mind, that he likewise took some franks, sealing-wax, and other articles for which he had no use, and then he employed the remainder of the night in washing and rubbing the rooms with cloths: but finding it no easy matter to get out the blood, he sent for the laundress in the morning to wash them again, telling her that his master's nose had bled over night.

On the following day the guilty wretch strolled from place to place, unable to find rest for a mo-

ment any where ; and all his thoughts being engaged in concealing the murder, which he hoped was effectually done, from the place where he had secreted the body.

On the Friday following, he went to Mr. Wooton, his master's nephew, on a pretence of inquiring for Mr. Penny, who he said had quitted the chambers two days before, and gone somewhere by water ; so that he was afraid some accident had happened to him.

Mr. Wooton was so particular in his enquiries after his uncle, that Hall was exceedingly terrified at his questions, and knew not what answer to make to them. After this he went twice every day to Mr. Wooton, to enquire after his master, for ten days ; but lived all the while in a torment of mind that is not to be described.

So wretched was he, that finding it impossible to sleep in the chambers, he got his wife to come and be with him : and they lay in Mr. Penny's bed : but still sleep was a stranger to him.

At length Mr. Wooton had Hall taken into custody, on a violent suspicion that he had murdered his uncle. On his first examination before a magistrate, he steadily avowed his innocence ; but being committed to Newgate, he attempted to escape : this, however, was prevented : and a few days afterwards he confessed his guilt before some relations of the deceased.

We have already mentioned that he pleaded guilty on his trial ; and have now to add that, after sentence was passed on him, he was exceedingly contrite and penitent, and confessed his guilt in letters to his friends.

On the day before his death he received the sacrament, with all apparent signs of that penitence, which was necessary to prepare him for the dreadful scene that lay before him.

He was hanged at the end of Catherine-street, in

the Strand, and his body afterwards hung in chains at Shepherd's Bush, three miles beyond Tyburn Turnpike, on the road to Acton.

The following is a letter which he wrote to his wife, the night preceding his execution :

“ My Dear,

Twelve o'clock, Sunday night.

“ I am very sorry we could not have the liberty of a little time by ourselves, when you came to take your leave of me ; if we had, I should have thought of many more things to have said to you than I did ; but then I fear it would have caused more grief at our parting. I am greatly concerned that I am obliged to leave you and my child, and much more in such a manner, as to give the world room to reflect upon you on my account ; though none but the ignorant will, but rather pity your misfortunes, as being fully satisfied of your innocency in all respects relating to the crime for which I am in a few hours to suffer.

“ I now heartily wish, not only for my own sake, but the injured person's, your's and my child's, that I was as innocent as you are, but freely own I am not, nor possibly can be in this world ; yet I humbly hope, and fully trust, through God's great mercy, and the merits of my blessed Saviour Jesus Christ, to be happy in the next.

“ After I parted with you I received the holy sacrament comfortably, which Mr. Broughton was so good as to administer to me, who has also several times before taken a great deal of pains to instruct me, and so has some others of his acquaintance, by whose assistance, and my own endeavours, I hope God will pardon all my sins for Christ's sake, and admit me into his heavenly kingdom.

“ My dear, some of my latest prayers will be to God to direct and prosper you and my child in all good ways, so long as he pleases to let you live here on earth ; that afterwards he may receive you both

to his mercies to all eternity. I hope I shall willingly submit to my fate, and die in peace with all men. This is now all the comfort I can give you in this world, who living was, and dying hope to remain,

“ Your loving and most affectionate husband,

“ JAMES HALL.”

HENRY COOK,

(MURDERER AND HORSE-STEALER.)

Executed at Tyburn, December 16, 1741, for highway robbery.

FEW have had so long a career in villainy as this man, who committed more robberies, singly, than Wild, Turpin, or Hawke. He was for a long time the terror of travellers, but particularly in Essex; and his history contains many curious and daring exploits.

He was at last overtaken by the hands of justice, and his long career, and hair-breadth escapes served only to increase his guilt, and consequently to render him worthy of a more severe punishment.

Cook was the son of respectable parents in Hounsditch, who having given him a decent education, was apprenticed to a leather-cutter, with whom he served his time, and then his father took the shop of a shoemaker at Stratford, Essex, in which he placed his son.

Having some knowledge of the shoemaking business, he was soon well established, and married a young woman at Stratford, by whom he had three children, before he commenced highwayman.

However, it was not long after his marriage, before the associating with bad company and the ne-

glect of his business, involved him so far in debt, that he was obliged to quit his house in apprehension of the bailiffs.

He was afterwards obliged wholly to decline business; and having taken up goods in the name of his father, he was ashamed to make application to him for relief in his distress.

Among the idle acquaintance that Cook had made at Stratford, was an apothecary named Young, who was concerned with him in robbing gardens and fish-ponds, and in stealing poultry. The persons robbed, offered a reward for apprehending the offenders; and Cook having been known to sell fowls at Leaden-hall-market, a warrant was granted to take him into custody; but having notice of it, he concealed himself two months at the house of a relation at Grays, in Essex.

During this retreat it was determined not to execute the warrant; but Cook learning that a bailiff at Stratford had vowed to arrest him if he could be found, he sent the officer a letter, advising him to consult his own safety, for he would blow his brains out if he should meet him.

This threat effectually intimidated the bailiff: and Cook having dissipated all his cash, went to Stratford, where he found a man so intimate with his wife, that he became enraged in the highest degree, and taking several articles of furniture with him, he went to London, and sold them.

This being done, he went to the house of a relation in Shoreditch, where he was treated with civility while his money lasted; but when that was nearly gone there was no farther appearance of friendship; and being now driven to extremity, he went to Moorfields, where he purchased a pair of pistols, and having procured powder and ball, went towards Newington, in his way to which he robbed a man of fifteen shillings, and returned to London.

Thus embarked in the high road to destruction, he determined to continue his dangerous trade; and

on the following day went to Finchley Common, where he stopped a gentleman, the bridle of whose horse he seized, and ordered him to dismount on pain of death. The rider complying, was robbed both of his money and horse: but he offered the highwayman three guineas if he would send the horse to an inn at St. Albans, which he promised to do; but afterwards finding that he had a valuable acquisition in the beast, he failed to restore him.

This robbery being committed, he crossed the country to Enfield-chace, and going to a public-house where he was known, said that he wished to hide himself lest he should be arrested.

Having continued here two days, he proceeded to Tottenham, where he robbed a gentleman of about six pounds, and leaving his horse at an inn in Bishopsgate-street, he went to his kinsman's in Shoreditch, where he was interrogated respecting his possessing so much money: but he would give no satisfactory answer.

On the following day he went on the St. Alban's road, and having robbed the passengers of a stage-coach of eight pounds, he went to Enfield-chace, to the house he had frequented before; but while he was there, he read an advertisement in which his horse was so exactly described, that he determined to abscond: on which he went to Hadley Common, near Barnet, where he robbed a gentleman, and taking his horse, gave the gentleman his own.

Soon after this he went to an inn at Mims, where he saw a gentleman whom he had formerly robbed, and was so terrified by the sight of the injured party, that he ran to the stable, took his horse, and galloped off with the utmost expedition.

On the road between Mims and Barnet, he was met by eight men on horseback, one of whom challenged the horse he rode, saying that a highwayman had stolen it from a gentleman of his acquaintance.

Our adventurer replied, that he had bought the horse at the Bell, in Edmonton, of which he could

give convincing proofs; on which the whole company determined to attend him to that place; but when he came near Edmonton, he galloped up a lane, where he was followed by all the other parties; and finding himself in danger of being apprehended, he faced his pursuers, and presenting a pistol, swore he would fire, unless they retreated. Some countrymen coming up at this juncture, he must have been made prisoner, but night advancing, he quitted his horse, and took shelter in a wood.

When he thought he might safely leave his lurking-place, he hastened to London, and going to the house of his relation in Shoreditch, he was challenged with having committed robberies on the highway: but nothing could be learnt from the answers he gave.

Having dissipated his present money, he went again upon Finchley Common. His late narrow escape, however, made such an impression on his mind, that he suffered several persons to pass unattacked, but at length robbed an old man of his horse and five pounds, though not till after it was dark.

Soon afterwards he met a gentleman, whom he obliged to change horses with him: but in a few minutes the gentleman was stopped by the owner of the stolen horse, who said a highwayman had just robbed him of it. Enraged at this, the gentleman swore the place was infested with thieves: however, he delivered the horse, and walked to London.

Cook riding to his old place of resort near the Chace, remained there three days; but seeing the horse he had last stolen advertised, he rode off in fear of discovery; and had not proceeded far, before he was seized by the owner of the horse, assisted by three other persons, who conducted him to Newgate.

At the next Old Bailey sessions he was indicted for stealing this horse; but acquitted, because the owner would not swear to his person.

Soon after his discharge, he returned to his former

practices, but his affairs with his creditors having been by this time adjusted by his friends, he lived at Stratford with his wife, and committed his depredations chiefly on Epping Forest.

Having acquired a booty of 30*l*. he shewed it to a journeyman he kept, named Taylor, and asked him how he might employ it to the best advantage, in buying leather; but Taylor guessing how it had been obtained, offered to go partners with his master in committing robberies on the highway; and the base contract was instantly made.

They now stopped a great number of coaches on the borders of the Forest; but acted with such an uncommon degree of caution, that they were for a long time unsuspected. The neighbours being at length terrified by such repeated outrages on the public peace, a Captain Mawley took a place in the basket of the Colchester coach, to make discoveries; and Cook and Taylor coming up to demand the money of the passengers, Taylor was shot through the head; on which Cook ran to the captain, and robbed him of his money, on threatening instant death in case of refusal.

The carriage driving on, Cook began to search his deceased companion for his money; but some of the neighbours coming up, he retired behind a hedge to listen to their conversation; and having found that some of them knew the deceased, and intimated that he had been accompanied by Cook, he crossed the fields to London.

Having spent three days in riot and dissipation, he went to his relation in Shoreditch, whom he requested to go to Stratford to inquire the situation of affairs there. When his relation returned, he told him there were several warrants issued against him, and advised him to go to sea.

This he promised to do, but instead thereof, he bought a horse, and rode to Brentwood, in Essex, where he heard little conversation but of Cook, the famous highwayman of Stratford; and on the next day, he followed a coach from the inn where he had

put up, and took about thirty pounds from the passengers.

Cook now connected himself with a gang of desperate highwaymen in London, in conjunction with whom he stopped a coach near Bow, in which were some young gentlemen from a boarding-school. A Mr. Cruikshanks riding up at this instant, one of the gang demanded his money; but as he hesitated to deliver it, another of them knocked him down, and killed him on the spot; after which the robbers went to a public-house near Hackney-marsh, and divided the spoils of the evening.

Cook continued but a short time with this gang; but going to a house at Newington Green, sent for a woman with whom he had cohabited; who threatened to have him apprehended, unless he would give her some money: and though he had but little in his possession, he gave her a guinea, and promised her a farther sum, lest she should carry her threats into execution.

Oppressed in mind by contemplations on his crimes, and particularly on reflecting on the murder of Mr. Cruikshanks, he went to St. Albans, where he assumed a new name, and worked as a journeyman shoemaker for about three weeks; when a highwayman being pursued through the town, the terrors of his conscience on the occasion were such, that he hastily left the shop, and ran across the country, towards Woburn, in Bedfordshire.

In his way to Woburn he robbed a farmer of 50*l*. and his horse, and bade him sue the county. The farmer soon raised the hue and cry; but Cook escaped for the present, and riding as far as Birmingham, took lodgings at a public-house, and disposed of his horse.

Cook had now taken on him the name of Stevens; and the landlord of the house where he lodged telling him that there was a shop to let, he took it, and entered into business as a shoemaker. He now hired one Mrs. Barrett, as his house-keeper: but she soon became his more intimate companion: and

accompanied him to horse-races, and other places of public diversion, where his little money was soon dissipated.

Thus situated, he told his house-keeper that he had an aunt in Hertfordshire, who allowed him an hundred per annum, which he received in quarterly payments; and that he would go to her for his money. Under this pretence he left her, and went to Northampton, and from thence to Dunstable, near which place he robbed a farmer of his horse and 16*l*. and then rode to Daventry.

At this last place he met with a Manchester dealer, going home from London; and having spent the evening together, they travelled in company next day, and dined at Coventry. Cook having an intention of robbing his fellow-traveller, intimated that it would be proper to conceal their money, as they had a dangerous road to travel; and putting his own money into his boot, the other put a purse of gold into his side-pocket.

Prosecuting their journey till they came to a cross-road, Cook demanded his companion's money on pain of immediate death: and having robbed him of thirty-five guineas, he travelled immediately to Birmingham; and Mrs. Barrett imagined he had been supplied by his aunt, agreeable to the story he had told her.

He now carried on trade as usual; but as often as he was distressed for cash, he used to have recourse to the road, and recruited his pockets by robbing the stages.

At length a London trader coming to Birmingham, asked Cook how long he had lived there: which terrified him so that he quitted the place, and travelled towards London, and near Highgate robbed a gentleman, named Zachary, of his horse and money.

On his stolen horse he rode to Epping Forest on the following day; and having robbed a gentleman,

returned to London by the way of Stratford at which place he spoke to a number of his old acquaintance; but was not imprudent enough to quit his horse.

Going to a house he had frequented at Newington-green, he sent for his relation who lived near Shoreditch, who advised him to make his escape, or he would certainly be taken into custody. On this he went to Mims: and his relation visiting him, Cook begged he would sell five watches for him: but the other declined it, recommending him to dispose of them himself in London.

On the following evening, when it was almost dark, he rode towards town, and observing a chaise behind him, permitted it to pass, and followed it to the descent of the hill towards Holloway. There were two gentlemen in the chaise, whose money Cook demanded: but, instead of complying, they drove on the faster; on which he fired, and wounded one of them in the arm: but the report of the pistol bringing some people towards the spot, he galloped off, and went to Mims, his old place of retreat.

Coming to London, next day, to sell his watches, he was seen in Cheapside by a woman who knew him, and followed him to Norton Falgate, where, observing him to go into a public-house, she went and procured a constable, who took him into custody, and found on him five watches, and about 9*l.* in money.

On his examination before a magistrate, Mr. Zachary, whom he robbed near Highgate, swearing to the identity of his person, he was committed to Newgate; but not before he had offered to become evidence against some accomplices he pretended to have had; but this offer was rejected.

He now formed a scheme to murder the keepers, and to make his escape; but being detected, he was confined to the cells, and being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, was capitally convicted.

After sentence of death, he for some time affected a gaiety of behaviour: but when the warrant for

his execution arrived, he was so struck with the idea of his approaching fate, that it occasioned convulsive fits, and he never afterwards recovered his health.

He was hanged with John Hudson, for horse-stealing; Patrick Bourne, for a burglary; and Mary Harris, for stripping and robbing a child of about ten years of age.

ROBERT RAMSEY,

(HIGHWAYMAN AND A SINGULAR CHEAT,)

Executed at Tyburn, on the 13th of June, 1742.

THIS notorious adept in the art of knavery was born of respectable parents near Grosvenor-square, and apprenticed to an apothecary, after being liberally educated at Westminster school. His master's circumstances becoming embarrassed, Ramsey left him, and went into the service of another gentleman of the same profession.

He now became a professed gamester. The billiards and hazard-tables engrossed his time; and his skill being great, he often stripped his companions; but the money he thus obtained, he dissipated in the most extravagant manner.

Having made an acquaintance with one Carr, they singled out a clergyman who frequented the coffee-house they used, as a proper object to impose upon: and having ingratiated themselves into his good opinion, Ramsey took the opportunity of Carr's absence to tell the clergyman that he had a secret of the utmost consequence to impart: and the clergyman having promised secrecy, the other said that Carr was in love with a young widow, who was very rich, and inclined to marry him; but that the match was opposed by her relations.

He added that the lady herself was averse to being married at the Fleet, even if she could escape the vigilance of her relations so far as to reach that place. The clergyman listening to the story, Ramsey offered him twenty guineas to marry the young couple; and it was agreed that the parties should meet at a tavern near the Royal Exchange on the following day.

Ramsey, having told Carr what had passed, went to the clergyman the next morning; and observing that if the lady took her own footman he might be known, said he would disguise himself in livery, and attend the priest.

This being done, a hackney-coach was called for the clergyman, and Ramsey getting up behind it, they drove to the tavern, where rich wines were called for, of which Ramsey urged the clergyman to drink so freely that he fell asleep, when Ramsey picked his pocket of his keys.

The gentleman awaking, inquired for the couple that were to be married; on which Ramsey, calling for more wine, said he would go in search of them; but immediately calling a coach, he went to the clergyman's lodgings, and producing the keys, said he had been sent by the gentleman for some papers in his cabinet.

The landlady of the house, seeing the keys, permitted him to search for what he wanted; on which he stole a diamond ring of the value of 40*l.* and about a hundred pounds in money, and carried off some papers.

This being done, he returned to the clergyman, said that the young people would attend in a short time, and desired him to order a genteel dinner: but this last injunction was unnecessary; for the parson had taken previous care of it; and while he was at dinner, Ramsey said he would go and order a diamond, and a plain gold ring, and would return immediately.

He had not been long absent when a jeweller

brought the rings, which he said were for a baronet and his lady who were coming to be married. The clergyman asked him to drink the healths of the young couple; and just at this juncture Ramsey came in, and told the jeweller that he was instantly wanted home; but that he must return without loss of time, as his master's arrival was immediately expected.

The jeweller was no sooner gone than Ramsey, taking up the diamond ring, said that he had brought a wrong one, and he would go back and rectify the mistake. In the interim the jeweller finding that he had not been wanted at home, began to suspect that some undue artifice had been used; on which he hurried to the tavern, and thought himself happy in finding that the parson had not decamped.

Having privately directed the waiter to procure a constable, he charged the clergyman with defrauding him of the rings. The other was naturally astonished at such a charge; but the jeweller insisted on taking him before a magistrate; where he related a tale that, some days before, those rings had been ordered by a man whom he supposed to be an accomplice of the person now charged: but the clergyman being a man of fair character, sent for some reputable people to bail him; while the jeweller returned home cursing his ill fortune for the trick that had been put on him.

London being an unsafe place for Ramsey longer to reside in, he went to Chester, where he assumed the character of an Irish gentleman, who had been to study physic in Holland, and was now going back to his native country. During his residence at Chester he insinuated that he was in possession of a specific cure for the gout; and the landlord of the inn he put up at being ill of that disorder, took the medicine; and his fit leaving him in a few days, he ascribed the cure to the supposed nostrum.

Ramsey having gone by the name of Johnson in this city, now dressed himself as a physician, and

having printed and dispersed hand-bills, giving an account of many patients whose disorders had yielded to his skill; and promising to cure the poor without expense, no person doubted either the character or abilities of Dr. Johnson.

A young lady who was troubled with an asthma became one of his patients; and Ramsey presuming that she possessed a good fortune, insinuated himself so far into her good graces that she would have married him; but that her uncle, in whose hands her money was, happened to come to Chester at that juncture.

The young lady acquainted the uncle with the proposed marriage; on which the old gentleman observed that it would be imprudent to marry a man with whose circumstances and character she was wholly unacquainted; on which she consented that the necessary inquiries should be made; but to this her consent was reluctantly obtained, as she was entirely devoted to her lover.

Hereupon Ramsey put into her uncle's hand copies of several letters which he said he had written to some people of distinction, who would answer for his character. By this finess he hoped to get time to prevail on the lady to marry him privately, which, indeed, she would readily have done, but through fear of offending her uncle.

During this situation of affairs, while Ramsey was walking without the city, he happened to see the clergymen abovementioned, whom he had so much injured in London; on which he hastily retired to a public house in Chester, and sent a person to Park-Gate, to inquire when any ship would sail for Ireland: and the answer brought was, that a vessel would sail that very night.

On receiving this intelligence, Ramsey went and drank tea with the young lady; and taking the opportunity of her absence from the room, he opened a drawer, whence he took a diamond ring, and fifty guineas, out of eighty which were in a bag.

Some little time afterwards he asked the lady to spend the evening at his lodgings, and play a game at cards; and having obtained her consent, they spent some time with apparent satisfaction: but Ramsey going down stairs returned in great haste, and said that her uncle was below. As she appeared frightened by this circumstance, he locked her in the room, first giving her a book to read, and said that if her uncle should desire to come up, he would pretend to have lost the key of the door.

The intent of this plan was to effect his escape while she was confined; and having got on board the ship the same evening, he sent her a letter, of which the following is a copy:

“ Dear Madam,

“ I doubt not but you will be extremely surprised at the sudden disappearance of your lover: but when you begin to consider what a dreadful precipice you have escaped, you will bless your stars. By the time this comes to hand, I shall be pretty near London, and as for the trifle I borrowed of you, I hope you will excuse it, as you know I might have taken the whole, if I would; but you see there is still some conscience among us doctors.

“ The ring I intend to keep for your sake unless the hazard-table disappoints me, and if ever fortune puts it in my power, I will make you a suitable return: but till then, take this advice, never let a strange doctor possess your affections any more.

“ I had almost forgot to ask pardon for making you my prisoner; but I doubt not, but old Starch-face, your uncle, would detain me a little longer, if he could find me. Adieu.

“ R. JOHNSON.”

This letter he committed to the care of a person who was to go to Chester in a few days; and in the interim Ramsey reached Dublin, where having dis-

sipated his money in extravagance, he embarked in a ship bound to Bristol, whence he travelled to London.

On his arrival in the metropolis, he found his younger brother, who had likewise supported himself by acts of dishonesty; and the two brothers agreed to act in concert.

His brother was a snuff-box maker, and they now went out together genteely dressed, early in the morning, in order to commit their depredations, when they found the door of a genteel house open; and while the servant woman was washing the steps, or gone on a short errand, leaving the door ajar, one of them slipped in, and seized the plate on the side-board, or whatever he could lay his hands on, while the other remained to prevent surprise; and then he would receive and run off with the prize while the actual robber, with apparent unconcern, walked off another way.

They committed a variety of robberies in conjunction, confining their depredations chiefly to the stealing of plate: but we proceed to the narrative of that for which Ramsey suffered the utmost rigour of the law.

Having taken a previous survey of Mr. Glyn's house at the corner of Hatton-Garden, the brothers broke into it in the night, and carried off a quantity of plate; but hand-bills being immediately circulated, they were taken into custody while offering the plate for sale to a Jew in Duke's Place. The lord mayor, on examining the prisoners, admitted the younger brother an evidence against the elder.

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey it was an affecting scene to behold the one brother giving evidence against the other, who was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.

After conviction Ramsey seemed to entertain a proper idea of the enormity of the offences of which he had been guilty; and in several letters to persons whom he had robbed, he confessed his crimes,

and entreated their prayers. He did not flatter himself with the least hope of pardon; sensible that his numerous offences must necessarily preclude him from such favour.

A letter, which he wrote to a friend at Bristol, contains the following pathetic expressions: "O blame me not: I am now by the just judgment of God and man under sentence of death. Whatever injuries I have committed, with tears in my poor eyes, I ask forgiveness. Oh! my friend, could you but guess or think what agonies I feel, I am sure you would pity me: may my Father, which is in heaven, pity me likewise!"

At the place of execution Ramsey made an affecting address to the surrounding multitude; entreating the younger part of the audience to avoid gaming, as what would infallibly lead to destruction.

After the customary devotions on such melancholy occasions, he was turned off, and the body having hung the usual time, was conveyed in a hearse to Giltspur-street, whence it was taken and decently interred by his friends, at the expiration of two days from the time of his execution.

On the same gallows with Ramsey were also executed James Boquois and Joseph Allen, for highway robberies; Mary Page, for stealing goods; William Quaite, a drummer in the guards, for a robbery committed in St. James's Park; and John Glew Guilliford, for returning before the expiration of his sentence, from transportation, of whom we can find no particulars.

JONATHAN BRADFORD,

Was executed at Oxford, upon presumptive evidence, for the murder of Christopher Hayes, Esq. whose death he had premeditated, but was innocent of the charge for which he suffered.

THE following is one of those lamentable cases which we fear have too frequently occurred, and should be a warning to all who have the life of a suspected individual at their disposal, to be particularly cautious in trusting to presumptive evidence

Jonathan Bradford kept an inn at the city of Oxford. A gentleman (Mr. Hayes) attended by a man-servant, one evening put up at Bradford's house, and in the night, the former was found murdered in his bed, and the landlord apprehended on suspicion of having committed the barbarous and inhospitable crime.

The evidence given against him was to the following effect: Two gentlemen who had supped with Mr. Hayes, and who retired at the same time to their respective chambers, being alarmed in the night, with a noise in his room, and hearing groans, as of a wounded man, they got up in order to discover the cause; and found their landlord, with a dark lantern, and a knife in his hand, in a state of astonishment and horror, over his dying guest, who almost instantly expired.

On this evidence the jury convicted Bradford, and he was executed. If we are to determine upon the life or death of a man, here was presumptive evidence sufficient for that purpose. On a trial at Nisi Prius, and between personal right and wrong, the jury are often directed by the judge to take into consideration presumptive evidence, where positive proof is wanting; but in criminal charges, it never should, unsupported by some oral testimony, or

ocular demonstration, be sufficient to find a verdict against the accused.

The facts attending this dreadful tragedy, were not fully brought to light, until the death-bed confession of the murderer, when we must all endeavour to make our peace with God.

Mr. Hayes was a man of considerable property, and greatly respected. He had about him when his sad destiny led him under the roof of Bradford, a considerable sum of money; and Bradford knowing this, determined to murder and rob him. For this horrid purpose he proceeded with a dark lantern and a carving-knife, intending to cut the throat of his guest, while he was asleep; but what must have been his astonishment and confusion, when he found his victim already murdered, and weltering in his blood.

The wicked and faithless servant had also resolved to murder his master; and had just committed the horrid act, and secured his treasure, the moment before the landlord entered for the same purpose!!!

MARTIN NOWLAND,

*Executed at Tyburn, on the 24th of Febuary, 1742,
for high treason.*

THE offence for which this man suffered, is in the highest degree criminal, and should be held in the utmost detestation by every loyal subject; and in this instance the extreme depravity which this man showed, in endeavouring to seduce British soldiers from their allegiance, is equalled only by the gross absurdity of the manner in which the traitorous design was attempted.

This traitor was a native of Ireland, and while a youth was decoyed from his parents, conveyed to

Dunkirk, and entered into the regiment of Dillon. In this station he continued fourteen years, at the end of which time he was sent to London, to enlist men into the French service; and was promised a promotion on his return, as a reward for the diligence he might exert.

On his arrival in London he endeavoured to connect himself with people of the lower ranks, whom he thought most likely to be seduced by his artifices: and one day going on the quays near London-bridge, he met with two brothers, named Meredith, both of them in the army, but who occasionally worked on the quays, to make an addition to their military pay.

Having invited these men to a house in the Borough, he treated them with liquor, represented the emoluments that would arise from their entering into the French service; and among other things, said that, exclusive of their pay, they would receive four loaves of bread weekly.

When they were thus refreshed, Nowland prevailed on them to go to his lodgings in Kent-street, where he farther regaled them, and then he said he hoped they would enter into the service. They expressed their readiness to do so; and said they could aid him in enlisting several other men, if he would spend the evening with them at a public-house in the Strand.

This proposal being assented to, they took him to a famous ale-house near the Savoy, called the Coal-hole, when Nowland was terrified at the sight of several soldiers of the guards; but the Merediths saying they were their intimate acquaintance, the parties adjourned to a room by themselves. Here the brothers asked Nowland how much they were to receive for enlisting, which he told them would be four guineas; and that he was commissioned to pay their expenses till they should join the regiment.

The intention of the brothers seems to have been

to obtain some money of Nowland; but finding it was not in his power to advance any while they remained in England, one of them went to the serjeant at the Savoy, informing him of what had passed, and asked him how he must dispose of Nowland. The serjeant said, he must be detained for the night, and taken before a magistrate on the following day.

On his return to the public-house, Nowland produced a certificate, signed by the lieutenant-colonel of the regiment, as a proof that he was actually in the service of France. He likewise said that the soldiers must dispose of their clothes, and purchase others, to prevent their being detected at Dover; and he repeated his promise of the bounty-money, and other accommodations proper for a soldier, on their reaching the regiment.

When the Merediths, and the other soldiers, had drank at Nowland's expense till they were satisfied, they conveyed him to the round house, and on the following day, took him before a magistrate, to whom, after some hesitation, he acknowledged that he had been employed to enlist men for the Irish brigades in the service of France.

Inquiry being made respecting his accomplices, he acknowledged that a captain belonging to his regiment was in London, and that some other agents were soon expected in the kingdom: on which he was informed that he should be admitted an evidence if he would impeach his accomplices. He replied, "that he was a man of honour, and would never be guilty of hanging any other person to save his own life."

He was committed to Newgate in consequence of this confession, and being brought to his trial, he was convicted at the following sessions at the Old Bailey, and received sentence of death.

Nowland being of the Roman Catholic persuasion, it is not possible to give a particular account of his behaviour after conviction; as he declined holding

any correspondence with the ordinary of Newgate. When he came to the fatal tree, he performed his devotions in his own way, and being executed, his body was carried to St. Giles's, and soon afterwards buried in St. Pancras church-yard, by some of his Roman Catholic friends.

JOHN JENNINGS,

Executed at York, in the year 1742, on a charge of robbery, of which he was innocent.

THIS unfortunate man was the victim of his master, who sacrificed him in order to screen himself from the vengeance of the law. He was a waiter at the Bell Inn, near Hull, in Yorkshire, kept by a villain of the name of James Brunel.

A robbery had lately been committed on the highway, on an old man, a reputed miser; and who, for greater safety, generally carried a bag of gold about him. The old man, soon after being robbed, casually went into the Bell; and going up to the bar, saw Brunel, the landlord, with one of his guineas in his hand, and some shillings, which he was paying away to a carrier, which were all marked, so that he could identify them. He consequently suspected that the landlord was the robber, and related the circumstance to some other persons in the house.

Brunel overheard the conversation, and to secure himself, instantly formed and executed a design to impute the robbery to his waiter, Jennings, who had gone early to sleep, in a state of intoxication. To this wicked end, he went to his bed, and put the purse, taken from the old man, with the greater part of its contents, in the unfortunate man's pocket, without waking him; and then coming down to the company, told them, that he believed he had found the thief. "I have," continued the villain, long

suspected Jennings, one of my waiters, and about five hours ago I gave him a guinea to get changed; he came back in liquor, and gave me a guinea, which I am sure is not the same I gave him. He then produced the guinea, which being marked, was claimed by the old man. It was now proposed that Jennings should be searched, which was done, and the purse being found upon him, he was committed, tried, condemned, and executed.

Brunel, being afterwards convicted of another robbery, confessed this, which, had he acknowledged before, he would have prevented the execution of an innocent man, and might have saved himself from the additional guilt incurred by the commission of the second.

ROBERT FULLER,

*Convicted of shooting Mr. Bailey, and pardoned.
June sessions, 1743.*

WE record the following case in order to shew the extreme care which should be taken in swearing to the identity of a prisoner. The jury were so far dubious; that they recommended the subject of this narrative to the royal clemency; but as there was no proof of his really being the offender, we think they ought to have acquitted him, and not to have involved him in the disgrace of a conviction.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in the month of May, 1744, Robert Fuller, of Harefield, in Middlesex, was indicted for shooting at Francis Bailey, with a gun loaded with powder and small stones, and demanding his money, with intent to rob him.

Mr. Bailey deposed, that as he was returning to Uxbridge market, he saw a man near Harefield sitting on a stile, having a gun in his hand; that he

jumped off the stile, seized the horse's bridle, clapped the gun to Mr. Bailey's body, and threatened to shoot him. Mr. Bailey said, "That will do you no good, nor me neither:" he then put his hand repeatedly into Bailey's pocket; but the latter would not submit to be robbed, and rode off: on which Fuller immediately shot at him, and wounded him in the right arm, so as to break the bone in splinters; and many stones, and bits of the bone, were afterwards taken out of the arm: nor did the prosecutor recover of the wound till after languishing near twenty weeks.

The prisoner, however, had not an opportunity of robbing Mr. Bailey, as his horse took fright and ran away at the report of the gun.

The substance of Mr. Bailey's further deposition was, that this happened about seven o'clock in the evening, on the 24th of February; but that, as it was a clear star-light night, he had a full view of the prisoner, whom he had known before.

Bailey was now asked, if he had ever been examined before any justice of the peace in relation to the fact; to which he answered in the negative. He was then asked, if he had never charged the crime on any other person except the prisoner which he steadily denied the having done.

In contradiction to which, a commitment was produced, in which Thomas Bowry was charged with assaulting Francis Bailey, with an intent to rob: and this Bowry was continued in custody on the affidavit of Mr. Mellish, a surgeon, that Mr. Bailey was so ill of the wound he had received, that he could not come to London without danger of his life: but Bowry was discharged at the gaol delivery at the end of the sessions for June, 1743.

The copy of Bowry's commitment was then read, and authenticated by Richard Akerman, clerk of the papers to his father, the then keeper of Newgate.

On this contradictory evidence the characters of both parties were inquired into, when that of the

prosecutor appeared to be very fair, that of the prisoner rather doubtful.

Upon considering the whole matter, the jury gave a verdict that he was guilty, but on account of the circumstance above mentioned, relating to the commitment of Bowry for the same offence, on Bailey's oath, they recommended the prisoner to the court, as a proper object of the royal clemency and he was accordingly pardoned.

PATRICK BOURKE, AND GEORGE ELLIS,

Executed at Tyburn, February 20, 1745, for sheep-stealing.

By an act of Parliament passed in the fourteenth year of the reign of King George II. for the security of farmers and graziers, it is thus enacted:

“ If any person or persons, after the first day of May, 1741, shall feloniously drive away, or in any manner, feloniously steal any sheep, or shall wilfully kill one or more sheep, with intent to steal the whole, or any part of the carcasses, the person or persons so offending, shall suffer death, without benefit of clergy.”

This law denounces the punishment of death to any person offending against it, and though the crime is frequently committed, few are executed for sheep-stealing, as the law is seldom put in force owing to the humanity of the judges or the prosecutors, who, probably consider that the offence is committed in consequence of the calls of hunger, and dread of starving. The offence of these men were not however of that description, as they destroyed whole flocks, in order to get possession of the fat, and deserved as severe a punishment as any other robbers

Patrick Bourke, and George Ellis, were indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in December, 1744, for killing fifteen ewe sheep, the property of John Messenger, of Kensington, with intention to steal part of the carcasses, to wit, the fat near the kidneys.

Mr. Messenger deposed, that he had lost fifteen ewes; that their throats were cut, their bellies ripped open, and the fat taken out; and likewise said, that he had lost twenty-seven lambs, which were taken out of those ewes; and deposed, that the prisoners both confessed the crime before Sir Thomas Devil on the Tuesday following: and that Bourke acknowledged they sold the fat to a tallow-chandler, for forty-one shillings and two-pence halfpenny.

Richard Twyford proved the finding the sheep ripped open, and the fat taken out; and that the lambs were dragging by the sides of them: and swore that the prisoners had owned the taking the gates from the farm to pen the sheep up.

Joseph Agnew, a constable, swore that Ellis came to him; and after having told him of a quarrel between him and Bourke, who had given him two black eyes, he acknowledged that he had been concerned with him in the commission of the crime abovementioned. Hereupon the constable took with him three watchmen, and going to Bourke's lodgings, seized him in bed, and found a clasp-knife, laying on the ground near the feet of the bed, on which was some fat, which likewise remained when the knife was produced in court on the trial.

Bourke, in his defence, said, that he was kept drunk by the constable, in order to induce him to make a confession; but this not being credited by the jury, and there being other proofs of the fact having been acknowledged, they were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.

At the summer assizes in 1757, for the county of Lincoln, a deaf and dumb man, called Matthew Pullen, was indicted for sheep-stealing. The court

ordered a jury to be impannelled, not to try him for larceny, but to inquire whether he stood mute by the act of Providence, or through obstinacy. It was proved by his father-in-law, and some neighbours, that from his infancy he was deaf and dumb, and the jury therefore brought in their verdict, "that he stood mute by the act of God," and he was discharged in gaol delivery.

There being no punishment for the deaf and dumb, any more than for those that are proved *non compos mentis*, the actions of both ought to be kept under restraint. This deaf and dumb sheep-stealer, must certainly have been conscious that he was doing wrong when he stole his neighbour's sheep, and it seems unreasonable that he should escape without some punishment, as such a precedent may prove very injurious in its consequences, for it implies that any person who is deaf and dumb is at liberty to steal sheep with impunity.

WILLIAM CHETWYND,

(A SCHOOL-BOY OF THE CELEBRATED ACADEMY OF
SOHO-SQUARE,)

Tried for the murder of his school-fellow, and convicted of manslaughter; a very remarkable case, and by a special verdict left to the opinion of the twelve judges.

To the following interesting, but distressing narrative, we particularly solicit the attention of the young; hoping, that the example of this unhappy youth, may warn them of the evil consequences of passion, and the danger of indulging resentment when provoked by their companions.

This unfortunate young gentleman was educated

at the academy in Soho-square, and was about 18 years of age at the time the event happened.

At the sessions held in the Old Bailey in October, 1743, he was indicted for the murder of Thoma Rickets, then in the nineteenth year of his age, and was likewise indicted on the statute of stabbing.

Mr. Chetwynd being in possession of a piece of cake, Rickets asked him for some of it, on which he gave him a small piece; but refusing to give him a second, which he desired, he cut off a piece for himself, and laid it on a bureau, while he went to lock up the chief part of the cake for his own use.

In the interim Rickets took the cake which had been left on the bureau, and when Chetwynd returned and demanded it, he refused to deliver it; on which a dispute arose, and Chetwynd having still in his hand the knife with which he had cut the cake, wounded the other in the left side of the belly.

Hannah Humphreys, a servant in the house, coming at that time into the room, Rickets said, that he was stabbed, and complained much of the pain that he felt from the wound; on which Humphreys said to Chetwynd, "You have done very well;" to which the latter replied, "If I have hurt him, I am very sorry for it."

The wounded youth being carried to bed, languished three days under the hands of the surgeons, and then expired. In the interim, Chetwynd, terrified at what had happened, quitted the school; but as soon as he heard of the death of Rickets, he went to a magistrate, to abide the equitable decision of a verdict of his countrymen; and he was brought to his trial at the time and place abovementioned.

The counsel in behalf of the prisoner acknowledged the great candour of the gentlemen who were concerned for the prosecution, in their not endeavouring to aggravate the circumstances attending the offence. They confessed the truth of all that had been sworn by the witnesses; but insisted, in behalf of the accused party, that though his hand

might have made an unhappy blow, his heart was innocent.

The following is the substance of their arguments on the case: They said that the fact could not amount to murder at common law, which Lord Coke defines to be "an unlawful killing another man aforethought," either expressed by the party, or implied by the law. They said, that in this case, there was not the least malice, as the young gentlemen were friends, not only at the time, but to the close of Ricket's life, when he declared that he forgave the other.

They said, that it being proved that there was a friendship subsisting, it would be talking against the sense of mankind to say the law could imply any thing contrary to what was plainly proved. That deliberation and cruelty of disposition, make the essential difference between manslaughter and murder; and they quoted several legal authorities in support of this doctrine.

One of their arguments was urged in the following words: "Shall the young boy at the bar, who was doing a lawful act, be said to be guilty of murder? He was rescuing what was his own: the witnesses have told you, that after he had given Rickets a piece of cake, Rickets went to him for more; he denied to give it him: he had a right to keep his cake, and the other had no right to take it; and he had a right to retake it.

"There are cases in the books which make a difference between murder and manslaughter. If a man takes up a bar of iron, and throws it at another, it is murder; and the difference in the crime lies between the person's taking it up, and having it in his hand: Chetwynd had the knife in his hand, and upon that a provocation ensues, for he did not take the knife up; if he had, that would have shewn an intention to do mischief. It may be doubted, whether or no when he had this knife in his hand for a lawful purpose, and in an instant struck the

other, whether he considered he had the knife in his hand; for if in his passion he intended to strike with his hand, it is not a striking with the knife.

“That it was to be considered, whether there was not evidence to except this case from the letter of the statute 1, Jame I.”

The other arguments of counsel were to the following purpose:

“At the beginning of the fray, Rickets had a knife in his hand; and it was one continued act. And another question is, whether there was not a struggle; here was the cake taken, and in endeavouring to get it again, this accident happens; at the first taking of the cake, it is in evidence, that Chetwynd was not forced to extend his arms, unless the other was coming to take it from him, and then a struggle is a blow.

“This act of the 1 James I. was made for a particular purpose: on the union of the two kingdoms, there were national factions and jealousies, when wicked persons, to conceal the malice lurking in their hearts; would suddenly stab others, and screen themselves from the law, by having the act looked upon as the result of an immediate quarrel. That this statute has been always looked upon as a hard law, and therefore always construed by the judges, in favour of the prisoner. That when the fact only amounts to manslaughter at common law, it has been the custom of the court to acquit upon this statute.

“The counsel for the crown, in reply, submitted it to the court, whether (since the only points insisted on by way of defence for the prisoner, were questions at law, in which the jury were to be guided by their opinion,) the facts proved and admitted did not clearly, in the first place, amount to murder at common law; and in the second place, whether there could be the least doubt in point of law, but that the case was within the statute of 1 James I.

“Upon the first it was admitted, that to constitute murder there must be malice.

“ But it was argued, that malice was of two kinds, either expressed and in fact, or implied by law.

“ But when one person kills another without provocation, it is murder, because the law presumes and implies malice from the act done. And therefore, whenever any person kills another it is murder, unless some sufficient provocation appear. But it is not every provocation that extenuates the killing of a man from murder into manslaughter. A slight or trivial provocation is the same as none, and is not allowed in law to be any justification or excuse for the death of another. And therefore no words of reproach or infamy, whatever provoking circumstances they may be attended with ; no affronting gestures, or deriding postures, however insolent or malicious, are allowed to be put in balance with the life of a man, and to extenuate the offence from murder to manslaughter.

“ For the same reason, no sudden quarrel upon a sudden provocation, shall justify such an act of cruelty as one man's stabbing another, though it be done immediately in the heat of passion. As if two persons, playing at tables, fall out in their game, and the one upon a sudden kills the other with a dagger ; this was held to be murder by Bromley, at Chester assizes.

“ In like manner, no trespass on lands or goods shall be allowed to be any excuse for one man's attacking another in such a manner as apparently endangers his life, and could not be intended merely as a chastisement for his offence ; because no violent acts beyond the proportion of the provocation receive countenance from the law.

“ And, therefore, if a man beats another for trespassing upon his goods or lands, and does not desist, he will be justified by law ; because what he does is only in defence of his property, and no more than a chastisement to the offender.

“ But (says the Lord Chief Justice Holt,) if one man be trespassing upon another, breaking his

hedges, or the like, and the owner, or his servant, shall upon sight thereof, take up a hedge stake, and knock him on the head, that will be murder; because it is a violent act beyond the proportion of the provocation.

“ That applying the rules of law to the present case, it was plain, that the violent act done, bore no proportion to the provocation. All the provocation given was taking up a piece of cake, which is not such an offence, as can justify the prisoner's attacking the person who took it up, with an instrument, that apparently endangered his life, or rather carried certain death along with it.

“ On the second indictment it was said, that the counsel for the prisoner had in effect contended, that the statute 1 James I. should never be allowed to comprehend any one case whatsoever, or extend to any one offender, which would entirely frustrate that statute; since it was only made in order to exclude such persons who stabbed others upon the sudden, from the benefit of clergy: and was intended as a sort of correction to the common law, by restraining such offenders through fear of due punishment, who were emboldened by presuming on the benefit of clergy, allowed by the common law. But if it is to exclude none from their clergy, who at common law would have been entitled to it, it can never have any effect, and may be as well repealed.

“ And if the statute is to have any force or effect at all, there can be no doubt but it must extend to the present case. It is expressly within the words: Mr. Rickets was stabbed, having then no weapon drawn in his hand, and not having before struck the person who stabbed him. It is plainly within the intention; which is declared in the preamble to have been in order to punish stabbing or killing upon the sudden, committed in rage, or any other passion of the mind, &c. and therefore it was submitted to the court, whether upon the facts proved and not denied, the consequence of the law was not clear

that the prisoner was guilty within both indictments."

Mr. Baron Reynolds and Mr. Recorder, before whom the prisoner was tried, taking notice of the points of law that had arisen, the learned arguments of the counsel, and the many cases cited upon this occasion, were of opinion, that it would be proper to have the facts found specially, that they might be put in a way of receiving a more solemn determination.

A special verdict was accordingly agreed on by all parties, and drawn up in the usual manner, viz. by giving a true state of the facts as they appeared in evidence, and concluding thus: "We find that the deceased was about the age of 19, and Mr. Chetwynd about the age of 15; and that of this wound the deceased died on the 29th of the said September; but whether upon the whole, the prisoner is guilty of all, or any of the said indictment, the jurors submit to the judgment of the court."

In consequence of this special verdict, the case was argued before the twelve judges, who deemed Chetwynd to have been guilty of manslaughter only; whereupon he was set at liberty, after being burnt in the hand.

MARTHA TRACY,

Executed at Tyburn, February 16, 1745, for a street robbery.

THE melancholy fate of this unfortunate woman is another instance of the misery occasioned by that licentiousness, which is of all vices the most destructive of the happiness of females, and so disgraceful to the British metropolis.

This much injured woman was a native of Bristol,

and descended from poor parents, who educated her in the best manner in their power. Getting a place in the service of a merchant, when she was sixteen years of age, she lived with him three years, and then came to London.

Having procured a place in a house where lodgings were let to single gentlemen, and being a girl of an elegant appearance, and fond of dress, she was liable to a variety of temptations.

Her vanity being even greater than her beauty, she at length conceived that she had made a conquest of one of the gentlemen lodgers, and was foolish enough to think he would marry her.

With a view of keeping alive the passion she thought she had inspired, she sought every pretence of going into his chamber, and he having some designs against her virtue, purchased her some new clothes, in which she went to church on the following Sunday, where she was observed by her mistress.

On their return from church, her mistress strictly inquired how she came to be possessed of such fine clothes; and having learnt the real state of the case, she was discharged from her service on the Monday morning.

As she still thought the gentleman intended marriage, she wrote to him, desiring he would meet her at a public-house; and on his attending, she wept incessantly, and complained of the treatment she had met with from her mistress, which she attributed to the presents she had received from him.

The seducer advised her to calm her spirits, and go into lodgings which he would immediately provide for her, and where he could securely visit her till the marriage should take place.

Deluded by this artifice, she went that day to lodge at a house in the Strand, which he said was kept by a lady who was related to him. In this place he visited her on the following and several successive days; attending her to public places, and making her presents of elegant clothes, which effectually

flattered her vanity, and lulled asleep the small remains of her virtue.

It is needless to say that her ruin followed. After a connection of a few months, she found him less frequent in his visits; and informing him that she was with child, demanded that he would make good his promise of marriage: on which he declared that he had never intended to marry her, and that he would not maintain her any longer; and hinted that she should seek another lodging.

On the following day the mistress of the house told her that she must not remain there any longer, unless she would pay for her lodgings in advance, which being unable to do, or perhaps unwilling to remain in a house where she had been so unworthily treated, she packed up her effects, and removed to another lodging.

When she was brought to bed, the father took away the infant, and left the wretched mother in a very distressed situation. Having subsisted for some time by pawning her clothes, she was at length so reduced as to listen to the advice of a woman of the town, who persuaded her to procure a subsistence by the casual wages of prostitution.

Having embarked in this horrid course of life, she soon became a common street-walker, and experienced all those calamities incident to so deplorable a situation. Being sometimes tempted to pick pockets for a subsistence, she became an occasional visitor at Bridewell, where her mind grew only the more corrupt by the conversation of the abandoned wretches confined in that place.

The crime for which she forfeited her life to the violated laws of her country, was as follows:

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of January, 1745, she was indicted for robbing William Humphreys of a guinea on the king's highway.

Passing at midnight, near Northumberland-house in the Strand, she accosted Mr. Humphreys, who

declining to hold any correspondence with her, two fellows with whom she was connected came up, and one of them knocking him down, they both ran away; when she robbed him of a guinea which she concealed in her mouth: but Mr. Humphreys seizing her, and two persons coming up, she was conducted to the watch-house, where the guinea was found in her mouth, by the constable of the night.

She was indieted for this offence at the sessions held in the Old Bailey, January 1745, and on her trial it was proved that she had called the men, one of whom knocked down the prosecutor; so that there could be no doubt of her being an accomplice with them; whereupon the jury brought her in guilty.

After conviction she behaved with the greatest propriety, apparently under a proper sense of her former guilt, and died a sincere penitent, lamenting that pride of heart which had first seduced her to destruction.

MATTHEW HENDERSON,

Executed in Oxford-street, Feb. 25, 1746, for one of the most premeditated and cruel murders in our whole Calendar.

IN this man's mind we find an extraordinary instance of the struggle between conscience and revenge. His mistress, however she might overstep the character of her sex, and disgrace him by a blow, did not deserve punishment at his hands.

He was the son of honest parents, and born at North Berwick, in Scotland, where he was educated in the liberal manner customary in that country.

Sir Hugh Dalrymple, being a member of the British Parliament, took Henderson into his service, when 14 years of age, and brought him to London.

Before he was 19 years old, he married one of his master's maids; but Sir Hugh, who had a great regard for him, did not dismiss him, though he was greatly chagrined at this circumstance.

Some few days before the commission of the murder, Sir Hugh having occasion to go out of town for a month, summoned Henderson to assist in dressing him: and while he was thus employed, Sir Hugh's lady going into the room, the servant casually trod on her toe. She said not a word on the occasion, but looked at him with a degree of rage, that made him extremely uneasy.

When Sir Hugh had taken his leave, she demanded of Henderson, why he had trod on her toe; in answer to which he made many apologies, and ascribed the circumstance to mere accident; but she gave him a blow on the ear, and declared that she would dismiss him from her service.

Henderson said, it would be unnecessary to turn him away for he would go without compulsion; but reflecting that her passion would soon subside, he continued in his place; and was used with as much kindness as if the accident had not taken place.

Offended at the insult that had been offered him, Henderson began to consider how he should be revenged, and at length came to the fatal resolution of murdering his mistress.

For the particulars of this barbarous deed, we refer to his confession in Newgate, taken in writing by the ordinary, the day before his execution.

He first expresses a lively and suitable sense of his condition, and calls God to witness, that this account contains the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

He says he was born in the town of North Berwick, in Scotland, and was 19 years of age; his father was still living, and accounted a very honest, industrious man; his education was the best his father could afford, and his character, before this fact, blameless; his mother has been dead several years,

which he mentions with satisfaction, because as she loved him tenderly, he believed this affair would certainly have broken her heart.

He had lived with his master five years, about three years in Scotland, and two years in London, and declares no servant could be better used than he was, and that he never had the least dislike to the deceased, for that she was a lady of great humanity, and greatly respected by all her servants; and his master a most worthy gentleman.

On March 25, 1746, about eleven at night, Mary Platt, the maid-servant, told him, she would go and see her husband, and he said she might do as she pleased: she went, and took the key to let herself in again; he shut the door after her, and went and cleaned some plate in the kitchen. From thence he went up into the back parlour, where he used to lie, and let down his bed, in order to go to sleep. He pulled off his shoes, and tied up his hair with his garter, and that moment the thought came into his head to kill his lady. He went down stairs into the kitchen, and took a small iron cleaver, and came into his bed-chamber again, and sat down on his bed about twenty minutes considering whether he should commit the murder. His heart relented, and he thought he could not do it, because he had never received any affront; he however concluded to do it, as there was none in the house but the deceased and himself.

He went up to the first landing place on the stairs, and after tarrying a minute or two, came down, shocked at the crime he was about to perpetrate. He sat down on his bed for a little while, and then went up again, as far as the dining-room, but was again so shocked that he could not proceed, and came down again, and sat on his bed some minutes, and had almost determined within himself not to commit the murder; but, he says, the devil was very busy with him, and that he was in such agonies as cannot be expressed. He went up again as far as

the first window, and the watchman was going—"past twelve o'clock."

After the watchman had passed the door, and all was silent, he came down two or three steps, but presently went up again as far as his lady's room-door, having the cleaver all the time in his hand; and opened it, not being locked; he went into the room, but could not kill her; he was in great fear and terror: and went out of the room, as far as the stair-head, about three yards from her chamber-door, but immediately returned with a full resolution to murder her.

He entered the room a second time, went to the bed-side, undrew the curtains, and found she was fast asleep. He went twice from the bed to the door in great perplexity of mind, the deceased being still asleep; he had no candle, and believes if there had been a light, he could not have committed the murder. He continued in great agonies, but soon felt where she lay, and made twelve or fourteen motions with the cleaver, before he struck her.

The first blow he missed, but the second he struck her on the head, and she endeavoured to get out of bed on that side next the door, and when he struck her again, she moved to the other side of the bed, and spoke several words which he can't remember. He repeated his blows, and in struggling she fell out of bed next the window, and then he thought it was time to put her out of her misery, and struck her with all his might as she lay on the floor; she bled very much, and he cut the curtains in several places when he missed his blows.

All the words she said, when he struck her the third or fourth blow, were, "O Lord, what is this!" She rattled in her throat very much, and he was so frightened, that he ran down stairs, and threw the chopping-knife into the privy.

He then went into his bed-chamber again, and sat down on his bed for about ten minutes, when it came into his head to rob the house, which he solemnly

declares he had no intention to do, before he committed the murder.

When he had determined to rob the house, he directly struck a light, went into the deceased's bed-chamber, and took her pockets, as they were hanging on the chair, and took a gold watch, two diamond rings out of the drawers, with several other things, but does not remember all the particulars; she was not dead then, but rattled very much in the throat, and he was so surprised, that he scarcely knew what he did, and would have given ten thousand worlds could he have recalled what he had done.

When he had taken what he thought proper, he went out of the street door and fastened it with a piece of cord, and when he came into the street, he was so terrified that he could scarcely walk; he went into Holborn, where his wife lodged, and all the way he went he thought his murdered lady followed him. The watchman was going—"past one o'clock," as he was going along Holborn, so that he was near a full hour in committing this most horrid deed.

He put what things he had taken into a box at his wife's lodgings, who asked him what he did there at that time of the night, and several other questions; to all which he answered, it was no business of hers; he solemnly declares his wife and every other person entirely innocent and ignorant of the fact.

He did not stay here more than a quarter of an hour; and then returned to his master's; but by endeavouring to break the string with which he had fastened the door, he shut himself out, so that he was obliged to wait till the maid came home, which was about six o'clock; he told her that he had been to get some shirts that were mending, and had locked himself out.

The maid, on opening the windows, first below, and then above, by degrees discovered that there had been a robbery, and by some blood on the stairs, suspected her lady was killed. She told him, from

time to time what things she missed as she went about the house, and lastly, with the blood on the stairs; on which he desired she would go into her lady's room, and see if it was really so; she consented, and he went to the door with her, she came out presently, crying out, "It is so! it is so!" He then went and acquainted a gentleman who was nephew to his master, that somebody had broke into the house, and he suspected the maid, who had been out all night, and took her before the justice first, who thought proper, on hearing her examination, to send for him. He was very ready to go, and declares he had no thought of escaping, though he had great opportunity so to do.

He at first denied the facts, and accused two innocent persons; but being very much confounded by the cross questions then put to him, he at length confessed the fact. He appeals to all that knew him for the irreproachableness of his life before this happened, and again declares himself alone guilty of, and privy to the murder, and that he was not prompted by either malice or interest, and never thought of committing so dreadful a crime, till a quarter of an hour before the perpetration of it.

Considering the manner in which this murder was committed, the sex and station of the person murdered, and the obligations of the murderer, it is one of the most horrid and aggravated that has ever occurred, and presents a striking instance of the agitation attending a man's first act of villainy, and of the terrors which haunt the conscience of the murderer.

The above solemn declaration is most extraordinary, and is a lamentable proof of the wickedness and weakness of man, when unassisted by the grace of God, and of the difficulty of resisting the suggestions of our evil passions, especially revenge, and should lead us to be particularly cautious in guarding against the very first temptation.

HENRY SIMMS.

Executed at Tyburn, after returning from transportation, for highway robbery.

DISOBEDIENCE to parents generally leads to an ignominious fate. This man, losing his father at a tender age, ought to be doubly grateful to his grandmother, who took the care of him upon herself; instead of which, we shall find him, while yet a boy, robbing his benefactress.

Henry Simms was born in the parish of St. Martin's-in-the-fields, London, and was soon, as we have already observed, a helpless orphan. His grandmother, who was a dissenter, sent him first to a school kept by a clergyman of her own persuasion; but as he frequently ran away, she placed him at an academy in St. James's parish, where he became a proficient in writing and arithmetic, and was likewise a tolerable Latin and French scholar.

Before the boy had completed his tenth year, he gave a specimen of his dishonest disposition. His grandmother taking him with her, on a visit to a tradesman's house, he stole twenty shillings from the till in the shop; which being observed by the maid-servant, she informed her master; and the money being found on the youth, he was severely punished.

He now began to keep from home on nights, and associated with the vilest of company, in the purlieus of St. Giles's. His companions advising him to rob his grandmother, he stole 17*l.* from her, and taking his best apparel, repaired to St. Giles's, where his new acquaintance made him drunk, put him to bed, and then robbed him of his money and clothes.

On his waking he covered himself with some rags he found in the room, and after strolling through the streets in search of the villains, went into an ale-house, the landlord of which, hearing his tale, inter-

ceded with his grandmother to take him again under her protection. To this, after some hesitation, she consented; and buying a chain with a padlock, she had him fastened during the day-time to the kitchen-grate, and at night he slept with a man who was directed to take care that he did not escape.

After a month of confinement he had his liberty granted him, and new clothes purchased, with which he immediately went among some young thieves who were tossing up for money in St. Giles's. On the approach of night they took him to a brick-kiln near Tottenham-court-road, where they broiled some steaks, and supped in concert; and were soon joined by some women, who brought some geneva, with which the whole company regaled themselves.

Simms, falling asleep, was robbed of his clothes; and when the brick-makers came to work in the morning, they found him in his shirt only; and while they were conducting him towards town, he was met by his grandmother's servant, who was in search of him, and conveyed him to her house.

Notwithstanding his former behaviour, the old lady received him kindly, and placed him with a breeches-maker, who having corrected him for his ill behaviour, he ran away, and taking his best clothes from his grandmother's house in her absence, sold them to a Jew, and spent the money in extravagance.

The old gentlewoman now went to live at the house of Lady Stanhope, whither the graceless boy followed her, and being refused admittance, he broke several of the windows. This in some measure, compelled his grandmother to admit him; but that very night he robbed the house of as many things as produced him nine pounds, which he carried to a barn in Marybone-fields, and spent it among his dissolute companions.

For this offence he was apprehended, and, after some hesitation, confessed where he had sold the effects. From this time his grandmother gave him

up as incorrigible; and being soon afterwards apprehended as a pickpocket, he was discharged for want of evidence.

Simms now associated with the worst of company; but after a narrow escape on a charge of being concerned in sending a threatening letter to extort money, and two of his comrades being transported for other offences, he seemed deterred from continuing his evil courses; and thereupon wrote to his grandmother, entreating her further protection.

Still anxious to save him from destruction, she prevailed on a friend to take him into his house, where for some time he behaved regularly; but getting among his old associates, they robbed a gentleman of his watch and money, and threw him into a ditch in Marybone-fields: when some persons accidentally coming up, prevented his destruction.

Two more of Simms's companions being now transported, he hired himself to an inn-keeper as a driver of a post-chaise; and after that lived as postillion to a nobleman, but was soon discharged on account of his irregular conduct.

Having received some wages, he went again among the thieves, who dignified him with the title of *Gentleman Harry*, on account of his presumed skill, and the gentility of his appearance.

Simms now became intimately acquainted with a woman who lived with one of his accomplices, in revenge for which the fellow procured both him and the woman to be taken into custody on a charge of felony; and they were committed to Newgate; but the court paying no regard to the credibility of the witnesses, the prisoners were acquitted.

Soon after his discharge, Simms robbed a gentleman of his watch and 17*l.* on Blackheath; and likewise robbed a lady of a considerable sum near the same spot. Being followed to Lewisham, he was obliged to quit his horse, when he presented two pistols to his pursuers; by which he intimi

midated them so as to effect his escape, though with the loss of his horse.

Repairing to London, he bought another horse, and travelling into Northamptonshire, and putting up at an inn at Towcester, learnt that a military gentleman had hired a chaise for London; on which he followed the chaise the next morning, and kept up with it for several miles. At length the gentleman observing him, said, "Dont ride so hard, sir, you'll soon ride away your whole estate;" to which Simms replied, "Indeed I shall not, for it lays in several counties;" and instantly quitting his horse, he robbed the gentleman of 102 guineas.

He now hastened to London, and having dissipated his ill-acquired money at a gaming table, he rode out towards Hounslow, and meeting the postilion who had driven the abovementioned gentleman in Northamptonshire, he gave him five shillings, begging he would not take notice of having seen him.

A reward being at length offered for apprehending Simms, he entered on board a privateer; but being soon weary of a sea-faring life, he deserted, and enlisted for a soldier. While in this station he knocked out the eye of a woman at a house of ill fame; for which he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison.

Soon after this, Justice De Veil admitted him an evidence against some felons, his accomplices, who were transported, and Simms regained his liberty.

Being apprehended for robbing a baker's shop, he was convicted, and being sentenced to be transported, was accordingly shipped on board one of the transport vessels, which sailing round to the Isle of Wight, he formed a plan for seizing the captain and effecting an escape: but as a strict watch was kept on him, it was not possible for him to carry this plan into execution.

The ship arriving at Maryland, Simms was sold for twelve guineas, but he found an early opportu-

nity of deserting from the purchaser. Having learnt that his master's horse was left tied to a gate at some distance from the dwelling-house, he privately decamped in the night, and rode thirty miles in four hours, through extremely bad roads; so powerfully was he impelled by his fears.

He now found himself by the sea-side, and, turning the horse loose, he hailed a vessel just under sail, from which a boat was sent to bring him on board. As hands were very scarce, the captain offered him six guineas, which were readily accepted, to work his passage to England.

There being at this time a war between England and France, the ship was taken by a French privateer; but soon afterwards ransomed; and Simms entered on board a man of war, where his diligence promoted him to the rank of a midshipman; but the ship had no sooner arrived at Plymouth than he quitted his duty, and travelling to Bristol, spent the little money he possessed in the most dissipated manner.

His next step was to enter himself on board a coasting vessel at Bristol, but he had not been long at sea before, on a dispute with the captain, he threatened to throw him overboard, and would have carried his threats into execution, if the other seamen had not prevented him. Simms asked for his wages when the ship returned to port; but the captain threatening imprisonment for his ill behaviour at sea, he decamped with only eight shillings in his possession.

Fertile in contrivances, he borrowed a bridle and saddle, and having stolen a horse near a field in the city, he went once more on the highway, and taking the road to London, robbed the passengers in the Bristol coach, those in another carriage, and a single lady and gentleman, and repaired to London with the booty he had acquired.

Having put up the stolen horse at an inn in White-chapel, and soon afterwards seeing it advertised, he

was afraid to fetch it; on which he stole another horse; but as he was riding through Tyburn Turnpike, the keeper knowing the horse, brought the rider to the ground.

Hereupon Simms presented a pistol, and threatened the man with instant death if he presumed to detain him. By this daring mode of proceeding he obtained his liberty, and having made a tour round the fields, he entered London by another road.

On the following day he went to Kingston-upon-Thames where he stole a horse; and robbed several people on his return to London; and the day afterwards robbed seven farmers of 18*l*. His next depredations were on Epping Forest, where he committed five robberies in one day, but soon spent what he thus gained among women of ill fame.

Thinking it unsafe to remain longer in London, he set out with a view of going to Ireland; but had rode only to Barnet, when he crossed the country to Harrow on the Hill, where he robbed a gentleman named Sleep, of his money and watch, and would have taken his wig, but the other said it was of no value, and hoped, as it was cold weather, his health might not be endangered by being deprived of it.

The robber threatened Mr. Sleep's life unless he would swear never to take any notice of the affair; but this the gentleman absolutely refused. Hereupon Simms said, that if he had not robbed him, two other persons would: and told him to say, "Thomas," if he should meet any people on horseback.

Soon after this Mr. Sleep, meeting two men whom he presumed to be accomplices of the highwayman, cried out, "Thomas:" but the travellers paying no regard to him, he was confirmed in his suspicions, and rode after them; and, on his arrival at Hoddesdon Green, he found several other persons, all of them in pursuit of the highwayman.

In the mean time Simms rode forward, and robbed the St. Alban's stage; after which he went as far as Hockliffe; but being now greatly fatigued, he fell

asleep in the kitchen of an inn, whither he was pursued by some light horsemen from St. Albans, who took him into custody.

Being confined for that night, he was carried in the morning before a magistrate, who committed him to Bedford gaol. By an unaccountable neglect, his pistol had not been taken from him, and on his way to prison he attempted to shoot one of his guards: but the pistol missing fire, his hands were tied behind him; and when he arrived at the prison, he was fastened to the floor, with an iron collar round his neck.

Being removed to London by a writ of habeas corpus, he was lodged in Newgate, where he was visited, from motives of curiosity, by numbers of people, whom he amused with a narrative of his having been employed to shoot the king.

On this he was examined before the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State: but his whole story bearing evident marks of a fiction, he was remanded to Newgate, to take his trial at the ensuing Old Bailey sessions.

Ten indictments were preferred against him: but being convicted for the robbery of Mr. Sleep, it was not thought necessary to arraign him on any other of the indictments.

After conviction he behaved with great unconcern, and, in some instances, with insolence. Having given a fellow-prisoner a violent blow, he was chained to the floor. He appeared shocked when the warrant for his execution arrived; but soon resuming his former indifference, he continued it even to the moment of execution, when he behaved in the most thoughtless manner.

He was hanged at Tyburn, on the 16th of November, 1747.

THE
**SECOND REBELLION IN FAVOUR OF THE
 PRETENDER,**
 IN THE YEAR 1745.

WHEN England was attacked the second time by the disaffected Scotchmen, she was involved in an expensive war with France. Her armies were fighting under the Duke of Cumberland, in Germany, and her fleets were employed in watching the motions of their enemy, and when the rebellion broke out the king was at Hanover.

The French thinking this a favourable time to wound the internal peace of Britain, espoused the cause of the Pretender, as he appeared an excellent instrument for that purpose. The government was not apprised of the preparations making to assist the Pretender, and the first notice which the British public had of it, was from a paragraph in the General Evening Post, which stated that, "The Pretender's eldest son put to sea, July 14, from France; in an armed ship of sixty guns, provided with a large quantity of warlike stores, together with a frigate of thirty guns, and a number of smaller armed vessels, in order to land in Scotland, where he expected to find twenty thousand men in arms, to make good his pretensions to the crown of Great Britain. He was to be joined by five ships of the line from Brest, and four thousand five hundred Spaniards were embarking at Ferrol."

Through different channels this news was confirmed, and created in the nation the utmost alarm. King George II. on being apprised of it, instantly prepared to return; and arrived in London on the 31st of August, amid the acclamations of his loyal subjects, and a discharge of artillery.

The Pretender, followed by about fifty Scotch and Irish adventurers, came privately through Normandy and on the 18th of July, embarked on board a ship of 18 guns, which was joined off Belleisle by the Elizabeth and other ships. They intended to have sailed north-about, and land in Scotland. On the 20th they came up with an English fleet of merchant vessels, under the convoy of the Lion man of war, of 58 guns, commanded by Captain Brett; who immediately bore down upon the French line of battle ship, which he engaged within pistol-shot five hours, and was constantly annoyed by the smaller ships of the enemy. The rigging of the Lion was cut to pieces, her mizen-mast, mizen top-mast, main-yard, and fore-top-sail, were shot away; all her lower-masts, and top-masts shot through in many places, so that she lay muzzled in the sea, and could do nothing with her sails. Thus situated the French ships sheered off, and the Lion could make no effort to follow them. Captain Brett had 45 men killed; himself, all his lieutenants, the master, several midshipmen, and 107 foremast-men wounded. His principal antagonist, the Elizabeth, with difficulty got back to Brest, quite disabled, and had sixty-four men killed 139 dangerously wounded, and a number more slightly. She had on board 400,000*l.* sterling, and arms and ammunition for several thousand men.

The French court pretended to be ignorant of the expedition thus miscarrying. Meanwhile, the Camerons, the Macdonalds, and many other clans, were in arms, in expectation of their friends from France. They came down into the low lands in parties, and carried off by force, many men to fill their ranks, and committed various disorders.

The Pretender having embarked in another ship, again sailed from France, and having eluded the English cruisers, landed with his followers on theisle of Sky, opposite to Lochabar, in the county of Inverness, about the end of July, and took up his

abode at the house of a Papist priest, with whom he remained three weeks, while his emissaries were raising men for his service. At length at the head of about two thousand he began his march under a standard, on which was the motto, "TANDEM TRIUMPHANS,"—" *At length triumphant.*"

The rebels now marched towards Fort William, where the Pretender published a manifesto, which his father had signed at Rome; containing abundant promises to such as would adhere to his cause; two of which were, a dissolution of the union between the two kingdoms, and a payment of the national debt.

This circumstance induced many of the ignorant country people to flock to his standard, till at length his undisciplined rabble began to assume the appearance of an army, which struck terror to the well-affected wherever it came.

These transactions, however, did not pass so secretly, but that the Governor of Fort William informed the Lord Justice Clerk of Edinburgh, of all he could learn of the affair; on which the latter dispatched an express to the north, ordering the assistance of all officers, civil and military.

The governor of Fort William having received these orders, dispatched two companies of St. Clair's and Murray's regiments of foot, to oppose the rebels. They were attacked by a far superior number of Highlanders, which they contended against, until they fired all their ammunition; after which they were attacked in front, flank, and rear, and near half their number killed, before they surrendered. Captain Scott, their brave commander, was wounded; but the rebels gave him and his remaining officers their parole of honour, the private soldiers were sent to prison.

In the interim, the Lord Justice Clerk ordered Sir John Cope, commander in chief of the forces in the south of Scotland, to march against the rebels; but in making the circuit of the immense mountains

of Argyleshire, he missed the rebels; on which he went to Inverness, to refresh his troops after the fatigue of the march.

The rebels proceeded to Perth, and having taken possession of that place, the Pretender issued his orders for all persons who were in possession of public money, to pay it into the hands of his secretary, whose receipts should be a full acquittal for the same.

The numbers of the rebels now greatly increased, and in September the Pretender issued a proclamation. The provost and magistrates left the city, and others were immediately appointed in their room. Here the rebels were joined by the Duke of Perth, Lord George Murray, Lord Nairn, the Hon. William Murray, Mr. Oliphant, and his son, George Kelly, Esq. the Bishop of Rochester, and several other Scotch gentlemen of influence, with their followers, making a formidable army.

The official papers distributed began thus: "Charles Prince of Wales, and Regent of Scotland, England, France, and Ireland, and of the dominions thereto belonging."

In the mean time General Cope sent from Inverness an express to Aberdeen, for the transport-vessels in that harbour to be ready to receive his troops; and embarking on the 18th of September, he disembarked them at Dunbar.

During these transactions General Guest, who commanded the castle of Edinburgh, gave the magistrates of that city several pieces of cannon for the defence of the place; and Colonel James Gardiner repaired from Stirling to Edinburgh, with two regiments of dragoons; but learning that General Cope had landed at Dunbar, which is 27 miles east of Edinburgh, he proceeded to effect a junction with that general.

On the 7th another party of rebels took possession of the town of Dundee, proclaimed the Pretender, searched for arms, and levied money on the

inhabitants, giving receipts for the same. They seized a ship, and steered her to Perth, supposing there was gunpowder on board. On the 11th they left Perth, and marched that day to Dumblaine, 20 miles; but the next day only two—to Down. They crossed the Forth at the fords of Frews, on the 13th, General Blakeney having destroyed the bridge, and directed their march towards Glasgow; but the next day they turned to the eastward, and marched by Falkirk to Cullington, four miles from Edinburgh.

The following day the Pretender proceeded through the Royal Park, and took possession of Holyrood-house. The money in the bank of Edinburgh, and the records in the public offices, were now removed to the castle for security, and the gates of the city were kept fast during the whole day; but five hundred of the rebels having concealed themselves in the suburbs, took an opportunity, at four o'clock the next morning, to follow a coach which was going in, and seizing the gate called the Netherbow, they maintained their ground while the body reached the centre of the city, and formed themselves in the Parliament Close.

Thus possessed of the capital, they seized two thousand stand of arms, and, on the following day, marched to oppose the Royal army, under the command of General Cope; and the two armies being within sight of each other, near Preston Pans, on the evening of the 20th, Colonel Gardiner earnestly recommended it to the general to attack them during the night; but deaf to this advice, he kept the men under arms till morning, though they were already greatly harrassed.

At five in the morning the rebels made a furious attack on the Royal army, and threw them into unspeakable confusion, by two regiments of dragoons falling back on the foot. Colonel Gardiner, with 500 foot, behaved with uncommon valour, and covered the retreat of those who fled; but the colonel

receiving a mortal wound, the rebels made prisoners of the rest of the king's troops.

The following account of this disaster was issued from Whitehall, London :

“ By an express arrived this morning, we are informed that Sir John Cope, with the troops under his command, were attacked by the rebels on the 21st instant, at day-break, near Preston Pans, near Seaton, seven miles from Edinburgh ; that the king's troops were defeated, and that Sir John Cope, with about 450 dragoons, had retired to Lauder ; Brigadier Fawkes and Colonel Lasselles, had got to Lauder. The Earls of Laudon and Hume, were at Dundee with Sir John Cope.”

The loss sustained by the king's troops was,

Killed	-	-	-	-	600
Wounded	-	-	-	-	450
Taken prisoners	-				520

Total - 1270

The rebels did not lose more than fifty men.

Flushed with this partial victory, the rebels returned in high spirits to Edinburgh. They now sent foraging parties through the country, with orders to seize all the horses and waggons they could find : and, in the interim, a party of the insurgents attempted to throw up an intrenchment on the castle-hill. Hereupon the governor, necessitated to oppose the assailants, yet anxious for the safety of the inhabitants, sent a messenger in the night, to intimate to those who lived near the castle-hill, that they would do well to remove out of danger.

As soon as it was day-light, the battery of the rebels was destroyed, by a discharge of the great cannon from the Half-moon, and thirty of them killed, with three of the inhabitants, who had rashly ventured near the spot.

The governor being greatly deficient in provisions a gentleman ordered 50 fine bullocks to be driven into the city on a pretence that they were for the

use of the rebels; and the person who drove them leaving them on the castle-hill, the governor and 500 men sallied forth and drove them in at the gate, while the rebels played their artillery with unremitting fury.

While the rebels continued in Edinburgh, which was about seven weeks, some noblemen and their adherents joined them; so that their army amounted to almost ten thousand men. They now levied large contributions, not only in Edinburgh, but through the adjacent country; and those who furnished them received receipts, signed, "CHARLES, Prince Regent."

The officers taken at the battle of Preston Pans, were admitted to their parole, but the privates were ill treated. Their allowance was only three-half-pence each per day, and their prison filthy, and destitute of accommodations. This cruelty was practised in order to cause them to enlist under the banner of the Pretender; besides which they were promised the best treatment, new clothing, and five guineas per man, on their "*taking St. James's Palace*." One hundred and twenty, oppressed by hunger, and tempted by the prospect of gain turned rebels and Papists, and thus forfeited their honour and their lives; for those that were not killed in the various engagements which took place before the rebellion could be quelled, fell into the hands of their injured countrymen, and not a man of them survived.

About this time some ships from France arrived in the Forth, laden with ammunition; and a person who attended the Pretender was dignified with the title of ambassador from his most Christian Majesty.

General Wade had now the command of some forces which had reached Yorkshire; and some Dutch troops being sent to augment his forces, he marched to Newcastle, with a view to deter the rebels from entering the southern part of the kingdom.

That celebrated prelate, the late Dr. Herring

archbishop of York, distinguished himself gloriously on this occasion. Joining with the high-sheriff to assemble the freeholders, the archbishop preached an animated sermon to them; and then the several parties agreed, to assist each other in support of their civil and religious rights. Many people in Yorkshire were prevented from engaging in the rebellion by this spirited and well-timed conduct.

The Lord President Forbes, and the Earl of Loudon, acted in a manner equally zealous in Scotland. Having collected a number of the loyal Highlanders into a body, many others who would have joined the rebels were thereby deterred.

The rebels quitted Edinburgh in the beginning of November, marched to Dalkeith where they encamped; and a report was circulated that they proposed to make an attack on Berwick; but this was only a contrivance to conceal their real designs.

In the meantime more than a thousand of the rebels deserted, in consequence of General Wade's publishing a pardon to such as would return to their duty as good subjects, within a limited time. Still, however, they had above eight thousand men able to bear arms, whom General Wade would have marched to attack, but his soldiers were ill of the flux, owing to the severity of the season, and the fatigues they had undergone.

Emboldened by success, and their force increased, the rebels now determined to penetrate into England. On Saturday, the 9th of October, about three o'clock in the afternoon, the inhabitants of the city of Carlisle, were thrown into the greatest alarm, at seeing a body of them on Stanwix-bank, within a quarter of a mile of them; and it being market-day there, they mixed with the country people returning home, so that it was impossible for the garrison to fire upon them; but in less than half an hour the country people dispersed themselves, and then the garrison fired upon them, and killed several; but night coming on, they retreated to a

greater distance from the city and the garrison stood all night under arms. At two in the morning a thick fog came on, which remained till twelve that day, when it cleared up for about an hour, and then the garrison discovered the rebels approaching to attack the city in three several parties, viz. one at Stanwix-bank, commanded by the Duke of Perth; another at Shading-gate-lane, commanded by the Marquis of Tullibardine, who had the artillery; and the third in Blackwell-fields, where the Pretender commanded the rest of their body facing the English gate. Upon discovering these three parties approaching so near the city, the garrison fired upon them, viz. the four-gun battery upon the Marquis of Tullibardine, who was heard to say, "Gentlemen, we have not metal for them, retreat;" which they immediately did, and disappeared. The turret guns and the citadel guns were fired upon the Pretender's division, where the white flag was displayed, which was seen to fall; and about the same time the ten-gun battery was fired upon the Duke of Perth's division, who also retired. As the thick fog then came on again, the inhabitants of the city expected that a general assault would be made by the rebels, and the walls were lined with men to repel it, and Sir John Pennington, Dr. Waugh, Chancellor Humphry Senhouse, Joseph Daire Dalston, of Acron-bank, Esqrs. with several other gentlemen of note, were all night under arms, to encourage and assist them. The militia was also drawn up at the foot of Castle-street, to be ready in case of a forcible attack, to relieve and reinforce the men upon the walls. On monday morning, the fog still continuing thick, the garrison could not observe the situation of the rebels, but heard their pipers playing not far from the English gate. About ten o'clock a man was let down from the city walls, to reconnoitre the enemy; and found that they were retiring towards Warwick-bridge. In the afternoon others

were likewise detached to observe their motions, and discovered a great number remaining about Warwick-bridge: but the Pretender, with his guard and attendants, were advanced to Brampton, where they lodged themselves that night; and on Tuesday they remained inactive, except in feats of rapine and plunder; for they spent the day in hunting and destroying the sheep of Lord Carlisle's tenants, and carrying off the country people's geese, and other poultry. They also seized on all the horses they could lay hands on, without any question relating to value or property; notwithstanding they declared the design of their expedition was to redress grievances, and correct abuses. Tuesday night the rebels slept quietly. On Wednesday morning about ten o'clock they displayed the white flag at Warwick-bridge-end, to which they were about three hours in repairing. About one o'clock the young Pretender, attended by Lord George Murray, the Duke of Perth, and several others, besides those called his guard, came to them; upon which they formed themselves, and began to march again to Carlisle, in the following order: first, two (named hussars) in Highland dresses, and high rough red caps, like pioneers: next, about half a dozen of the chief leaders, followed by a kettle drum; then the Pretender's son, at the head of about 110 horse, called his guards, two and two a-breast; after these a confused multitude of all sorts of mean people to the number, as was supposed, of about six thousand. In this order they advanced to the height of Warwick-moor; where they halted about half an hour, and took an attentive view of the city; from thence the foot took the lead, and so marched to Carlisle about three in the afternoon, when they began a fresh assault, and the city renewed their fire. On Thursday it was discovered, that the rebels had thrown up a trench, which intimidated the town, and in a consultation it was resolved to capitulate, a deputation was sent to the Pretender, at Brampton, and

the town and castle were delivered up on Friday morning.

During this progress and success of the rebels, the English government were not waiting the event of a battle, without making every effort to entirely quell the rebellion. The city of London, addressed the king in terms of great loyalty, and offered contributions for that purpose. The example of the metropolis was followed by almost every corporate body in the kingdom. The flower of the English army, as we have already observed, was in Germany; had they, instead of the new levies then engaged, fought at Preston Pans, the issue of that battle would most likely have terminated the rebellion.

The king now thought fit to send for his son the Duke of Cumberland, to command against the rebels; and with him eight battalions and nine squadrons, returned from fighting foreign foes, to quell a civil war at home. On his arrival he immediately took the command, and soon followed his veteran troops towards the north. He arrived in Staffordshire, at the time when the rebels had penetrated as far as the town of Derby.

Both houses of parliament now assembled, and a bill was passed for suspending the habeas corpus act for six months: by which the king was, for that period, empowered to seize all suspected persons, and commit them to prison, without specifying the reason of such commitment.

The effects of this act were the apprehension and commitment of many suspected persons in both kingdoms: but it did not appear to stop the progress of the rebellion.

The duke now expected a junction of the forces under General Wade, who had marched from Newcastle to Darlington, and taking a westward course, had stationed his troops near Wetherby. The rebels having advice of this motion, it was proposed by some of them to march into North Wales; but others opposed this, on the presumption that they

should then be surrounded by the royal army, and compelled to surrender themselves prisoners at discretion, as they should have no opportunity of retreating to Scotland.

They therefore determined to push their cause to the very utmost; and for this purpose advanced by more rapid marches to the southward, than the king's troops could have endured: until they actually penetrated into the very heart and centre of England.

Liverpool was not behind London in spirit and loyalty. The inhabitants contributed largely in assisting the royal army, at this inclement season, with warm clothing, and raised several companies of armed men, which were called the Royal Liverpool Blues. Some of the advanced parties of rebels having appeared in sight of the town, every preparation was made to resist them. Finding at length that the Pretender bent his march by another route for Manchester, the Liverpool Blues marched in order to destroy the bridges, and thereby impede their progress. This service they effected, breaking them down at Warrington, over the river Mersey, as far as Stockport. They seized two of the rebels, whom they handcuffed and sent to Chester gaol.

Notwithstanding these impediments, the rebels crossed the Mersey at different fords, through which the Pretender waded breast-high in water. Their numbers could not be accurately ascertained, their march being straggling and unequal, but about 9000 appeared the aggregate. Their train of artillery consisted of sixteen field-pieces of three and four-pound shot, two carriages of gun-powder, a number of covered waggons, and about 100 horses laden with ammunition. Their van-guard consisted of about 200 cavalry, badly mounted, the horses appearing poor and jaded.

On entering the town of Macclesfield, they ordered the usual bellman to go round and give notice, that billets must forthwith be ready for 5000 men, their

first division, on pain of military execution. The Pretender himself constantly marched on foot, at the head of two regiments, one of which was appropriated as his body-guard. His dress was a light plaid, belted about with a sash of blue silk; he wore a grey wig, with a blue bonnet and a white rose in it. He appeared very dejected at this time. His followers were ordinary, except the two regiments mentioned, which appeared to have been picked out of the whole to form them. The arms of the others were very indifferent. Some had guns, others only pistols, the remainder, broad-swords and targets. They committed various depredations in their progress, seizing all the horses, and plundering the houses and the farm-yards.

In this manner they progressed to Derby. At Manchester, where they raised a regiment, it was apprehended, and not without reason, that they might have reached the metropolis, the duke not being fully prepared; or, by their retrograde motions might have missed them, as happened in the outset with Sir John Cope in the mountains of Argyleshire.

On the 28th of November, an advanced party of rebels entered Manchester, immediately beat up for volunteers, and inlisted several Papists and non-jurors; to whom they *promised* five guineas each, but gave them little more than white cockades, and what they called inlisting money. They then ordered quarters to be prepared for 10,000 men. Upon the arrival of the main body, a detachment examined the best houses, fixed upon one for the Pretender, and others for the principal officers. They ordered the bellman to go round the town, and give notice to all persons belonging to the excise, inn-keepers, &c. forthwith to appear, and bring their acquittances and rolls, and all the ready cash they had in their hands, belonging to government, on pain of military execution. The Pretender was then proclaimed King of England, and the terrified inhabitants were ordered to illuminate their houses.

In order to deceive the Duke of Cumberland, whose army was augmenting in Staffordshire; they sometimes gave out, that their rout was for Chester; then to Knutsford, Middlewich, and Nantwich; at other times they pretended they were going into Wales. The duke, however, took those measures which could not fail of checking their progress, should they push for London, which it was now greatly apprehended they would: and in short, the whole nation was in the utmost consternation. He concentrated the troops near Northampton, a position which the rebels could not pass by the direct road, without risking a battle. It was still apprehended that by forced marches, and by advancing with great rapidity, they meant to avoid the duke by a circuitous rout through Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Fortunately, they trifled away much time in raising the regiments, a proposition of a Mr. Townley, who was appointed the colonel, and afterwards taken prisoner at Carlisle; for which, among many others, he was hanged, as we shall hereafter describe.

These daring traitors had despoiled the country as far as Derby, before they were convinced of the danger they incurred to themselves. Here they found that the duke was waiting for them, advantageously posted, and with a force which they were unwilling to engage. They had actually left Derby, and taken the road to London, when they were seized with a panic which overcame them; for they had scarcely marched a mile when they halted; held a consultation, wheeled round, and re-traced their steps to Derby. On their second visit to this already oppressed town, they levied contributions to a large amount, and threatened destruction to it unless instantly complied with. They took what was hastily brought to them, meanly plundered whatever fell in their way; and departed sullen and dejected.

From this moment they sought to regain Scotland, and by forced marches the duke pursued them.

However, their conduct in advancing was oppressive, but in their retreat they committed murder and wanton mischief; and seized whatever they could carry off.

The rebels in arms in Scotland had, before this, been joined by some French troops, the commander of which declared, that he invaded the British dominions in the name of, and for his master Louis XV.

It is high time, in our summary of this very remarkable epoch of the British history, which might fill an interesting volume, to take a view of the proceedings of the gallant Duke of Cumberland. On the 6th of December he was at Coventry with the horse, and the infantry were encamped upon Meridon Common, where they received the warm clothing subscribed for in London, Liverpool, and other towns. On the 9th he pushed on at the head of the cavalry, and a thousand fresh volunteers, mounted in pursuit of the rebels, with a view to skirmish with them until the foot came up, but they fled at their utmost speed, through Ashbourn, Leek, Macclesfield, Manchester, Leigh, Wigan, and Preston.

In order to enable the duke to continue his pursuit, the gentlemen of Staffordshire provided horses in order to carry the foot soldiers. The flourishing town of Birmingham followed this laudable example, and Sir Liston Holt, of Aston-hall, near thereto, furnished 250, sending even his coach-horses on this service: for which he received the public and private thanks of the English commander in chief.

Field-Marshal Wade, with his detachment of the British army, was at this time at Wakefield. It had been resolved, in a council of war held on the 8th at Ferrybridge, to march with all expedition into Lancashire, to cut off the retreat of the rebels back to Scotland; but finding they had proceeded too far in their flight to effect this, he dispatched General Oglethorpe, with the cavalry, to hang upon, and harass their rear.

The French force which landed in favour of the

rebels, brought with them such a heavy train of artillery, that it required about a dozen horses to draw an eighteen-pounder. With this train they advanced from Montrose to Perth, by Brechin. They had every difficulty to encounter; the season rendered the roads extremely bad, and the country people annoyed them in all directions.

At Preston, the rebels, wearied with incessant marches for the last three or four days, were compelled to halt a day. This being made known to the Duke of Cumberland, he redoubled his efforts to overtake them with his cavalry. He had been recently joined by General Oglethorpe, whose squadrons had moved from Doncaster without a halt; and in three days he gained 100 miles over snow and ice. By pushing the horses to the utmost, the duke actually entered Preston only four hours after the rear of the rebels had left it; but was now compelled to halt and refresh.

On the 14th General Oglethorpe was at Garstang, and took his post on Elhilmoor, about three miles from Lancaster. The Liverpool companies arrived at Preston on the 16th, and that town sent a deputation of four of the principal inhabitants to his Royal Highness, with offers to supply his troops with whatever they might stand in need of.

At Lancaster the rebels were thrown into the utmost dread on the approach of General Oglethorpe, with the horse, who actually entered the town at one end, as they retreated out of the other. While the horses were feeding in the street, and the soldiers refreshing and preparing for the attack on overtaking the fugitives, the general was called back by an express announcing the invasion of the French. This intelligence proving to have had no foundation, the horse were again ordered to push on, but the rebels had got by that time so much the start, that the general could not overtake them.

At Kendal the country rose upon the retreating rebels; they took three of their men, two women,

and several horses; in doing which three of the people were killed. The Pretender halted at Shap that night, and fearing to be treated in like manner at Penryth, he endeavoured to avoid that town, in which attempt he was met by an incredible number of incensed inhabitants on Lazenby-moor, on which they turned off to Temple Sowerby, but were hunted and galled the whole day, and at length driven into Orton. Here they could wait only to feed their horses in the street, and then set forward, having pressed a guide, but were pursued by the loyal people of Appleby and Brough, who took the Duke of Perth's mistress and another gentlewoman, whose carriage had broke down. As a retaliation for this interruption, the rebels committed great spoliations as they passed, plundering houses and shops, destroying goods, and stripping men of their shoes, stockings, breeches—nay, often stripping them altogether.

After several forced marches, the Duke of Cumberland at length came up with the rebels, at Louth-hall, which they had taken possession of, but abandoned it on his approach, and threw themselves into the village of Clifton, three miles from Penryth. The dragoons immediately dismounted, and made so vigorous an attack, that in about an hour's time the rebels were beaten, though in a strong and defensible post. It became dark before the assault was over, and thus it was rendered impossible to calculate their loss, or to pursue them. Of the king's forces, forty were killed and wounded; and among the latter were Colonel Honeywood, Captain East, and the cornets Owen and Hamilton. These officers declared, that when they had fallen, the rebels struck at them with their broad-swords, crying, "No quarter, kill them." They then carried off their wounded, and fled to Carlisle, which city they held possession of since its disgraceful capitulation; and which the English made immediate preparation to invest.

A fresh detachment from Marshal Wade, having joined the duke, with a train of battering cannon, from Whitehaven, he marched for Carlisle, and gave orders for raising the posse comitatis, (the whole body of the people.) Upon his near approach, he found the main body of the rebels had abandoned the city for Scotland, and had only left a garrison in it. He however invested it in all quarters, and the besieged fired their cannon with great fury, but little execution.

During these operations, the Seahorse frigate captured a large French ship, a part of a small fleet, full of troops and warlike stores, destined for Scotland, and brought her into Dover. On board were 22 officers, all of whom were Scotch and Irish, provided with commissions from the King of France, and a proportional number of soldiers.

The Duke of Cumberland threw up batteries to bombard the city, and the rebels burnt part of the suburbs, and hanged three of the inhabitants. The batteries, which took up several days in constructing, being at length completed were opened upon the city, but ceased towards evening, as the ammunition was expended, but a supply, fortunately arriving the next day, the cannonade was resumed, which caused the rebels to hoist the white flag, upon which it again ceased. In about two hours, a flag of truce advanced with a rebel officer, who brought a letter, signed "John Hamilton," Governor of Carlisle. This letter proposed hostages to be given and exchanged, in order to prepare a capitulation. To this the Duke of Cumberland returned for answer. "That he would make no exchange of hostages with rebels." Another flag arrived from the rebel governor, desiring to know what terms the duke would grant him and his garrison. To this it was answered, that the utmost terms he would grant, were, "not to put them to the sword, but to reserve them for his Majesty's pleasure;" whereupon he surrendered the city, praying the duke to intercede for his

Majesty's royal clemency, and that the officers' clothes and baggage might be **safe**; and at three in the afternoon of the 30th of December, the king's troops once more took possession of the city of Carlisle.

The rebel garrison consisted of the remains of the regiment they raised at Manchester, viz. Townley, their colonel, five captains, six lieutenants, seven ensigns, and an adjutant, who had been a barber, with 93 non-commissioned officers, drummers, and private men, chiefly Roman catholics. The other part of the garrison were chiefly Scotchmen, and consisted of the governor, six captains, seven lieutenants, three ensigns, and one surgeon; and 256 non-commissioned officers and private men; and last, though not least rebellious, was found James Cap-pock, the Pretender's bishop of the diocese. Those who called themselves the French part of this contemptible garrison, were Sir Francis Geogean, of Thoulouse, in France, captain in Count Lally's regiment, Colonel Strickland, and Sir John Arbuthnot, captains in the rebel Lord George Drummond's regiment; but the real Frenchmen were, one serjeant, and four private soldiers.

These victories, however, by no means put an end to the rebellion. The main body of the rebels, we have observed, left Carlisle, and in haste moved forward to Scotland. Having no impediment to encounter, they arrived at Glasgow, the second city of that part of Great Britain. Here they levied a contribution for horses, promised payment for what they consumed, and then ordered the land-tax to be paid: but upon departure said, their expenses should be discharged out of the pretended forfeited rents of Kilsyth. They then marched for Stirling, in possession of the English, and commanded by the gallant General Blakeney. The gates could not be defended; they therefore marched in, and summoned the garrison to surrender; but the veteran commander answered, that "he would perish in its

ruins, rather than make terms with rebels." In the river of the town were two English men of war, and the rebels, in order to prevent their going further up, erected a battery, which the ships soon destroyed, and caused them to retreat a mile, where they erected another, which did little execution. They now prepared for a vigorous attack on the castle, got some heavy pieces of ordnance across the Forth, erected a battery against it, and called in all their forces. General Blakeney fired upon them, and repeatedly drove them from their works.

General Hawley, at the head of such troops as he could form in order of battle, marched to attempt to raise the siege, but the rebels made a desperate attack, at the commencement of which, his artillery horses were so terrified, that they broke their traces, and ran away. Some of the dragoons seeing this, also gave way, and the rebels had the advantage.

At the beginning of the battle, a violent storm of wind and rain arose, which blew and beat in the faces of the English. General Hawley retreated to Linlithgow. His powder was found spoiled by the excessive rains of that and the preceding day, not a musket in five went off, and the drivers of his waggons, running off with the impressed horses, he was compelled to burn his tents and other stores, and to abandon nearly the whole of his artillery.

Edinburgh being again in the possession of the English, and fears entertained that the rebels meant to abandon the siege of Stirling, and proceed thither, General Hawley was ordered to post himself between those places. The rebels abandoning Stirling, laid siege to Fort William, but after a long attack, in which they fired hot bars, in hopes of setting fire to it, they also gave up that design.

Various were the skirmishes in different parts of Scotland, and frequently to the advantage of the rebels, which we shall pass over, and close our history by a description of the battle of Culloden, which put an end to this formidable rebellion. This

was a pitched battle, and the contending armies having taken the field, determined to abide the issue of the day. They were respectively commanded by the Duke of Cumberland, and the Pretender; and the following account of the battle appeared in the London Gazette:

“ On Tuesday the 15th, the rebels burnt Fort Augustus, which convinced us of their resolution to stand an engagement with the king's troops. We gave our men a day's halt at Nairn, and on the 16th marched from thence, between four and five, in four columns. The three lines of foot (reckoning the reserve for one,) were broken into three from the right, which made the three columns equal, and each of five battalions. The artillery and baggage followed the first column upon the right, and the cavalry made the fourth column on the left.

“ After we had marched about eight miles, our advanced guard, composed of about 40 of Kingston's, and the highlanders, led by the quartermaster-general, perceived the rebels at some distance making a motion towards us on the left, upon which we immediately formed; but, finding the rebels were still a good way from us, and that the whole body did not come forward, we put ourselves again upon our march in our former posture, and continued it to within a mile of them, where we again formed in the same order as before. After reconnoitering their situation, we found them posted behind some old walls and huts, in a line with Cullo-den House. As we thought our right entirely secure, General Hawley and General Bland went to the left with the two regiments of dragoons, to endeavour to fall upon the right flank of the rebels, and Kingston's horse was ordered to the reserve. The ten pieces of cannon were disposed, two in each of the intervals of the first line, and all our Highlanders (except about 140, which were upon the left with General Hawley, and who behaved extremely well) were left to guard the baggage.

“ When we were advanced within 500 yards of the rebels, we found the morass upon our right was ended, which left our right flank quite uncovered to them; his Royal Highness thereupon immediately ordered Kingston’s horse from the reserve, and a little squadron of about 60 of Cobham’s which had been patrolling, to cover our flank: and Pulteney’s regiment was ordered from the reserve to the right of the Royals.

“ We spent above half an hour after that, trying which should gain the flank of the other; and his Royal Highness having sent Lord Bury forward within 100 yards of the rebels, to reconnoitre something that appeared like a battery to us, they thereupon began firing their cannon, which was extremely ill-served and ill-pointed: ours immediately answered them, which began their confusion. They then came running on in their wild manner; and upon the right, where his Royal Highness had placed himself, imagining the greatest push would be there, they came down three several times, within a hundred yards of our men, firing their pistols, and brandishing their swords; but the Royals and Pulteney’s hardly took their firelocks from their shoulders, so that after those faint attempts they made off, and the little squadrons on our right were sent to pursue them. General Hawley had, by the help of our Highlanders, beat down two little stone walls, and came in upon the right flank of their second line.

“ As their whole first line came down to attack at once, their right somewhat out-flanked Barrel’s regiment, which was our left, and the greatest part of the little loss we sustained, was there; but Bligh’s and Sempil’s giving a fire upon those who had out-flanked Barrel’s soon repulsed them, and Barrel’s regiment and the left of Monro’s fairly beat them with their bayonets. There was scarcely a soldier or officer of Barrel’s, and of that part of Monro’s which engaged, who did not kill one or two men each with their bayonets and pontoons.

“ The cavalry, which had charged from the right and left, met in the centre, except two squadrons of dragoons, which we missed, and they were gone in pursuit of the runaways: Lord Ancram was ordered to pursue with the horse as far as he could; and did it with so good effect that a very considerable number was killed in the pursuit.

“ As we were in our march to Inverness, and were nearly arrived there, Major-General Bland sent the annexed papers, which he received from the French officers and soldiers, surrendering themselves prisoners to his Royal Highness. Major-General Bland had also made great slaughter, and took about 50 French officers and soldiers prisoners, in his pursuit.

“ By the best calculation that can be made, it is thought the rebels lost 2000 men upon the field of battle, and in the pursuit. We have here 222 French, and 326 rebel prisoners. Lieutenant-Col. Howard killed an officer, who appeared to be Lord Strathallan, by the seal, and different commissions from the Pretender, found in his pocket.

“ It is said Lord Perth, Lord Nairn, Lochiel, Keppock, and Appin-Stuart are also killed. All their artillery and ammunition were taken, as well as the Pretender's and all their baggage. There were also twelve colours taken.

“ All the generals, officers and soldiers, did their utmost duty in his Majesty's service, and shewed the greatest zeal and bravery on this occasion.

“ The Pretender's son, it is said, lay at Lord Lovat's house at Aird, the night after the action. Brigadier Mordaunt is detached with 900 volunteers this morning into the Fraziers country, to attack all the rebels he may find there. Lord Sutherland's and Lord Reay's people continue to exert themselves, and have taken upwards of 100 rebels, who are sent for; and there is great reason to believe Lord Cromarty and his son, are also taken. The Monros have killed 50 of the rebels in their flight. As it is

not known where the greatest bodies of them are, or which way they have taken in their flight, his Royal Highness has not yet determined which way to march. On the 17th, as his Royal Highness was at dinner, three officers, and about sixteen of Fitz-James's regiment, who were mounted, came and surrendered themselves prisoners.

"The killed, wounded, and missing, of the king's troops, amount to above 300.

"The French officers will be all sent to Carlisle, till his Majesty's pleasure shall be known.

"The rebels, by their own accounts, make their loss greater by 2000 men than we have stated it. Four of their principal ladies are in custody, viz. Lady Ogilvie, Lady Kinloch, Lady Gordon, and the Laird of M'Intosh's wife. Major Grant, the Governor of Inverness, is re-taken, and the Generals Hawley, Lord Albemarle, Huske, and Bland, have orders to inquire into the reasons for his surrendering of Fort George.

"Lord Cromartie, Lord M'Cleod his son, with other prisoners, are just brought in from Sutherland, by the Hound sloop, which his Royal Highness had sent for them, and they are just now landing."

THE EARL OF KILMARNOCK; THE EARL OF CROMARTIE; THE LORD BALMERINO;

THREE OF THE PRINCIPAL REBEL CHIEFS.

“ These men were once the glory of their age,
 “ Disinterested, just, with ev’ry virtue
 “ Of civil life adorn’d—in arms excelling.
 “ Their only blot was this; that much provok’d
 “ They rais’d their vengeful arms against their country;
 “ And lo! the righteous gods have now chastis’d them.”

THOMSON.

THESE noblemen acted a conspicuous part in the rebellion of which we have just given an account, and on Monday, the 28th of July, 1746, about eight o’clock in the morning, they were taken from the Tower in three coaches, the Earl of Kilmarnock, with Governor Williamson, and another gentleman captain of the guard, in the first; the Earl of Cromartie, attended by Captain Marshall, in the second; and Lord Balmerino, attended by Mr. Fowler, gentleman gaoler, who had the axe covered by him, in the third, under a strong guard of foot soldiers to Westminster-Hall, where the Lord High Steward and the peers having taken their seats, proclamation was made for the lieutenant of the Tower of London to return the precept to him directed, with the bodies of the prisoners: which done, the gentleman gaoler of the Tower brought his prisoners to the bar; and the proclamation was made for the king’s evidence to come forth, the king’s counsel, by his grace’s direction, opened the indictment, then his grace moved the House, that he might advance forwards for the better hearing of the evidence, (which being done, William Earl of Kilmarnock, was brought to the bar,) and his bill of indictment for high treason read, to which his lordship pleaded guilty, and desired to be recommended to his Majesty for mercy. George, Earl of

Cromartie was next brought to the bar, and also pleaded guilty, and prayed for mercy. After which Arthur Lord Balmerino was brought to the bar, and pleaded not guilty, alleging that he was not at Carlisle at the time specified in the indictment, whereupon six witnesses for the crown were called in and examined, whose evidence was distinctly repeated by the reading clerk, proving that his lordship entered Carlisle (though not the same day,) sword in hand, at the head of a regiment called by his name, Elphinston's horse. To this he made an exception, which was over-ruled. The Lord High Steward then asked him if he had any witness or any thing further to offer in his defence. To which he replied, he was sorry he had given their lordships so much trouble, and had nothing more to say. Hereupon their lordships retired out of Westminster-Hall to the House of Peers, where the opinion of the judges was asked, touching this overt act, which they declared to be not material, as other facts were proved beyond contradiction, their lordships returned, and his grace putting the question to the youngest baron, "Whether Arthur Lord Balmerino was guilty or not guilty, &c." he clapt his right hand to his left breast, and said, "Guilty, upon my honour, my Lord," as did all the rest of the peers. And the prisoners being again called to the bar, the Lord High Steward declared their resolutions: and they were ordered to be brought up on the 30th, at 11 o'clock in the morning to receive sentence.

Written notice was given them to bring what they might have to offer in arrest of judgment.—There were 136 peers present.

On the 30th the Lord High Steward went to Westminster-Hall attended as before: and the prisoners being again brought before their peers, the Earl of Kilmarnock made a very elegant and pathetic speech, which was much admired, to move their lordships to intercede for him with his Majesty; the Earl of Cromartie spoke also to the same

effect: but Lord Balmerino pleaded in arrest of judgment, that his indictment was found in the county of Surrey, and, this being a point of law, desired that he might be allowed counsel to argue it, upon which the lords adjourned to their chamber, to consider of it, and soon after returned; ordered his plea to be argued on Friday next, and appointed Messrs. Wilbrake and Farrester for his counsel.

On the 1st of August the Lord High Steward, and the peers being assembled in Westminster-Hall, the three rebel lords were brought to the bar, with the axe carried before them. The Earl of Kilmarnock and the Earl of Cromartie were then separately asked if they had any thing to propose why judgment should not be passed upon them; to which they answered in the negative. His grace then informed Lord Balmerino, that, having started an objection, having desired counsel, and having obtained their assistance, he was now to make use of it, if he thought fit to argue that point. His lordship answered, he was sorry for the trouble he had given his grace and the peers; that he would not have taken that step, if he had not been persuaded there was some ground for the objection; but that his counsel having satisfied him there was nothing in it that could tend to his service, he declined having them heard, submitted to the court, and was resolved to rely upon his Majesty's mercy.

His grace then made a speech to the prisoners, almost to the same effect as that pronounced by Earl Cowper. But as the present rebellion was opposed with more unanimity and zeal than the last, his grace took occasion to observe to their lordships, that the beginnings of the rebellion "were so weak and unpromising, as to be capable of seducing none but the most infected and willing minds to join in so desperate an enterprize. That it was impossible even for the party of the rebels to be so inconsiderate or vain, as to imagine, that the body of this free people, blest in the enjoyment of all their rights,

both civil and religious, under his Majesty's protection; secure in the prospect of transmitting them safe to their posterity, under the protestant succession in his royal house, would not rise up as one man, to oppose and crush so flagitious, so destructive, and so unprovoked an attempt.—Accordingly the rebels soon saw his Majesty's faithful subjects, conscious both of their duty and interest, contending to outdo one another in demonstrations of their zeal and vigour in his service.—Men of property, of all ranks and orders, crowded in with liberal subscriptions, of their own motion, beyond the examples of former times, and uncompelled by any law: and yet in the most legal and warrantable manner, notwithstanding what has been ignorantly and presumptuously suggested to the contrary.”——His lordship concluded thus: “It has been his Majesty's justice to bring your lordships to legal trial: and it has been his wisdom to shew, that, as a small part of his national forces was sufficient to subdue the rebel army in the field, so the ordinary course of his laws is strong enough to bring even their chiefs to justice.”

After a short pause, his Grace pronounced sentence as in cases of high treason, and then put an end to the commission by breaking his staff.

At six o'clock a troop of life-guards, one of horse-grenadiers, and 1000 of the foot-guards, (being 15 men out of each company,) marched from the parade in St. James's-park through the city to Tower-hill, to attend the execution of the Earl of Kilmarnock and the Lord Balmerino, and being arrived there, were posted in lines from the Tower to the scaffold, and all around it. About eight o'clock the sheriffs of London, with their under-sheriffs, and their officers, viz. six serjeants at mace, six yeomen, and the executioner, met at the Mitre tavern in Fenchurch-street, where they breakfasted, and went from thence to the house, lately the transport-office on Tower-hill, near Catherine-court, hired by them

for the reception of the said lords, before they should be conducted to the scaffold, which was erected about thirty yards from the said house. At ten o'clock the block was fixed on the stage, and covered with black cloth, and several sacks of sawdust were brought up to strew on it; soon after their coffins were brought, covered with black cloth, ornamented with gilt nails, &c. On the Earl of Kilmarnock's was a plate with this inscription, "*Gulielmus Comes de Kilmarnock decollatus, 18 Augusti, 1746, Ætat. suæ 42*, with an earl's coronet over it, and six coronets over the six handles; and on Lord Balmerino's was a plate with this inscription, "*Arthurus Dominus de Balmerino decollatus, 18 Augusti, 1746, Ætat. suæ. 58*," with a baronet's coronet over it, and six others over the six handles. At a quarter after ten the sheriffs went in procession to the outward gate of the Tower, and after knocking at it some time, a warder within asked, "Who's there?" The officer without answered, "The sheriffs of London and Middlesex." The warder then asked, "What do they want?" The officer answered, "The bodies of William, Earl of Kilmarnock, and Arthur, Lord Balmerino?" upon which the warder said, "I will go and inform the Lieutenant of the Tower," and in about ten minutes the Lieutenant of the Tower with the Earl of Kilmarnock, and Major White, with Lord Balmerino, guarded by several of the warders, came to the gate; the prisoners were there delivered to the Sheriffs, who gave proper receipts for their bodies to the Lieutenant, who, as is usual, said, "God bless King George;" to which the Earl of Kilmarnock assented by a bow, and the Lord Balmerino said, "God bless King James." Soon after, the procession, moving in a slow and solemn manner, appeared in the following order: 1. The Constable of the Tower-hamlets. 2. The Knight-Marshall's-men, and Tip-staves. 3. The Sheriff's Officers. 4. The Sheriffs, the Prisoners, and their Chaplains: Mr. Sheriff Blachford walking with the

Earl of Kilmarnock, and Mr. Sheriff Cockayne with the Lord Balmerino. 5. The Tower Warders. 6. A guard of musqueteers. 7. The two hearses and a mourning coach. When the procession had passed through the line into the circle formed by the guards, the passage was closed, and the troops of horse, who were in the rear of the foot on the lines, wheeled off, and drew up five deep behind the foot, on the south side of the hill, facing the scaffold.

The lords were conducted into separate apartments in the house, facing the steps of the scaffold; their friends being admitted to see them. The Earl of Kilmarnock was attended by the Rev. Mr. Foster, a dissenting minister, and the Rev. Mr. Hume, a near relation of the Earl of Hume; and the Chaplain of the tower, and another clergyman of the church of England, accompanied the Lord Balmerino; who, on entering the door of the house, heard several of the spectators ask eagerly, "Which is Lord Balmerino?" to whom he answered, smiling, "I am Lord Balmerino, gentlemen, at your service." The parlour and passage of the house, the rails inclosing the way from thence to the scaffold, and the rails about it, were all hung with black.

The Lord Kilmarnock, in the apartment allotted to him, spent about an hour in his devotions with Mr. Foster, who assisted him with prayer and exhortation.

After which, Lord Balmerino, pursuant to his request, being admitted to confer with the earl, first thanked him for the favour, and then asked, "If his lordship knew of any order signed by the Prince, (meaning the Pretender's son,) to give no quarter at the battle of Culloden." And the earl answering, "No," the Lord Balmerino added, "Nor I neither, and therefore it seems to be an invention to justify their own murders." The earl replied, "he did not think this a fair inference, because he was informed, after he was prisoner at Inverness, by several officers, that such an order, signed George Murray, was in the duke's custody."—"George Mur-

ray!" said Lord Balmerino, "then they should not charge it on the Prince." Then he took his leave, embracing Lord Kilmarnock, with the same kind of noble and generous compliments as he had used before, "My dear Lord Kilmarnock, I am only sorry that I cannot pay this reckoning alone; once more, farewell for ever!" and returned to his own room.

The earl then kneeling down with the company, joined in a prayer delivered by Mr. Foster: after which, having sat a few moments, and taken a second refreshment of a bit of bread and a glass of wine, he expressed a desire that Lord Balmerino might go first to the scaffold; but being informed that this could not be, as his lordship was named first in the warrant; he appeared satisfied, saluted his friends, saying he should make no speech on the scaffold, but desired the ministers to assist him in his last moments, and they accordingly, with other friends, proceeded with him to the scaffold. He appeared on the scaffold, dressed in black, with a countenance and demeanour, testifying great contrition, and the multitude who had been long expecting to see him on this awful occasion, shewed the deepest signs of commiseration and pity; his lordship being struck with such a variety of dreadful objects at once, the multitudes—the block—his coffin—the executioner—the instrument of death—turned about to Mr. Hume, and said, "Hume! this is terrible;" but without changing his voice or countenance.

After putting up a short prayer, concluding with a petition for his Majesty King George, and the royal family, in verification of his declaration in his speech, his lordship embraced, and took his last leave of his friend. The executioner, who had before taken something to keep him from fainting, was so affected with his lordship's distress, and the awfulness of the scene, that, on asking him forgiveness, he burst into tears. His lordship bid him take courage, giving him at the same time, a purse with five guineas, and telling him that he would

drop his handkerchief as a signal for the stroke. He proceeded, with the help of his gentleman, to make ready for the block, by taking off his coat, and the bag from his hair, which was then tucked up under a napkin-cap, but this being made up so wide, as not to keep up his long hair, the making it less occasioned a little delay; his neck being laid bare, he tucked down the collar of his shirt and waistcoat, he then kneeled down on a black cushion at the block, and drew his cap over his eyes, in doing which, as well as in putting up his hair, his hands were observed to shake; but, either to support himself, or for a more convenient posture of devotion, he happened to lay both his hands upon the block, which the executioner observing, prayed his lordship to let them fall, lest they should be mangled, or break the blow. He was then told, that the neck of his waistcoat was in the way, upon which he rose, and with the help of a friend took it off, and the neck being made bare to the shoulders, he kneeled down as before. Every thing was now ready for the execution, the black bays which hung over the rails of the scaffold, were by direction of the colonel of the guard, or the sheriffs, turned up, that the people might see the whole of it, and in about two minutes (the time he before fixed) after he kneeled down, his lordship dropped his handkerchief, and the executioner at once severed his head from his body, except only a small part of the skin, which was immediately divided by a gentle stroke; the head was received in a piece of red baise, and, with the body, immediately put into the coffin. The scaffold was then cleared from the blood, fresh sawdust strewed, and, that no appearance of a former execution might remain, the executioner changed such of his clothes as appeared bloody.

In the account said to be published by the authority of the sheriffs, it is asserted, that the Lord Kilmarnock requested his head might not be held up as usual, and declared to be the head of a traitor; and

that, for this reason, that part of the ceremony was omitted, as the sentence and law did not require it; but we are assured, in Mr. Foster's account, that his lordship made no such request; and further, that when he was informed that his head would be held up, and such proclamation made, it did **not** affect him, and he spoke of it as a matter of no moment. All that he wished or desired was, first, that the executioner might not be, as represented to his lordship, "a good sort of man," thinking a rough temper would be fitter for the purpose. Second, that his coffin, instead of remaining in the hearse, might be set upon the stage: and, third, that four persons might be appointed to receive the head, that it might not roll about the stage, but be speedily, with his body, put into the coffin.

While this was doing, Lord Balmerino, after having solemnly recommended himself to the mercy of the Almighty, conversed cheerfully with his friends, refreshed himself twice with a bit of bread and a glass of wine, and desired the company to drink to him *ain de grae ta haiven*, acquainting them that he had prepared a speech, which he should read on the scaffold, and therefore should there say nothing of its contents.

The under-sheriff coming into his lordship's apartment to let him know the stage was ready, he prevented him, by immediately asking, if the affair was over with the Lord Kilmarnock; and being answered, "It is," he enquired how the executioner performed his office; and upon receiving the account, said, it was well done; then addressing himself to the company, he said, "Gentlemen, I shall detain you no longer," and with an easy unaffected cheerfulness he saluted his friends, and hastened to the scaffold, which he mounted with so easy an air, as astonished the spectators. His lordship was dressed in his regimentals, a blue coat, turned up with red, trimmed, with brass buttons, (and a tye wig,) the same which he wore at the battle of Culloden. No circumstance in his whole deportment shewed the least sign of fear or regret, and he frequently reproved his friends for discovering either upon his account. He walked several times round

the scaffold, bowed to the people, went to his coffin, read the inscription, and, with a nod, said, "It is right. He then examined the block, which he called his pillow of rest. His lordship, putting on his spectacles, and taking a paper out of his pocket, read it with an audible voice, which, so far from being filled with passionate invective, mentioned his majesty as a prince of the greatest magnanimity and mercy, at the same time that, through erroneous political principles, it denied him a right to the allegiance of his people: having delivered this paper to the sheriff, he called for the executioner, who appearing, and being about to ask his lordship's pardon, he said, "Friend, you need not ask me forgiveness, the execution of your duty is commendable;" upon which his lordship gave him three guineas, saying, "Friend, I never was rich, this is all the money I have now, I wish it was more, and I am sorry I can add nothing to it but my coat and waistcoat," which he then took off, together with his neckcloth, and threw them on his coffin; putting on a flannel waistcoat, which had been provided for the purpose, and then taking a plaid cap out of his pocket, he put it on his head, saying, he died a Scotchman; after kneeling down at the block to adjust his posture, and shew the executioner the signal for the stroke, which was dropping his arms, he once more turned to his friends and took his last farewell; and looking round on the crowd, said, "Perhaps some may think my behaviour too bold, but remember, Sir, (said he to a gentleman who stood near him,) that I now declare it is the effect of confidence in God, and a good conscience, and I should dissemble if I should shew any signs of fear."

Observing the axe in the executioner's hand as he passed him, he took it from him, felt the edge, and returning it, clapped the executioner on the shoulder to encourage him; he tucked down the collar of his shirt and waistcoat, and shewed him where to strike, desiring him to do it resolutely, "for in that," says his lordship, "will consist your kindness. He then went to the side of the stage, and called up the warder, to whom he gave some money, asked which was his hearse, and ordered

the man to drive near. Immediately, without trembling or changing countenance, he again knelt down at the block, and having, with his arms stretched out, said, "O Lord, reward my friends,—forgive my enemies,—and receive my soul!" he gave the signal, by letting them fall. But his uncommon firmness and intrepidity, and the unexpected suddenness of the signal, so surprised the executioner, that, though he struck the part directed, the blow was not given with strength enough to wound him very deep; on which it seemed as if he made an effort to turn his head towards the executioner, and the under-jaw fell, and returned very quick, like anger and gnashing the teeth; but it could not be otherwise, the part being convulsed. A second blow immediately succeeding the first, rendered him, however, quite insensible, and a third finished the work.

His head was received in a piece of red baize, and, with his body, put into the coffin, which, at his particular request, was placed on that of the late Marquis of Tullibardine's, in St. Peter's church, in the Tower, all three lords lying in one grave.

During the whole course of the solemnity, although the hill, the scaffoldings, and houses were crowded full of spectators, all persons attended with uncommon decency, and evenness of temper; which evinces how much the people entered into the rectitude of the execution, though, too humane to rejoice in the catastrophe.

Lord Balmerino had but a small estate, though ground-lord and lord of the manor of Colcon, a long street in the suburbs of Edinburgh, leading to Leith, and had also some other small possessions in the shire of Fife. His lady came to London soon after him, and frequently attended him during his confinement in the Tower, and had lodgings in East-Smithfield. She was at dinner with him when the warrant came for his execution the Monday following, and being very much surprised, he desired her not to be concerned at it: "If the king had given me mercy," said he, "I should have been glad of it; but since it is otherwise, I am very easy; for it is what I have expected, and therefore it does not at all surprise

me. His lady seemed very disconsolate, and rose immediately from table; on which he started from his chair, and said, "Pray, my lady, sit down, for it shall not spoil my dinner;" upon which her ladyship sat down again, but could not eat.

Several more of his sayings were related as remarkable, among others, that being advised to take care of his person, he replied, "It would be thought very imprudent in a man to repair an old house, when the lease of it was so near expiring."

CHARLES RATCLIFFE, Esq.

Who assumed the Title of Earl of Derwentwater.

THIS gentleman was one of those who took part in the rebellion, under a commission from the king of France, and was taken, with many others, on his passage to Scotland, by the Seahorse frigate. He was the youngest brother of the Earl of Derwentwater, who was attainted and executed in the first rebellion; and his titles and estates, consequently, forfeited to the crown. He was, with his brother, taken at Preston, tried, convicted, and condemned, but several times respited, and would probably have been pardoned, had he not, with thirteen others, made his escape out of a room, called the Castle, in Newgate, through a small door, which had been accidentally left open, leading to the debtors' side, where the turnkey, not knowing them, let them out of the prison, supposing they were persons who had come in to see their friends.

He immediately procured a passage to France, and from thence followed the Pretender to Rome, subsisting on such petty pension as his master would allow him. Returning some short time afterwards, he married the widow of Lord Newborough, by whom he had a son.

In 1733 he came to England, and resided in Pall-Mall, without any molestation, though it was well known

to the ministry.* He returned to France, but came back in 1735, to solicit his pardon, but without success, though he appeared publicly, and visited several families, particularly in Essex. Returning again to France, he unfortunately accepted of the French king's commission, to act as an officer in the rebellion, and was taken as we have already described.

On the 22d of October, 1746, he was brought to the bar of the Court of King's Bench, and was arraigned, but refused to hold up his hand, or acknowledge any jurisdiction but that of the king of France, insisting on a commission he had in his pocket from him, and appealing to the Sicilian ambassador, who was then in court, for the authenticity thereof. On hearing his former indictment and conviction read, he said, that he was not the Charles Ratcliffe therein named, but that he was the Earl of Derwentwater, and his counsel informed the court, that such was the plea they meant to abide by, and thereupon issue was gained.

The counsel for the prisoner then moved to put off his trial, upon his own affidavit (to which he had subscribed himself the Count de Derwentwater,) that two of his material witnesses, naming them, were abroad, without whose testimony he could not safely go to trial. To which affidavit the counsel for the crown objected, as not being entitled as in the cause before the court, nor the two witnesses sworn to be material, in the issue then joined between the king and the prisoner; and also, because the prisoner had not so much as undertaken to swear, for himself, that he was not the person, which, as it was a fact entirely in his own knowledge, ought to be required of him, if he would entitle himself to this favour

* Some years after the quelling of the last Rebellion, the Pretender came in disguise to view London. This was a natural, but dangerous curiosity, to behold the place where his grandfather, king James II. had been on the throne. Ministers being apprised of this circumstance, in haste went to king George II. with the information, and recommended his immediate apprehension. The monarch, with one of his shrewd answers, for which he was remarkable, replied, "No—let the poor man satisfy his curiosity; when done, he will quietly go back to France." The king's observation was verified.

from the court; this being a proceeding very different from the trial upon a not guilty, in an original prosecution on a charge of high treason or other crime, the identity of the person being the single fact to be enquired of, and a case in which the crown had a right by law to proceed in instanter.

Upon this the prisoner amended his affidavit as to the witnesses, but refused to supply it, so far as to swear he was not the same person. And the court said this was a new precedent, there being no instance of any application to put off the trial of a question of this sort before; and that this was like an inquest of office, in order to inform the conscience of the court, and what the public had a right to proceed in instanter. And therefore that the prisoner ought to give all reasonable satisfaction to induce them to grant such a favour as the prisoner desired, for they could not in conscience and justice to the public indulge him, without a reasonable satisfaction that his plea was true.

But the prisoner still refusing to swear to the truth of his plea, the jury were called, and after two or three of the pannel had been sworn, Mr. Ratcliffe challenged the next that was called, as of right, without assigning any reason; but upon debate of the question, how far he had right to challenge? the court said, it had been determined before in all the later cases, and particularly in the case of one Jordan; that the prisoner, in such a case as this, had no peremptory challenge; upon which the rest of the jury were sworn, and after a clear evidence of the identity of the person on the part of the crown, the prisoner producing none on his part, the jury withdrew about ten minutes, and then found their verdict, that he was the same Charles Ratcliffe who was convicted of high-treason in the year 1715.

The Attorney-General then moved to have execution awarded against the prisoner on his former judgment; to which the prisoner's counsel objected, tendering a plea of pardon by act of parliament, in bar of execution. But the court said, as he had already pleaded such a plea as he chose to rely on, and as that was found against him,

nothing more remained for them to do at present but to award execution; and if his counsel had any thing to offer in his behalf, they would have time to do it before the day of execution; and ordered a rule to be made for the proper writs for his execution, on the 8th of next month, and remanded the prisoner to the Tower.

Mr. Ratcliffe was about five feet ten inches high, upwards of fifty, was dressed in scarlet, faced with black velvet, and gold buttons, a gold-laced waistcoat, bag-wig, and had a hat with a white feather.

His design in stiling himself Earl of Derwentwater, was, that he might pass for Francis, his younger brother, who went to France before 1715, but was thought to be dead. He would not call the Lord Chief Justice lord, because the title of earl was not given him. He refused to hold up his hand at the bar; and being told, that, as a gentleman, he ought to comply, and that his own counsel would satisfy him that it was only a form of the court, he said, "I know many things that I will not advise with my counsel upon." On hearing the rule for his execution, he desired time, because he and Lord Moreton (in the bastille at Paris,) should take the same journey at the same time.

About eight o'clock on the 8th of December, two troops of life-guards, and one troop of horse-guards, marched through the city for Little Tower-hill, where they were joined by a battalion of foot-guards, to attend the execution of Charles Ratcliffe, Esq. About ten o'clock the block, with a cushion, both covered with black, were brought up, and fixed upon the stage, and soon after Mr. Ratcliffe's coffin, covered with black velvet, with eight gilt handles, and gilt nails, but there was no plate, or any inscription upon it. At near eleven the sheriffs, Mr. Alderman Winterbottom and Mr. Alderman Alsop, with their officers, came to see if the scaffold was finished, (the carpenters, &c. who had very short notice, having worked all day on Sunday and the ensuing night,) and if every thing was prepared for Mr. Ratcliffe's reception; which being to their satisfaction, they went to the Tower, and demanded of General Williamson, deputy-

governor, the body of Mr. Ratcliffe; on being surrendered, he was first put into a landau, and carried over the wharf, at the end of which he was put into a mourning-coach, and conveyed into a small booth joining to the stairs of the scaffold, lined with black, where he pent about half an hour in devotion, and then proceeded with the sheriffs, the divine, and some other gentlemen. When he came upon the scaffold, he took leave of his friends with great serenity and calmness of mind; and having spoken a few words to the executioner, gave him a purse of ten guineas, put on a damask cap, and then knelt down to prayers, which lasted about seven minutes, all the spectators on the scaffold kneeling with him. Prayers being over, he pulled off his clothes, and put his head to the block, from whence he soon got up, and having spoke a few words, he knelt down to it, and fixing his head, in about two minutes gave the signal to the executioner, who at three blows struck it off, which was received in a scarlet cloth held for that purpose. He was dressed in scarlet, faced with black velvet, trimmed with gold, a gold-laced waistcoat, and a white feather in his hat. He behaved with the greatest fortitude and coolness of temper, and was no way shocked at the approach of death.

His body was immediately put into the coffin, and carried back in a hearse to the Tower; and the scaffold, booth, and all the boards belonging to them, were cleared away in the afternoon. He behaved himself very cheerfully until the 4th, when he received a letter from his niece, the Lady Petre, which engaged him to appear in a more serious manner. His corpse was on the 11th carried in a hearse, attended by two mourning-coaches, to St. Giles's-in-the-Fields, and there interred with the remains of the late Earl of Derwentwater, according to his desire, with this inscription on his coffin: "*Carolus Radcliffe, Comes de Derwentwater, Decollatus Die 8 Decembris, 1746. Ætatis 53. Requiescat in Pace.*"

It seems the Derwentwater estate was only confiscated to the crown for the life of Charles Ratcliffe, Esq. but by a clause in an act of parliament, passed some years since,

which says, that the issue of any person attainted of high treason, born and bred in any foreign dominion, and a Roman Catholic, shall forfeit his reversion of such estate, and the remainder shall for ever be fixed in the crown, his son is absolutely deprived of any title or interest in the affluent fortune of that ancient family, which amounted to more than 200,000*l*.

This unhappy gentleman was the youngest brother of James Earl of Derwentwater, who was executed in 1716; they were sons of Sir Francis Radcliffe, by the lady Mary Tudor, natural daughter to King Charles II., by Mrs. Mary Davis.

He died in the principles in which he had lived, and was so zealous a papist, that, on the absurdities of some things which are held sacred by the church of Rome being objected to him, he replied,

‘That for every tenet of that church, repugnant to reason, in which she requires an implicit belief, he wished there were twenty, that he might thereby have a nobler opportunity of exercising and displaying his faith.’

THOMAS CAPPOCK,

The rebel Bishop of Carlisle.

WE have already, in our statement of the strength of the garrison at Carlisle, announced a bishop, created by the Pretender. Such anecdotes of this enthusiastic rebel, as we have been able to glean from the public prints of the year of this rebellion, we have put together, in order to allot to this would-be Right Reverend Father in God, a memoir independent of the treacherous group among whom he swung on the gallows.

On the 12th of August, 1746, the Lord Chief Baron Parker, Baron Clarke, Judges Burnett and Dennison, arrived at Carlisle, and by virtue of a special commission for that purpose to them directed, convened a court, for the purpose of trying the rebels found in arms, on the

surrender of Carlisle. On the 14th the Scotch prisoners were arraigned, but the witnesses in behalf of the crown (also Scotchmen) refused to swear in the form prescribed by the laws of England. The judges therefore, deferred the trial in order to consult on this contumacy; but next morning allowed them to take the oath after the Scotch form. Bills of indictment were found against all the officers, as well as Bishop Cappock; but the common men, amounting to near four hundred, were ordered to cast lots, and of every twenty, nineteen were to be transported, and the twentieth put upon his trial for high treason. Some few refused this lenity, depending upon so deceiving the evidence as not to recognize them; for this purpose they cut off each other's hair, changing their cloathing, and by every other method which they could devise, disguised themselves.

When the grand jury presented true bills, the whole of those indicted were brought to the bar, whom the Lord Chief Baron told, that the Court desired them to choose what counsel they pleased, with a solicitor—that the Court had given orders to their clerk, to make out subpœnas for them, gratis, and by virtue thereof, to bring forward such witnesses as they imagined could, in any manner, tend to their exculpation.

In order to give them every chance for this end, the Judges adjourned the Court, and proceeded to the city of York, where other rebels were in confinement, against seventy-nine of whom bills were found. It was near a month before they returned to Carlisle. On the 9th of September, 1762, the rebels were arraigned at the bar of the court of that city, and fifty-nine pleaded not guilty. On the 10th, forty-five more were brought up, and all pleaded not guilty, except three, one of whom was a desperate turbulent fellow, a rebel captain, named Robert Taylor, who had repeatedly vaunted that he would take Edinburgh Castle in three days.

The next day twelve more were arraigned, and among them was the rebellious bishop. He appeared at the bar in his gown and cassock, assumed much confidence, and appeared to entertain no idea that he could be con-

victed. He made a speech to the court and jury, which chiefly went to shew that he joined the rebels by compulsion alone. He called his father, and one Mary Humphries, to substantiate this assertion; but their evidence fell far short of so doing. A witness, however, proved that the prisoner had made an attempt to escape from the rebels. On the other side it was proved that he voluntarily went with the rebels from Manchester to Derby, and thence back to Carlisle. It further appeared that wherever the rebels went he read public prayers for King James and Charles Prince of Wales, Regent of England. At Manchester he preached in one of the Churches, and took his text from Psal. xcvi. 1.—“The Lord is King, the earth may be glad thereof.” At Carlisle he appeared as one of the church militant, with a hanger by his side, a plaid sash, and white cockade, acting also as a quarter-master. Another witness proved, that this fighting-bishop told him of his engaging two of the king’s soldiers, and taking them both prisoners; and he vaunted, that his prince had offered battle to the Duke of Cumberland, who ran away; that they (the rebels) returned to Scotland only to join Lord George Drummond, who had landed with many thousand French to assist their cause. His evidence, Miss Humphries, was shewn a letter, which she acknowledged to be the hand-writing of the bishop; wherein he had the effrontery to tell the barefaced falsehood of the Duke of Cumberland ordering him to be kept on half a pound of bread per day, and nasty water, because he advised to give battle to him at Stanwix, and protested against the surrender of Carlisle.

The jury, notwithstanding the confidence apparent in the prisoner through the whole trial, which lasted six hours, found him guilty in two minutes.

The priest, it seems, did not abandon himself to his fate; for in a few days it was discovered that he and six more condemned rebels had sawed off their irons, and were about to attempt an escape. The instrument with which they effected this was prepared for the purpose by a new and curious method. It is thus described:

“They laid a silk handkerchief singly over the mouth of a drinking-glass, and tied it hard at the bottom, then struck the edge of a case-knife on the brim of the glass (thus covered to prevent noise) till it became a saw. With such knives they cut their irons, and when the teeth were blunt, they had recourse to the glass to renew it. A knife will not cut a handkerchief when struck upon it in this manner.”

Cappock was hanged at Carlisle, with the other convicted rebels, on the 28th of October, 1746.

The limits of our work will not allow us to enumerate the trials of all the rebels; and as we have given the outlines of the treason in which they were all concerned, let it suffice to say, that many were executed in different parts of the kingdom, and many of their heads placed on public buildings, and others transported to America.

Our readers may, perhaps, wish to know what became of the young Pretender, the leader of this rebellion; and, in order to gratify them, we insert the following account, the authenticity of which may be relied on:

“The decisive battle of Culloden was fought on the 16th of April, 1746, in which engagement the Pretender had his horse shot under him, by one of the troopers in the king's service, as he was endeavouring to rally his people. After his forces were entirely defeated, he retired to the house of a factor of Lord Lovat, about ten miles from Inverness, where meeting with that nobleman, he staid supper. After supper was over he set out for Fort Augustus, and pursued his journey next day to Invergarry, where he proposed to have dined; but finding no victuals, he set a boy to fishing, who caught two salmon, on which he made a dinner, and continued waiting there for some of his troops, who had promised to rendezvous at that place; but being disappointed, he resolved to proceed to Lochharriage.

“He arrived there on the 18th, at two in the morning, where he went to sleep, which he had not done for five days and nights. He remained there till five o'clock in the afternoon, in hopes of obtaining some intelligence; but gaining none, he set out from thence on foot, and

travelled to the Glen of Morar, where he arrived the 19th, at four in the morning. He set out about noon the same day for Arrashag, where he arrived about four in the afternoon. He remained there about seven days, waiting for Captain O'Neil, who joined him on the 27th, and informed him, that there was no hopes of drawing his troops together again in a body; upon which he resolved to go to Stornway, in order to hire a ship to go to France.

"The person employed for this purpose was one Donald M'Leod, who had an interest there. On the 28th he went on board an eight-oar'd boat, in company with Sullivan and O'Neil, ordering the people who belonged to the boat to make the best haste they could to Stornway. The night proving very tempestuous, they all begged of him to go back, which he would not do, but, to keep up the spirits of the people, he sang them a Highland song; but the weather growing worse and worse, on the 29th, about seven in the morning, they were driven on shore, on a point of land called Rushness, in the island of Benbicula, where, when they got on shore, the Pretender helped to make a fire to warm the crew, who were almost starved to death with cold. On the 30th, at six in the evening, they set sail again for Stornway, but meeting with another storm, were obliged to put into the island of Scalpa, in the Harris, where they all went on shore to a farmer's house, passing for merchants that were shipwrecked in their voyage to the Orkneys: the Pretender and Sullivan going by the names of Sinclair, the latter passing for the father, and the former his son.

"They thought proper to send from thence to Donald M'Leod at Stornway, with instructions to freight a ship for the Orkneys. On the 3d of May they received a message from him, that a ship was ready. On the 4th they set out on foot for that place, where they arrived on the 5th, about noon, and meeting with Donald M'Leod, they found that he had got into company, where growing drunk, he told a friend of his for whom he had hired the ship; upon which there were 200 people in arms at Stornway, upon a report that the Pretender was landed

with 500 men, and was coming to burn the town; so that they were obliged to lie all night upon the moor, with no other refreshment than biscuit and brandy.

“ On the 6th they resolved to go in the eight-oar'd boat to the Orkneys, but the crew refused to venture, so that they were obliged to steer south along the coast-side, where they met with two English ships, and this compelled them to put into a desert island, where they remained till the 10th, without any provision but some salt-fish they found upon the island. About ten in the morning of that day they embarked for the Harris, and at break of day on the 11th they were chased by an English ship, but made their escape among the rocks. About four in the afternoon they arrived at the island of Benbicula, where they staid till the 14th, and then set out for the mountain of Currada, in South Uist, where they staid till the militia of the isle of Sky came to the island of Irasky, and then sailed for the island of Uia, where they remained three nights, till having intelligence that the militia were coming towards Benbicula, they immediately got into their boat, and sailed for Lochbusdale; but being met by some ships of war, they were obliged to return to Lochagnart, where they remained all day, and at night sailed for Lochbusdale, where they arrived, and staid eight days on a rock, making a tent of the sail of the boat.

They found themselves there in a most dreadful situation; for having intelligence that Captain Scot had landed at Kilbride, the company was obliged to separate, and the Pretender and O'Neil went to the mountains, where they remained all night, and soon after were informed that General Campbell was at Bernary; so that now they had forces very near, on both sides of them, and were absolutely at a loss which way to move. In their road they met with a young lady, one Miss M'Donald, to whom Captain O'Neil proposed assisting the Pretender to make his escape, which she at first refused; but upon his offering to put on woman's clothes, she consented, and desired them to go to the mountain of Currada till she sent for them, where they accordingly staid

two days ; but hearing nothing from the young lady, the Pretender concluded she would not keep her word, and therefore resolved to send Captain O'Neil to General Campbell, to let him know he was willing to surrender to him ; but about five in the evening a message came from the young lady, desiring them to meet her at Rushness. Being afraid to pass by the Ford, because of the militia, they luckily found a boat, which carried them to the other side of Uia, where they remained part of the day, afraid of being seen by the country people. In the evening they set out for Rushness, and arrived there at twelve at night ; but not finding the young lady, and being alarmed by a boat full of militia, they were obliged to retire two miles back, where the Pretender remained on a moor till O'Neil went to the young lady, and prevailed upon her to come to the place appointed at night-fall of the next day.

About an hour after they had an account of General Campbell's arrival at Benbicula, which obliged them to move to another part of the island, where, as the day broke, they discovered four sail close on the shore, making directly up to the place where they were ; so that there was nothing left for them to do, but to throw themselves among the heath. When the wherries were gone, they resolved to go to Clanronald's house ; but when they were within a mile of it, they heard General Campbell was there, which forced them to retreat again.

The young Pretender having at length, with the assistance of Captain O'Neil, found Miss M'Donald in a cottage near the place appointed, it was there determined that he should put on women's clothes, and pass for her waiting-maid. This being done, he took leave of Sullivan and O'Neil with great regret, who departed to shift for themselves, leaving him and his new mistress in the cottage, where they continued some days, during which she cured him of the itch. Upon intelligence that Gen. Campbell was gone further into the country, they removed to her cousin's, and spent the night in preparing for their departure to the Isle of Sky ; accordingly they set out the next morning, with only one man-servant, named M'Lean,

and two rowers; during their voyage they were pursued by a small vessel, but a thick fog rising, they arrived safe at midnight in that island, and landed at the foot of a rock, where the lady and her maid waited while her man, M'Lean, went to see if Sir Alexander M'Donald was at home; M'Lean found his way thither, but lost it in returning back: his mistress and her maid, after in vain expecting him the whole night, were obliged in the morning to leave the rock, and go in the boat up the creek to some distance, to avoid the militia which guarded the coast.

They went on shore again about ten o'clock, and, attended by the rowers, enquired the way to Sir Alexander's, when they had gone about two miles they met M'Lean; he told his lady, that Sir Alexander was with the Duke of Cumberland, but his lady was at home, and would do them all the service she could; whereupon they discharged their boat, and went directly to the house, where they remained two days. Betty being always in her lady's chamber, except at nights, to prevent a discovery. But a party of the M'Leod's having intelligence that some strangers were arrived at Sir Alexander's, and knowing his lady was well-affected to the Pretender, came thither, and demanding to see the new-comers, were introduced to the young lady's chamber, where she sat with her new maid. The latter hearing the militia was at the door, had the presence of mind to get up and open it, which occasioned his being the less taken notice of; and after they had narrowly searched the closets, they withdrew.

The enquiry, however, alarmed the lady, and the next day she sent her maid to a steward of Sir Alexander's: but hearing that his being in the island was known, he removed to M'Donald's, at Kingsborough, ten miles distant, where he remained but one day: for, on receiving intelligence that it was rumoured he was disguised in a woman's habit, M'Donald furnished him with a suit of his own clothes, and he went in a boat to M'Leod's, at Raza; but having no prospect of escaping thence to France, he returned back on foot to the Isle of Sky, being

thirty miles, with no attendant but a ferryman, whom he would not suffer to carry his wallet, M'Leod assuring him that the elder Laird of M'Innon would there render him all the service in his power.

When he arrived, not knowing the way to M'Innon's house he chanced to enquire of a gentleman whom he met on the top of a mountain; this gentleman having seen him before, thought he recollected his face, and asked him if he was not the P. This greatly surprised him, but seeing the gentleman had only one person, a servant, with him, he answered, I am, at the same time putting himself in a posture of defence: but this person immediately discovered himself to be his good friend Capt. M'Leod, and conducted him to M'Innon's. The old man instantly knew him, but advised him immediately to go to Lochabar, and he accordingly set sail in a vessel which M'Innon procured for that purpose.

After remaining seven days in the glens of Morar, he received advice that M'Donald, of Lochgarrie, expected him in Lochabar, where he had one hundred resolute Highlanders in arms; upon this he went over the great hill of Morar, in a tattered Highland habit, and was joyfully received by M'Donald, at the head of his men.

With this party he roved from place to place, till finding he could no longer remain in Lochabar, he removed to Badenoch; but being harassed by the king's troops, and losing daily some of his men in skirmishing, they dispersed; and the Pretender, with Lochiel, of Barrisdale, and some others, skulked about in Moidart. Here they received advice that two French privateers were at anchor in Lochnanaugh, in Moidart, on one of which, called the Happy, he embarked, with twenty-three gentlemen, and one hundred and seven common men, and soon after arrived safe in France.

WILLIAM WHURRIER,

*Executed at Tyburn for Murder, March 7, 1748, and
his Body hung in Chains on Finchley-Common.*

HARD CASE

MURDER is a crime so heinous in its nature, and so fatal to the peace of society, that it admits of no justification; but the following is a case which cannot fail to excite compassion, both on account of the peculiar circumstances attending it, and the man's former good character and services.

This man was a native of Morpeth, in Northumberland, and brought up as a husbandman; but having enlisted as a soldier in General Cope's regiment, he served five years and a half in Flanders: but some horses being wanted for the use of the army, he and another man were sent to England to purchase them.

On the 11th of February, 1748, Whurrier and his companion walking over Finchley Common, towards Barnet, the latter being wearied, agreed with a post-boy, who went by with a led-horse, to permit him to ride to Barnet, leaving Whurrier at an alehouse on the road.

Whurrier having drunk freely, met with a woman who appeared to be his country-woman, and with her he continued drinking till both of them were intoxicated, when they proceeded together towards Barnet; but they were followed by some sailors, one of whom insulted Whurrier, telling him that he had no business with the woman.

Whurrier suspecting there was a design to injure him, asked the woman if she had any connexion with those men. She said she had not: but in the mean time the other sailors coming up, said they came to rescue the woman; on which Whurrier drew his sword, but returned it into the scabbard without annoying any one.

A soldier riding by at this instant, Whurrier told him that the sailors had ill-treated him, and begged his assistance, on which the soldier getting off his horse, the sailors ran away, and Whurrier pursuing them, overtook the first that had assaulted him, and drawing his sword,

cut him in such a manner, that he was carried in a hopeless condition to a house in the neighbourhood, where he languished till the Sunday following, and then died.

It appeared by the testimony of a surgeon, that the deceased had received a cut across the skull, as if done with a butcher's chopper, so that the brains lay open; besides a variety of other wounds.

Whurrier being taken into custody for the commission of this murder, was brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey; and being capitally convicted on the clearest evidence, was sentenced to die.

After conviction, he said he thought there was a combination between the woman he had met with and the sailors; and, a day or two before he suffered, he procured the following paper to be published, which he called, "Whurrier's Declaration."

"This is to let the world know that I have lived in good credit, and have served his Majesty eight years and two months. In the time of my service I have stood six campaigns, and always obeyed all lawful commands: I have been in three battles, and at Bergen-op-zoom, during the time it was besieged. The first battle was at Dettingen, June, 1743, when his Majesty headed his army: the second was in the year 1745, April 30, at Fontenoy; the third was at Luckland, by siege; besides several skirmishes, and other great dangers. I had rather it had been my fate to have died in the field of battle, where I have seen many thousand wallowing in their blood, than to come to such disgrace: but, alas! I have escaped all these dangers to come to this unhappy fate, to suffer at Tyburn, and afterwards to hang in chains on a gibbet, which last is the nearest concern to me; and I cannot help expressing, that it would be more beneficial to the public to employ blacksmiths to make breast-plates for the soldiers, than irons to inclose their bodies to be exposed to the fowls of the air.

"I have been a true subject, and a faithful servant, as is well-known to the officers of the regiment to which I belonged. If I had been a pick-pocket, or a thief, I should have suffered much more deservedly in my own

opinion than I now do; for what I did was in my own defence: I was upon the king's duty, and was assaulted by the men in sailors' habits, who gave me so many hard blows, as well as so much bad language, that I could no longer bear it, and was obliged to draw my sword in my own defence; and being in too great a passion, as well as too much in liquor, I own I struck without mercy, as thinking my life in danger, surrounded by four men, who I thought designed to murder me: who, or what they were, the Lord knows; it is plain they had a false pass, as it was proved; and that they had travelled but seven miles in nine days; but I forgive them, as I hope forgiveness: and the Lord have mercy on my soul, and the poor man's whom I killed. "W. WHURRIER."

GEORGE COCK,

A most plausible thief, executed at Tyburn, June 13, 1748, for privately stealing.

THIS artful rogue was born in the neighbourhood of Aldgate, and at a proper age apprenticed to a peruke-maker in Spital-fields; but he absconded before the time expressed in his indenture was expired, and his master judging him to be strongly disposed to disorderly and profligate courses, pursued no measures to induce him to return.

Cock lived seven or eight years as errand-boy and porter to several tradesmen, none of whom had reason to suspect that he purloined their property: but he was held by them in no esteem, on account of his being frequently intoxicated, and associating with people of dissolute principles. It is natural to suppose, that the abandoned company he kept increased his inclination to a life of idleness, and proved the cause of his pursuing felonious courses for procuring the means of subsistence.

Having made pretensions of love to a maid-servant in

the neighbourhood of May-fair, she invited him to her master's house; he was punctual to the appointment, and during his stay, treacherously stole a silver spoon, of about twelve shillings value.

Learning that a lady lived at Streatham whose son was abroad, he went to her house, and informed her that he was lately arrived in England, and waited upon her by the desire of the young gentleman, to assure her of the continuance of his filial affection. He was invited to partake of the best provisions the house could afford, and entertained with great liberality, kindness, and respect. After he had sufficiently refreshed himself, and secreted a large silver spoon in his pocket, he departed, intending to direct his course towards the metropolis. The spoon being missed, two servants were dispatched in search of the thief, and overtaking him at about the distance of a mile from the house, they conducted him to a magistrate, who committed him to bridewell, as a vagrant, as the lady was averse to prosecuting him for the felony. Having remained in prison about three months, and been privately whipped, he was dismissed, after the justice by whom he was committed had pathetically represented to him the disgrace, danger, and iniquity, of seeking to obtain a livelihood by illegal practices.

Upon gaining information that the father of a young gentleman of Bartholomew-lane was abroad, he went to the house, and pretended to the youth that he was preparing to embark for the country where his father resided; saying, that as he was acquainted with the old gentleman, he should be happy to deliver any message or letter, or execute any commission with which the son might think proper to charge him. His reception here was not less hospitable than that he experienced at Streatham: and he did not take leave till he had conveyed a silver cup into his pocket, with which he got off undiscovered. He sold the cup, and expended the money it produced in the most extravagant manner.

Cock went to the house of the captain of a trading-vessel in Ratcliff-highway, whom he knew was at sea, expecting that he should be able to amuse his wife by some

plausible pretences, and to obtain a booty before he left the house. He was informed that the captain's lady was not at home, but was invited into the house by her mother, who told him that she expected her daughter's return in a very short time. Being shewn into the kitchen, he asked the maid-servant for some table-beer, and while she was gone to draw it, he secreted a large silver tankard; upon the maid's bringing the beer, he drank heartily, and then, pretending that he had some business to transact which would not permit him to stay any longer, took leave, promising to return on the following day. He sold the tankard to a Jew.

He enquired of a servant-maid in Spital-fields whether there were not some women in that neighbourhood whose husbands were in foreign parts. The girl said the husbands of two or three of her master's neighbour's were abroad, and asked the name of the person he desired to find. He said he had forgotten the name, but artfully added, that he should remember it upon hearing it repeated; in consequence of which she mentioned some names, and upon his saying that one of them was that of the party he wanted, the girl directed him to the house where the wife of his supposed friend resided. He told the woman that he was lately arrived in England, and, by her husband's particular desire, called to inform her of his being in perfect health when he embarked. He formed some trifling excuse for occasioning the woman to leave the apartment, and soon after her return he went away, taking with him a pint silver tankard and two silver table-spoons.

By the above, and other villainies of a similar nature, he gained a maintenance for several years: but it will now appear, that, notwithstanding the art he employed in the pursuit of villainy, he at length fell a just victim to the insulted laws of his country.

Cock went to two ladies in Soho-square, in one day, under the pretext of delivering messages from their husbands, who had been several years resident in foreign parts; and was received by them in the most kind and hospitable manner. He had been gone but a short time,

when one of the ladies missed some silver spoons; in consequence of which he was pursued, and taken before a magistrate: and during his examination the other appeared, and, on oath, identified a silver tankard found in the prisoner's possession. He was committed to Newgate, and at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey condemned to suffer death.

During his confinement in Newgate he shewed not the least remorse for his past offences, nor employed any part of the short time he had to exist in making the necessary preparation for the awful change he was about to experience, but flattered himself in the expectation of being reprieved. However, after learning that he was ordered for execution, he, in some degree, corrected the irregularity of his behaviour; but still his conduct was by no means such no might have been expected from a man in his dreadful situation.

He was almost wholly regardless of the devotional exercises at the place of execution, and refused to address the populace, though urged to it by the ordinary.

THOMAS THOMPSON,

Executed at Tyburn, Oct. 24, 1748, for horse-stealing.

THE parents of this offender lived at Otley, in Yorkshire: his father dying, his mother and a numerous family were left in very indigent circumstances. Thomas being arrived at a proper age, the parish-officers proposed binding him apprentice; but he declined the offer, saying, he should prefer going to sea with a captain who was come into the country to visit his mother and other relations. He accompanied the captain to Durham; and the master of the post-house in that city, thinking him an active and promising youth, hired him to wait upon his customers three days in a week, and to ride post on the others. During the three years that he remained in this station, he was guilty of stealing money out of letters, and of several other acts of delinquency; of which, how-

ever, he was not suspected till some time after he had quitted his master's service.

From Durham he went to Otley, but not being able to procure employment there, he proceeded to Rippon where he was employed as a waiter at the King's Head. In about three months he robbed his master of thirteen pounds, and absconded. Going again to the place of his nativity, he learnt that an aunt lately deceased had bequeathed him twelve pounds; and having received the legacy, and purchased some new apparel, set out for London, where in a short time he spent all his money in disorderly houses among women of ill-fame. Being in circumstances of distress, he made application for relief to a relation, who behaved to him with great tenderness and generosity; notwithstanding which he availed himself of an opportunity of robbing his benefactor of two silver spoons.

He offered the spoons for sale to a silversmith near Charing-cross; but his honesty being suspected, a messenger was dispatched to enquire whether he lived at the place he had mentioned to the shopkeeper. Before the messenger's return Thompson effected his escape; and it appeared that he had given a false direction. In a few days he was met near Exeter-change by the silversmith, who insisted upon his going home with him; but being a man of an easy disposition, he was prevailed upon by the entreaties of the young villain to favour his escape.

He now returned to Otley, and a dancing meeting being held there one evening, he made one of the company: at this place he prevailed upon a young woman to consent to his partaking of her bed: but she dismissed him upon discovering that he was destitute of money. Thus disappointed, he returned to the house where he lodged, and broke open a box, whence he stole fifteen shillings.

Early the next morning he stole a horse, and rode to his late master's, at Durham, where, he said, he was employed to go to Newcastle on some business of importance, and should return on the following day. The innkeeper believed his tale, and upon his repeating his visit

the next day, gave him a hearty welcome, and expressed much pleasure at the seemingly favourable change in his situation. In the morning, however, the boy who had been with the mail to Darlington, informed Thompson that the hue-and-cry was after him on suspicion of horse-stealing. In consequence of this intelligence he took the road for Scotland, and selling the stolen horse at Berwick-upon-Tweed, proceeded on foot to Cockburn's Path, and hiring a horse there, rode to Dunbar, where having slept one night, he set out for Edinburgh in a post-chaise.

At Edinburgh he pretended to be servant to a military officer, and persuaded a young woman, who was servant at the inn where he lodged, to admit him to a share of her bed. In the morning she discovered that her box had been broke open, and her money, besides two gold rings bequeathed her by a relation, stolen thereout. She accused Thompson with the robbery, and threatened a prosecution; but was appeased upon his restoring the effects.

His next expedition was to Perth, where he engaged himself as a servant to a military officer. His master being ordered into Yorkshire upon the recruiting service, Thompson accompanied him: but thinking it unsafe to remain in a part of the country where he was well known, he stole a horse about eleven o'clock at night, and took the road to Nottingham. For this offence he was tried at the next assizes, and sentenced to die: but interest being made in his favour, he received a pardon on condition of transportation for fourteen years.

As he behaved in a remarkably decent and regular manner, the keeper of the prison granted him many indulgences, which he determined to seize an opportunity of making use of to his own advantage; and accordingly observing that, on some occasion, the maid-servant was entrusted with the keys, he seized her by surprise, and taking them from her, recovered his liberty.

Upon his escape from prison he proceeded to London, where he enlisted into a regiment then abroad, and was conducted to the Savoy: but being soon after attacked

by a fever, he was sent to an hospital. Being tolerably recovered in about two months he deserted, and going to Rochester, enlisted into a regiment lying in that city. About five weeks after his arrival in Rochester, he robbed the waiter of the house where he was quartered; and again deserting, travelled to Hatfield, in Hertfordshire, where he enlisted into a regiment, from which he also deserted in about six weeks.

He now went to Chichester, and having there entered into his Majesty's service as a marine, was ordered on board a ship, lying at Portsmouth. In about two months he was ordered on shore, and quartered in Chichester, where he robbed his lodgings; and having stolen a mare belonging to a farmer, rode towards the metropolis.

The farmer having a value for the beast, hastened to London, expecting that she would be exposed to sale in Smithfield. He put up at the White Bear, in Basinghall-street, and there found both his mare and the man who had stolen her.

Thompson being taken before the Lord-Mayor, was committed for trial at the Old Bailey, where he was convicted, and sentenced to die.

When he was confined in the cells of Newgate, he appeared to be struck with a consciousness of the enormity of his guilt. He constantly attended Divine service in the chapel; and when visited by the ordinary, behaved in a manner that evinced the sincerity of his repentance.

THE THIEF, THE PRIESTS, AND THE GREAT KING OF PRUSSIA.

An Anecdotal Fact, and a Touch at Superstition.

To this monarch have many good sayings been ascribed; for many noble and generous deeds has he been accredited; and more is yet due to his memory than comes to the share of conscience in a whole batch of Buonaparte's kings.

A Prussian soldier, on duty in a small garrison town in Silesia, being suspected of making free with some

offerings made by pious catholics to the blessed Virgin, was watched and detected, and two silver hearts were found upon him, for which he was sentenced to die. The man pleaded innocence, and insisted that the Virgin, in pity to his poverty, had appeared to him, and ordered him to take the two pieces. And on this plea he appealed to the King, who, on the soldier's representation consulted with the ablest of the Roman catholic divines, if they thought such a miracle impossible; who unanimously declared, that the case was extraordinary, but not impossible.

On which his Majesty wrote, with his own hand, words to the following effect:

"The convict cannot justly be put to death, because he owes the present of the two pieces of silver to the bounty of the blessed Virgin; and the divines of his religion are unanimously of opinion, that the miracle wrought in his favour is not impossible; but have strictly forbid him to receive any more such presents from any saint whatever."

"FREDERICK."

JOHN YOUNG,

(A brave soldier of fortune, who through avarice brought himself to the gallows,)

Executed at Edinburgh, Dec. 19, 1748.

"Man wants but little here below,
"Nor wants that little long."

THERE has seldom occurred a more extraordinary case than that of Serjeant-major and Paymaster Young. The methods he took to avoid his fate, and the desperate resistance he made against being carried to execution, is, we believe, unparalleled in criminal chronology. His services to the state could not, however, palliate his crime; which shut out to his sovereign every avenue of mercy.

He was born of a protestant family, at Belfast, in Ireland, and received a liberal education. At the usual

time of life he was apprenticed to a linen-draper, residing in the town where he was born. Having served about three years, his master died; and as the widow declined business, he engaged as clerk to a wholesale dealer, whose goods were principally sent to the London market and Chester fair.

He remained with his employer till his arrival at manhood; but at length absconded, in consequence of one of his master's servant-maids proving with child by him. He intended to settle in Dublin, but in his way to that city he met with a recruiting-party belonging to the fourth regiment of foot, who urged him to drink till he became intoxicated, and then prevailed upon him to enlist.

Young being handsome in person, and accomplished in manners, was soon distinguished by his officers, who upon the first vacancy promoted him to be a sergeant. He marched from Tournay to join the regiment at Ghent, in Flanders, and arrived but a few days preceding that on which the terrible battle of Fontenoy was fought. His behaviour in that action was greatly commended by his officers, who, upon the return of the regiment to Ghent, conferred upon him many instances of particular respect, and appointed him paymaster to the company to which he belonged.

The regiment in which Young was a sergeant was one of those ordered into Scotland, for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion, which broke out soon after the battle of Fontenoy; but as a considerable loss of private men had been sustained, he was ordered to go upon the recruiting-service to Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, and other places.

The recruits engaged by Young were paid the bounty-money without the least deduction, and he would not encourage them to spend any part of it in an extravagant or useless manner. In the space of four months he raised an hundred and fifty men; and it is presumed that the strict integrity of his conduct greatly promoted his success. Upon joining his regiment in Scotland, his officers advanced him to the post of sergeant-major, as a reward for his services. At the battle of Falkirk he put several

of the rebels to death with his halbert, and behaved in other respects with remarkable intrepidity.

Upon the command of the army being assumed by the duke of Cumberland, the regiment to which Young belonged was ordered to march to the North. On account of the singular bravery they displayed at the battle of Culloden, and the great slaughter of men, this regiment was not ordered to return to Flanders, but permitted to remain in Scotland.

Upon tranquillity being re-established in the Highlands, the fourth regiment was ordered to perform duty in Edinburgh Castle, and Young was dispatched to Bristol upon a recruiting expedition. He enlisted a considerable number of men at Bristol, and on his return to Scotland his officers complimented him with a handsome present. He was now sent to raise recruits in Yorkshire; and while at Sheffield, in that county, he engaged in a criminal intercourse with the wife of an innkeeper, who, when he was preparing to depart, secreted property to a considerable amount, and followed her lover to Scotland. In a short time the innkeeper came to Edinburgh in search of his wife, and complained in passionate terms of the cruel and treacherous treatment he had received. The nature of his connection with the woman being made public, Young appeared to be greatly disconcerted whenever he met with persons to whom he supposed the matter had been communicated; but, in justice to his character, we must observe that, so far from encouraging the woman to rob her husband, he was entirely ignorant of every thing relating to that matter till her husband's arrival at Edinburgh.

Notwithstanding the above affair, Young was still held in much esteem by his officers; and in a short time the regiment was ordered to proceed to the North, and remained in the royal barracks at Inverness for about a twelvemonth.

Young being both sergeant-major and paymaster, many notes on the bank of Scotland necessarily came into his possession. While looking over some of these notes in the guard-room, a man named Parker, whom he had

enlisted in England, observed, that if he had a few tools he could engrave a plate for counterfeiting the notes on the Edinburgh bank. Young seemed to give but little attention to what the other said ; but took him to an ale-house on the following day, and requested an explanation as to the manner of executing the scheme he had suggested. Parker informed him, that, besides engraving an exact resemblance of the letters and figures, he could form a machine for printing such notes, as should not be known from those of the Scotch bank.

In short, Young hired a private apartment for Parker, and supplied him with every implement necessary for carrying the iniquitous plan into effect ; and, in a short time, some counterfeit notes were produced, bearing a near resemblance to the real ones. Upwards of six months elapsed before the fraud was detected.

Orders being issued for the regiment to march to England, Young determined to procure cash for as many notes as possible previous to his departure from Inverness, knowing that in the southern parts the forgery would be liable to immediate detection. With this view, he applied to Mr. Gordon, who was concerned in the stocking-manufactory at Aberdeen, and prevailed upon him to give sixty pounds in cash for notes expressing to be of the same value.

On his journey from Inverness, Mr. Gordon parted with several of the notes at different places : but upon reaching Aberdeen, an advertisement in the newspapers, in the name of the governors of the bank at Edinburgh, convinced him that he had been deceived. In consequence of this Mr. Gordon wrote to the sheriff of Inverness, who immediately took Young into custody, and found three hundred notes, and the copper-plate from which they had been printed, in his possession.

Parker was admitted an evidence for the crown, and Young was removed to Edinburgh for trial before the high court of justiciary. After a trial that lasted a whole day, Young was pronounced to be guilty, and sentenced to suffer death.

While this malefactor was under confinement, he would

not consent to be visited by the clergy, though several, from motives of humanity, were desirous of using their endeavours to prepare him for eternity. He was informed by his fellow-prisoners, that if he could procrastinate his execution beyond the appointed time, his life would of necessity be preserved; for that the crown law of Scotland declared, that condemned prisoners should be executed between two and four o'clock on the days expressed. Being ignorant of the law, the unhappy man was amused by this story; and hoped to escape punishment by the following means: he secured the strong iron door of the room wherein he was confined in such a manner, that when the gaoler came in order to conduct him to the place of execution, he could not gain admittance.

Upwards of fifty carpenters, smiths, masons, and other artificers, were sent for to open a passage, but they all declined undertaking a business which they deemed to be impracticable; and they were unanimously of opinion, that an aperture could not be made in the wall without endangering the whole fabric.

Matters being thus circumstanced, the lord-provost and the rest of the magistrates assembled at the prison; and, after long debates, it was determined to form an opening to the room, by breaking through the floor of that immediately above.

The opening being made, the prisoner leaped up, and seizing a musket from one of the city-guards, declared, with an oath, that if any man attempted to molest him, he would immediately dash out his brains. Six of the soldiers, however, suddenly descended, and one of them received a terrible blow from the prisoner; but he was, immediately after, secured by the other five, and executed.

B. TAPNER, J. COBBY, J. HAMMOND, W. JACKSON, W. CARTER, R. MILLS, THE ELDER, AND R. MILLS, THE YOUNGER, (FATHER AND SON,)

(SMUGGLERS AND MURDERERS, OF THE MOST BARBAROUS DESCRIPTION,)

Executed at Colchester, June 18, 1749.

WHILE London and its environs were beset with gangs of highwaymen and pickpockets, the country was infested by villains not less dangerous, and much more cruel, who preyed upon the public by defrauding the revenue.

Smugglers formerly went in parties, strong enough to oppose the officers of excise; and, whenever a custom-house officer fell into their hands, he was most barbarously treated, and often murdered.

The two unfortunate men who were cruelly murdered by this gang of desperate villains, were W. Galley, the elder, a custom-house officer in Southampton; and D. Chater, a shoemaker, of Fordingbridge. Having been sent to give information, respecting some circumstances attending the daring burglary into the custom-house at Poole, and not returning to their respective homes, a suspicion arose that they had been waylaid, and murdered by the smugglers; and a search for them was therefore instituted.

Those employed for this purpose, after every inquiry, could hear no certain tidings of them; as the fear of the smugglers' resentment, silenced such inhabitants on the road, over which they had carried the unfortunate men, as were not in connection with them. At length, a Mr. Stone, following his hounds, came to a spot, which appeared to have been dug not long before; and the publicity of the circumstances of those men being missed, he conjectured that they might have been buried there, and, upon digging nearly seven feet in the earth, were found the remains of Galley, but in so putrid a state, as not to be known, except by the clothes. The search after

Chater was now pursued with redoubled vigilance, till found in a well, six miles distant from Galley, in Harris Wood, near Lady Holt Park, with a quantity of stones, wooden rails, and earth, upon him.

B. Tapner, J. Cobby, J. Hammond, W. Carter, R. Mills the elder, and R. Mills the younger, were indicted for the murder of D. Chater; the three first as principals, and the others as accessaries, before the fact; W. Jackson and W. Carter, were indicted for the murder of W. Galley.

B. Tapner was a native of Aldington, in Sussex, and worked, for some time, as a bricklayer; but being of an idle disposition, he soon quitted his business, and associated with a gang of smugglers, who had rendered themselves formidable to the neighbourhood, by their lawless depredations.

J. Cobby was an illiterate country fellow, the son of J. Cobby, of the county of Sussex, labourer; and joined the smugglers a little before he was thirty years of age.

J. Hammond was a labouring man, born at Berstead, in Sussex, and had been a smuggler some time before he was apprehended for the above-mentioned murders, which was when he was about forty years old.

W. Jackson was a native of Hampshire, and had a wife and large family. He was brought up to the business of husbandry; but the hope of acquiring more money in an easier way, induced him to engage with the smugglers, which at length ended in his ruin.

W. Carter, of Rowland's Castle, in Hampshire, was the son of W. Carter, of Eastmean, in the same county, thatcher. He was about the age of thirty-nine, and had practised smuggling a considerable time before the perpetration of the fact which led to his destruction.

R. Mills, the elder, was a native of Trotton, in Sussex, and had been a horse-dealer by profession; but, it is said, a failure in that business induced him to commence smuggler; and he had been long enough in that illicit practice to become one of the most hardened of the gang.

R. Mills, the younger, lived at Stedham, in Sussex,

and, for some time, followed his father's profession of horse-dealing; but, unfortunately, making a connection with the smugglers, he came to the same ignominious end as his companions, in the thirty-seventh year of his age.

The two men, Galley and Chater, went on Sunday, Feb. 14, 1748, to major Batten, a justice of the peace, at Stanstead, in Sussex, with a letter, written by Mr. Shearer, collector of the customs at Southampton, requesting him to take an examination of Chater, concerning one Diamond, or Dymar, who was committed to Chichester gaol, on suspicion of being one who broke the King's warehouse at Poole. Chater was engaged to give evidence, but with some reluctance, having declared that he saw Diamond, and shook hands with him, who, with many others, was coming from Poole, loaded with tea, of which he threw him a bag. Having passed Havant, and coming to the New Inn, at Leigh, they enquired their way, when G. Austin, his brother, and brother-in-law, said that they were going the same road, and would accompany them to Rowland's Castle, where they might get better directions, it being just by Stanfield Park.

A little before noon, they came to the White Hart at Rowland's Castle, kept by Eliz. Payne, widow, who had two sons, blacksmiths, in the same village. After some talk, she told G. Austin, privately, she was afraid that these two strangers were come to hurt the smugglers. He said, No, sure; they were only carrying a letter to major Batten. Upon this, she sent one of her sons for W. Jackson and W. Carter, who lived near her house. Meanwhile, Chater and Galley wanted to be going, and asked for their horses; but she told them, that the major was not at home, which, indeed, was true.

As soon as Jackson and Carter came, she told them her suspicions, with the circumstance of the letter. Soon after, she advised G. Austin to go away, lest he should come to some harm; he did so, leaving his brothers.

Payne's other son went and fetched in W. Steele, S.

Downer, (otherwise Little Samuel,) Edm. Richards, and H. Sheerman, (otherwise Little Harry,) all smugglers, belonging to the same gang.

After they had drank a little while, Carter, who had some knowledge of Chater, called him into the yard and asked him where Diamond was? Chater said, he believed he was in custody, and that he was going to appear against him, which he was sorry for, but could not help it. Galley came into the yard to them, and asking Chater why he would stay there? Jackson, who followed him, said, with a horrid imprecation, What is that to you? and immediately struck him a blow in the face, which knocked him down, and set his nose and mouth a bleeding. Soon after, they all came into the house, when Jackson, reviling Galley, offered to strike him again, but one of the Paines interposed.—Galley and Chater now began to be very uneasy, and wanted to be going; but Jackson, Carter, and the rest of them, persuading them to stay and drink more rum, and make it up, for they were sorry for what had happened, they sat down again; Austin and his brother-in-law being present.—Jackson and Carter desired to see the letter, but they refused to shew it. The smugglers then drank about plentifully, and made Galley and Chater fuddled; then persuaded them to lie down on a bed, which they did, and fell asleep. The letter was then taken away, and read; and, the substance of it greatly exasperating them, it was destroyed.

One John Royce, a smuggler, now came in; and Jackson and Carter told him the contents of the letter, and that they had got the old rogue, the shoe-maker, of Fordingbridge, who was going to inform against J. Diamond, the shepherd, then in custody at Chichester.—Here W. Steele proposed to take them both to a well, about two hundred yards from the house, and to murder and throw them in.

This proposal was not taken, as they had been seen in their company by the Austins, Mr. Garnet, and one Mr. Jenks, who was newly come into the house to drink. It was next proposed to send them to France; but that was

objected against, as there was a possibility of their coming over again. Jackson and Carter's wives being present, cried out, Hang the dogs, for they are come here to hang you. It was then proposed and agreed, to keep them confined till they could know Diamond's fate; and whatever it was, to treat these in the same manner; and each to allow threepence a week towards keeping them.

Galley and Chater continuing asleep, Jackson went in, and began the first scene of cruelty; for having put on his spurs, he got upon the bed, and spurred their foreheads, to wake them, and afterwards whipped them with a horse-whip; so that when they came out, they were both bleeding. The abovesaid smugglers then took them out of the house; but Richards returned with a pistol, and swore he would shoot any person who should mention what had passed.

Meanwhile, the rest put Galley and Chater on one horse, tied their legs under the horse's belly, and then tied both their legs together; they now set forward, all but Race, who had no horse. They had not gone above two hundred yards before Jackson called out, Whip 'em, cut 'em, slash 'em, d—n 'em; upon which all began to whip, except Steele, who led the horse, the roads being very bad. They whipped them for half a mile, till they came to Woodash, where they fell off, with their heads under the horse's belly, and their legs, which were tied, appeared over the horse's back. Their tormentors soon set them upright again, and continued whipping them over the head, face, shoulders, &c. till they came to Dean, upwards of half a mile farther; here they both fell again, as before, with their heads under the horse's belly, which were struck, at every step, by the horse's hoofs.

Upon placing them again on the saddle, they found them so weak, that they could not sit; upon which they separated them, and put Galley before Steele, and Chater before Little Sam, and then whipped Galley so severely, that the lashes coming upon Steele, at his desire they desisted. They then went to Harris's Well, near Lady Holt Park, where they took Galley off the horse, and threatened to throw him into the well. Upon which

he desired them to dispatch him at once, and put an end to his misery. No, said Jackson, cursing, if that's the case, we have more to say to you; then put him on a horse again, and whipped him over the Downs, till he was so weak, that he fell off; when they laid him across the saddle, with his breast downwards, and Little Sam got up behind him, and, as they went on, he squeezed Galley's testicles, so that he groaned with the agony, and tumbled off: being then put on astride, Richards got up behind him, but soon the poor man cried out, I fall, I fall, I fall! and Richards pushing him said, Fall, and be d—n'd. Upon which he fell down; and the villains thinking this fall had broke his neck, laid him again on the horse, and proposed to go to some proper place, where Chater might be concealed till they heard the fate of Diamond.

Jackson and Carter called at one Pescod's house, desiring admittance for two sick men; but he absolutely refused it.

Being now one o'clock in the morning, they agreed to go to one Scardefield's, at the Red Lion, at Rake, which was not far. Here Carter and Jackson got admittance, after many refusals. While Scardefield went to draw liquor, he heard more company come in; but though they refused to admit him into the room, he saw one man standing up very bloody, and another lying as dead. They said they had engaged some officers, lost their tea, and several of them were wounded, if not killed.

Jackson and Little Harry now carried Chater down to one Old Mill's, which was not far off, and chained him in a turf-house, and Little Harry staying to watch him, Jackson returned again to the company.—After they had drank gin and rum they all went out, taking Galley with them; Carter compelled Scardefield to shew them the place where they used to bury their tea, and to lend them spades and a candle and lantern: there they began to dig, and, it being very cold, he helped to make a hole, where they buried something that lay across a horse, like a dead man.

They continued at Scardefield's, drinking all that day,

and in the night went to their own homes, in order to be seen on Tuesday, agreeing to meet again upon Thursday at the same house, and bring more of their associates. They met accordingly, and brought old Richard Mills, and his sons Richard and John, Tho. Stringer, John Cobby, Benj. Tapner, and John Hammond, who, with the former, made fourteen. They consulted now what was to be done with Chater; it was unanimously agreed that he must be destroyed. R. Mills, jun. proposed to load a gun, clap the muzzle to his head, tie a long string to the trigger, then all to pull it, that all might be equally guilty of his murder. This was rejected, because it would put him out of his pain too soon; and at length they came to a resolution to carry him up to Harris's Well, which was not far off, and throw him in.

All this while, Chater was in the utmost horror and misery, being visited by one or other of them, who abused him both with words and blows. At last they all came, and Tapner and Cobby going into the turf-house, the former pulled out a clasp-knife, and said, with a great oath, Down on your knees, and go to prayers, for with this knife I'll be your butcher. The poor man knelt down; and, as he was at prayers, Cobby kicked him, calling him informing villain. Chater asking what they had done with Mr. Galley, Tapner slashed his knife across his eyes, almost cutting them out, and the gristle of his nose quite through: he bore it patiently, believing they were putting an end to his misery. Tapner struck at him again, and made a deep cut in his forehead. Upon this, old Mills said, Do not murder him here, but somewhere else. Accordingly they placed him upon a horse, and all set out together for Harris's Well, except Mills and his sons, they having no horses ready, and saying, in excuse, That there were enough, without them, to murder one man. All the way, Tapner whipped him till the blood came, and then swore, that if he blooded the saddle, he would torture him the more.

When they were come within two hundred yards of the well, Jackson and Carter stopped, saying to Tapner, Cobby, Stringer, Steele, and Hammond, Go on and do your

duty on Chater, as we have our's upon Galley. — In the dead of the night, of the 18th, they brought him to the well, which was near 30 feet deep, but dry, and paled close round. Tapner having fastened a noose round Chater's neck, they bid him get over the pales to the well. He was going through a broken place; but though he was covered with blood, and fainting with the anguish of his wounds, they forced him to climb up, having the rope about his neck, one end of which being tied to the pales, they pushed him into the well; but the rope being short, he hung no farther within it than his thighs, and, leaning against the edge, he hung above a quarter of an hour, and was not strangled. They then untied him, and threw him head foremost into the well. They tarried some time, and hearing him groan, they concluded to go to one Wm. Comleah's, a gardener, to borrow a rope and ladder, saying, they wanted to relieve one of their companions, who had fallen into Harris's Well. He said they might take them. But they could not manage the ladder, in their confusion, it being a long one.

They then returned to the well; and still finding him groan, and fearing that he might be heard, so as to make a discovery, the place being near the road, they threw upon him some of the rails and gate-posts fixed about the well, and also some great stones; when, finding him silent, they left him.

The next consultation was how to dispose of the two horses. To prevent discovery, they killed Galley's, which was grey, and took his hide off, cut it into small pieces, and hid them; but a bay horse, which Chater rode on, got from them.

This daring gang, being now broken, a number of witnesses came forward on their trial, and two of their accomplices being pardoned, were admitted evidence against them. The charge, in all its horrors, was fully proved; whereupon the judge, Sir Michael Foster, pronounced sentence on the convicts, in one of the most pathetic addresses that was ever heard; representing the enormity of the crime, and exhorting them to make immediate preparation for the awful fate that awaited them; adding,

that "Christian charity obliges me to tell you, that your time in this world will be very short."

The heinousness of the crime, of which these men had been convicted, rendering it necessary that their punishment should be exemplary, the judge ordered that they should be executed on the following day; and the sentence was accordingly carried into execution against all but Jackson, who died in prison on the evening that he was condemned. They were attended by two ministers, and all, but Mills and his son (who took no notice of each other, and thought themselves not guilty, because they were not present at the finishing of the inhuman murder), shewed great marks of penitence. Tapner and Carter gave good advice to the spectators, and desired diligence might be used to apprehend Richards, whom they charged as the cause of their being brought to this wretched end. Young Mills smiled several times at the executioner, who was a discharged marine, and having ropes too short for some of them was puzzled to fit them. Old Mills being forced to stand tip-toe to reach the halter, desired that he might not be hanged by inches. The Mills's were so rejoiced at being told that they were not to be hanged in chains after execution, that death seemed to excite in them no terror; while Jackson was so struck with horror, at being measured for his irons, that he soon expired.

They were hanged at Chichester, on the 18th of January, 1749, amidst such a concourse of spectators as is seldom seen on such occasions.

Carter was hung in chains, near Rake, in Sussex; Tapner on Rook's hill, near Chichester; and Cobby and Hammond at Cesley Isle, on the beach where they sometimes landed their smuggled goods, and where they could be seen at a great distance, east and west.

Jackson had lived some years a Roman catholic; and, from the following popish relic found in his pocket, there is but little doubt but he died such:

Sancti tres reges,
Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,
Orate pro nobis, nunc et in hora

Mortis nostræ.

Ces billets ont touché aux trois têtes de
S. S. Rois à Cologne.

Ils sont pour des voyageurs, contre les malheurs de chemins, maux de tête, mal caduque, fièvres, sorcellerie, toute sorte de malefice, et mort subite.

The English of which is,

Ye three holy kings,

Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,

Pray for us now, and in the hour of death.

These papers have touched the three heads of

The holy kings of Cologne.

They are to preserve travellers from accidents on the road, head-achs, falling-sickness, fevers, witchcraft, all kinds of mischief, and sudden death.

The body of Jackson was thrown into a hole, near the place of execution; as were the bodies of Mills, the father and son, who had no friends to take them away; and at a small distance from the spot is erected a stone, on which is the following inscription:

Near this place was buried the body of William Jackson, who upon a special commission of Oyer and Terminer, held at Chichester, on the 16th day of January, 1748-9 was, with William Carter, attainted for the murder of William Galley, custom-house officer; and who likewise was, together with Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John Hammond, Richard Mills the elder, Richard Mills the younger, his son, attainted for the murder of Daniel Chater; but dying in a few hours after sentence of death was pronounced upon him, he thereby escaped the punishment which the heinousness of his complicated crimes deserved, and which was, the next day, most justly inflicted upon his accomplices.

As a memorial to posterity, and a warning to this,
and succeeding generations,

This stone is erected

A. D. 1749.

USHER GAHAGAN AND TERENCE CONNOR.

*Men of great Learning, executed for High Treason,
in diminishing the current Coin of the Realm, Feb.
28, 1749.*

How lamentable is the consideration that great geniuses are so often lost to common honesty ! and how degraded is human nature, by the ignominious death of those, whose attainments might have rendered them worthy and useful members of society !

Usher Gahagan and Terence Conner were natives of Ireland. The former received his education in Trinity College, Dublin, a severer ordeal than the English universities, and was intended for the honourable profession of the law, in which several of his relations had become eminent.

He had been instructed by his parents in the protestant religion ; but falling into company with some priests of the Romish persuasion, they converted him to their faith, which was a principal obstacle to his future advancement in life ; for as no gentleman can be admitted a counsellor at law, without taking the oaths of supremacy and adjuration ; and as Mr. Gahagan's new faith prevented his complying with these terms, he declined any further prosecution of his legal studies. His parents and other relations were greatly offended with his conduct ; and those who had particularly engaged themselves for the advancement of his fortune, forbid him to visit them, through indignation at the impropriety of his behaviour.

Thus reduced to an incapacity of supporting himself, he sought to relieve his circumstances by a matrimonial scheme : and having addressed the daughter of a gentleman, he obtained her in marriage, and received a good fortune with her : but treating her with undeserved severity, she was compelled to return to the protection of her relations. His conduct having now rendered him obnoxious to his acquaintance in Dublin, he quitted that

city, and repaired to London, with a view of supporting himself by his literary abilities.

On his arrival in the metropolis, he made some connections with the booksellers ; and undertook to translate Pope's Essay on Man into Latin ; but becoming connected with some women of abandoned character, he spent his time in a dissipated manner, and thus threw himself out of that employment which might have afforded him a decent support.

He now made an acquaintance with an Irishman, named Hugh Coffey, and they agreed on a plan for the diminution of the current coin. At this time Gahagan had a lodger named Conner (whose case will be seen in the sequel of this account); and it being agreed to receive him as a partner in this iniquitous scheme, they procured proper tools, and having collected a sum of money, they filed it, and put it off ; and procuring more, filed that also, and passed it in the same manner.

Having continued this business some months, during which they had saved a sum of money, they went to the bank, and got some Portugal pieces, under pretence that they were intended for exportation to Ireland. Thus they got money repeatedly at the bank ; but at length one of the tellers suspecting their business, communicated his suspicion to the governors, who directed him to drink with them, as the proper method to discover who they were, and what was their employment.

In pursuance of this order, he, on their next appearance, invited them to drink a glass of wine at the Crown tavern, near Cripplegate ; to which they readily agreed, and met him after the hours of office.

When the circulation of the glass had sufficiently warmed them, Gahagan, with a degree of weakness that is altogether astonishing, informed the teller that he acquired considerable sums by filing gold, and even proposed that he should become a partner with them. The gentleman seemed to accede to the proposal, and having learned where they lodged, acquainted the cashiers of the bank with what had passed.

On the following day Coffey was apprehended ; but Gahagan and Conner, being suspicious of the danger of their situation, retired to a public-house, called Chalk Farm, a little way out of the road from London to Hampstead, where they carried their implements for filing ; but Coffey having been admitted an evidence, it was not long before the place of their retreat was known : on which they were apprehended and lodged in Newgate.

Terence Conner was a native of Ireland, and had received a most liberal education. It is recorded of him, that he was so perfectly well read in Roman history, as to be able to turn to any part of it, without the assistance of an index. He was, by birth, heir to a considerable fortune ; but his father dying without a proper adjustment of his affairs, some intricate law-suits were the consequence ; so that the whole estate was only sufficient to discharge the demands of the lawyers.

Conner being reduced in circumstances, came to London, and, becoming acquainted with Gahagan and Coffey, was concerned in diminishing the coin, as above-mentioned.

On their trial, the evidence of Coffey was positive ; and being supported by collateral proofs, the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction, the behaviour of these unhappy men was strictly proper for their circumstances : they were extremely devout, and apparently resigned to their fate.

Gahagan, as we have already shewn, was an excellent scholar. He was the editor of " Brindley's Edition of the Classics." He translated Pope's " Essay on Criticism," into Latin verse ; and " The Temple of Fame," and " The Messiah," when in prison ; which he dedicated to the Duke of Newcastle, then prime minister, in hopes of obtaining a pardon.

JOHN COLLINGTON, AND HIS ACCOMPLICE JOHN STONE.

*Executed at Canterbury, for setting Fire to a Barn;
a Crime by the Law called Arson.*

IN the history of Collington, we find an uncommon share of depravity of mind united to cruelty and vice of every description.

The father of John Collington was rector of Pluckley, near Sandwich, in Kent; and the youth was qualified, by a most liberal education, and his great natural talents, to have made a very respectable figure in life; but his passions were so violent, and his revenge so implacable, that all who knew him beheld him with horror.

He used to declare, that he would be a sincere friend, but an inveterate foe; and even, while at school, created such dissensions among the other scholars, that he was held in universal contempt, and was discharged from more schools than one with marks of ignominy.

At length his father apprenticed him to a grocer in Newgate-street, London; but he behaved in such a manner as to become an object of terror to his fellow-servants. The following circumstance, trifling as it is, will serve to mark his disposition: One of the maid-servants desiring him to fetch some mustard, he went out for that purpose; but calling a coach at the door, he drove to Cheapside, purchased the mustard, and on his return, paid the fare out of his master's money in the till. The master, astonished at his behaviour, demanded the reason of it: when he gave for answer, that "his parents had not bound him apprentice to be an errand boy."

On another occasion he asked his master's permission to visit his relations for a fortnight, and his request was complied with. When the time of his departure arrived, his master being absent, he asked his mistress to give him leave to stay three weeks, to which she consented. But he returned not till the end of five weeks; and his

master enquiring why he had been so long absent, Collington replied that he had allowed him a fortnight, and his mistress three weeks, so that he had not out-staid his time. This duplicity of conduct incensed the master so, that he gave up his indentures, and discharged him.

Having served the remainder of his apprenticeship with a grocer of Maidstone, he opened a shop at Rye, in Sussex, where he lived for some years ; but his temper was so bad, that he fomented perpetual discord among his neighbours ; in consequence of which law-suits arose, and scarce any one would deal with a man whom every one had reason to hate.

From this place he went to Charing, in Kent, where he likewise kept a shop a considerable time ; but the same conduct which had rendered him an object of contempt at Rye made him equally obnoxious to the inhabitants of this latter place.

Collington had not been long in business before he married a young lady, with whom he received a considerable fortune, and by whom he had ten children, four of whom were living at the time of their father's fatal exit.

The conduct of this man towards his wife and children was the most extravagant that can be imagined. The six children who died he buried in his own garden, nor would he permit any of them to be baptized. He frequently beat his children in a barbarous manner ; and when the mother interposed in their behalf, he used to confine her whole nights in a saw-pit.

Being remarkably fond of sporting, his wife, when big with child, requested that he would procure her a partridge ; in consequence of which he went out, and shot several : but when the birds were dressed, and ready for the table, one of the children happening to offend him, he corrected it in so severe a manner, as to endanger its life, and the mother interposing for the preservation of the child, he was so enraged that he cut the partridges in pieces, and threw them to the cats and dogs.

This instance of worse than savage ferocity so affected his wife, that she fell into fits, and miscarried : but she

had not been long recovered, when on her interposing, in behalf of one of the children, whom he was treating with severity, he threw her down stairs, and stamped on her breast, which gave rise to a cancer that occasioned her death.

Collington's father dying soon after this event, he succeeded to a good estate at Throwleigh, in Kent, to which place he removed, and took to the practice of exporting wool, contrary to law ; for which he was prosecuted in the court of exchequer, and convicted to pay a large penalty ; but he avoided payment, by having previously conveyed his estate to another, and then swearing that he was not worth five pounds.

This man being passionately fond of hunting was frequently prosecuted for offending against the game laws, by which he was put to almost continual expense.

Notwithstanding the treatment his first wife had received from him, he soon married a second, by whom he had six children ; and four of these, besides the same number by the former marriage (as we have mentioned), were living at the time of his death.

At length, his offences against the laws made for the preservation of the game became so numerous, that the dowager countess of Rockingham built a cottage, in which she placed one of her servants, as a spy upon his conduct.

Collington, incensed by this circumstance, tempted a poor countryman to set fire to the cottage ; but the man had courage and honesty enough to resist the temptation. Hereupon Collington took one of his servants, named Luckhurst, to Faversham, in Kent, at the time of the fair ; and on their way thither, told him, he would give him half-a-guinea to fire the said cottage : which the man received, and promised to comply.

On the following day, when Luckhurst recollected the nature of the contract he had been making, his mind was so disturbed, that he went to Collington, and offered back the money, declaring that he would have no share in the transaction. Collington was so enraged, that he threatened to destroy him, unless he kept the money,

and did as he had agreed : the consequence of which was, the man fired the cottage at midnight, by which it was reduced to the ground.

Collington was so neglectful of his children, that he would not buy them necessary apparel, so that they appeared like beggars ; nor would he even pay for their learning to read. The following is a striking proof of his want of humanity : one of his sons, a boy twelve years old, having offended him, he confined him in a saw-pit, where he must have been starved, but that he was occasionally supplied with food by the humanity of the servants ; and for this conduct their brutal master turned them out of the house, without paying what was due to them.

This inhuman father then refused to maintain his son, so that the child absolutely begged his bread in the neighbourhood ; but he had not wandered long in this manner, when Mr. Clarke, the churchwarden, received him into his house, and provided for him till the quarter-sessions, when he submitted the case to the consideration of the magistrates.

These gentlemen having reflected that Mr. Collington was in affluent circumstances, gave directions, that the child should be properly provided for ; and issued a warrant for seizing on part of the father's effects, to defray the charge. This warrant was executed by a constable, whom Clarke attended : a circumstance which gave such offence to Collington, that he vowed revenge, and bade Clarke make his will.

After this he hired five fellows to go to Mr. Clarke's nouse, and demand the child, on pretence that he belonged to a ship ; but Mr. Clarke, having the magistrate's order for his proceedings, said, he was willing to answer for his conduct before any justice of the peace. No sooner had he thus expressed himself, than they beat him in the most violent degree, and threatened his instant destruction, unless he consented to accompany them.

These threats had such an effect, that he mounted a horse behind one of them ; but, as they were riding

along, he jumped off, and ran into the court-yard of a gentleman, whose gate happened to stand open, while the other parties fired at him ; but he escaped unhurt. Here he remained till the following day, when he went to his own house, and thence to a magistrate, before whom he swore the peace against Collington ; on which the magistrate granted his warrant for the apprehension of the offender, who, refusing to give bail for his good behaviour was lodged in the gaol of Canterbury.

During his confinement, he continually threatened vengeance against Clarke ; and to execute his purpose, he sent for a labouring man, named Stone, and the above-mentioned Luckhurst, and offered them a guinea each, on the condition of their setting fire to Mr. Clarke's barn, in which a considerable quantity of corn was deposited. The villains agreeing to this bargain, fired the barn at midnight, and likewise a number of hay-ricks, all of which were destroyed.

Mr. Clarke suspecting that Collington was the contriver of this horrid scheme, made application to a magistrate, who issued an order that the prisoner should be more closely confined, and that the gaol-keeper should take particular notice of his visitors. This precaution led to a discovery of the offenders ; for Luckhurst coming to procure more money of Collington, he was taken into custody, and conducted before a justice of the peace, to whom he confessed the affair ; and being admitted an evidence, Stone was soon taken up as one of the principals.

At the following assizes, held at Maidstone, Collington and Stone were brought to trial ; when the former turned his back on the court, with an air of such utter contempt, that the judge declared he had never been witness to such a scene of insolence.

The prisoners being convicted on the fullest evidence, were carried back to Canterbury, where the debtors commiserated their unhappy circumstances ; but Collington made a jest of his situation, and swore he did not regard it, as he was certain of obtaining the royal mercy.

This hardened villain likewise encouraged Stone to hope for mercy, as he could get him included in the pardon ; but the event proved how much he was mistaken in his conjecture.

Collington's wife, coming to visit him, was so affected with grief, as to be unable to speak to him for a considerable time ; yet he was so hardened, as not to feel for her situation ; but bade her not give herself the least concern, as he was certain of getting a reprieve ; and hoped to live to revenge himself on his enemies, even if he should be transported.

He frequently expressed himself in the most revengeful terms against his prosecutors ; and appeared, in other respects, so destitute of all the feelings of humanity, that his conduct surprised every one who was witness to it. Thus he spent his time without preparing for the sentence that he was to suffer, and still boasting to his visitors, that the rank of life he held as a gentleman would secure him a reprieve.

Luckhurst, who had been evidence against him, being apprehended for committing a robbery on the highway, Collington thought this a fair opportunity to solicit a reprieve ; for which purpose he dispatched an express to the Duke of Newcastle ; but the answer he received was, that he must not expect any favour, for that the gentlemen of the county had exerted their influence, that the law might be permitted to take its course.

On being informed that the warrant for his execution was arrived, his boasted courage left him for a short time ; but recollecting himself, he enquired if Stone was included in the warrant, and being answered in the affirmative, said he lamented his situation more than his own. After this he soon recovered his spirits, and still flattered himself with the hope of being pardoned.

The day preceding his execution, he was visited by his wife and several relations, who advised him to make a serious preparation for his approaching death ; and asked him where he would be buried. This question inflamed all his passions, so that he swore he would not be hanged : but soon afterwards, calling for a glass of

wine, he drank it, saying, "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die."

On the following day Collington was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning coach, and Stone in a cart; and both of them being placed under the gallows, Collington prayed with the minister, but declined making any speech to the surrounding multitude.

THE MELANCHOLY CASE OF

RICHARD COLEMAN,

Who was executed on Kennington Common, in Surrey, April 12, 1749, on a Charge of Murder, of which he was innocent.

WE take this opportunity of again cautioning prosecutors against being too positive in their identity of the accused; and previous to entering upon this melancholy case, we beg leave to present our readers with another instance of a like fatal mistake.

At the assizes for Surrey, held at Kingston, on the 2d of August, 1740, Bartholomew Greenwood, Esq. a gentleman of good private estate, and rider to the first troop of horse-guards, a place of about 200*l.* a year in value, was indicted for robbing — Wheatley, Esq. in a field near Camberwell, at half past nine, on the 5th of June, then last past.

Mr. Wheatley positively swore, that the prisoner, Mr. Greenwood, was the identical man by whom he was robbed, at the time and place above-mentioned. From the opinions which had been previously formed on the improbability of a gentleman of Mr. Greenwood's respectability being base enough to turn footpad, the trial engaged the general attention of the county. The prosecutor called a number of witnesses as to his fortune and high character, which they testified in an eminent degree.

Mr. Greenwood being called upon for his defence, set up an alibi ; to substantiate which he called a number of witnesses of equal credibility, who proved that he was in a different place at the time the robbery was sworn to have been committed. They gave a distinct detail, and adduced many corroborating circumstances, how and where he passed the day, until eleven at night. In addition to this, he called gentlemen of the first rank, and the officers of the regiment in which he served, in support of his character ; which they completely established as a man of worth and probity.

The jury were convinced that the prosecutor had mistaken the prisoner, and instantly acquitted him.

Richard Coleman was indicted at the assizes held at Kingston, in Surrey, in March 1749, for the murder of Sarah Green, on the 23d of July preceding ; when he was capitally convicted.

Mr. Coleman had received a decent education, and was clerk to a brewer at the time the affair happened which cost him his life ; and had a wife and several children who were reduced to accept the bounty of the parish, in consequence of his conviction.

The murdered person was Sarah Green, who, having been with some acquaintance to a bean-feast in Kennington-lane, staid to a late hour, and on her return towards Southwark, she met with three men, who had the appearance of brewers' servants, two of whom used her in so inhuman a manner as will bear no description.

Such was the ill-treatment she had received, that it was two-o'clock in the morning before she was able to reach her lodgings, and on the following day was so ill, that she informed several people how she had been treated : on which she was sent to St. Thomas's hospital.

While in the hospital she declared that the clerk in Taylor's (then Berry's) brewhouse, was one of the parties who had treated her in such an infamous manner ; and it was supposed that Coleman was the person to whom she alluded.

Two days after the shocking transaction had happened, Coleman and one Daniel Trotman happened to call at

the Queen's-head alehouse in Bandy-leg-walk, when the latter was perfectly sober, but the former in a state of intoxication. Having called for some rum and water, Coleman was stirring it with a spoon, when a stranger asked him what he had done with the pig? meaning a pig that had been lately stole in the neighbourhood. Coleman, unconscious of guilt, and conceiving himself affronted by such an impertinent question, said, "D—n the pig, what is it to me?"

The other, who seems to have had an intention to ensnare him, asked him if he did not know Kennington-lane? Coleman answered that he did, and added, "D—n ye, what of that?" The other then asked him if he knew the woman that had been so cruelly treated in Kennington-lane? Coleman replied, "Yes," and again said, "D—n ye, what of that?" The other man asked, "Was not you one of the parties concerned in that affair?" Coleman, who, as we have said, was intoxicated, and had no suspicion of design, replied, "If I had, you dog, what then?" and threw at him the spoon with which he was stirring the liquor. A violent quarrel ensued; but at length Coleman went away with Trotman.

On the following day, Coleman calling at the Queen's-head above-mentioned, the landlord informed him how imprudently he had acted the preceding day. Coleman, who had been too drunk to remember what had passed, asked if he had offended any person; on which the landlord informed him of what had happened: but the other, still conscious of his innocence, paid no regard to what he said.

On the 29th of August, Daniel Trotman and another man went before Mr. Clarke, a magistrate in the Borough, and charged Coleman on suspicion of having violently assaulted, and cruelly treated, Sarah Green in the Parsonage-walk, near Newington Church, in Surrey.

The magistrate, who does not seem to have supposed that Coleman was guilty, sent for him, and hired a man to attend him to the hospital where the wounded woman lay: and a person pointing out Coleman, asked if he was one of the persons who had used her so cruelly. She

said, she believed he was ; but as she declined to swear positively to his having any concern in the affair, justice Clarke admitted to bail.

Some time afterwards, Coleman was again taken before the magistrate, when nothing positive being sworn against him, the justice would have absolutely discharged him ; but Mr. Wynne, the master of the injured girl, requesting that he might once more be taken to see her, a time was fixed for that purpose, and the justice took Coleman's word for his appearance.

The accused party came punctually to his time, bringing with him the landlord of an alehouse where Sarah Green had drunk on the night of the affair, with the three men who really injured her : and this publican, and other people, declared on oath that Coleman was not one of the parties.

On the following day, justice Clarke went to the hospital, to take the examination of the woman on oath. Having asked her if Coleman was one of the men who had injured her, she said she could not tell, as it was dark at the time ; but Coleman being called in, an oath was administered to her, when she swore that he was one of the three men that abused her.

Notwithstanding this oath, the justice, who thought the poor girl not in her right senses, and was convinced in his own mind of the innocence of Coleman, permitted him to depart on his promise of bringing bail the following day to answer the complaint at the next assizes for Surrey ; and he brought his bail, and gave security accordingly.

Sarah Green dying in the hospital, the coroner's jury sat to enquire into the cause of her death ; and having found a verdict of wilful murder against Richard Coleman, and two persons then unknown, a warrant was issued to take Coleman into custody.

Though this man was conscious of his innocence, yet such were his terrors at the idea of going to prison on such a charge, that he absconded, and secreted himself at Pinner, near Harrow on the Hill.

King George the Second being then at Hanover, a

proclamation was issued by the lords of the regency, offering a reward of 50*l.* for the apprehension of the supposed offender; and to this the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, added a reward of 20*l.*

Coleman read the advertisement for his apprehension in the Gazette; but was still so thoughtless as to conceal himself; though perhaps an immediate surrender would have been deemed the strongest testimony of his innocence. However, to assert his innocence, he caused the following advertisement to be printed in the newspaper:

"I, Richard Coleman, seeing myself advertised in the Gazette, as absconding on account of the murder of Sarah Green, knowing myself not any way culpable, do assert that I have not absconded from justice; but will willingly and readily appear at the next assizes, knowing that my innocence will acquit me."

Strict search being made after him, he was apprehended at Pinner, on the 22d of November, and lodged in Newgate, whence he was removed to the New Gaol, Southwark, till the time of the assizes, at Kingston, in Surrey; when his conviction arose principally from the evidence of Trotman, and the declaration of the dying woman.

Some persons positively swore that he was in another place at the time the fact was committed; but their evidence was not credited by the jury, though it will be seen, in a subsequent part of this work, that it would have been happy if a proper attention had been paid to it.

After conviction, Coleman behaved like one who was conscious of being innocent, and who had no fear of death.

He was attended at the place of execution by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, to whom he delivered a paper, in which he declared, in the most solemn and explicit manner, that he was altogether innocent of the crime alleged against him. He died with great resignation; and lamented only that he should leave a wife and two children in distress.

The subsequent trial of those who actually perpetrated the murder, proved this unhappy man's innocence, and will be related in another part of this work.

T. KINGSMILL, FAIRALL, AND PERIN,

[Three of the Thirty Smugglers, who broke open the Custom-house at Pool.]

Executed at Tyburn, April 26, 1749,

WE have never had occasion to notice a more daring crime than that for which these men were executed; nor shall we find another instance of the same offence, in the course of our whole history.

The practice of smuggling is now very trifling compared with what it was in the middle of the last century; when it was carried on to such an alarming extent, by large bodies of associated villains, who threatened all who opposed them with death, that the inhabitants of the towns and villages on the coasts of Hampshire, Kent, Essex, and Sussex, lived in constant dread of their depredations and cruelty.

Kingsmill was a native of Goodhuist in Kent, and passed some part of his life as a husbandman; but, having associated with the smugglers, he made no scruple of entering into the most hazardous enterprises; and, became so distinguished for his courageous, or rather ferocious disposition, that he was chosen captain of the gang: an honour of which he was so proud, that he sought every opportunity of exhibiting specimens of his courage, and put himself foremost in every service of danger.

Fairall was a native of Horsendown-green, in Kent, and the son of poor parents, who were unable either to educate him, or to give him any regular employment, by which he might obtain a livelihood. He began to associate with the smugglers while quite a boy, and was

frequently employed by them to hold their horses; and, when he grew up to man's estate, he was admitted as one of the fraternity. He was so remarkable for his brutal courage, that it was not thought safe to offend him.

Having been taken into custody, and lodged in the New Gaol, Southwark, he made his escape from thence, and vowed vengeance against the magistrate who had granted the warrant for his apprehension: and, in consequence of which, he, with Kingsmill and others of the gang, laid wait for the gentleman one morning when he left his house; but not meeting with him then, they hid themselves under his park wall, till his usual time of returning in the evening: but it happened that, on his return, he heard the voices of men, and the night being very dark, he turned his horse and went into his house by a private door, by which he avoided the dangerous snare that was laid for him,

Perin was a native of Chichester in Sussex. Having served his time to a carpenter, he practised some years as a master, and was successful in trade; but a stroke of the palsy depriving him of the use of his right hand, he became connected with the smugglers, on whose behalf he used to sail to the coast of France, and purchase goods, which he brought to England; and, in this capacity, he proved very serviceable to the gang.

It is evident that these men must have greatly injured the revenue and the fair trader; for they had a number of warehouses in different parts of Sussex, for the concealment of their goods; and kept not less than fifty horses, some of which they sent loaded to London, and others to the fairs round the country.

Perin, being in France in the year 1747, bought a large quantity of goods, which he stowed on board a cutter, with a view of landing them on the coast of Sussex; but, as several smuggling vessels were expected at this juncture, Captain Johnson, who commanded a cutter in the government's service, received orders to sail in search of them. In consequence of which he sailed from Poole, and took the smuggling cutter on the

following day ; but Perin and his accomplices escaped, by taking to their boat. Captain Johnson found the cargo to consist of brandy and tea to a very large amount, which he carried safe into the harbour of Poole.

Soon after this transaction, which happened in the month of September, the whole body of smugglers assembled in Charlton-Park, to consult if there was any possibility of recovering the goods of which they had thus been deprived. After many schemes had been proposed and rejected, Perin recommended that they should go in a body, armed, and break open the custom-house at Poole ; and this proposal being acceded to, a paper was drawn up, by way of bond, that they should support each other ; and this was signed by all the parties.

This agreement, which was filled with dreadful curses on each other, in case of failure to execute it, was signed on the 6th of October : and, having provided themselves with swords and fire-arms, they met on the following day ; and, having concealed themselves in a wood till the evening, they proceeded towards Poole, where they arrived about eleven at night.

As soon as they got thither, they sent Willis and Stringer, two of the gang, to observe if there were any persons watching near the custom-house. Willis soon came back, and informed them that he thought it would not be safe to make the attempt, as a sloop of war lay opposite the quay, so that she could point her guns against the door of the custom-house. On this the body of the smugglers were for desisting from the enterprise : when Kingsmill and Fairall addressed them, saying, " If you will not do it, we will do it ourselves ;" but these words were no sooner spoken, than Stringer came back, and told them that it would be impossible for the sloop to bring her guns to bear, on account of the ebb-tide.

Animated by this intelligence, they rode to the sea-coast, where Perin and another of the gang took care of their horses, while the main body of them went back to the custom-house : in their way to which, they met with a boy, whom they took with them, to prevent his alarming the inhabitants.

Having forced the door open with hatchets and other instruments, they carried off the smuggled goods, with which they loaded their horses; and, after travelling all night, stopped in the morning at a place named Fording's-bridge.

The number of smugglers were thirty, and their horses thirty-one. Continuing their journey to a place named Brook, they divided the booty into equal shares, and then departed, each to his own house.

This daring transaction being represented to the secretary of state, King George the Second gave orders for issuing a proclamation with a reward for the apprehension of the offenders; but it was a considerable time before any of them were taken into custody.

At length two of the smugglers, who had been evidences against those hanged at Chichester, gave intelligence of the usual place of meeting of the others; in consequence of which, Fairall, Kingsmill, Perin, and another named Glover, were taken into custody, and conducted to Newgate.

When they were brought to trial, the evidences, whose names were Raise and Steel, confirmed the particulars which we have above recited; in consequence of which the prisoners, who could not disprove the testimony, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but the jury recommended Glover as an object of the royal clemency.

Fairall behaved most insolently on his trial; and threatened one of the witnesses who swore against him. After conviction, Glover exhibited every proof of penitence; but the rest were totally hardened in their guilt, and insisted that they had not been guilty of any robbery, because they only took goods that had once belonged to them.

Orders were given that Fairall and Kingsmill should be hung in chains; but it was permitted that the body of Perin should be delivered to his friends: and the latter lamenting the fate of his associates, Fairall said, "We shall be hanging up in the sweet air, when you are rot-

ting in your grave ;" so hardened and unfeeling was the heart of this man.

Their friends being permitted to see them on the night before they suffered, a pardon was brought for Glover while they were in discourse together ; and, a few days afterwards, he obtained his liberty. Fairall kept smoking with his acquaintances, till he was ordered by the keeper to retire to his cell ; a circumstance that much enraged him ; on which he exclaimed, " Why in such a hurry ? cannot you let me stay a little longer with my friends ?— I shall not be able to drink with them to-morrow night."

On the following day, Perin was carried to the place of execution, in a mourning-coach ; and the two others in a cart, with a party of horse and foot-guards. The behaviour of Fairall and Kingsmill was remarkably undaunted ; but they all joined in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate, when they came to the fatal tree.

The bodies of Kingsmill and Fairall were hung in chains in the county of Kent.

**SAMUEL COUCHMAN AND JOHN MORGAN,
LIEUTENANTS OF MARINES, THOMAS KNIGHT,
CARPENTER, AND OTHERS,**

[Part of the Crew of His Majesty's Ship Chesterfield.]

Shot at Portsmouth, for Mutiny, July 14, 1749.

THE Chesterfield man of war, under the command of Captain O'Brian Dudley, was stationed off Cape Coast Castle, on the coast of Africa, when a dangerous mutiny broke out among the crew, of which the above-named officers were the leaders. They were charged with " exciting and encouraging mutiny, and running away with His Majesty's ship Chesterfield, on the 10th day of October, 1748, from the coast of Africa, leaving their captain, two lieutenants, with other officers, and some seamen, on shore."

Hereupon a court-martial was held on board his majesty's ship *Invincible*, of which Sir Edward Hawke, of glorious memory, was president.

The first evidence called in support of the prosecution, was Mr. Gasterin, the late boatswain of the *Chesterfield*, who deposed, that on the 15th of October, 1748, capt. Dudley being then on shore at Cape Coast Castle, sent off his barge to Mr. Couchman, ordering him to send the cutter on shore with the boatswain of the ship to see the tents struck on shore, and to bring every thing belonging to the ship on board that night; but Couchman directly ordered the barge to be hoisted in, and the boatswain to turn all the hands on the quarter-deck, where Couchman, coming from his cabin with a drawn sword, said, "Here I am, G—d d—n me, I will stand by you, while I have a drop of blood in my body." He was accompanied by John Morgan, the lieutenant of marines, Thomas Knight the carpenter, his mate John Place (a principal actor), and about thirty seamen with cutlasses.—They then gave three huzzas, and threw their hats overboard, damning old hats, they would soon get new.

Couchman then sent for the boatswain, to know if he would stand by him, and go with him: he replied, "No;" and said, "For God's sake, Sir, be ruled by reason, and consider what you are about." Couchman then threatened to put him in irons if he did not join with him; but the boatswain told him he never would be in such piratical designs; he was then ordered into custody, and two centinels put over him. Couchman soon after sent for Gilham, the mate of the ship, and made the same speech to him, who desired to know where he was bound, and upon what account? He replied, "To take, burn, and sink, and settle a colony in the East Indies." There were five or six more put in custody with the boatswain, in the same place, and were confined only five or six hours; for, in the middle of the night, after their confinement, Couchman sent for them in the great cabin, and desired them to sit and drink punch, and then dismissed them. The next day the boatswain was invited to dinner by the new commander, who began to rail

against captain Dudley, and asked him and one of the mates what they thought of the affair? the boatswain replied, he thought it rank piracy; on which Couchman said, "What I have done, I cannot now go from; I was forced to it by the ship's company." The boatswain then told him, "that would be no sanction for his running away with the king's ship." The carpenter and lieutenant then proposed their signing a paper, to which the boatswain replied, "He never would, and would sooner suffer death:" the mate said the same. When the boatswain came out of the great cabin, he went to the gunner's cabin, who was then sick, and unable to come out of it, but was of great use, by his prudent advice and assistance; for, after the boatswain had told him that Couchman's party had taken possession of all the arms he said that he could furnish him with twenty pistols. By this time Mr. Fraser and Mr. Gilham, mates of the ship, the gunner's mate, and Yeoman, the cockswain of the barge, were come to them when the boatswain communicated his design of recovering the ship that very night. To this they all agreed, with the greatest resolution.

It began then to be very dark, being 10 *p.m.* when the boatswain went to sound the ship's company; and on the fore-castle there were about thirty men; he then, in a plain but prudent manner, disclosed the secret, and soon convinced them both of the facility and necessity of putting his scheme immediately in practice; accordingly, the first step was, to get up all the irons or bilboes on the fore-castle; he then sent for the twenty pistols, which were all loaded: he next ordered three men upon the grand magazine, and two to that abaft; and the remainder, who had no pistols, to stay by the bilboes, and secure as many prisoners as he should send. This disposition being made, he went directly down on the deck, where he divided his small company into two parties; and one going down the main, the other the fore-hatchway, they soon secured eleven or twelve of the ring-leaders, and sent them up to the fore-castle without the least noise. The two parties then joined, and went

directly to the great cabin, where they secured Couchman, and the lieutenant of marines, with the carpenter, whom they immediately confined in different parts of the ship.

Thus was the ship bravely rescued by the intrepidity and prudence of a few honest men, after she had been about thirty hours in the possession of a poor unhappy man, who appears to have been utterly unfit for so daring an enterprize, and in his unfortunate condition very penitent.

The boatswain (Roger Winket) was afterwards rewarded with three hundred pounds a-year, as master-attendant of Woolwich yard.

John Place was charged with being very active in the mutiny. The gunner deposed, that the said Place came to him as he lay sick in his cabin, with a drawn cutlass and a cocked pistol, and swore that he would murder him, if he did not deliver to him the key of the magazine. He made no defence, but submitted to the mercy of the court.

John Place, after sentence, wrote letters of religious exhortation to his brothers in affliction.—His letter to Mr. Couchman upbraids him with having been the murderer of those who were condemned with him, by first seducing them from their duty : exhorts him not to attempt to screen himself by imputing his guilt to others : and concludes, “ I freely forgive you, though you are the cause of my death, as you know full well ; and I would have you act with a brave resignation to the will of God ; and not, by mean hopes of life, lose an opportunity to secure a blessed eternity.—Despise life, as I do, with God’s assistance, and die like a man.”

ANSWER.

“ MR. PLACE,

You will die like a villain.—S. COUCHMAN.”

The Court found the following guilty, who were executed in the manner hereafter mentioned :

On the 14th July, Samuel Couchman, first lieutenant of marines, shot.

July 14, John Morgan, second-lieutenant of marines, shot.

July 24, Thomas Knight, carpenter.

John Place, carpenter's mate,

John Meeks, seaman,

William Anderson, seaman,

John Reed, quarter-master,

Thomas Scott, seaman, hanged.

Captain Dudley was tried for "Neglect of duty, in keeping a number of his officers on shore, at Cape Coast Castle, when the ship was seized," and acquitted.

Others of the ship's company, also tried for mutiny, were acquitted.

On the 26th of June, 1749, James Colvin, late boatswain's mate, on board the Richmond man of war, was hanged at Portsmouth, for mutiny.

JOHN MILLS,

[Another of the cruel Gang of Smugglers lately mentioned.]

*Executed on Slendon Common, Sussex, Aug. 12, 1749,
for Murder.*

THIS villain, whose father and brother were both executed, was concerned in the murder of the custom-house officers, and in breaking open the custom-house; but escaped for a short time the hand of justice.

Travelling with some associates over Hind Heath, he saw the judges on their road to Chichester, to try the murderers of Chater and Galley, on which young Mills proposed to rob them; but the other parties refused to have any concern in such an affair.

Soon after his father, brother, and their accomplices were hanged, Mills thought of going to Bristol, with a view of embarking for France; and, having hinted his intentions to some others, they resolved to accompany him, and stopping at a house on the road, they met with **one** Richard Hawkins, whom they asked to go with them; but the poor fellow hesitating, they put him on horseback

behind Mills, and carried him to the Dog and Partridge on Slendon Common, which was kept by John Reynolds.

They had not been long in the house, when complaint was made that two bags of tea had been stolen, and Hawkins was charged with the robbery. He steadily denied any knowledge of the affair; but this not satisfying the villains, they obliged him to pull off his clothes, and, having likewise stripped themselves, they began to whip him with the most unrelenting barbarity; and Curtis, one of the gang said he did know of the robbery, and if he would not confess, he would whip him till he did; for he had whipped many a rogue, and washed his hands in his blood.

These blood-thirsty villains continued whipping the poor wretch till their breath was almost exhausted; while he begged them to spare his life, on account of his wife and child. Hawkins drawing up his legs, to defend himself in some measure from their blows, they kicked him on the groin in a manner too shocking to be described: continually asking him what was become of the tea. At length the unfortunate man mentioned something of his father and brother; on which Mills and one Curtis said they would go and fetch them; but Hawkins expired soon after they had left the house.

Rowland, one of the accomplices, now locked the door, and putting the key in his pocket, he and Thomas Winter (who was afterwards admitted evidence) went out to meet Curtis and Mills, whom they saw riding up a lane leading from an adjacent village, having each a man behind him. Winter desiring to speak with his companions the other men stood at a distance, while he asked Curtis what he meant to do with them, and he said to confront them with Hawkins.

Winter now said that Hawkins was dead, and begged that no more mischief might be done; but Curtis replied, "By G-- we will go through it now;" but at length they permitted them to go home, saying, that when they were wanted they should be sent for.

The murderers now coming back to the public-house, Reynolds said, "You have ruined me;" but Curtis

replied that he would make him amends. Having consulted how they should dispose of the body, it was proposed to throw it into a well in an adjacent park; but this being objected to, they carried it twelve miles, and, having tied stones to it, in order to sink it, they threw it into a pond in Parham Park, belonging to sir Cecil Bishop; and in this place it lay more than two months before it was discovered.

This horrid and unprovoked murder gave rise to a royal proclamation, in which a pardon was offered to any persons, even outlawed smugglers, except those who had been guilty of murder, or concerned in breaking open the custom-house at Poole, on the conditions of discovering the persons who had murdered Hawkins, particularly Mills, who was charged with having had a concern in this horrid transaction.

Hereupon William Pring, an outlawed smuggler, who had not any share in either of the crimes excepted in the proclamation, went to the secretary of state and informed him that he would find Mills, if he could be ascertained of his own pardon; and added, that he believed he was either at Bath or Bristol.

Being assured that he need not doubt of the pardon, he set out for Bristol, where he found Mills, and with him Thomas and Lawrence Kemp, brothers, the former of whom had broke out of Newgate, and the other was outlawed by proclamation. Having consulted on their desperate circumstances, Pring offered them a retreat at his house near Beckenham, in Kent, whence they might make excursions, and commit robberies on the highway.

Pleased with this proposal, they set out with Pring, and arrived in safety at his house, where they had not been long, before he pretended that his horse being an indifferent one, and theirs remarkably good, he would go and procure another, and then they would proceed on the intended expeditions.

Thus saying, he set out, and they agreed to wait for his return; but instead of going to procure a horse, he went to the house of Mr. Rackster, an officer of the excise at Horsham, who taking with him seven or eight

armed men, went to Beckenham at night, where they found Mills and the two brothers Kemp just going to supper on a breast of veal. They immediately secured the brothers, by tying their arms; but Mills, making resistance, was cut with a hanger before he would submit.

The offenders being taken were conducted to the county gaol for Sussex; and, being secured till the assizes, were removed to East Grinstead, when the brothers Kemp were tried for highway robberies, convicted, sentenced, and executed.

Mills being tried for the Murder of Hawkins was capitally convicted, received sentence of death, and to be hung in chains near the place where the murder was committed.

After conviction he mentioned several robberies in which he had been concerned, but refused to tell the names of any of his accomplices; declaring, that he thought he should merit damnation, if he made any discoveries by means of which any of his companions might be apprehended and convicted.

The country being at that time filled with smugglers, a rescue was feared; wherefore he was conducted to the place of execution by a guard of soldiers; and, when there, prayed with a clergyman, confessed that he had led a bad life, acknowledged the murder of Hawkins, desired that all young people would take warning by his untimely end, humbly implored the forgiveness of God, and professed to die in charity with all mankind.

After execution he was hung in chains on Slendou Common.

THOMAS NEALE AND WILLIAM BOWEN,
HIGHWAYMEN.

*The former a most hardened Sinner, who died cursing
the Spectators of his Execution, August 12, 1749.*

NEALE was one of the many seamen who were discharged on the proclamation of peace: having received his wages, he came to London, where he soon wasted his money in the most dissipated manner, and in the worst of company, and then had recourse to the dangerous practices of a footpad-robber.

On one occasion, he stole a tankard from an inn in Hertfordshire, for which he was apprehended, and lodged in the county-gaol, and being tried at the next assizes, was capitally convicted, but obtained a pardon on condition of transporting himself for seven years, through the interest of the late Duke of Cumberland.

Having given bail thus to transport himself, he entertained no thought of fulfilling the contract: but, immediately associated with Bowen and other villains, and committed several robberies near London, particularly at Stepney and Mile End.

William Bowen was a native of Londonderry, in Ireland. His parents, who kept an inn, and lived respectably, proposed that he should succeed them in their business; but an attachment to bad company led him astray from the paths of duty.

His father, dying just before he came of age, left him the inn, on condition of his supporting his mother, a brother, and two young sisters; but the young man, deaf to every prudent consideration, associated with people whose circumstances were much superior to his own, to the neglect of that business which would have supported the family.

Aware of the decay of his trade, and the consequent ruin that stared him in the face, he came over to London with all the cash he could secure, and fell in company

with people who assisted him to spend his money ; and, when that was gone, he entered on board a ship as a common sailor.

The seamen having received their wages, Bowen got into company with his old associates and some women of ill-fame, with whom he spent the last shilling, and then had recourse to robbery for his support.

One of Bowen's companions being apprehended for picking pockets, he and others joined to rescue him, as the peace-officers were conveying him to Newgate in a coach. The public being alarmed by this daring rescue, Bowen did not think it safe to stay in London ; and having heard that his brother, then a seaman, was at Liverpool, went thither in search of him ; but on his arrival, he learnt that having received a large sum as prize-money, he had sailed to see his friends in Ireland.

Bowen immediately wrote to Londonderry, but, not having a letter in return, he came to the metropolis in the most distressed circumstances ; and, going to a house where he had formerly lodged, he was informed that Neale had been to enquire for him ; and on the following day Neale came to see him, in company with a man named Vincent.

After drinking together, Neale said to Bowen, " Come and take a ride with me." Bowen said he had no money ; but the other told him that would soon be procured. On this Neale went out to borrow him a pair of boots ; while Bowen went with Vincent to his lodgings, where the latter gave him a hanger and a pair of pistols, which Bowen concealed under a great coat, and then all the parties met at an alehouse in Southwark, whence they went to an inn, and hired horses, on pretence of going to Gravesend ; instead of which they went towards Kingston, where Vincent had a relation who belonged to the Oxford Blues.

On their way they purchased a whip for Bowen, and loaded their pistols. On their arrival at Kingston, they went to a public-house ; and, sending for Vincent's kinsman, they all dined together, and drank themselves into a state of perfect intoxication.

Having paid their reckoning, they mounted their horses, and meeting a gentleman named Ryley, Bowen pulled him from his horse, and in the same instant quitted his own. Mr. Ryley ran off; but Bowen followed him, threw him down, kneeled on his breast, and threatened him with instant destruction if he did not quietly submit. Having robbed him of his watch and money, he bade him run after his horse, which had quitted the place on Neale's whipping him. During this robbery, Vincent watched, lest any person should come to interrupt them.

The highwaymen now rode towards London, and, when they came near Wandsworth, they determined to go to Fulham, and thence to town by the way of Hyde Park Corner. Having divided the booty (except a thirty-six shilling piece, which Bowen secreted) at the Grey-Hound-Inn, near Piccadilly, they supped and slept at that house.

In the morning they told the landlord that they wanted to go towards Highgate; but were not well acquainted with the road. As they had been good customers, the landlord begged to treat them with half a pint of rum, and then went a little way with them, to shew them the nearest road.

Having arrived at Highgate, they drank at that place, and then determined to proceed to Barnet, at which place they put up their horses, and called for rum and water, of which they swallowed such quantities, that Vincent and Bowen fell fast asleep.

In the mean time Neale endeavoured to secrete a silver pint mug; but being detected in the attempt, he was taken before a magistrate, and loaded pistols being found on him, orders were given that his companions should likewise be taken into custody; in consequence of which they were all lodged in the county-gaol.

At the next assizes an order was made for their discharge (as nothing appeared against them), on their giving security for their good behaviour. For this purpose they wrote to London to procure bail; but, Mr. Ryley hearing that three men of doubtful character were in the gaol of Hertford, went thither, and immediately

knew that they were the parties by whom he had been robbed.

Hereupon a detainer was lodged against them, and they were removed for trial at the Surrey assizes, previous to the holding of which Vincent was admitted an evidence for the crown. His testimony corroborating that of Mr. Ryley, Neale and Bowen were found guilty, and sentenced to die.

Being lodged in the New Gaol, Southwark, Bowen was taken ill, and continued so till the time of his execution. He behaved with some degree of resignation to his fate: but was violent in his exclamations against Vincent, on account of his turning evidence.

Neale evinced no concern on account of his unhappy situation; but behaved in a manner more hardened than language can express. At the place of execution he paid no regard to the devotions; but laughed at the populace while he played with the rope which was to put a period to his life. After the cap was drawn over his face, he put it up again, and addressed the people in the following shocking terms: "I shall very soon see my lord Balmerino. He was a very good friend of mine: so that is what I had to say, and d--n you all together." He then drew the cap over his eyes, and was launched into eternity.

BENJAMIN NEALE,

Executed in Surrey, August 12, 1749, for Burglary.

BENJAMIN Neale was a most hardened villain, and his fate exhibits a melancholy instance of the danger of mixing in dissolute company. He was the son of an apothecary and surgeon, at Extel, in Warwickshire, who having many children to provide for, apprenticed Benjamin to a baker, in a large business at Coventry.

During his apprenticeship his conduct was very reprehensible; for he would frequently stay out whole

nights, and return to his master's house in the morning, in a state of intoxication.

With some difficulty he served to the end of his time, when several of the inhabitants of Coventry recommended it to his father, to put him into business, and promised to deal with him ; and the father enabled him to begin the world in a creditable manner. For a considerable time he had such success in business, that he became the principal baker in the place, and married the daughter of one of the aldermen, with whom he received a good fortune, and would soon have been a rich man, if he had paid a proper attention to his business. It was not long after he received his wife's fortune, when he began to give himself such airs of consequence, that he rendered himself disagreeable to his wife, and made the servants look on him as a perfect tyrant.

To this behaviour succeeded a neglect of his business, which visibly declined, while he frequented cock-pits and horse-races. It was in vain that his father and his wife remonstrated on the impropriety of this conduct, and represented how inconsistent it was with the life of a tradesman : he would not listen to their remonstrances, and continued these courses till his character was lost, and he was reduced to labour as a journeyman baker.

Unable to submit with decency to a fate which he had brought upon himself he wandered about the country, picking up a casual and doubtful subsistence. Returning one night to Coventry, he found his mother, his wife, and child, in company. He demanded money ; but they refusing to supply him, he threatened to murder them, and was proceeding to put his threats in execution, when their cries alarmed the neighbours, and prevented the perpetration of the deed ; but this affair had such an effect on his wife, that she was seized with a fever, which soon put a period to her life.

This disaster did not seem to make any impression on his mind, for he travelled soon after into Staffordshire, where he married a second wife, and then returned to Coventry ; but he privately sold off his effects, and left the poor woman in great distress.

It was not long after this when he commenced highwayman, and committed a variety of robberies on different roads; and at length became a house-breaker, which brought him to an ignominious end.

At Farnham, in Surrey, lived a gentleman of fortune, named Newton, at whose house Neale thought he might acquire a considerable booty; and, in pursuance of this plan, he broke into the house at four o'clock in the morning, and forcing open a bureau, he stole several bank-notes, an East-India bond, between fifty and sixty pounds in money, some medals of gold, and several valuable articles.

Mr. Newton no sooner discovered the robbery, than he sent off a messenger, with a letter to his brother in London, requesting that he would advertise the loss, and stop payment of the notes. When Neale had committed the robbery, he likewise proceeded towards London, and when he came to Brentford, offered some watermen three and sixpence to row him to town; but this they refused, and Neale had no sooner got into another boat, which was putting from the shore, than the messenger arrived at Brentford; and the watermen having entertained a suspicion of Neale, asked the man if he was in pursuit of a thief, and he replying in the affirmative, they pointed to the boat in which Neale was sitting.

On this the messenger hired another boat, and having overtaken him, found him wrapped up in a waterman's coat. The criminal being conducted before a magistrate, the stolen effects were found in his possession; on which he was ordered for commitment, and conveyed to Newgate the same day.

When the assizes for Surrey began, he was sent to Guildford, where he was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction he shewed no signs of repentance; but his whole behaviour was such as might have been expected from one so hardened, and so totally improper for his situation, that even the keepers of the gaol were shocked at his insensibility, and advised him to reform his conduct.

HUGH DAWSON AND JOHN GAMMELL,

Executed on Kennington Common, August 22, 1749.

As we have so frequently commented on the bad effects of idleness, extravagance, and drunkenness, in bringing such numbers to the gallows, we pass over many cases without observation, that we may avoid a tedious and unnecessary repetition.

Dawson was an Irishman, and born of respectable parents ; his father having been a bookseller in Londonderry. Gammel was a Scotchman of Greenock, and both were lazy worthless fellows.

The father of Dawson, finding his son would settle to no business in his own country, sent him to sea. After the first voyage he remained some time at home, and did not seem to entertain any farther thoughts of going to sea ; but falling in love with a young woman in the neighbourhood, she promised him marriage, but advised him to follow his former occupation some time longer.

In consequence of this advice, he went again to sea, and, on his return from each voyage, visited his favourite girl ; but at length it was discovered by her parents that she was pregnant by her lover. Alarmed by this circumstance, they proposed to Dawson's father to give him a fortune proportioned to what they would bestow on their girl ; but this the old man obstinately refused, though the son earnestly entreated him to accede to the proposal.

Hereupon young Dawson left his parents, swore he would never again return home, and went once more to sea. Having made some voyages, the vessel in which he sailed put into the harbour of Sandwich ; on which Dawson resolved to quit a sea-faring life, and married a girl of fortune, who bore him two children, which were left to the care of her relations at her death, which happened six years after her marriage. After this event, Dawson went again to sea, and was in several naval engagements. When his ship was paid off he went to Bristol, where he was arrested for a debt he had con-

tracted. At this period he heard of the death of his father, and that his mother's affection for him was in no degree diminished; on which he wrote her an account of his situation, and she sent him fifty pounds, which relieved him from his embarrassments.

Having procured his liberty, he went to London, and marrying the widow of a seaman, who possessed some money, they lived comfortably a considerable time, till he became connected with dissolute companions, and commenced that line of conduct which led to his ruin.

Gammel, who had been a ship-mate with Dawson, was one of these companions, and being now out of employment, advised him to go on the highway. He hesitated for some time, but having drank freely, his resolution failed him, and he agreed to the fatal proposal.

These accomplices dressed themselves as sailors, and concealing bludgeons under their jackets, knocked down the persons they intended to rob, and stripped them of their effects.

The robbery which cost them their lives was committed near New-cross turnpike, on a gentleman named Outridge, from whom they took his money and watch, and treated him with great barbarity. Being pursued by some people whom Mr. Outridge informed of the robbery, Dawson was overtaken and confined; and having given information where Gammell lodged, he likewise was apprehended; and both of them being conveyed to the New Gaol, Southwark, they recriminated each other.

On the approach of the assizes for Surrey, the prisoners were carried to Croydon, where they were both tried and capitally convicted. After passing sentence, Dawson was visited by a Roman catholic priest, who intimated that he had heard he was of the Romish religion; but the other said he would die in the protestant faith, in which he had been educated: but notwithstanding this declaration, and his regular attendance on the forms of the protestant mode, there was reason to conclude that he was a catholic, from a paper that was found in his cell after his death.

On the night preceding the execution, he was visited by his wife, who had been sitting some time with him, when the turnkey came, and intimated that he must retire; on which he refused to go, and knocked the fellow down; but some other keepers coming in, he was secured.

His wife would now have taken a final leave of him; and he said, if she did not depart, he would murder her.

As the keepers were conducting him through the court-yard to his cell, he called to the other prisoners, saying, "Hollo! my boys! Dawson is to be hanged to-morrow."

The prisoners were conveyed to the place of execution in the same cart; and when there, Dawson expressed his hope of salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, and declared he died in charity with all men. Gammell addressed the surrounding multitude, particularly hoping that his brother seamen would avoid the commission of such crimes as led to his deplorable end. He hoped forgiveness from all whom he had injured, and acknowledged that he fell a victim to the equity of the laws.

ROBERT COX,

[Late Captain's Clerk of the Royal George Man of War.]

*Executed at Winchester, September 1, 1749, for
forging Seamen's Tickets.*

THIS man was tried on several indictments: the first for stealing a certain obligation, called, "a seaman's ticket," the property of Benjamin Berry; the others for forgery, in indorsing the same.

When ships of war return from a foreign station, the crews are generally turned over to others, fit for service; and, upon these occasions, each man is delivered a warrant, signed by the principal officers, under whom he served, and which is called a seaman's ticket. This is negotiable, when indorsed, like a note of hand, or bill

of exchange ; but because the men should not be tempted to sell their tickets under price, instead of being put into their possession, they are sent with them to the captain of the ship to which they are turned over, and lodged in his hands till they are ordered to some other ship, and then these tickets are still sent with them.

The Glasgow man of war being laid up, part of her crew were turned over to several ships successively, and at length to the Royal George.

Soon after the peace was agreed upon, these men were of course discharged, and the tickets put into the hands of their proper owners ; but those of Mr. Berry and twelve other seamen were missing, and no account could be given of them. They immediately laid the fact before the lords of the Admiralty, by way of petition, who wrote to captain Harrison, to know the reason why the petitioners were refused their tickets. The captain answered the letter, but was unable to give any reason, or to say more than that they could not be found. Upon which the lords of the Admiralty thought fit to mulct the wages due to the men out of captain Harrison's pay, who now feeling, most sensibly, the case of the poor sailors, made more immediate enquiry after the lost tickets, and accordingly advertised them, with a reward to any person who should make a discovery.

Mr. Cullen, who formerly kept the inn called the India Arms, at Gosport, deposed, that the identical tickets, so advertised, were deposited with him by the prisoner, Robert Cox, as security for twenty guineas, which he had lent him : and that, on the appearance of the advertisement, Cox came to him to beg he would take his bond for the twenty guineas, and give him up the tickets ; but the witness refused so to do, telling him if he came honestly by them, he might immediately sell them, and, out of what they brought, pay him the sum lent ; but that if he had not come honestly by them, it was fit the truth should be known. Upon this, Cox went his way, and the witness hastened to give information to captain Harrison.

Upon the trial of the first indictment, no proof could

be adduced that the prisoner stole the tickets, he was accordingly acquitted; but the second was fatal to him; as it was fully proved, that he forged the name of Berry to the tickets. He was found guilty, and received sentence of death, which he suffered at Winchester, September, 1749

CAPTAIN CLARKE,

OF THE ROYAL NAVY.

Convicted and condemned to be hanged, for the Murder of Captain Innis, in a Duel, and pardoned, June 12, 1750.

WE have before given our opinion of the destructive and wicked practice of duelling. The articles of war impose heavy penalties upon an officer giving or receiving a challenge; and yet, he who refuses to receive one, or being what is termed insulted, and not challenging the aggressor, is deemed a coward, and "sent to Coventry."*

The captains Innis and Clarke were commanders under admiral Knowles, the first of the Warwick, and the latter of the Canterbury, line of battle ships, of sixty-four guns each, when he obtained a victory over a Spanish fleet of equal force, and took from them the Conquestadore, and run their vice-admiral on shore, where she blew up: the rest escaping under favour of the night. It was thought that, had the admiral availed himself of an opportunity which at one time presented, of bringing up his fleet to bear at once upon the enemy, the whole might have been taken.

The issue of this battle was, therefore, unsatisfactory to the nation, and the admiral was called to account for his conduct, before a court-martial, which was held on board the royal yacht the Charlotte, at Deptford.

* This punishment is most humiliating to an officer, and consists in an unanimous determination of the other officers not to associate with him.

The opinion of the court being unfavourable to the admiral, caused a divided opinion among the officers. It did not, however, affect the personal bravery of that commander, but on the contrary, as it appeared in evidence, he displayed the greatest intrepidity, and exposed his person to imminent danger, after his ship was disabled; but it appeared that in manœuvring, previous to the engagement, he had not availed himself of an advantage, and that he had commenced the action with four of his ships, when six might have been brought up. The court therefore determined, that he fell under the 14th and 23d articles of war, namely, the word "Negligence;" for which they sentenced him to be reprimanded.

This sentence caused much ill blood among the officers. The admiral had already been called out twice in duels, with his captains, and had received more challenges of the same kind; but government being apprised of the outrages, put a stop to them, by taking the challengers into custody.

Captain Clarke, it appears, had given evidence on the trial of the admiral, which displeased captain Innis to so great a degree, that he called him "a perjured rascal;" and charged him with giving false evidence. This was certainly language, worse to be borne by an officer, than rankling wounds, or even death. Captain Clarke being apprised, that Innis in this way traduced and vilified him in all companies, gave him a verbal challenge, which the other accepted.

On the 12th of August, 1749, early in the morning, these gentlemen, attended by their seconds, met in Hyde-Park. The pistols of captain Clarke were screw-barrelled, and about seven inches long; those of captain Innis were common pocket pistols, three inches and a half in the barrel. They were not more than five yards distant from each other, when they turned about, and captain Clarke fired, before captain Innis had levelled his pistol. The ball took effect in the breast, of which wound captain Innis expired at twelve o'clock the same night.

The coroner's jury found a verdict of wilful murder, against captain Clarke, on which he was apprehended, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and sentenced to death; but the king, in consideration of his services, and the bravery he displayed in fighting his ship under admiral Knowles, was pleased to grant him a free pardon.

There were other circumstances in this unfortunate rencontre, which were favourable to captain Clarke; for his firing on turning round, and his pistol being larger than that of captain Innis, was not deemed unfair by the sanguinary rules of duelling; for captain Innis might have provided himself with a large pair, had he pleased. But what pleaded powerfully in his behalf, was the expressions of the dying man, who acquitted and forgave him. When a soldier seized captain Clarke, the former asked the wounded man, what he should do with him, to which he faintly answered, "Set him at liberty, for what he has done was my own seeking."

On the 1st of June, 1750, being the last day of the sessions of the Old Bailey, captain Clarke, among the other convicts, was brought up to receive sentence of death, when he pleaded his majesty's pardon, which had been then lately sent him, and which being recorded, he was discharged.

It may not be without its use to repeat here what has been frequently mentioned before, namely, that the best method of preventing this crime, is always to punish the aggressor, that is, the person who occasioned the duel.

JAMES COOPER,

*Executed on Kennington Common, for Murder, Aug.
26, 1750, after numerous escapes from justice.*

THIS man was allowed to run a long race of villainy before he was overtaken by the arm of justice. He was guilty of several barbarous murders, and had committed many daring robberies, besides the crime for which he suffered ; and what renders him still more criminal is his having had a fair chance, in the outset of life, of living by honest means.

He was the son of a butcher, at Lexton, in Essex ; and his father, who had wholly neglected his education, employed him in his own business, when he was only ten years of age. Having lived with his father till he was twenty-two, he married, and opened a shop at Colchester, where he dealt largely as a butcher, and likewise became a cattle-jobber.

At the end of thirteen years Cooper, through neglect, found his losses so considerable, that he could no longer carry on business ; and one of his creditors arresting him, he was thrown into the King's-bench prison ; but, as his wife still carried on trade, he was enabled to purchase the rules. Soon after this, the marshal of the King's-bench died, and he was obliged to pay for the rules a second time.

He now sued for an allowance of the groats, and they were paid him for about a year ; when, through neglect of payment he got out of prison, and took a shop in the Mint, Southwark, where he carried on his business with some success, his wife maintaining the family in the country.

At length he was arrested by another creditor, and waited two years for the benefit of an act of insolvency. On his going to Guildford, to take the benefit of the act, he found that the marshal had not inserted his name in the list with the names of the other prisoners : and, having informed his creditor of this circumstance, the

marshal was obliged to pay debt and costs ; the debtor was discharged, and the marshal fined one hundred pounds for his neglect.

Cooper having now obtained his liberty, and his wife dying about the same time, and leaving four children, he sent for them to London ; and not long afterwards, married a widow, who had an equal number of children.

He now unfortunately got acquainted with Duncalf and Burrell, the former a notorious thief, and the latter a soldier in the guards ; and these men advising him to commence robber, he fatally complied with their solicitations ; and the following is an account of a number of robberies which they committed.

Between Stockwell and Clapham they overtook two men, one of whom, speaking of the probability of being attacked by footpads, drew a knife, and swore he would kill any man who should presume to molest them. The parties all drank together on the road, and then proceeded towards London, when Cooper threw down the man that was armed with the knife, and took it from him, and then robbed him and his acquaintance of a watch, about twenty shillings, and their handkerchiefs.

Their next robbery was on Mr. James, a taylor, whom they stopped on the road to Dulwich, and took from him his watch and money. He gave an immediate alarm, which occasioned a pursuit ; but the thieves effected an escape. Two of the three robbers wearing soldiers' clothes, Mr. James presumed that they were of the guards, and going to the parade in St. James's park, he fixed on two soldiers as the parties who had robbed him.

As it happened that these men had been to Dulwich about the time that the robbery had been committed, they were sent to prison, and brought to trial ; but were acquitted.

The accomplices in iniquity being in waiting for prey near Bromley, Duncalf saw a gentleman riding along the road ; and, kneeling down, he seized the bridle, and obliged him to quit his horse, when the others robbed him of his watch, and two guineas and a half.

Meeting soon afterwards with a man and woman on

one horse, near Farnborough in Kent, they ordered them to quit the horse, and robbed them of near forty shillings. and then permitted them to pursue their journey. Soon after the commission of this robbery, they heard the voices of a number of people who were in pursuit of them ; on which, Cooper turned about, and they passed him, but seized on Burrell, one of them exclaiming, "This is one of the rogues that just robbed my brother and sister !"

On this, Burrell fired a pistol into the air, to intimidate the pursuers, among whom were two soldiers, whom Duncalf and Cooper encountered at the same instant, and wounded one of them so dangerously by his own sword, which Duncalf wrested from his hand, that he was sent as an invalid to Chelsea, where he finished his life.

The brother of the parties robbed, and a countryman, contested the matter with the thieves till the former was thrown on the ground, where Burrell beat him so violently, that he died on the spot. The robbers now took their way to London, where they arrived without being pursued.

Cooper and Duncalf then went to a farm-house, and stole all the fowls that were at roost, Duncalf saying to his companion, "the first man we meet must buy my chicken ;" they had not travelled far before they met with a man whom they asked to buy the fowls. He said he did not want any ; but they seized his horse's bridle, knocked him down, and robbed him of above twelve pounds, with his hat and wig, watch and great coat.

In one of their walks towards Camberwell, they met a man of fortune named Ellish, whose servant was lighting him home from a club. They placed pistols to the gentleman's breast, but his servant attempted to defend him ; on which they knocked him down with a bludgeon ; and the master still hesitating to deliver his money, they threw him on the ground, and robbed him of his money watch, and other articles ; and then tied him and his servant back to back, and threw them into a ditch, where

they lay in a helpless manner, till a casual passenger released them from their disagreeable situation.

The villains now returned towards London, and meeting a man with a sack of stolen venison, they robbed him of his great coat, and thirty-six shillings; and a few nights afterwards, they robbed a man of a few shillings on the Hammersmith road, and destroyed a lanthorn which he carried, that he might not be able to pursue them.

On their return home they met a man on horseback, whom they would have robbed; but he suddenly turned his horse, and rode to Kensington turnpike, and gave an alarm, while the thieves got through a hedge, and concealed themselves in a field. In the interim, the man they had robbed of a few shillings brought a number of people to take the thieves; but not finding them, though within their hearing, the man went towards his home alone; but the rogues pursuing him, took a stick from him, and beat him severely, for attempting to raise the country on them.

Immediately afterwards they hastened towards Brompton, and stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of his watch and money. The gentleman had a dog, which flew at the thieves; but Cooper, coaxing the animal into good humour, immediately killed him.

Their next expedition was to Paddington, where they concealed themselves behind a hedge, till they observed two persons on horseback, whom they robbed of their watches, great coats, and twelve guineas; and though an immediate alarm was given, and many persons pursued them, they escaped over the fields as far as Hampstead Heath, and came from thence to London.

Soon afterwards they stopped a gentleman between Kingsland and Stoke Newington, who whipped Duncalf so severely, that he must have yielded, had not Cooper struck the gentleman to the ground. They then robbed him of above seventeen pounds, and tying his hands behind him, threw him over a hedge, in which situation he remained till some milkmen relieved him on the following morning.

Meeting a man between Knightsbridge and Brompton, who had a shoulder of veal with him, they demanded his money; instead of delivering which, the man knocked Cooper down three times with his veal: but the villains getting the advantage, robbed the man of his hat and meat, but could find no money in his possession.

Cooper being incensed against the person who had first arrested him, who was Mrs. Pearson of Hill-farm, in Essex, determined to rob her; on which he and his accomplices went to the place, and, learning that she was on a visit, waited till her return at night, when they stopped her and her servant, and robbed them of eight guineas.

On the following day, Mrs. Pearson went to a magistrate, and charged a person named Loader with having committed this robbery; but it appearing that this man was a prisoner for debt at the time, the charge necessarily fell to the ground.

Cooper and his associates meeting a farmer named Jackson in a lane near Croydon, he violently opposed them; on which they knocked him down, and dragged him into a field, and after robbing him of his watch and money, tied him to a tree, and turned his horse loose on a common.

For this robbery, two farriers, named Shelton and Kellet, were apprehended, and being tried at the next assizes for Surrey, the latter was acquitted, but the former was convicted on the positive oath of the person robbed, and suffered death.*

The three accomplices being out on the road near Dulwich met two gentlemen on horseback, one of whom got from them by the goodness of his horse, and the other attempted to do so, but was knocked down and robbed of his watch and money. In the interim, the party who had rode off (whose name was Saxby) fastened his horse

* We must here once more repeat, that prosecutors and witnesses cannot be too cautious in giving their evidence, or juries too careful what they believe. Many lives have been sacrificed to mistaken evidence.

to a gate, and came back to relieve his friend ; but the robbers first knocked him down, and then shot him.

Having stripped him of what money he had, they hastened towards London ; but a suspicion arising that Duncalf was concerned in this robbery and murder, he was taken into custody on the following day, and Cooper being taken up on his information, Burrell surrendered, and was admitted an evidence for the crown.

William Duncalf was a native of Ireland, and had received a decent education. He was apprenticed to a miller, who would not keep him on account of his knavish disposition ; and, being unable to procure employment in Ireland, he came to London, where he officiated as a porter on the quays.

Extravagant in his expenses, and abandoned in principle, he commenced smuggler ; but being taken into custody by the custom-house officers, he gave information against some other smugglers ; by which he procured his discharge, and was made a custom-house officer.

Variety of complaints respecting the neglect of his duty being preferred to the commissioners of the customs, he was dismissed, and once more commenced smuggler. Among his other offences, he alleged a crime against a custom-house officer, who was transported in consequence of Duncalf's being perjured.

We have already recounted many of his notorious crimes in conjunction with his accomplices above-mentioned ; but he did not live to suffer the punishment that he merited, for he had not been long in prison before the flesh rotted from his bones, and he died a dreadful monument of the divine vengeance, though not before he had acknowledged the number and enormity of his crimes.

Cooper frequently expressed himself in terms of regret, that a villain so abandoned as Burrell should escape the hands of justice. In other respects his behaviour was very resigned, and becoming his unhappy situation. He acknowledged that he had frequently deliberated with Burrell on the intended murder of Duncalf, lest he should become an evidence against them ; but he now

professed his happiness that this murder had not been added to the black catalogue of his crimes.

When brought to trial he pleaded guilty, and confessed all the circumstances of the murder; and, after sentence was passed against him, appeared to be a sincere penitent for the errors of his past life.

Being visited by a clergyman and his son, who had known him in his better days, he was questioned respecting the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, which he denied; but he had no sooner done so, than he was seized with the utmost remorse of mind, which the gaoler attributed to the dread of being hung in chains; and, questioning him on this subject, he said that he was indifferent about the disposal of his body, but wished to communicate something to the clergyman who attended him; and, when he had an opportunity, confessed that his uneasiness arose from the consciousness of having denied the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, of which he was really guilty.

WILLIAM SMITH,

[A Captain's Clerk in the Royal Navy, Forger of Seamen's Tickets.]

Executed at Tyburn, October 3, 1750.

WHEN we hear of crimes being committed by uneducated men, we are led to make some allowance for their ignorance; but when men of liberal education descend to such vile practices, they have not that excuse, and are therefore the more criminal.

The father of this unfortunate man was a pious clergyman, and rector of Kilmore in Ireland, who himself gave his graceless son a tolerable idea of the learned languages at home, sent him to Trinity College, Dublin, to finish his education; and then placed him with an attorney of eminence.

His father dying before the expiration of his clerkship,

he abandoned himself so much to his pleasures, that he was induced to commit a forgery on his master ; in consequence of which he received a considerable sum ; but, being afraid of detection, he resolved to quit his native country.

Hereupon he entered as captain's clerk on board a man of war, and behaved with propriety till about the time that the ship was paid off, when he took to the dangerous practice of forging seamen's tickets ; for the captain employing him to make out tickets for the men, he made several of them payable to himself, and disposed of them for above a hundred pounds ; he likewise secreted about a hundred pounds more, which were due for wages to the seamen, and stole a sum of money belonging to the surgeon's mate.

Having arrived at London, he took the name of Dawson, and served some time as Clerk to an attorney ; but his employer going into the country, and Smith knowing that he had capital connexions in Ireland, he forged a letter in his name, on a merchant in Dublin for 130*l.* which he carried himself, and received the sum demanded, partly in cash, and partly in bank-notes ; after which he took his passage to England, and received the amount of the notes in London.

As it was now dangerous for him to appear in the capital, he strolled about the country till he was almost reduced to poverty, when he again went to Ireland, where he forged an order for the payment of 174*l.* 19*s.* which he received, and brought to England, though a King's-bench warrant was issued for his apprehension in Ireland, where he was likewise indicted.

Assuming a false name, he secreted himself more than half a year in England, when he was met by a gentleman who knew him ; who, remarking the meanness of his appearance, seemed surprized that, with his abilities, he should be destitute of the conveniences of life.

Smith told a deplorable tale of poverty ; said that he was in a bad state of health, and unable to visit his friends in his present situation : on which the gentleman clothed him decently, gave him money, and recommended

him to a physician, whose skill restored him to health in a short time.

Thus reinstated for the present in fortune and constitution, he no longer visited his benefactors, and was soon reduced to his former state of distress.

His friend again meeting him in the usual wretched plight, asked him the occasion of it; on which he said, that, being indebted for lodging, he was obliged to sell his clothes; and that he did not call to thank the physician, because his appearance was so exceedingly abject.

Hereupon his friend once more supplied him with clothes; on which he went to see the physician, who desired him to repose himself awhile, and conversed with him in the most sociable way. Smith arising, as if to depart, presented a pistol to the doctor's face, and threatened his destruction if he did not instantly give him five guineas; but the other, with great indifference, told him that he was an old man, and not afraid of death; that he might act as he thought proper; but that if he perpetrated his design, the report of the pistol would be infallibly heard by his servants, and that the consequence would prove fatal to himself.

Having said this, the gentleman refused to deliver the money demanded; on which Smith was so terrified, that he dropped on his knees, wept with apparent concern for his offence, and begged pardon with such appearance of sincerity that the physician's humanity was excited, and he gave him three guineas, with his best advice for the reformation of his conduct.

Not long after this, Smith casually met an acquaintance named Weeks, who stopped at a shop to receive 45*l.* for a bill of exchange, but was paid only 10*l.* in part, and desired to call for the rest on a future day. Smith having witnessed what passed, forged Mr. Weeks' name to a receipt for the remaining 35*l.* which he received, and embarked for Holland before the villany was discovered.

The next offence which he committed, or rather intended to commit, afforded the immediate occasion of his being brought to justice. He went to the seat of

sir Edward Walpole, near Windsor, and having asked to see him, told him he had a bond from sir Edward to a person named Paterson, who being in distressed circumstances, he (Smith) was commissioned to deliver the bond on a trifling consideration ; but sir Edward, knowing that no such bond subsisted, seized the villain, and committed him to the care of his servants, who conducted him before a magistrate, by whom he was committed to prison at Reading.

He was examined by different justices of the peace on four successive days ; but all that he confessed was, that he was born at Andover. This, however, could not be credited, as the tone of his voice testified that he was a native of Ireland ; on which he was committed to the gaol at Reading, for farther examination.

Smith's transactions having rendered him the subject of public conversation, a suspicion arose that he (though then unknown) was the party who had defrauded Mr. Weeks ; on which notice of the affair was sent to London, and Mr. Weeks went to see him, and knew him to be the person who had forged the receipt in his name.

He was then removed to Newgate, and the next sessions at the Old Bailey was capitally convicted : the jury recommended him to mercy ; but as his character was notorious, and there were other indictments against him, it could not be obtained.

From the time of his commitment, he behaved in the most penitent manner, expressing the utmost compunction for the crimes of which he had been guilty, and prepared for death with every sign of unfeigned repentance ; though, for some time, he reflected on the Honorable Edward Walpole, as the author of his destruction, by an interception of the royal mercy ; but being assured that Sir Edward had not interposed to injure him, he took the whole blame of his misfortunes on himself.

He was so reduced in circumstances before the day of execution, and so utterly destitute of friends to procure him a decent interment, that he was induced to insert the following advertisement in the news-papers :

“ In vain has mercy been entreated ; the vengeance

of heaven has overtaken me ; I bow myself unrepining to the fatal stroke. Thanks to my all-gracious Creator ; thanks to my most merciful Saviour, I go to launch into the unfathomable gulph of eternity !

“ Oh ! my poor soul ! How strongly dost thou hope for the completion of eternal felicity ! Almighty Jehovah, I am all resignation to thy blessed will. Immaculate Jesus ! Oh send some ministering angel to conduct me to the bright regions of celestial happiness.

“ As to my corporeal frame, it is unworthy of material notice ; but for the sake of that reputable family from whom I am descended, I cannot refrain from anxiety, when I think how easily this poor body, in my friendless and necessitous condition, may fall into the possession of the surgeons, and perpetuate my disgrace beyond the severity of the law. So great an impoverishment has my long confinement brought upon me, that I have not a shilling left for subsistence, much less for the procuring the decency of an interment.

“ Therefore, I do most fervently intreat the generosity of the humane and charitably compassionate, to afford me such a contribution as may be sufficient to protect my dead body from indecency, and to give me the consolation of being assured, that my poor ashes shall be decently deposited within the limits of consecrated ground.

“ The deprivation of life is a sufficient punishment for my crimes, even in the rigorous eye of offended justice ; after death has permitted my remains to pass without further ignominy ; then why should inhumanity lay her butchering hands on an inoffensive carcase ? Ah ! rather give me the satisfaction of thinking I shall return to my parent dust, within the confines of a grave.

“ Those who compassionate my deplorable situation, are desired to send their humane contributions to Mrs. Browning's, next door to the Golden Acorn, in Little Wild Street ; and that heaven may reward their charitable disposition, is the dying prayer of the lost and unhappy

WILLIAM SMITH.”

This address, so calculated to impress every feeling

heart, produced the desired effect, and subscriptions were raised for his decent interment.

When brought into the press-yard, and bound with a halter, he dropped upon his knees, prayed very devoutly, and acknowledging his crimes, said, he died in charity with all mankind, and hoped for forgiveness at the Great Tribunal.

JAMES MACLANE,

[Called the gentleman Highwayman,]

Executed at Tyburn, October 3, 1750, for Highway Robbery.

THOUGH this man had committed many crimes without detection, for which the law, would have sentenced him to die ; yet his penitence, added to the distress of his worthy brother, must excite the compassion of the humane. Folly first induced him to be extravagant, and with a naturally good disposition, he plunged himself into ruin, and a countryman, hardened in wickedness, whom he casually met in London, worked upon his reluctant mind, to follow the villainous pursuits of a highwayman ; in which, however, it does not appear, that he committed the still greater crime of murder.

The unfortunate subject of this memoir was descended from a reputable family in the north of Scotland²; but his father, after being liberally educated in the university of Glasgow, went to settle at Monaghan, in the north of Ireland, as preacher to a congregation of dissenters in that place, where he married, and had two sons, the elder of whom was bred to the church, and preached many years to the English congregation at the Hague, and was equally remarkable for his learning and the goodness of his heart. The younger son was the unfortunate subject of this narrative.

The father dying when James was about eighteen, and

the effects falling into his hands, the whole produce was wasted in extravagance before he was twenty years of age. In this dilemma, he applied for relief to his mother's relations, with a view to fit him out for the naval service; but as they refused to assist him, he entered into the service of a gentleman named Howard, with whom he came to London.

It was not long after his arrival in the metropolis, before he abandoned his service, and going to Ireland, he again solicited the assistance of his mother's relations, who were either unwilling or unable to afford him relief.

Hereupon he abandoned all thoughts of applying to them for support; but this was for some time liberally afforded him by his brother at the Hague, till his expenses began to be too considerable for a continued support from that quarter; for his brother's whole income would not have been sufficient to maintain him as a gentleman.

Hereupon Maclane found it necessary to procure some employment; and making an interest with a military gentleman who had known his father, he recommended him to a colonel who had a country seat near Cork. This gentleman engaged him as a butler; and he continued a considerable time in his service, till he secreted some goods and was dismissed with disgrace, and rendered unable to procure another place in that part of the kingdom.

Being reduced to circumstances of distress, he conceived an idea of entering into an Irish brigade, in the service of France, and communicated his intention to a gentleman, who advised him to decline all thoughts of such a procedure, as he could have no prospect of rising in his profession, unless he changed his religion: a circumstance that he would not consent to, for he still retained some sense of the pious education he had received.

The colonel above-mentioned had dismissed him his service; but, fearing that his desperate circumstances might induce him to further acts of dishonesty, he entrusted him with the care of his baggage to London; and, Maclane wishing to enter as a private man in lord

Albemarle's troop of horse-guards, solicited the colonel to advance him the necessary sum to procure his admission.

The colonel seemed willing to favour his scheme ; but thinking it dangerous to trust the money in his hands, he committed it to the care of an officer belonging to the troop, which was then in Flanders. Every thing was prepared, and his credentials were ready for his joining the troop, when he suddenly declined all thoughts of entering into the army.

Maclane was exceedingly fond of dress, as an introduction to the company of women ; and having received about fifty pounds from some females of more good-nature than sense, under pretence of fitting himself out for a West-India voyage, he expended the greater part of it in elegant clothes, and commenced a professed fortune-hunter.

At length he married the daughter of Mr. Maclegno, a horse-dealer, with whom he received five hundred pounds, with which he commenced the business of a grocer, in Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, and supported his family with some degree of credit, till the expiration of three years, when his wife died, bequeathing two infant daughters to the care of her parents, who kindly undertook to provide for them ; and who were both living at the time of their father's ignominious death.

Hitherto Maclane's character, among his neighbours, was unimpeached ; but soon after the death of his wife, he sold off his stock in trade and furniture, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman, in the hope of engaging the attention of some lady of fortune, to which he thought himself entitled by the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance.

At the end of about six months he had expended all his money and became greatly dejected in mind from reflecting on that change of fortune which would probably reduce him to his former state of servitude. While in this state of dejection, an Irish apothecary, named Plunket, visited him, and enquired into the cause of his despondency. Maclane acknowledged the exhausted state of

his finances ; candidly confessed, that he had no money left, nor knew any way of raising a shilling but by the disposal of his wearing apparel ; in answer to which Plunket addressed him as follows :

“ I thought that Maclane had spirit and resolution, with some knowledge of the world. A brave man cannot want ; he has a right to live, and not want the conveniences of life, while the dull, plodding, busy knaves carry cash in their pockets. We must draw upon them to supply our wants ; there needs only impudence, and getting the better of a few idle scruples ; there is scarce any courage necessary. All whom we have to deal with are mere poltroons.”

These arguments, equally ill-founded and ridiculous, co-operated so forcibly with the poverty of Maclane, that he entered into conversation with Plunket on the subject of going on the highway ; and at length they entered into a solemn agreement, to abide by each other in all adventures, and to share the profit of their depredations to the last shilling, nor does it appear that either of them defrauded the other.

Maclane, though he had consented to commit depredations on the public, yet was so impressed by that remorse of conscience which will never quit a mind not wholly abandoned, even when engaged in unlawful actions ; that in his first, and most subsequent attempts, he discovered evident signs of want of that false bravery which villains would call courage.

The first robbery these men committed in conjunction, was on Hounslow Heath, where they stopped a grazier, on his return from Smithfield, and took from him about sixty pounds.

This money being soon spent in extravagance, they were induced to take a ride on the St. Alban's road, and seeing a stage-coach coming forward, they agreed to ride up on the opposite sides of the carriage. Maclane's fears induced him to hesitate ; and when at length Plunkett ordered the driver to stop, it was with the utmost trepidation that the other demanded the money of the passengers.

On their return to London at night, Plunkett censured him as a coward, and told him that he was unfit for his business. This had such an effect on him, that he soon afterwards went out alone, and unknown to Plunkett, and having robbed a gentleman of a large sum, he returned and shared it with his companion.

A short time only had elapsed after this expedition, when he stopped and robbed the Honourable Horace Walpole, and his pistol accidentally went off during the attack. For some time did he continue this irregular mode of life, during which he paid two guineas a week for his lodgings, and lived in a style of elegance, which he accounted for by asserting that he had an estate in Ireland which produced seven hundred pounds a year.

During this time his children were in the care of his mother-in-law, whom he seldom visited; and when he did, would not sit down, nor stay long enough for her to give him such advice as might have proved useful to him.

On a particular occasion he narrowly escaped the hands of justice, which terrified him so much, that he went to Holland, on a visit to his brother, who received him with every mark of fraternal affection, and though unsuspicious of the mode in which he lived, yet having but too much reason to fear that he was of a dissipated turn of mind, gave him the best advice for the regulation of his future conduct.

Having remained in Holland till he presumed his transactions in this country were in some measure forgotten, he returned to England, renewed his depredations on the public, and lived in a style of the utmost elegance. He frequented all the public-places, was well known at the gaming-houses, and was not unfrequent in his visits to ladies of easy virtue.

The speciousness of his behaviour, the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance, combined to make him a welcome visitor, even at the houses of women of character; and he had so far ingratiated himself into the affections of a young lady, that her ruin would probably have been the consequence of their con-

nection, had not a gentleman, casually hearing of this affair, and knowing Maclane to be a sharper, interposed his timely advice, and saved her from destruction.

After this the visits of the highwayman were forbidden; a circumstance that chagrined him so much, that he sent a challenge to the gentleman; but it was treated with that degree of contempt which all challenges deserve. Our hero, still more vexed by this circumstance, went to several coffee-houses and saying that this gentleman had refused to meet him, abused him in the most opprobrious terms; but those who knew the story, said, it was no proof of cowardice for a man of honour to refuse to meet a person of abandoned character.

Encouraged by his repeated successes, Maclane was thrown off his guard, his usual caution forsook him, and he became every day more free to commit robbery, and less apprehensive of detection; for he imagined that Plunkett's turning evidence could alone affect him; and he had no doubt of the fidelity of his accomplice.

On the 26th of June, 1750, Plunkett and Maclane riding out together, met the earl of Eglinton in a post-chaise, beyond Hounslow, when Maclane advancing to the post-boy, commanded him to stop, but placed himself in a direct line before the driver, lest his lordship should shoot him with a blunderbuss, with which he always travelled; for he was certain that he would not fire so as to endanger the life of the post-boy. In the interim, Plunkett forced a pistol through the glass at the back of the chaise, and threatened instant destruction unless his lordship threw away the blunderbuss.

The danger of his situation rendered compliance necessary, and his lordship was robbed of his money and a surtout coat. After the carriage drove forward, Maclane took up the coat and blunderbuss, both of which were found in his lodgings when he was apprehended; but when he was afterwards tried for the offence which cost him his life, lord Eglinton did not appear against him.

On the day of the robbery above-mentioned Maclane and Plunkett stopped the Salisbury stage, and took two portmanteaus, which, with the booty they had already

obtained, was conveyed to Maclane's lodgings in Pall-Mall, where the plunder was shared.

Immediate notice of this robbery was given in the news-papers, and the articles stolen were described; yet Maclane was so much off his guard, that he stripped the lace from a waistcoat, the property of one of the gentlemen who had been robbed, and happened to carry it for sale to the very laceman of whom it had been purchased.

He also went to a salesman in Monmouth Street, named Loader, who attended him to his lodgings, but had no sooner seen what clothes he had to sell, than he knew them to be those which had been advertised; and pretending that he had not money enough to purchase them, said he would go home for more; instead of which he procured a constable, apprehended Maclane, and took him before a magistrate.

Many persons of rank, of both sexes, attended his examination; several of whom were so affected with his situation, that they contributed liberally towards his present support.

Being committed to the Gate-house, he requested a second examination before the magistrate, when he confessed all that was alleged against him; and his confession was taken in writing.

On this he was committed to the prison above-mentioned, and during his confinement a gentleman wrote to his brother at the Hague, a narrative of his unhappy case, which produced the following answer:

"SIR, *Utrecht, Aug. 16, N. S. 1750.*

"I received your melancholy letter; but the dismal news it contained had reached me before it arrived, as I have been happily absent from the Hague some time.

"I never thought that any belonging to me would have loaded me with such heart-breaking affliction, as the infamous crimes of him, whom I will call brother no more, have brought upon me. How often, and how solemnly, have I admonished him of the miserable consequences, of an idle life; and, alas! to no purpose!

However that be, I have made all the interest possible for his life, filled with shame and confusion, that I have been obliged to make demands so contrary to justice, and hardly knowing with what face to do it, in the character I bear as a minister of truth and righteousness.

“ It is the interest of some friends I have made here, that can alone save his life : they have lost no time in applying, and I hope their endeavours will be successful ; but I still hope more, that if Providence should order events, so that he may escape the utmost rigour of the law, and has his life prolonged which he deserves not to enjoy any longer ; I hope, or rather wish, that in such a case he may have a proper sense and feeling of his enormous crimes, which lay an ample foundation for drawing out the wretched remainder of his days in sorrow and repentance. With respect to me, it would give me consolation, if I could hope that this would be the issue of his trial ; it would comfort me on his account, as he is a man ; for I will never acknowledge him in any nearer relation, and because, except such good offices as former ties and present humanity demands from me in his behalf, I am determined never to have any further correspondence with him, during this mortal life.

“ I have given orders to look towards his subsistence, and what is necessary for it.

“ I am obliged to you, sir, for your attention in communicating to me, this dismal news, and shall willingly embrace any opportunity of shewing myself,

“ Sir,

“ Your most obedient, &c.”

“ P.S.—If you see this my unhappy brother, let him know my compassion for his misery, as well as my indignation against his crimes ; and also, that I shall omit nothing in my power to have his sufferings mitigated. He has, I fear, broke my heart, and will make me draw on the rest of my days in sorrow.”

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, Maclane was indicted, and pleaded “ Not guilty ;” and made the following able defence :

“ My Lord,

“ Your lordship will not construe it vanity in me, at this time, to say, that I am the son of a divine of the kingdom of Ireland, well known for his zeal and affection to the present royal family and happy government; who bestowed an education upon me, becoming his character, of which I have in my hand a certificate from a lord, four members of parliament, and several justices for the county where I was born and received my education.

“ About the beginning of the late French war, my lord, I came to London with a design to enter into the military service of my king and country; but unexpected disappointments obliged me to change my resolution; and having married the daughter of a reputable tradesman, to her fortune I added what little I had of my own, and entered into trade in the grocery way, and continued therein till my wife died. I very quickly after her death found a decay in trade, arising from an unavoidable trust reposed in servants; and, fearing the consequence I sold off my stock, and in the first place, honestly discharged my debts, purposing to apply the residue of my fortune in the purchase of some military employment, agreeable to my first design.

“ During my application to trade, my lord, I unhappily became acquainted with one Plunkett, an apothecary, who by his account of himself, induced me to believe, he had travelled abroad, and was possessed of clothes and other things suitable thereto, and prevailed on me to employ him in attending on my family, and to lend him money to the amount of one hundred pounds and upwards.

“ When I left off trade, I pressed Plunkett for payment, and after receiving, by degrees, several sums, he proposed, on my earnestly insisting that I must call in all debts owing to me, to pay me, part in goods and part in money.

“ These very clothes with which I am charged, my lord, he brought to me to make sale of, towards payment of my debt, and accordingly, my lord, I did sell them,

very unfortunately, as it now appears; little thinking they were come by in the manner Mr. Higden hath been pleased to express, whose word and honour are too well known to doubt the truth.

“My lord, as the contracting this debt between Plunkett and myself was a matter of private nature, so was the payment of it; and therefore, it is impossible for me to have the testimony of one single witness to these facts, which (as it is an unavoidable misfortune) I hope, and doubt not, my lord, that your lordship and the gentlemen of the jury will duly weigh.

“Is it probable, nay, is it possible, that if I had come by those clothes by dishonest means, I should be so imprudent as to bring a man to my lodgings, at noon-day, to buy them, and give my name and place of residence, and even write that name and place of residence myself in the salesman’s book? It seems to me, and I think must to every man; a madness that no one, with the least share of sense, could be capable of.

“My lord, in the course of Mr. Higden’s evidence, he hath declared, that he could not be positive either to my face or person, the defect of which I humbly presume, leaves a doubt of the certainty of my being one of the two persons.

“My lord, it is very true, when I was first apprehended the surprise confounded me, and gave me the most extraordinary shock; it caused a delirium and confusion in my brain, which rendered me incapable of being myself, or knowing what I said or did; I talked of robberies as another man would do in talking of stories; but, my lord, after my friends had visited me in the Gatehouse, and had given me some new spirits, and when I came to be re-examined before justice Lediard, and then asked, if I could make any discovery of the robbery, I then alleged I had recovered my surprise, that what I had talked of before concerning robberies was false and wrong, but it was entirely owing to a confused head and brain.

“This, my lord, being my unhappy fate; but, unhappy as it is, as your lordship is my judge and pre-

sumptive counsel, I submit it, whether there is any other evidence against me than circumstantial.

“ First, the selling of the lace and clothes, which I agree I did ; for which I account.

“ Secondly, the verbal confession of a confused brain ; for which I account.

“ All this evidence, I humbly apprehend, is but circumstantial evidence.

“ It might be said, my lord, that I ought to shew where I was at this time.

“ To which, my lord, I answer, that I never heard the time, nor the day of the month, that Mr. Higden was robbed ; and, my lord, it is impossible for me, at this juncture, to recollect where I was, and much more to bring any testimony of it.

“ My lord, in cases where the prisoner lies under these impossibilities of proof, it is hard, nay it is very hard, if presumption may not have some weight on the side of the prisoner. I humbly hope, and doubt not, that that doctrine will not escape your lordship’s memory to the jury.

“ My lord, I have lived in credit, and have had dealings with mankind, and therefore humbly beg leave, my lord, to call about a score to my character, or more, if your lordship pleases ; and then, my lord, if, in your lordship’s opinion, the evidence against me should be by law only circumstantial, and the character given of me by my witnesses should be so far satisfactory, as to have equal weight, I shall most willingly and readily submit to the jury’s verdict.”

Nine gentlemen being called gave him a very good character.

The jury brought him in guilty, without going out of court ; when he was called to receive sentence, he attempted to make an apology, but only said, “ My lord, I cannot speak ;” what he intended to offer was next day published, importing, that he hoped some circumstances might entitle him to so much mercy, as might remove him from being a disgrace to his family, and enable him to pass his days in penitence and obscurity.

Maclane having been educated as a dissenter, was attended, at his own request, by Dr. Allen, a reverend divine of the presbyterian persuasion.

The doctor, at his first visit, found this unhappy person under inexpressible agonies of mind, arising from a deep sense, not only of his misery, but of his guilt. He declared, that although most of those, with whom he had lately conversed, ridiculed all religion, yet the truths of Christianity had been so deeply rooted in his mind by a pious education, that he never entertained the least doubt about them, even while he was engaged in courses of the most flagitious wickedness, by which it became his interest to disbelieve them.

He declared also, that "neither death, nor the violence and infamy, with which, in his case, it would be attended, gave him the least uneasiness; but expressed the most dreadful apprehension of coming into the presence of the Almighty, whose laws he had known only to violate, and the motions of whose spirit he had felt only to suppress."

The doctor replied, that though these apprehensions were just, yet, if he could be sincerely penitent, he might through the merits and intercession of the blessed Jesus, be forgiven, but pressed him earnestly not to deceive himself, adding, "It is impossible for me to know your heart; and your present circumstances make it very difficult for you yourself to know it:" he then apprised him of the great difficulty of obtaining a rational hope, that a repentance is genuine, which had no beginning till guilt was overtaken by punishment, and the terrors of death were displayed before him. Maclane felt the force of this argument, but said, that if the utmost abhorrence of himself, for the enormities of his life, if the deepest sense of his ingratitude to God, and the violation of his conscience, which always reproached him: if indignation at himself, for the injuries which he had done to society, and the distresses which he had brought upon his relations, were marks of sincere penitence, he hoped, that indeed he was a penitent sinner; and that, although he had but little time to live, and therefore was unable to evince the

sincerity of his repentance, by many fruits of it, yet if he knew any thing of his heart, he had no desire of life, but as an opportunity of fulfilling the good resolutions, which the near view of death had produced. "What is life," said he, "with the loss of my good name? What, indeed, is life, with all its advantages? I profess to you, sir, that I have had more pleasure in one hour's conversation with you, than in all the gay vanities I have ever engaged in."

In one of these conversations the doctor took occasion to tell him, that the defence which he had made at his trial, was not a token of that sincerity of heart, which he had so solemnly professed: to this he answered, that what he had done on that occasion, was by the advice of an attorney; that he thought it a just defence in law; and that if it had preserved his life, it would have prevented the disgrace, which his death would bring upon his family, and would have afforded him an opportunity of making some reparation to society, by becoming a useful member of it, and of proving the sincerity of his repentance by his reformation.

Upon an enquiry if his father was really a minister in Ireland, he burst into a sudden flood of tears, and acknowledged it, expressing, in the most affecting manner, his regret for having acted in violation of the principles which had been early implanted in his mind, by a tender and pious parent; a circumstance which, he said, greatly aggravated his guilt.

But he often lamented, that he had not been brought up to some employment, which would have made industry necessary, instead of to writing and accounts, which, as a genteeler business, was chosen for him: and once he added, "O! Sir, I have often thought, in my necessities, before I had broken in upon my innocence, that had I had a mechanic trade in my hands, that would have employed my whole time, I should have been a happy man."

Dr. Allen told him it had been reported, that he lived upon very ill terms with his wife, and that his cruelty hastened her death: he absolutely denied it, and indeed

his wife's mother took leave of him with great tenderness, and uncommon ardour of affection. When he was asked, if he had any hope of respite, he answered, very little; and being told, that the great number of robberies committed by persons of genteel appearance, rendered it very improbable that he should be spared; he said he acquiesced, and desired his example might be pressed as a warning to young persons; adding, with great earnestness, "Glad should I be, if, as my life has been vile, my death might be useful."

He acknowledged, that his friends having once raised a little contribution to enable him to ship himself for Jamaica, he carried it to the gaming-table at the masquerade; where at first he had some success, and hoped to win enough to buy a little military post; but at length he lost his ALL, and having alienated his friends, by his abuse of their bounty, and disposed of whatever he could either pawn or sell, he, by the persuasion of Plunkett, took to the highway. With him, who was his only accomplice, he committed many robberies, but had always shuddered at the thought of murder, and was thankful to God, that he had not incurred the guilt of shedding innocent blood.

After the death warrant came down, no additional dejection or sadness appeared in his countenance, but rather a more steady and composed resignation. He asked Dr. Allen whether he should receive the sacrament, on the morning of the execution, with the other criminals? to which he readily consented, but said, that he hoped it was not necessary to warn him against considering it as a charm, or passport, which, he feared, was too frequently done by those who are grossly ignorant, or invincibly stupid.

A youth who had been condemned, but was afterwards ordered to be transported for life, chose to continue in the cell with Maclane; and as they had opportunity, they went among the other prisoners who were ordered for execution, to instruct them, pray with them, and assist them in their preparation for death. But Maclane was greatly shocked at the insensibility and profaneness

of some, and pitied the souls which were going into eternity in so hopeless a state.

These incidents the doctor improved as evidences of his sincerity. The day before his execution, in the presence of several gentlemen from Holland, he gave him a letter from his brother, at the sight of which he fell into an agony of grief, and said, "O! my dear brother! I have broke his heart!"—After some pause, as if in doubt, whether he should read it or not, he said, "I have been long educated to sorrow, and cutting as this letter will be to my heart, I must read it—beginning with the first words, "Unhappy brother," he cried out in great agony of mind, "unhappy indeed!" and then, endeavouring to compose himself, read the letter with emotions suitable to the solemnity of its contents, and desired to read it a second time. It was then proposed to the company present, to unite in a solemn prayer to God for him: they consented, and though strangers to the prisoner, the minister, and each other, there was not a dry eye among them. In the evening of the same day, he took his last farewell of Mr. H. a friend of his brother, and of Dr. Allen; "This," said he, "is the bitterness of death!" he eagerly embraced them both, dropped suddenly on his knees, and prayed to God to bless them for ever.

He spent all that night, with the youth who has been mentioned before, in his devotions. At going into the cart he was heard to say, "O! my God, I have forsaken thee! but I will trust in thee!" and all the accounts of his behaviour in his passage to the place of execution, and at it, concur in testifying that he went through the whole awful scene with manly firmness, joined with all the appearance of true devotion: and "I hope," says the doctor, "that he has found that mercy with God, which he so earnestly sought."

After this affecting account of a criminal overcome by remorse, and struggling with terror, in the expectation of a sudden, violent, and ignominious death, let us take a view of the prosperous robber, while he is enjoying or appearing to enjoy, that which he gains at such a dreadful hazard, and while he is mixing unsuspected in the

most gay and elevated circles of life, and we shall then see that virtue alone affords true happiness.

When he was in lodgings at Chelsea, and probably lived in external splendour, the agitation and disturbance of his mind was so great, that he was often observed to roll about the floor of his room in great agony.

When he was among ladies and gentlemen of rank and fortune, and even while he was engaged in the most splendid and captivating entertainments, the anguish of his mind was too strong to be suppressed, and his company would then ask, what it was that produced the melancholy and discontent which they perceived in his countenance.

In a good cause, no man had greater courage than Maclane, but in every scheme of villany he was a coward. The moment in which he entered on the highway, he totally lost his peace of mind, and became the slave of dreadful apprehensions and perpetual terror.

In these circumstances, could the gaiety of his appearance, or the favour of the great, the company of women, or the splendour of a masquerade, put him in possession of any thing equivalent to one hour of peace and safety? Let those answer whose love of pleasure is most predominant; their decision will be in favour of virtue: neither let the idle nor the voluptuous flatter themselves that they shall be able to procure the same gratifications without the same alloy.

The state of the mind in the contemplation of a crime, is very different from that which follows the commission; the sufferings of guilt cannot be realised by imagination, nor eluded in the experiment. Let those, therefore, who are yet innocent, make no approaches to the precipice from which this man fell, and let those whose crimes have not yet been detected, hasten from the brink.

Being arrived at Tyburn, he looked sadly up at the gallows, and with a heart-felt sigh exclaimed, "O Jesus!" He took no notice of the populace, all his attention being fixed upon his devotions, and spoke to no one, except the constable that first apprehended him, who desired to shake hands with him, and intreated his forgiveness; to

which the dying man giving his hand, replied, " I forgive you, and may God bless you and your friends ; may he forgive my enemies, and receive my soul."

JOHN CARR,

*Executed at Tyburn, November 16, 1750, for
Forgery.*

THE history of this man affords a curious example of the impositions which male and female fortune-hunters practise on each other. In this instance the man was outwitted and was still more unfortunate in his schemes of deception afterwards.

John Carr was a native of the north of Ireland. His parents were respectable, and his education was genteel. At sixteen years of age he was sent to reside with a kinsman in Dublin. When he grew to years of maturity, his kinsman put him into business, as a wine and brandy merchant, and he seemed to be in the road to success ; but his friend dying, he attached himself to bad company, neglected his business, lost his customers, and was soon greatly reduced in his circumstances.

A man of fortune, who was one of his abandoned associates, invited Carr to pass part of the summer at his seat in the country ; and having set out together they stopped at Kilkenny, where some passengers quitted a coach ; among whom was a young lady, whose elegant person and appearance impressed Carr with an idea that she was of rank, and inspired him with the first sentiments of love that he ever felt.

Throwing himself from his horse, he handed her into the inn ; and a proposal being made that the company should sup together, it was agreed to on all hands ; and while the supper was preparing, Carr applied himself to the coachman to learn the history of the young lady ; but all the information he could obtain was, that he had

up at Dublin, and that she was going to the Spa at Marlow.

Carr, being anxious to become better acquainted with the lady, prevailed on the company to repose themselves the next day at Kilkenny, and take a view of the duke of Ormond's seat, and the curiosities of the town. This proposal being acceded to, the evening was spent in the utmost harmony and good-humour : and the fair stranger, even then, conceived an idea of making a conquest of Mr. Carr, from whose appearance she judged that he was a man of distinction.

In the morning she dressed herself to great advantage, not forgetting the ornament of jewels, which she wore in abundance ; so that when she entered the room, Carr was astonished at her appearance. She found the influence she had over him, and resolved to afford him an early opportunity of speaking his sentiments ; and while the company was walking in the gallery of the duke of Ormond's palace this opportunity offered.

The lady affected displeasure at this explicit declaration ; but soon assuming a more affable deportment, she told him she was an English woman of rank ; that his person was not disagreeable to her, and that if he was a man of fortune, and the consent of her relations could be obtained, she should not be averse to listening to his addresses. She further said, that she was going to spend part of the summer at Marlow, where his company would be agreeable ; and he followed her to that place, contrary to the advice of his friend, who had formed a very unfavourable opinion of the lady's character.

Here he dissipated so much cash in company with this woman, that he was compelled to borrow of his friend, who remonstrated on the impropriety of the connection : but Carr still kept her company, and at the end of the season returned with her to Dublin.

Here the lovers agreed to sail for England : Carr sold some small estates, and borrowed all the money he possibly could, and then delivered the whole to his mistress.

Preparations were now made for the voyage, and Carr employed himself in procuring a passage to England ;

but in his absence the lady shipped all the effects on board a vessel bound for Amsterdam ; and having dressed herself in man's apparel, she embarked and sailed, leaving Carr to regret his ill-judged credulity.

On his return home, he discovered how he had been robbed, and was at first half distracted with his loss ; but, on cooler reflection, he thought it would be in vain to pursue the thief ; on which he sold the few trifles that remained of his property, which produced about a hundred pounds, with which he came to London, and soon spent the whole in debauchery and extravagance.

Thus reduced, he enlisted as a foot soldier, and served some years before he was discharged ; after which, he entered as a marine at Plymouth, whence he came to London, and opened a shop in Hog-lane, St. Giles's. He now married a girl who he thought had money, but soon discovering her poverty, he abandoned her, and removed to Short's-gardens, where he entered into partnership with a cork-cutter.

Having soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of the customers, he opened a shop on his own account, and soon got all the business from his late partner. This, however, proved of no service to him, for getting into bad company, he frequented the gaming-tables, and became the dupe of sharpers,

These villains, determined to possess themselves of all his money, offered to procure him a wife of fortune, though they knew he had a wife living ; and actually contrived to introduce him to a young lady of property ; and a marriage would probably have taken place, had not one of them, struck with remorse of conscience, developed the affair to her father, and frustrated the whole scheme ; and soon afterwards, Carr's companions quitted him, having reduced him to the last shilling.

Having been entrusted by a gentleman with a draught on the Bank for sixty pounds, he received the money, and spent it all in the lowest scenes of debauchery, and again entered as a marine.

There being something in his deportment superior to the vulgar, he was advanced to the rank of sergeant, in

which he behaved so well, that his officers treated him with singular regard.

The vessel in which he sailed taking a merchant-ship richly laden, and soon afterwards several smaller vessels, the prize-money amounted to a considerable sum ; which gave Carr an idea that very great advantages might be obtained by privateering. Hereupon he procured a discharge ; and entering on board a privateer, was made master at arms.

In a few days the privateer took two French ships, one of which they carried to Bristol, and the other into the harbour of Poole. Having refitted their ship, they sailed again, and in two days took a French privateer, and gave chase to three others, which they found to be English vessels belonging to Falmouth, which had been taken by a French privateer. These they retook, and carried them into Falmouth : and on their passage to that place, they made prize of a valuable French ship, the amount of which contributed to enrich the crew.

On their next trip, they saw a ship in full chase of them ; on which they prepared for a vigorous defence, and indeed it was necessary, for the vessels fought above forty minutes yard-arm and yard-arm. Many hands were lost by the French, who at length attempted to sheer off, but were taken, after a chase of some leagues.

The commander of the English privateer being desperately wounded in the engagement, died in a few days ; on which Carr courted his widow, and a marriage would have taken place, had she not been seized with a violent fever, which deprived her of life ; but not before she had bequeathed him all she was possessed of.

Having disposed of her effects, he repaired to London, where he commenced smuggler ; but his ill-gotten effects being seized by the officers of the revenue, he took to the more dangerous practice of forging seamen's wills, and gained money for some time ; but being apprehended, he was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, convicted, and sentenced to die.

He was of the Roman catholic persuasion, and died with decent resignation to his fate.

THOMAS REYNOLDS,

Executed at Tyburn, for enlisting Soldiers for the Service of the King of France.

THIS traitor was a Roman catholic, born and educated in Ireland. He was an excellent scholar, being master of the Latin and French languages. When a young man he went over to France, where he enlisted as a hussar. On the rebel expedition being fitted out there to invade Scotland, he served an officer, who was killed at the battle of Culloden, in the capacity of valet. After this he was taken at Carlisle, and from speaking French so very fluently, he was exchanged as a Frenchman.

Being a man of genteel address, he ingratiated himself so far into the good opinion of a rich widow, near Carlisle, as to persuade her to marry him; but he soon left her, taking away from her all he could lay his hands upon, and returned to France, where he got an appointment in the retinue of the ambassador from that country to the court of St. James's.

Having now some money, he determined on taking a public-house, his master having attended king George II. on his visit to Hanover, and left him behind. He then sent for his wife to attend the bar, while he put in practice a plan which he long had in contemplation of seducing our soldiers, and enlisting them for the service of France; and in this treasonable practice he was too long successful. His public-house was in St. Giles's, and frequented by lewd women, and men of abandoned morals.

Several soldiers of the guards frequented Reynolds's house, and having already sent off some to France, he began to practise his deceit upon one Carnes, a private soldier in the foot-guards. He persuaded him to take money for this service, and shewed him fourteen or fifteen suits of regimentals, belonging to soldiers whom he had already sent to France. He desired him to cut off his hair, wear a smock frock, and to avoid the large

towns, on his road to Dover, or pass through them in the night. As a guard over him, he sent one of the prostitutes, many of whom he had at his command, who was to see him shipped, and give him money. Thus he meant to evade the proof of his having enlisted him.

Arrived at Dover, Carnes went to the castle, and disclosed the treason to the fort major. The woman, finding this, fled back to London.

The insinuations which Reynolds used, to tempt the soldiers from their loyalty, was to represent the severe punishments in the English army, and the lenity in the French; that he had power to enlist for lord Ogilvie's regiment, one of the finest in the French army; where they would be treated like gentlemen. He gave them abundance of spirituous liquors and sent prostitutes to keep them company, until he found an opportunity of shipping them. He also contributed, at different times, to send to France English arms and ammunition; which were supposed to be for the purpose of another invasion and rebellion in Scotland.

The fort major detained Carnes, and sent information to the War Office. Before Reynold's could be apprised of this, he was seized, his house searched, and different regimental clothing found concealed. He was convicted of the treason, on the clearest evidence, and sentenced to be hanged.

He protested his innocence to the very last moment of his life; declared that he went to be hanged with as much satisfaction as if he were *again* going to be married.

GEORGE ANDERSON, *alias* JOHN EVERETT,

[A Pickpocket within the very Walls of Newgate.]

Executed at Tyburn, Dec. 21, 1750, for stealing Ribbons.

THIS man was a native of Hertford ; in which town he served his apprenticeship to a baker. The young men in the neighbourhood declined associating with him, and held him in universal abhorrence, so ungracious were his manners, and so strong was his propensity to wickedness.

Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship, he connected himself with a gang of notorious gamblers, and other dissolute wretches ; in conjunction with whom he perpetrated a great number of villanies, but for several years escaped the vengeance of the law.

By persuasions and the promise of a sum of money, Everett, and a man named Wrigg, induced a young woman to exhibit a charge of felony against two innocent men, who were put on their trial, but happily acquitted, as the perjured evidence was not able to authenticate her accusation. In revenge for their failing to supply the girl with the money they had promised, she lodged an information against Everett and Wright, who were in consequence indicted for subornation of perjury, and sentenced to stand on the pillory at the end of Chancery-lane, where they received very severe treatment from the populace.

Soon after the above punishment had been inflicted, Everett was tried at Hicks's-hall, and sentenced again to stand on the pillory, for having fraudulently obtained a thirty-six-shilling piece. He was afterwards convicted of having circulated counterfeit Portugal coin, and ordered to be imprisoned for two years in Newgate.

Soon after Everett's trial, a company of gentlemen went to Newgate to visit a criminal, and in a short time they discovered that they had been robbed of their hand-

kerchiefs. The circumstance being mentioned to Everett, he pretended to be so much surprised, and intimated that there was but little probability of the property being recovered. However, in a little time he produced the handkerchiefs, and received some money from the gentlemen, as a reward for his supposed honesty.

While he remained in Newgate, he picked the pocket of almost every person who came to visit the prisoners: he was continually uttering the most reprobate speeches, and seemed to delight in the practice of every species of wickedness. Upon the expiration of the time he was sentenced to remain in prison, he found sureties for his good behaviour for two years, and was discharged.

Having stopped a young gentleman in Fleet-street, he was asked if a robbery was intended? upon which he knocked the gentleman down; but a large dog belonging to the injured party immediately seized the villain, who with great difficulty disengaged himself just time enough to escape being secured by the watchman.

Everett and a woman of the town went to a small inn at Hoddesden in Hertfordshire, which was kept by an ancient widow, and being invited into a room behind the bar, after having each drank a glass of wine, the widow and her female guest went to walk in the garden: in the mean time Everett broke open a bureau, and stole sixty pounds in cash, and several gold rings. They kept the widow in conversation till the time of going to bed, in order to divert her from going to the bureau; and the next morning decamped with their booty.

They took the road to Nottingham, whence they crossed the country to Newmarket, and then returned to London. Everett's numerous villanies had rendered his name so notorious, that he was fearful of being apprehended; and therefore he went under the denomination of George Anderson, and lived in a very private manner till the money he had so wickedly obtained was expended.

He now procured a knife eighteen inches long, and determined to levy contributions on passengers on the highway. In the road between Kentish-town and Hampstead, he attempted to rob a countryman, who being of

an intrepid temper, a desperate contest ensued, in which Everett proved the conqueror, and dangerously wounded his antagonist, from whom, however, he obtained but a small booty.

At length he was detected in stealing a quantity of ribbons in a shop in London, and was apprehended, but not without making a vigorous resistance; in doing which he dangerously wounded the shop-keeper in the face and hands with a knife.

For this crime he was tried at the Old Bailey, convicted, and received sentence of death. The night after the warrant for his execution arrived, he laid a plan to escape. He was furnished with implements for this purpose, and for sawing off his fetters, by his wife and kept mistress, who, on this occasion, agreed; but being discovered, the former was sent to one of the comptors, and his concubine to the other. On this he became so insolent and outrageous, that it was necessary to chain him to the floor of his cell, where he remained blaspheming and threatening vengeance to the keeper and turnkeys, until he was brought out for execution.

A report being circulated that he meditated a design against the life of the gaoler, his cell was carefully searched, but no suspicious instruments were found.

Whether he really harboured the design of murdering the keeper, is a matter of doubt. He denounced vengeance against the man who gave the information, declaring, with horrid imprecations, that if he could procure a pistol, or any other offensive weapon, he would put him to death.

He joined in prayer with the ordinary of Newgate at the place of execution, but declined addressing the populace, and a little time before he was turned off, said he considered death as too severe a punishment for the crime he had committed.

JOHN CATHER, PATRICK KANE, AND
DANIEL ALEXANDER,

EXTORTIONERS.

Pillored, imprisoned, and kept to hard Labour.

THERE are a set of villains constantly prowling for plunder, in the metropolis and its environs, who extort money from men of property, under threats of accusing them with some heinous or abominable crime.

Oftentimes the gentleman thus singled out by these conspirators, though innocent, dreading even the breath of suspicion against his character, is terrified into consent to give them money ; and when once the devoted victim has thus yielded to their design, there is no end to the extortions, from time to time made upon him ; his whole fortune would not satisfy the rapacity of such rascals.

In the present case, the Hon. Edward Walpole became the mark of these extortioners. It appeared in evidence, on the trial of these men, that Mr. Walpole had been secretary to the duke of Devonshire, while his grace was lord lieutenant of Ireland, and on his return to London, being in want of a confidential servant, wrote to his friend lord Boyle to procure him one, who some time after sent to England, John Cather, the culprit above-named, who was the son of one of his lordship's Irish tenants ; but Mr. Walpole having in the mean time hired an English servant, with whom he was well satisfied, he declined taking him ; but told him to remain in his house until a place could be found for him.

Thus was Cather, when he committed the basest act of ingratitude, maintained like a gentleman, Mr. Walpole having, from time to time, even supplied him with pocket-money.

One day he was observed by one of Mr. Walpole's servants, in new gay clothes, which he put on and off with much privacy, and slipped in and out of the house, in a

way that shewed he did not wish to be seen in his new dress. This soon came to the knowledge of the master who, confident that he could not honestly come by the means of procuring such articles, suspected he had been plundered, and forbid him his house.

From this moment he meditated revenge ; and when the mind is prone to vice, we soon find an opportunity of putting it into practice. Cather, during the time he enjoyed Mr. Walpole's bounty, having no employ, formed acquaintance with bad characters ; and among which were a gang of his own countrymen, who supported their excesses by extorting money.

These villains laid their snare for Mr. Walpole, in which, however, they were caught themselves. He resisted their attempts, and caused them to be apprehended.

On the 5th of July, John Cather, Patrick Kane, Daniel Alexander, and ——— Dixon, were brought up to the King's-bench, charged with a conspiracy in swearing a disgraceful crime against the Hon. Edward Walpole. They were found guilty, after a trial which lasted several hours, and received the following sentence :

John Cather---to stand three times in and upon the pillory ; the first time at Charing-cross ; the second, in Fleet-street ; and the third, in Cornhill ; to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell bridewell, for the term of four years ; then to give security, himself in 40*l.* and two sureties in 20*l.* each, for his good behaviour for four years more.

Patrick Kane---to stand once upon the pillory, and to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell bridewell two years, then to give the like security for five years more.

Daniel Alexander, who was an attorney-at-law, and solicitor to the conspirators ! and who was the greatest villain of the gang, was sentenced to stand once upon the pillory, to be imprisoned three years in the King's-bench prison, to give security for good behaviour for three years more, himself in 200*l.* and two sureties in 100*l.* each and to be struck off the roll of attornies.

Dixon ran away from his merited fate.

The law, which confiscates a man's estate for stealing a

penny, and hangs him for thieving to the amount of a shilling, has hardly provided an adequate punishment for extortioners, conspirators, swindlers, perjurers, gamblers, and rogues of those descriptions.

To some men the pillory would be no punishment; and to stand with the head and hands fastened to a block of wood, for an hour, where no pain arises from the punishment, would be no terror to them, were not the honest populace, indignant at the law's not punishing more severely such diabolical villains, to supply the defect. This was amply done on the present villains; who were most severely pelted.

Dixon, another of this gang of extortioners, for a while eluded the search made after him; but being at length taken, he was brought to trial, and on the 4th of May, 1752, sentenced by the court of King's-bench, to be imprisoned two years, to find sureties for his good behaviour, and to stand once upon the pillory at Charing-cross, where the mob treated him with no less severity than they had already done his former associates in villany.

NORMAN ROSS,

A FOOTMAN,

Executed at Edinburgh, January 8, 1751, for murdering his Mistress.

THIS treacherous servant was descended from reputable parents at Inverness, in the north of Scotland, who gave him a good education, and intended that he should be brought up in a merchant's counting-house; but before he had completed his fifteenth year, his father and mother died, leaving Norman and several other children wholly unprovided for.

Norman made application for employment to several merchants; but though he was well qualified for business,

his proposals were rejected, because he could not raise the sum usually given upon entering into a merchant's service as an articulated clerk.

Thus situated, he engaged himself as a footman to a widow lady of fortune, who on account of having been acquainted with his parent, behaved to him with singular kindness. The lady had a son, who was then a military officer in Flanders; and the campaign there being concluded, the young gentleman returned to his native country, to visit his mother, and transact some business particularly relating to himself.

Observing Ross to possess many qualifications not usual to persons in his situation, he proposed taking him abroad in the capacity of valet-de-chambre; and the old lady acquiesced in her son's desire.

Ross continued in the officer's service for the space of about five years; during which period he behaved with the utmost diligence and fidelity. The regiment being broke, on the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-Chapelle, the officer set out on the tour of France and Italy, and Ross returned to Scotland for the benefit of his native air.

Soon after his return to Scotland, he recovered his health, and set out in order to pay his respects to his former mistress; but learning that she had been dead about three weeks, he repaired to Edinburgh, where he was hired as a footman by an attorney-at-law. Having contracted an intimacy with a number of livery servants, he was seduced by their example to the practices of swearing, gaming, drinking, and other vices; and he was dismissed from his service on account of his impudence and the irregularity of his conduct.

Ross now became footman to Mrs. Hume, a widow lady of great fortune and remarkable piety.

In the winter she resided at Edinburgh, and in the summer at a village called Ayton, about four miles from the town of Berwick-upon-Tweed. About four months after he had been hired by Mrs. Hume, the lady removed to her house at Ayton; and some time after, a female servant in the family, with whom he had maintained a

criminal intercourse, was brought to bed ; and it therefore became necessary for him to supply her with money for the support of herself and the infant.

He continued to provide her with the means of subsistence, from the month of April till August, by borrowing money of his fellow-servants and other persons with whom he was acquainted.

The woman at length becoming exceedingly importunate, and his resources being wholly exhausted, he was driven nearly to a state of distraction, and in that disposition of mind formed the fatal resolution of robbing his mistress.

Mrs. Hume slept on the first floor, in an apartment behind the dining-room, and being unapprehensive of danger, her bed-chamber door was seldom locked ; and with this circumstance Ross was well-acquainted, as well as that she usually put the keys of her bureau (and the other places where her valuable effects were deposited) under her pillow.

He determined to carry his execrable design into execution on a Sunday night ; and waiting in his bed-room, without undressing himself, till he judged the family to be asleep, he descended, and leaving his shoes in the passage, proceeded to his lady's bed-chamber. Endeavouring to get possession of the keys, the lady was disturbed, and being dreadfully alarmed, called for assistance ; but the rest of the family lying at a distant part of the house, her screams were not heard. Ross immediately seized a clasp-knife that lay on the table, and cut his mistress's throat in a most dreadful manner. This horrid act was no sooner perpetrated, than, without waiting to put on his shoes, or to secure either money or other effects, he leaped out of the window, and after travelling several miles, concealed himself in a field of corn.

In the morning, the gardener discovered a livery hat, which the murderer had dropped in descending from the window ; and suspecting that something extraordinary had happened, he alarmed his fellow-servants.

The disturbance in the house brought the two daughters

of Mrs. Hume down stairs; but no words can express the horror and consternation of the young ladies, upon beholding their indulgent parent weltering in her blood, and the fatal instrument of death lying on the floor.

Ross being absent, and his shoes and hat being found, it was concluded that he must have committed the barbarous deed; and the butler therefore mounted a horse, and alarmed the country, lest the murderous villain should escape. The butler was soon joined by great numbers of horsemen, and on the conclusion of the day, when both men and horses were nearly exhausted through excessive fatigue, the murderer was discovered in a field of standing corn. His hands being tied behind him, he was taken to an adjacent public-house, and on the following morning he was conducted before a magistrate of Edinburgh, who committed him to prison.

On the trial of this offender, he had the effrontery to declare, that his mistress usually admitted him to her bed, and that it was his constant practice to leave his shoes at the dining room door. He said, that upon entering the chamber, he perceived the lady murdered, and leaped through the window, in order to discover who had perpetrated the barbarous deed; adding, that having lost his hat, he did not chuse to return till evening; and therefore concealed himself among the corn. He was severely reprimanded by the court, for aggravating his guilt by aspersing the character of a woman of remarkable virtue and piety, whom he had cruelly deprived of life.

The law of Scotland bears an affinity to that of the Romans. It invests the judges with power to punish criminals in such manner as they may deem to be proportioned to their offences. This privilege was exercised in the case of Ross, whose crime having been attended with many aggravating circumstances, he was sentenced to have his right hand chopped off, then to be hanged till dead, the body to be hung in chains, and the right hand to be affixed at the top of the gibbet, with the knife made use of in the commission of the murder.

Upon receiving sentence of death, he began seriously

to reflect on his miserable situation, and the next day requested the attendance of Mr. James Craig, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, to whom he confessed his guilt ; declaring that there was no foundation for his reflections against the chastity of the deceased.

Six weeks elapsed between the time of his trial and that of his execution, during which he was visited once every day by Mr. Craig. He shewed every sign of the most sincere penitence, and refused to accompany two prisoners who broke out of gaol, saying he had no desire to recover his liberty, but on the contrary would cheerfully submit to the utmost severity of punishment, that he might make some atonement for his wickedness.

The day appointed for putting the sentence of the law into force being arrived, Ross walked to the place of execution, holding Mr. Craig by the arm. Having addressed a pathetic speech to the populace, and prayed some time with great fervency of devotion, the rope was put round his neck, and the other end of it being thrown over the gallows, it was taken hold of by four chimney-sweepers.* The criminal now laid his right hand upon a block, and it was struck off by the executioner at two blows ; immediately after which the chimney-sweepers, by pulling the rope, raised him from the ground ; when he felt the rope drawing tight, by a convulsive motion, he struck the bloody wrist against his cheek, which gave him an appearance too ghastly to admit of description. The body was bound in chains, and hung upon a gibbet, the hand being placed over the head with the knife stuck through it.

* The chimney-sweepers of Edinburgh are obliged to assist the executioner whenever they are required.

RICHARD BUTLER,

Executed at Tyburn, Feb. 10, 1751, for Forgery.

RICHARD Butler was one of those unhappy men who, after having lived with credit, have been seduced into idleness and gaming and then into dishonesty till they have ended their life at the gallows. He was born at Thurles, in the county of Tipperary, in Ireland. His father was a reputable farmer, who bound him apprentice to a baker, in Waterford. He proved so faithful and diligent a servant, that he was held in universal esteem; and, upon the expiration of his apprenticeship, his father gave him a hundred pounds, for the purpose of establishing him in business.

The above sum enabled him to open a shop in Waterford, where he had a favourable prospect of success; but, instead of attending to his business, he frequented horse-races, cock-fighting, and other gambling meetings, and engaged in a variety of expenses greatly beyond what his income could afford; the consequence of which was, that in about six months his affairs were in a most embarrassed situation.

Being unable to continue his business, he returned to Thurles, where he formed a great number of infamous stratagems for extorting money from his relations; but they threatened, that unless he quitted that part of the country, they would cause him to be apprehended, and proceed against him with the utmost rigour of the law.

Butler applied to a clergyman at Thurles, representing his case in a plausible manner, and supplicating that he would use his interest with his father to prevail upon him to grant twenty pounds in addition to his former favours. The worthy divine pleaded in behalf of the young man, and with the desired success. Upon delivering the money, the reverend gentleman exhorted him to apply it to a proper use; which he promised to do, adding that he would immediately depart for Cork, and not return to the place of his nativity till, by an unremitting perso

verance in a system of integrity, he had made atonement for all the errors of his past conduct.

On his arrival at Cork, he procured employment as a journeyman; and in that capacity he was so industrious and strictly economical, that in a short time he made such addition to his stock, that he was able to open a shop on his own account. He was much encouraged, and his circumstances were supposed to be more flourishing than they were in reality.

Coming into possession of a handsome sum of money, by marrying the widow of a custom-house officer, who lived in the neighbourhood, Butler took a tavern of considerable business, where his circumstances would have been much improved, but for his connections with maritime people, to whom he gave unlimited credit, and was under the necessity of taking smuggled goods in payment or losing his money.

An information being laid against him for having smuggled goods in his possession, his effects were seized for the use of the crown, and he was under the necessity of quitting Ireland.

Butler and his wife took shipping for Plymouth, and in that town they hired a house, which they let in lodgings to sea-faring people. In about three years he was obliged to quit Plymouth, and repaired to the metropolis, in a very distressed condition.

He had not been long in London, before the grief consequent on the various scenes of distress she had passed through, produced the death of his wife.

Butler being now in very distressed circumstances, he communicated his case to some of his countrymen; and he yielded to their persuasions for acquiring a livelihood by forging seamen's wills.

Butler, Horne, and a woman named Catherine Gannon, went to the Navy-office to enquire what wages were due to Thomas Williamson, a foremast-man belonging to the *Namur*, and learnt that the sum was about eight and thirty pounds. They then made application to a proctor, the woman producing a forged will, and declaring herself to be the widow of Williamson. They were

desired to call the next day, when a probate would be granted.

Butler and his female accomplice attended according to the appointment; but the proctor having, in the mean time, searched the offices, found that the will in question was opposed by four caveats; and having further reason to suspect an intended fraud, he caused them to be apprehended. Being taken before the lord-mayor, Gannon acknowledged that she had received a few shillings from Butler and Horne, who had promised to make the sum up five pounds on condition of her swearing herself to be the widow of Thomas Williamson. Butler was committed to Newgate; and Gannon and Horne were admitted evidences for the crown.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, Butler was tried, and sentenced to die. While under sentence of death he regularly attended prayers in the chapel, and employed a great part of his time in private devotions, agreeable to the doctrines of the protestant faith. At the place of execution he prayed with great fervency of zeal, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and, after addressing the populace, was turned off.

WILLIAM PARSONS, Esq.

[Eldest Son and Heir to Sir William Parsons, Bart. of the County of Nottingham.]

Executed at Tyburn, February 11, 1751, for returning from Transportation.

THE unhappy subject of this narrative was born in London, in the year 1717. He was placed under the care of a pious and learned divine at Pepper-harrow, in Surrey where he received the first rudiments of education. In a little more than three years, he was removed to Eton college, where it was intended that he should qualify himself for one of the universities.

While he was a scholar at Eton, he was detected in

stealing a volume of Pope's Homer in the shop of a bookseller named Pote. Being charged with the fact, he confessed that he had stolen many other books at different times. The case being represented to the master, Parsons underwent a very severe discipline.

Though he remained at Eton nine years, his progress in learning was very inconsiderable. The youth was of so unpromising a disposition, that sir William determined to send him to sea, as the most probable means to prevent his destruction, and soon procured him the appointment of midshipman on board a man of war, then lying at Spithead, under sailing orders for Jamaica, there to be stationed for three years.

Some accident detaining the ship beyond the time when it was expected she would sail, Parsons applied for leave of absence, and went on shore; but having no intention to return, he immediately directed his course towards a small town about ten miles from Portsmouth, called Bishop's Waltham, where he soon ingratiated himself into the favour of the principal inhabitants.

His figure being pleasing, and his manner of address easy and polite, he found but little difficulty in recommending himself to the ladies.

He became greatly enamoured of a beautiful and accomplished young lady, the daughter of a physician of considerable practice, and prevailed upon her to promise she would yield her hand in marriage.

News of the intended marriage coming to the knowledge of his father sir William, and his uncle, the latter hastened to Waltham to prevent a union which he apprehended would inevitably produce the ruin of the contracting parties.

With much difficulty the uncle prevailed upon Parsons to return to the ship, which in a few days afterwards proceeded on her voyage.

The ship had not been long arrived at the place of destination, when Parsons resolved to desert, and return to England, and soon found an opportunity of shipping himself on board the Sheerness man of war, then preparing to sail on her return home.

Immediately after his arrival in England, he set out for Waltham, in order to visit the object of his desires; but his uncle being apprised of his motions, repaired to the same place, and represented his character in so unfavourable, but at the same time in so just a manner, that he prevented the renewal of his addresses to the physician's daughter.

He went home with his uncle, who observed his conduct with a most scrupulous attention, and confined him, as much as possible, within doors. This generous relation at length exerted his interest to get the youth appointed midshipman on board his majesty's ship the Romney, which was under orders for the Newfoundland station.

Upon his return from Newfoundland, Parsons learnt, with infinite mortification, that the dutchess of Northumberland, to whom he was related, had revoked a will made in his favour, and bequeathed to his sister a very considerable legacy, which he had expected to enjoy. He was repulsed by his friends and acquaintance, who would not in the least countenance his visits at their houses; and his circumstances now became exceedingly distressed.

Thus situated he applied to a gentleman named Bailey, with whom he had formerly lived on terms of intimacy; and his humanity induced him to invite Parsons to reside in his house, and to furnish him with the means of supporting the character of a gentleman. Mr. Bailey also was indefatigable in his endeavours to effect a reconciliation between young Parsons and his father, in which he at length succeeded.

Sir William having prevailed upon his son to go abroad again, and procured him an appointment under the governor of James Fort, on the river Gambia, he embarked on board a vessel in the service of the Royal African company.

Parsons had resided at James Fort about six months, when a disagreement took place between him and governor Aufleur; in consequence of which the former signified a resolution of returning to England. Hereupon the governor informed him that he was commis-

sioned to engage him as an indented servant for five years. Parsons warmly expostulated with the governor, declaring that his behaviour was neither that of a man of probity or a gentleman, and requested permission to return. But so far from complying, the governor issued orders to the centinels to be particularly careful lest he should effect an escape.

Notwithstanding every precaution, Parsons found means to get on board a homeward-bound vessel, and being followed by Mr. Aufleur, he was commanded to return, but cocking a pistol, and presenting it to the governor, he declared he would fire upon any man who should presume to molest him. Hereupon the governor departed, and in a short time the ship sailed for England.

Soon after his arrival in his native country, he received an invitation to visit an uncle who lived at Epsom, which he gladly accepted, and experienced a most cordial and friendly reception.

He resided with his uncle about three months, and was treated with all imaginable kindness and respect. At length one of the female servants in the family swore herself to be pregnant by him, which so incensed the old gentleman, that he dismissed Parsons from his house.

Reduced to the most deplorable state of poverty, he directed his course towards the metropolis; and three halfpence being his whole stock of money, he subsisted four days upon the bread purchased with that small sum, quenching his thirst at the pumps he casually met with in the streets. He lay four nights in a hay-loft in Chancery-lane, belonging to the master of the rolls, by permission of the coachman, who pitied his truly deplorable case.

At length he determined to apply for redress to an ancient gentlewoman with whom he had been acquainted in his more youthful days, when she was in the capacity of companion to the dutchess of Northumberland. Weak and emaciated through want of food, his appearance was rendered still more miserable by the uncleanness and disorder of his apparel; and when he appeared before the old lady, she tenderly compassionated his unfortunate

situation, and recommended him to a decent family in Cambridge-street, with whom he resided some time in a very comfortable manner, the old gentlewoman defraying the charge of his lodging and board ; and a humane gentleman, to whom she had communicated his case, supplying him with money for common expenses.

Sir William came to town at the beginning of the winter, and received an unexpected visit from his son, who dropped upon his knees, and supplicated forgiveness with the utmost humility and respect. His mother-in-law was greatly enraged at his appearance, and upbraided her husband with being foolishly indulgent to so graceless a youth, at the same time declaring, that she would not live in the house where he was permitted to enter.

Sir William asked him what mode of life he meant to adopt ? and his answer was, that he was unable to determine ; but would cheerfully pursue such measures as so indulgent a parent should think proper to recommend. The old gentleman then advised him to enter as a private man in the horse-guards ; which he approved of, saying, he would immediately offer himself as a volunteer.

Upon mentioning his intention to the adjutant, he was informed that he must pay seventy guineas for his admission into the corps. This news proved exceedingly afflicting, as he had but little hope that his father would advance the necessary sum. Upon returning to his father's lodgings, he learnt that he had set out for the country, and left him a present of only five shillings.

Driven now nearly to a state of distraction, he formed the desperate resolution of putting an end to his life, and repaired to St. James's park, intending to throw himself into Rosamond's pond. While he stood on the brink of the water, waiting for an opportunity of carrying his impious design into effect, it occurred to him, that a letter he had received, mentioning the death of an aunt, and that she had bequeathed a legacy to his brother, might be made use of to his own advantage ; and he immediately declined the thoughts of destroying himself.

He produced the letter to several persons, assuring them that the writer had been misinformed respecting

the legacy, which in reality was left to himself; and under the pretext of being entitled to it, he obtained money and effects from different people to a considerable amount. Among those who were deceived by this stratagem was a tailor in Devereux-court in the Strand, who gave him credit for several genteel suits of clothes.

The money and other articles thus fraudulently obtained, enabled him to engage in scenes of gaiety and dissipation; and he seemed to entertain no idea that his happiness would be but of short duration.

Accidentally meeting the brother of the young lady to whom he had made professions of love at Waltham, he intended to renew his acquaintance with him, and his addresses to his sister; but the young gentleman informed Parsons that his sister died suddenly a short time after his departure from Waltham.

Parsons endeavoured, as much as possible, to cultivate the friendship of the above young gentleman, and represented his case in so plausible a manner, as to obtain money from him, at different times, to a considerable amount.

Parsons' creditors now became exceedingly importunate, and he thought there was no probability of relieving himself from his difficulties, but by connecting himself in marriage with a woman of fortune.

Being eminently qualified in those accomplishments which are known to have a great influence over the female world, Parsons soon ingratiated himself into the esteem of a young lady possessed of a handsome independency bequeathed her by her lately deceased father. He informed his creditors that he had a prospect of an advantageous marriage; and as they were satisfied that the lady had a good fortune, they supplied him with every thing necessary for prosecuting the amour, being persuaded that, if the expected union took place, they should have no difficulty in recovering their respective demands.

The marriage was solemnized on the 10th of February, 1740, in the 23d year of his age. On this event, the uncle, who lived at Epsom, visited him in London, and

gave him the strongest assurances that he would exert every possible endeavour to promote his interest and happiness, on condition that he would avoid such proceedings as would render him unworthy of friendship and protection. His relations in general were perfectly satisfied with the connexion he had made, and hoped that his irregular and volatile disposition would be corrected by the prudent conduct of his bride, who was justly esteemed a young lady of great sweetness of temper, virtue, and discretion.

A few weeks after his marriage, his uncle interceded in his behalf with the right honourable Arthur Onslow; and through the interest of that gentleman he was appointed an ensign in the thirty-fourth regiment of foot.

He now discharged all his debts, which proved highly satisfactory to all his relations; and this conduct was the means of his obtaining further credit in times of future distress.

He hired a very handsome house in Poland-street, where he resided two years, in which time he had two children, one of whom died very young. From Poland-street, he removed to Panton-square, and the utmost harmony subsisted between him and his wife, who were much respected by their relations and acquaintances.

But it must be observed, that though his conduct in other respects had been irreproachable from the time of his marriage, he was guilty of unpardonable indiscretion as to his manner of living; for he kept three saddle-horses, a chaise and pair, several unnecessary servants, and engaged in many other superfluous expences that his income could not afford.

Unfortunately Parsons became acquainted with an infamous gambler, who seduced him to frequent gaming-houses, and to engage in play. He lost considerable sums, which were shared between the pretended friend of Parsons, and his wicked accomplices.

Parsons was now promoted to a lieutenancy in a regiment that was ordered into Flanders, and was accompanied to that country by the abandoned gamester, whom he considered as his most valuable friend. The money

he lost in gaming, and the extravagant manner in which he lived, in a short time involved him in such difficulties that he was under the necessity of selling his commission, in order to discharge his debts contracted in Flanders. The commission being sold, Parsons and his treacherous companion returned to England.

His arrival was no sooner known, than his creditors were extremely urgent for the immediate discharge of their respective claims; which induced him to take a private lodging in Gough-square, where he passed under the denomination of captain Brown. He pretended to be an unmarried man; and saw his wife only when appointments were made to meet at a public-house. While he lodged in Gough-square, he seduced his landlord's daughter, who became pregnant by him; and her imprudence in yielding to the persuasions of Parsons, proved the means of involving her in extreme distress.

His creditors having discovered the place of his retreat, he deemed it prudent to remove; and at this juncture an opportunity offered by which he hoped to retrieve his fortune; and he therefore embarked as captain of marines on board the Dursley privateer.

Soon after the arrival of the ship at Deal, Parsons went on shore, provided with pistols, being determined not to submit to an arrest, which he supposed would be attempted. He had no sooner landed on the beach, than he was approached by five or six men, one of whom attempted to seize him; but Parsons, stepping aside, discharged one of the pistols, and lodged a ball in the man's thigh. He then said, he was well provided with weapons, and would fire upon them if they presumed to give him further molestation. Hereupon the officers retreated; and Parsons returned to the ship, which sailed from Deal the following morning.

They had been in the channel about a week, when they made prize of a French privateer, which they carried into the port of Cork. Parsons being now afflicted with a disorder that prevailed among the French prisoners, was sent on shore for the recovery of his health. During his illness, the vessel sailed on another

cruise, and he was no sooner in a condition to permit him to leave his apartment, than he became anxious to partake of the fashionable amusements.

In order to recruit his finances, which were nearly exhausted, he drew bills of exchange on three merchants in London, on which he raised 60*l.*; and before advice could be transmitted to Cork, that he had no effects in the hands of the persons on whom he had drawn the bills, he embarked on board a vessel bound for England.

He landed at Plymouth, where he resided some time under a military character, to support his claim to which he was provided with a counterfeit commission. He frequented all places of public resort, and particularly where gaming was permitted. His money being nearly expended, he obtained a hundred pounds from a merchant of Plymouth, by means of a false draft upon an alderman of London. Some time after the discovery of the fraud, the injured party saw Parsons a transport prisoner on board a ship bound to Virginia, lying in Catwater bay, where he assured him of an entire forgiveness, and made him a present of a guinea.

From Plymouth, Parsons repaired to London, and his money being nearly spent, he committed the following fraud, in conjunction with a woman of the town: taking his accomplice to a tavern in the Strand (where he was known), he represented her as an heiress, who had consented to a private marriage, and requested the landlord to send immediately for a clergyman. The parson being arrived, and about to begin the ceremony, Parsons pretending to recollect that he had forgotten to provide a ring, and ordered the waiter to tell some shop-keeper in the neighbourhood to bring some plain gold rings. Upon this the clergyman begged to recommend a very worthy man, who kept a jeweller's shop in the neighbourhood: and Parsons said it was a matter of indifference with whom he laid out his money; adding, that as he wished to compliment his bride with some small present, the tradesman might also bring some diamond rings.

The rings being brought, and one of each chosen, Parsons produced a counterfeit draft, saying, the jeweller

might either give him change then, or call for payment after the ceremony ; on which the jeweller retired, saying, he would attend again in the afternoon. In a little time, the woman formed a pretence for leaving the room, and upon her not returning soon, our hero affected great impatience, and, without taking his hat, quitted the apartment, saying, he would enquire of the people of the house whether his bride had not been detained by some unforeseen accident.

After waiting a considerable time, the clergyman called the landlord ; and as neither Parsons nor the woman could be found, it was rightly concluded, that their whole intention was to perpetrate a fraud. In the mean time, our hero and his accomplice met at an appointed place, and divided their booty.

Soon after the above transaction, Parsons intimated to a military officer, that, on account of the many embarrassments he was under, he was determined to join the rebel army, as the only expedient by which he could avoid being lodged in prison. The gentleman represented the danger of engaging in such an adventure, and lest his distress should precipitate him to any rash proceeding, generously supplied him with forty guineas, to answer present exigencies.

He soon after borrowed the above gentleman's horse, pretending that he had occasion to go a few miles into the country, on a matter of business ; but he immediately rode to Smithfield, where he sold the horse at a very inadequate price.

That he might escape the resentment of the gentleman whom he had treated in so unworthy a manner, he lodged an information against him, as being disaffected to the government : in consequence of which he was deprived of his commission, and suffered an imprisonment of six months. He exhibited informations of a similar nature against two other gentlemen, who had been most liberal benefactors to him, in revenge for refusing any longer to supply him with the means of indulging his extravagant and profligate disposition.

In the year 1745, he counterfeited a draft upon one

of the collectors of the excise, in the name of the duke of Cumberland, for five hundred pounds. He carried the draft to the collector, who paid him fifty pounds in part, being all the cash that remained in his hands.

He went to a tailor, saying, he meant to employ him, on the recommendation of a gentleman of the army, whom he had long supplied with clothes ; adding, that a captain's commission was preparing for him at the war-office. The tailor furnished him with several suits of clothes ; but not being paid according to agreement, he entertained some suspicion as to the responsibility of his new customer ; and therefore enquired at the war-office respecting captain Brown, and learnt that a commission was making out for a gentleman of that name. Unable to get any part of the money due to him, and determined to be no longer trifled with, he instituted a suit at common-law, but was non-suited, having laid his action in the fictitious name of Brown, and it appearing that Parsons was the defendant's real name.

Parsons sent a porter from the Ram Inn, in Smithfield, with a counterfeit draft upon sir Joseph Hankey and Co. for five hundred pounds. Parsons followed the man, imagining that if he came out of sir Joseph's house alone, he would have received the money ; and that if he was accompanied by any person, it would be a strong proof of the forgery being discovered ; and as he observed sir Joseph and the porter get into a hackney-coach, he resolved not to return to the inn.

He next went to a widow named Bottomley, who lived near St. George's church, and saying that he had contracted to supply the regiment to which he belonged with hats, gave her an order to the amount of a hundred and sixty pounds. He had no sooner got possession of the hats, than he sold them to a Jew for one half of the sum he had agreed to pay for them.

Being strongly apprehensive that he could not long avoid being arrested by some of his numerous and highly exasperated creditors, by means of counterfeit letters, he procured himself to be taken into custody, as a person disaffected to the king and government ; and was sup

ported without expense, in the house of one of the king's messengers, for the space of eighteen months.

Being released from the messenger's house, he revolved in his mind a variety of schemes for eluding the importunity of his creditors and at length determined to embark for Holland.

He remained in Holland a few months, and when his money was nearly expended he returned to England. A few days after his arrival in London, he went to a masquerade, where he engaged in play to the hazard of every shilling he possessed, and was so fortunate as to obtain a sufficient sum for his maintenance for several months.

His circumstances being again distressed, he wrote in pressing terms to his brother-in-law, who was an East-India director, intreating that he would procure him a commission in the company's service, either by land or sea. The purport of the answer was, that a gentleman in the Temple was authorised to give the suppliant a guinea, but that it would be fruitless for him to expect any further favours.

Having written a counterfeit draft, he went to Ranelagh on a masquerade night, where he passed it to a gentleman who had won some small sums of him. The party who received the draft offered it for payment in a day or two afterwards, when it was proved to be a counterfeit; in consequence of which Parsons was apprehended, and committed to Wood-street compter.

As no prosecutor appeared, Parsons was necessarily acquitted; but a detainer being lodged, charging him with an offence similar to the above, he was removed to Maidstone gaol, in order for trial at the Lent assizes at Rochester.

Mr. Carey, the keeper of the prison, treated Parsons with great humanity, allowing him to board in his family, and indulging him in every privilege that he could grant, without a manifest breach of the duties of his office. But such was the ingratitude of Parsons, that he formed a plan, which, had it taken effect, would have utterly ruined the man to whom he was indebted in such great

obligations. His intention was, privately to take the keys from Mr. Carey's apartment; and not only to escape himself, but even to give liberty to every prisoner in the gaol: and this scheme he communicated to a man accused of being a smuggler, who reported the matter to Mr. Carey, desiring him to listen at an appointed hour at night, when he would hear a conversation that would prove his intelligence to be authentic. Mr. Carey attended at the appointed time, and being convinced of the ingratitude and perfidy of Parsons, he abridged him of the indulgences he had before enjoyed, and caused him to be closely confined.

Being convicted at the assizes at Rochester, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years; and in the following September he was put on board the *Thames*, captain Dobbins, bound for Maryland, in company with upwards of one hundred and seventy other convicts, fifty of whom died in the voyage. In November, 1749, Parsons was landed at Annapolis, in Maryland; and having remained in a state of slavery about seven weeks, a gentleman of considerable property and influence, who was not wholly unacquainted with his family, compassionating his unfortunate situation, obtained his freedom, and received him at his house in a most kind and hospitable manner.

Parsons had not been in the gentleman's family many days before he rode off with a horse which was lent him by his benefactor, and proceeded towards Virginia; on the borders of which country he stopped a gentleman on horseback, and robbed him of five pistoles, a moidore, and ten dollars.

A few days after, he stopped a lady and gentleman in a chaise, attended by a negro servant, and robbed them of eleven guineas and some silver: after which he directed his course to the Potomack river, where finding a ship nearly ready to sail for England, he embarked, and after a passage of twenty-five days landed at Whitehaven.

He now produced a forged letter, in the name of one of his relations, to a capital merchant of Whitehaven,

signifying that he was entitled to the family estate, in consequence of his father's decease, and prevailed upon him to discount a false draft upon a banker in London for seventy-five pounds.

Upon his arrival in the metropolis, he hired a handsome lodging at the west end of the town ; but he almost constantly resided in houses of ill fame, where the money he had so unjustifiably obtained was soon dissipated.

Having hired a horse, he rode to Hounslow-heath, where, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, he stopped a post-chaise, in which were two gentlemen, whom he robbed of five guineas, some silver, and a watch.

A short time afterwards he stopped a gentleman near Turnham-green, about twelve o'clock at night, and robbed him of thirty shillings, and a gold ring. He requested that the ring might be returned, as it was his wife's wedding ring. Parsons complied with the gentleman's request, and voluntarily returned the gentleman five shillings, telling him, at the same time, that nothing but the most pressing necessity could have urged him to the robbery : after which the gentleman shook hands with the robber, assuring him that, on account of the civility of his behaviour, he would not appear to prosecute, if he should hear of his being apprehended.

He attempted to rob a gentleman in a coach and four near Kensington, but hearing some company on the road, he proceeded towards Hounslow, and on his way thither overtook a farmer, and robbed him of between forty and fifty shillings. He then took the road to Colnbrook, and robbed a gentleman's servant of two guineas and a half, and a silver watch. After this he rode to Windsor, and returned to London by a different road.

His next expedition was on the Hounslow-road ; and at the entrance of the heath he stopped two gentlemen, and robbed them of seven guineas, some silver and a curiously wrought silver snuff-box.

Returning to his lodgings near Hyde-park-corner one evening, he overtook a footman in Piccadilly, and joining company with him, a familiar conversation took place, in the course of which Parsons learnt that the other was

to set out early on the following Sunday with a portman-teau, containing cash and notes to a considerable value, the property of his master, who was then at Windsor.

On the Sunday morning he rode towards Windsor, intending to rob the footman. Soon after he had passed Turnham-green, he overtook two gentlemen, one of whom was Mr. Fuller, who had prosecuted him at Rochester, and who perfectly recollecting his person, warned him not to approach. He however paid no attention to what Mr. Fuller said, but still continued sometimes behind and sometimes before them, though at a very inconsiderable distance.

Upon coming into the town of Hounslow, the gentlemen alighted, and commanded Parsons to surrender, adding, that if he did not instantly comply, they would alarm the town. He now dismounted, and earnestly entreated that the gentlemen would permit him to speak to them in private which they consented to ; and the parties being introduced to a room at an inn, Parsons surrendered his pistols, which were loaded and primed, and supplicated for mercy in the most pathetic terms.

In all probability he would have been permitted to escape, had not Mr. Day, landlord of the Rose and Crown at Hounslow, come into the room, and advised that he might be detained, as he conceived him very nearly to answer the description of a highwayman by whom the roads in that part of the country had been long infested. He was secured at the inn till the next day, and then examined by a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

Parsons was now arraigned for returning from transportation before the expiration of the term of his sentence : nothing therefore was necessary to convict him but the identifying of his person. This being done, he received sentence of death. His distressed father and wife used all their interest to obtain a pardon for him, but in vain : he was an old offender, and judged by no means a fit object for mercy.

While Parsons remained in Newgate, his behaviour was such that it could not be determined whether he

entertained a proper idea of his dreadful situation. There is indeed but too much reason to fear that the hopes of a reprieve (in which he deceived himself even to the last moments of his life) induced him to neglect the necessary preparation for eternity.

His taking leave of his wife afforded a scene extremely affecting: he recommended to her parental protection his only child, and regretted that his misconduct had put it in the power of a censorious world to reflect upon both the mother and son.

He joined with fervent zeal in the devotional exercises, at the place of execution.

THOMAS QUIN, JOSEPH DOWDELL, AND
THOMAS TALBOT,

A GANG OF NOTORIOUS THIEVES,

Executed at Tyburn, June 17, 1751, for Robbery.

THE villanies disclosed in the following narrative, will shew the propriety of the law lately made for inflicting punishment on masters and mistresses giving false characters of servants.

Quin, a murderer in his own country, Ireland, was recommended to a person in London, as a youth of good morals; notwithstanding his abandoned disposition.

Dowdell, who, in his apprenticeship, had injured his first master, procured a recommendation to another, to whom he also proved a villain.

Talbot, the third of this dangerous gang, after having robbed on the highway, and being afraid of apprehension, on applying to be restored to honest servitude, was refused; but his master, in pity to his distresses, recommended him to a nobleman. Talbot, on the first opportunity, robbed his noble employer; and we would ask, whether the late master, knowing the servant to have

been a thief, was not, in recommending him to an honest employer, virtually the greater villain of the two?

In fine, they were all, from early youth, delinquents; and each had been imposed on honest people, by those who knew them to be such.

Quin was a native of Dublin, the son of poor, but honest parents; and his father dying while he was a child, his uncle put him to school, and afterwards placed him apprentice to a buckle-maker, with whom he served three years faithfully; but his friends supplying him with clothes too genteel for his rank in life, he began to associate with gay company, and was guilty of many irregularities.

These thoughtless youths were frequently concerned in riots, and Quin was considered as the head of the party. In one of these nocturnal insurrections, Quin murdered a man, whose friends, watching him to his master's house, desired that he might be delivered up to justice; but some of the journeymen sallied forth with offensive weapons, and drove off the people. A warrant being afterwards issued for apprehending the murderer, his master advised him to depart for England.

A subscription for his use being raised by his friends, he came to London, having recommendations to some gentlemen in that city; but of these he made no use, for frequenting the purlieus of St. Giles's, he spent his money amongst the lowest of his countrymen, and then entered on board a man of war.

After a service of six months, he quitted the ship at Leghorn, and sailed in another vessel to Jamaica, where he received his wages which he soon spent. He now agreed to work his passage to England, and the ship arriving in the port of London, he took lodgings in St. Giles's, and soon after became acquainted with Dowdell and Talbot, of whom we are now to give an account.

Dowdell was the son of a bookbinder in Dublin, who being in low circumstances, was unable to educate his children as he could have wished. His son Joseph, who was remarkable for the badness of his disposition, he apprenticed to a breeches-maker; but the graceless youth

grew weary of his place before he had served two years of his time.

Dowdell being ordered by his master to take proper care of some green leather, particularly to defend it from the snow; instead of which he heaped such quantities of snow and ice on it, that it was greatly reduced in value. This circumstance so exasperated his master, that he was glad to get rid of him by delivering up his indentures of apprenticeship.

Thus at large, and the father ill able to support him, he was recommended to the service of a gentleman in the country, with whom he might have lived happily; but he behaved badly in his place, and running away to Dublin, commenced pickpocket.

After some practice in this way, he became connected with a gang of house-breakers, in company with whom he committed several depredations in Dublin. Having broke open a gentleman's house, he was opposed by the servants, and effected his escape only by the use he made of a hanger; soon after which he was taken by the watchmen, and being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to prison till the next morning. His person was advertised, and he was brought to trial; but none of the servants being able to swear to him, he was acquitted for want of evidence.

He now renewed his dangerous practices, and committed a variety of robberies. The following is one of the most singular of his exploits. Going to the house of a farmer, near Dublin, he pretended to be a citizen who wanted a lodging, for the benefit of his health, and would pay a liberal price. The unsuspecting farmer put his lodger into the best chamber, and supplied his table in the most ample manner.

After a residence of ten days, he asked the farmer's company to the town of Finglass, where he wanted to purchase some necessaries. The farmer attending him, Dowdell purchased some articles at different shops, in one of which he saw a quantity of gold in a till, and formed a resolution of appropriating it to his own use.

Having returned home with the farmer, Dowdell pre-

tended to recollect that he had omitted to purchase some medicines, which he must take that night, and which had occasioned his going to Finglass. Hereupon the farmer ordered a horse to be saddled, and Dowdell set forwards, on a promise to return before night.

On his arrival at Finglass he put up his horse, and stealing unperceived into the shop above-mentioned, he stole the till with the money, and immediately set out for Dublin.

In the interim the farmer, missing his lodger went to Finglass, and not finding him there, proceeded to Dublin, where he chanced to put up his horse at the same inn where Dowdell had taken up his quarters.

In a short time he saw our adventurer with some dealers, to whom he would have sold the horse; on which the farmer procured a constable, seized the offender, and lodged him in prison.

For this presumed robbery (a real one, doubtless, in the intention) he was brought to trial; but it appearing that the farmer had entrusted him with the horse, he could be convicted of nothing more than a fraud, for which he received sentence of transportation.

The vessel in which he sailed being overtaken by a storm was dashed on the rocks of Cumberland, and many lives were lost; but several, among whom was Dowdell, swam on shore, and went to Whitehaven, where the inhabitants contributed liberally to their relief. Dowdell travelling to Liverpool, entered on board a privateer, which soon took several prizes, for which he received 60% as his share. But this he soon squandered in the most thoughtless extravagance. Being reduced to poverty, he robbed a Portuguese gentleman; for which he was apprehended, but afterwards released on the intercession of the gentlemen of the English factory. He then sailed for England, and arrived at London.

He had not been long in the metropolis before he associated with a gang of pickpockets and street robbers (among whom was one Carter), whose practice it was to commit depredations at the doors of the theatres. Dowdell had not long entered into this association, before he

and Carter went under the piazzas in Covent-garden, where the latter demanded a gentleman's money, while Dowdell watched at a little distance, to give notice in case of a surprise. While Carter was examining the gentleman's pockets, he drew his sword, and killed the robber on the spot; and a mob gathering at the instant, it was with great difficulty that Dowdell effected his escape.

He now went to the lodgings of a woman of ill fame, who having been heretofore kept by a man of rank, he had given her a gold watch and some trifling jewels, which Dowdell advised her to pawn, to raise him ready money.

The girl hesitating to comply, he beat her in a most violent manner; on which she swore the peace against him; whereupon he was lodged in Newgate, but discharged at the next sessions, no prosecution being commenced against him.

He was no sooner at large, than he made a connexion with a woman of the town, whom an officer had taken to Gibraltar, and during her residence with him she had saved a hundred moidores. Dowdell having possessed himself of this sum, soon spent it extravagantly, and then prevailed on her to pawn her clothes for his support.

Talbot was the son of poor parents, who lived in Wapping, and having received a common education, he engaged himself as the driver of a post-chaise, in the service of a stable-keeper in Piccadilly. While he was driving two gentlemen on the Bath road, a highwayman stopped the carriage, and robbed them of their watches and money.

This circumstance gave Talbot an idea of acquiring money by illicit means: wherefore, on his return to London, he made himself acquainted with some highwaymen, assuring them that he was properly qualified to give them the intelligence necessary for the successful management of their business.

His proposal met with a ready acceptance; and a company having soon afterwards hired a coach and six of his master to go to Bath, Talbot gave one of the

highwaymen notice of the affair, and it was resolved that the robbery should be committed on Hounslow-heath.

The highwaymen meeting the carriage on the appointed spot, robbed the parties of all they had ; so that they were obliged to return to London for money before they could pursue their journey. Talbot's share of this ill-gotten booty amounted to fifty pounds, which gave him such spirits that he resolved to pursue the same iniquitous mode of living.

In consequence of this resolution, Talbot informed the highwayman of some company going to Bath, and he attempted to rob them ; but a gentleman in the carriage shot him dead on the spot.

Mortified at this accident which had befallen his friend, Talbot no sooner arrived in London, than he determined to resign his employment, and commence robber on his own account ; but previous to engaging in this business, he spent his ready money in the worst company.

After several attempts to commit robberies, and having narrowly escaped the hands of justice, he grew sick of his employment, and requested his former master to take him into his service. This he declined ; but in pity to his distress, recommended him to a nobleman, in whose family he was engaged.

Talbot had been but a short time in his new place, before he robbed the house of several articles of value, which he sold to the Jews, to supply the extravagance of one of the maid servants, with whom he had an amour.

This theft was not discovered at the time ; but Talbot was soon discharged from his place, in consequence of the badness of his temper, which rendered him insupportable to his fellow-servants.

On his dismissal he spent his ready money with the most abandoned company, and then commencing house-breaker, committed a variety of depredations in the neighbourhood of London : for one of which he was apprehended, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey, but acquitted for want of evidence.

On the very evening he was acquitted, he stopped a carriage in Drury-lane, and robbed a gentleman of his

money, which he soon spent among the most dissolute of both sexes; and within a week afterwards he broke into a house in Westminster, where he obtained plate and cash to a large amount, but was not apprehended for this offence.

In a few days he was taken into custody for picking a gentleman's pocket, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, sentenced to be transported for seven years, shipped to America, and sold to slavery.

He had not been long in this situation, when he embarked at Boston, in New England, on board a privateer: and, when at sea, he entered into a conspiracy with some of the sailors, to murder the officers, and seize the vessel: but the confederacy being discovered in time, a severe punishment was inflicted on Talbot and the other villains.

Talbot, quitting the privateer, sailed to England in a man of war, and engaging with some street-robbers in London, was apprehended, convicted, and sentenced to die; but he found interest to obtain a pardon on condition of transportation.

However, he had not been long abroad before he returned, in company with an abandoned woman, who had been transported at the same time; and this woman introduced him to the acquaintance of Quin and Dowdell, in company with whom he committed a considerable number of robberies.

These accomplices robbed six coaches one evening, and obtained considerable plunder; but this being soon spent in extravagance, they at length embarked in a robbery which cost them their lives.

Having made a connexion with one Cullen, they all joined in a street-robbery, and stopping a coach near Long Acre, robbed a gentleman of his watch and money.

Some people being informed of the affair, immediately pursued them; and Cullen, being taken into custody, was admitted an evidence against his accomplices, who were apprehended on the following day.

Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, they received sentence of death; but, after conviction, seemed as little sensible of the enormity of their

crimes, as almost any offenders whose cases we have had occasion to record.

Dowdell and Quin were Roman catholics ; and Talbot refusing to join in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate, at the place of execution, we can say nothing of the disposition of mind in which they left this world.

WILLIAM CHANDLER,

[A singularly artful Villain,]

Transported in the Year 1751, for Perjury.

THIS man has not been exceeded in art and hypocrisy by any of his fraternity. His plan was to rob a whole county. When a robbery is committed, the hundred where it happens, or the county at large, are responsible for the amount of the loss, which the injured, in certain cases, may sustain. In his attempt at this kind of fraud, he charged three innocent men with robbery, and, had his tale been believed, the charge would have affected their lives. Happily his diabolical attempt was frustrated, and we are almost led to regret, that a severer punishment did not overtake him.

William Chandler was the only child of Mr. Thomas Chandler, of Woodborough, near the Devizes, a gentleman farmer of two hundred pounds a year, who, at the age of about seventeen, fixed him with Mr. Banks, clerk of the goldsmith's company ; from whom, by reason of frequent disputes, he was turned over, before two years past, to Mr. Hill, of Clifford's-inn, and here he gained the esteem of his master, and respect of his clients.

Chandler, while he was with Mr. Banks, had married the maid servant, but so artfully concealed it, that it was never suspected by either of his masters, nor any of his own family ; and Mr. Hill having a long contested lawsuit in hand for the father, the profits of which he made

over to his son, he was enabled to keep his wife in lodgings.

Chandler's clerkship being nearly expired, he projected a scheme to double his fortune. This scheme was to get as much money into his hands as he could possibly raise, to set out with it to the country, upon some plausible pretence, swear he was robbed of it by the way, and then sue the hundred. To do this in the ordinary way he knew was hazardous, and liable to many miscarriages ; he therefore laid his plot so deep, that, as he thought, it should be beyond the reach of human discovery.

In the first place, it was necessary to raise a sum, which could not be done without deceiving both his father and master ; he therefore told the former, that he had an advantageous match in view, and the latter, that he had a rich uncle in Suffolk, whom he pretended to visit, and to have received from him several Bank bills, which he shewed, to favour the deceit. By these artifices he obtained from his father the possession of an estate worth about four hundred pounds, and accounted to his master for his having five hundred pounds more, which it does not appear how he acquired.

He then applied to his master to advance five hundred pounds upon his new estate ; which, with his other five hundred pounds, he was going, he said, to lend to one Mrs. Strait, of Salisbury, on an estate at Enford, within six or seven miles from his father's house, on which there was a prior mortgage of five hundred pounds, with interest due to one Mr. Poor, of Enford, who wanted to call in his money.

Mr. Hill, believing his clerk implicitly, even with respect to the value of his estate, procured the five hundred pounds of one Mr. Winter. While the mortgage was making, Mr. Chandler went down to Mrs. Strait, and offered to pay Mr. Poor his five hundred pounds and interest, and to advance to her five hundred pounds more, on the same estate, which she readily accepted ; and though it was now the 14th of March, 1747, he appointed her to meet him at Enford, on the 25th of the

same month, to receive the money: he then hurried home, and immediately prepared a proper assignment for Mr. Poor's mortgage to himself, with receipts for the thousand pounds, and wrote to Mrs. Strait not to forget the day (March 25, 1748), appointing ten as the hour of meeting. Now, on the 22d, the mortgage of Chandler's own estate to Winter was executed, and the money paid in three bank notes, which Chandler the next day changed at the bank, for eight of fifty pounds, and five of twenty pounds each, all of the same date, and payable to Henry Taylor.

On the 24th, early, having got most of his cash in small bills, to the amount of nine hundred pounds, he found, when he came to put these in canvas bags under his garters, where he proposed to carry them for safety, that they made too great a bundle, and therefore he took several of the small bills, with some cash, amounting to four hundred and forty pounds, and exchanged them at the bank for two notes, one of four hundred pounds, and the other of forty pounds; the first of which, in his way home, he changed, in his master's name, at sir Richard Hoare's, for one note of two hundred pounds, and two of one hundred pounds each; but told his master, that the bank clerks were a little out of humour at the trouble he had already given them, and that he had changed his small notes with a stranger in the bank-hall for the notes which he in reality had received at sir Richard Hoare's. Mr. Hill, at Chandler's request, having wrote down the numbers and dates of the several bills, and seen them put safe up, Chandler took leave of him, and about twelve o'clock set out.

About four the same afternoon, though he had ninety miles to go by ten on the morrow, he had reached no farther than Hare-hatch, about thirty miles from London, where he stopped at Mr. Butter's to refresh, and about five, just as he had left his inn, was, as he said, unfortunately met by three bargemen on foot, who, after they had robbed him of his watch and money, took him to a pit close by the road, and there stript him of all his bank notes, bound his hands and feet, and left him, threatening

to return and shoot him, if he made the least noise. In this woeful condition, he lay three hours, though the pit was so near the road, that not a single horse could pass without his hearing ; yet when night came he could jump, bound as he was, near half a mile all up hill, till, luckily for his purpose, he met one Avery, a silly shepherd, who cut the strings, but could give no account what they were, or how fastened.

The first question Chandler asked Avery after he had unbound him was, where a constable or tythingman lived ? Upon which Avery conducted him to Richard Kelly, the constable, just by, and with him Mr. Chandler left the notices required by the statutes, with the description of the persons who robbed him, so exactly, that Mr. Young, of Hare-hatch, remembered three such men to have passed by his house about the very time the robbery was said to have been committed, who were also seen and known by Mr. Dredge, the mayor of Reading, on Maidenhead thicket, between four and five the same day. Chandler then returned to the inn where he had refreshed, and after telling his deplorable tale, and acquainting his landlord with his intentions of suing the hundred, he ordered a good supper, a bowl of punch, and sat down with as little concern, as if nothing had happened.

Next day Chandler returned to London, acquainted his master with what had happened, and requested his assistance. Mr. Hill gave him the memorandum he had of the numbers, dates, and sums of the notes, and sent him to the bank to stop payment ; but instead of that, he went to Mr. Tufley, a silversmith in Cannon-street, bought a silver tankard, and in payment changed one of the notes for one hundred pounds, which he received the day before at sir Richard Hoare's ; and on his return to his master, told him the bank did no business that day because of the hurry the city was in on account of the fire in Cornhill, which happened the night before ; he therefore went again next morning, and when he came back, being asked by Mr. Hill for the paper on which he had taken down the numbers, &c. he said, he had left it with the clerks of the bank, who were to stop the notes ;

but that he had taken an exact copy of it; which was false, for he had reserved Mr. Hill's copy, and left another at the bank, in which he had so craftily altered the numbers and dates of the three notes he received at sir Richard Hoare's, amounting to four hundred pounds, as to prevent their being stopped, and Mr. Hill's remembering the difference. Thus he opened a way for getting four hundred pounds into his hands without obstruction. But when it appeared that three of the notes had been falsely described, there having been none such given out by the bank, and Chandler was questioned by his master about it, and ordered to bring back the original paper, he made a pretence of going to the bank, and then brought back word, that the clerks could not find it; and said, they never kept such papers, after they had made an entry.

On the 26th, he inserted a list of his notes, being fifteen in all, with their dates and numbers, in the daily papers, offering a reward of fifty pounds for the recovery of the whole, or in proportion for any part; and on the afternoon of the same day withdrew his advertisement in all the daily papers, and took his own written copy away at each place. And on the 29th of March, 1748, he put the notice of the robbery and the description of the robbers in the London Gazette, as the law directs, except that he did not particularise the notes, as he had done in other papers.

On the 12th of May following, he made the proper information before a justice of the peace; but though Mr. Hill, his master, was with him, and had undertaken to manage the cause for him, yet he made the same omission in his information, as in his advertisement in the London Gazette.

All things being prepared, on the 18th of July, 1748, Chandler proceeded to try his cause, and after a hearing of twelve hours, by a special jury at Abingdon assizes, obtained a verdict for nine hundred and seventy pounds, subject, however, to a case reserved for the opinion of the court of common pleas, concerning the sufficiency of the description of the bank notes in the London Gazette.

and the information ; which case was afterwards decided in favour of the county.

In the mean time, Chandler, fearing that by what came out upon the trial, he should soon be suspected, and that he might be arrested by Mr. Winter, who had now discovered that his mortgage was insufficient, obtained a protection from lord Willoughby de Brooke, and gave out that he was removed into Suffolk, to reside, as he had before pretended, with his rich uncle : but in reality, he retired to Colchester, where his brother-in-law, Humphry Smart, had taken an inn, with whom he entered into co-partnership, and never came publicly to London afterwards. He was, however, obliged to correspond with his master, on account of the point of law, which was soon to be argued ; and therefore to come at his letters, without discovering his place of abode, he ordered them to be directed, "To Mr. Thomas Chandler, at Easton, in Suffolk, to be left for him at the Crown, at Audley, near Colchester, in Essex."

Mr. Hill having written several letters to Mr. Chandler, pressing him to come to town (as the term grew near), and he evading it by trifling excuses, began to suspect him even before the point of law was determined.

Just before this event, twelve of the notes, of which Mr. Chandler pretended to be robbed, were all brought to the bank together, having been bought October 31, 1748, at Amsterdam, of one John Smith, by Barent Solomon, a broker there, and by him transmitted to his son, Nathan Solomon, a broker at London. Upon further enquiry it appeared, that John Smith, who sold the notes, stayed but a few days in Holland, that he was seen in company with Mr. Casson, a Holland trader, and came over in the packet with him. Mr. Casson was then found, and his description of John Smith answered the person of Chandler, who was then pressed, by letter, to come to town and face Casson, to remove suspicion, but he refused.

And now the scene began to open apace ; for about this time the very paper which Chandler left when he stopped payment of the notes at the bank, was found ;

which, when Mr. Hill saw, and that it was not his writing, he quite gave up his clerk, and from that time assisted in the prosecution. By means of the bank books, they traced every circumstance that has been related of his taking out the 400*l.* note, afterwards changing it at sir Richard Hoare's, for three lesser notes, his passing these notes, and by whom received; and even his buying the tankard of Tufley, which tankard was afterwards produced in evidence against him. All that now remained was to come at his person; and with this view, Mr. Wise, Mr. Hill, and Mr. Casson, about Midsummer, 1749, set out for Colchester, from thence went to the Crown, at Audley, and there enquiring for Easton, were directed first to one place, and then to another of that name; and after a fruitless journey of one hundred and fifty miles, they returned to the very inn then kept by Chandler, at Colchester, and departed for London, without gaining any intelligence.

Chandler, who himself saw them at his house, immediately sold his goods, and took a small inn at Coventry, where, though one hundred and fifty miles from Colchester, and nearly ninety miles from London, he was still apprehensive of being arrested by Mr. Winter, and therefore he sent a draft to Mr. Gauntlet, a linen-draper of his acquaintance, for one hundred and fifty pounds, to be paid to Mr. Hill, and by him to Mr. Winter. This draft he procured at Northampton, and there put it into the post. By the post-mark of this letter he was at length traced to his new habitation at Coventry, where an indictment for perjury having been found against him, he was apprehended by a judge's warrant, and detained in gaol there, till by a habeas corpus he was removed to Reading, in order to take his trial at Abingdon assizes, on the 22d of July, 1750. But though the prosecutors were ready with their witnesses, at a vast expence, yet he traversed the indictment, as by law he might, and put off his trial to the last Lent assizes held at Reading; where the facts already related being proved, he was sentenced to stand on the pillory the then next market-day, and to be transported for seven years. But the

former part of this sentence was changed by the judge into three months imprisonment, for fear the populace, who were greatly enraged, should kill him.

[This prosecution produced two acts of parliament: one for remedying inconveniences that may happen by proceedings in actions on the statute of hue and cry, and the other to render prosecutions for perjury, and subornation of perjury more easy and effectual.]

A MURDER,

[Discovered by a Dream, in the Year 1751.]

In consequence of which the Murderer was apprehended, convicted, and executed at Waterford, in Ireland.

WE are not in the habit of paying attention to the many singular dreams which are related; but the following is so very remarkable, and so well authenticated, that we think it worthy of insertion.

One Adam Rogers, a creditable man, who kept a public-house at Portlaw, a small village, nine or ten miles from Waterford, in Ireland, dreamed one night, that he saw two men, at a particular green spot on an adjacent mountain; one of them a sickly looking man, the other remarkably strong and large. He then fancied that he saw the little man murder the other, and he awoke in great agitation. The circumstances of the dream were so distinct and forcible, that he continued much affected by them. He related them to his wife, and also to several neighbours, next morning. After some time, he went out coursing with greyhounds, accompanied amongst others, by one Mr. Browne, the Roman catholic priest of the parish. He soon stopped at the above-mentioned particular green spot on the mountain, and, calling to Mr. Browne, pointed it out to him, and told him what had appeared in his dream. During the remainder of

the day he thought little more about it. Next morning he was extremely startled at seeing two strangers enter his house about eleven o'clock in the forenoon. He immediately ran into an inner room, and desired his wife to take particular notice, for they were precisely the two men that he had seen in his dream.

When they had consulted with one another, their apprehensions were alarmed for the little weakly man, though contrary to the appearance in the dream. After the strangers had taken some refreshment, and were about to depart, in order to prosecute their journey, Rogers earnestly endeavoured to dissuade the little man from quitting his house, and going on with his fellow-traveller.

He assured him, that if he would remain with him that day, he would accompany him to Carrick next morning, that being the town to which the travellers were proceeding. He was unwilling and ashamed to tell the cause of his being so solicitous to separate him from his companion. But, as he observed that Hickey, which was the name of the little man, seemed to be quiet and gentle in his deportment, and had money about him, and that the other had a ferocious bad countenance, the dream still recurred to him. He dreaded that something fatal would happen, and he wished, at all events, to keep them asunder. However, the humane precautions of Rogers proved ineffectual; for Caulfield, such was the other's name, prevailed upon Hickey to continue with him on their way to Carrick, declaring that, as they had long travelled together, they should not part, but remain together until he should see Hickey safely arrive at the habitation of his friends. The wife of Rogers was much dissatisfied when she found they were gone, and blamed her husband exceedingly for not being absolutely peremptory in detaining Hickey.

About an hour after they left Portlaw, in a lonely part of the mountain, just near the place observed by Rogers in his dream, Caulfield took the opportunity of murdering his companion. It appeared afterwards, from his own account of the horrid transaction, that, as they were getting over a ditch, he struck Hickey on the back part of

his head with a stone ; and, when he fell down into the trench in consequence of the blow, Caulfield gave him several stabs with a knife, and cut his throat so deeply that the head was observed to be almost severed from the body. He then rifled Hickey's pockets of all the money in them, took part of his clothes, and every thing else of value about him, and afterwards proceeded on his way to Carrick. He had not been long gone when the body, still warm, was discovered by some labourers, who were returning to their work from dinner.

The report of the murder soon reached to Portlaw. Rogers and his wife went to the place, and instantly knew the body of him whom they had in vain endeavoured to dissuade from going on with his treacherous companion. They at once spoke out their suspicions that the murder was perpetrated by the fellow-traveller of the deceased. An immediate search was made, and Caulfield was apprehended at Waterford the second day after. He was brought to trial at the ensuing assizes, and convicted of the fact. It appeared on the trial, amongst other circumstances, that when he arrived at Carrick, he hired a horse, and a boy to conduct him, not by the usual road, but by that which runs on the north side of the river Suir to Waterford, intending to take his passage in the first ship from thence to Newfoundland. The boy took notice of some blood on his shirt, and Caulfield gave him half-a-crown to promise not to speak of it. Rogers proved not only that Hickey was seen last in company with Caulfield, but that a pair of new shoes, which Hickey wore, had been found on the feet of Caulfield when he was apprehended ; and that a pair of old shoes, which he had on at Rogers's house were upon Hickey's feet when the body was found. He described with great exactness every article of their clothes. Caulfield, on the cross-examination, shrewdly asked him from the dock, whether it was not very extraordinary that he, who kept a public-house, should take such particular notice of the dress of a stranger, accidentally calling there ? Rogers, in his answer, said, he had a very particular reason, but was ashamed to mention

it. The court and prisoner insisting on his declaring it, he gave a circumstantial narrative of his dream, called upon Mr. Browne the priest, who was then in the court, to corroborate his testimony, and said, that his wife had severely reproached him for permitting Hickey to leave their house when he knew that, in the short foot-way to Carrick, they must necessarily pass by the green spot in the mountain which had appeared in his dream. A number of witnesses came forward; and the proofs were so strong, that the jury, without hesitation, found the prisoner guilty.---It was remarked, as a singularity, that he happened to be tried and sentenced by his namesake, sir George Caulfield, at that time lord chief justice of the King's-bench, which office he resigned in the summer of the year 1760.

After sentence, Caulfield confessed the fact. It came out, that Hickey had been in the West Indies two and twenty years; but falling into a bad state of health, he was returning to his native country, Ireland, bringing with him some money his industry had acquired. The vessel on board which he took his passage was, by stress, of weather, driven into Minthead. He there met with Frederick Caulfield, an Irish sailor, who was poor, and much distressed for clothes and common necessities. Hickey, compassionating his poverty, and finding he was his countryman, relieved his wants, and an intimacy commenced between them. They agreed to go to Ireland together; and it was remarked on their passage, that Caulfield spoke contemptuously, and often said, it was a pity such a puny fellow as Hickey should have money, and he himself be without a shilling. They landed at Waterford, at which place they stayed some days, Caulfield being all the time supported by Hickey, who bought there some clothes for him.

The assizes being held in the town during that time, it was afterwards recollected that they were both at the court-house, and attended the whole of a trial of a shoemaker, who was convicted of the murder of his wife. But this made no impression upon the hardened mind of Caulfield; for the very next day he perpetrated the same

crime on the road betwixt Waterford and Carrick-on-Suir, near which town Hickey's relations lived.

He walked to the gallows with a firm step, and undaunted countenance. He spoke to the multitude who surrounded him ; and, in the course of his address, mentioned that he had been bred at a charter-school, from which he was taken, as an apprenticed servant, by William Izod, Esq. of the county of Kilkenny.

From this station he ran away on being corrected for some faults, and had been absent from Ireland six years. He confessed also, that he had several times intended to murder Hickey on the road between Waterford and Portlaw ; which, though in general not a road much frequented, yet, people at that time continually coming in sight, prevented him.

JAMES WELCH AND THOMAS JONES,

*Executed on Kennington Common, September 6, 1751,
for Murder.*

WE come now to the painful duty of proving the innocence of that most unhappy man, Richard Coleman, whom, our readers will recollect, suffered death for the supposed murder of Sarah Green. We have before related his melancholy case, and shall now detail the real circumstances of this horrid murder.

Two years had passed, after Coleman had been ignominiously laid in his grave, before his memory was rescued from disgrace. Circumstances then, and not before, arose, which proved, that James Welch, Thomas Jones, and John Nichols, the latter of whom was admitted an evidence for the crown, committed this shocking murder.

As Welch and a young fellow named James Bush were walking on the road to Newington Butts, their conversation happened to turn on the subject of those who had been executed without being guilty ; and Welch said, " Among whom was Coleman. Nichols, Jones,

and I were the persons who committed the murder for which he was hanged." In the course of conversation, Welch owned that, having been at a public-house called Sot's-hole, they had drank plentifully, and on their return through Kennington-lane, they met with a woman, with whom they went as far as the parsonage-walk, near the church-yard of Newington, where she was so horridly abused by Nichols and Jones, that Welch declined offering her any farther insult.

Bush did not at that time appear to pay any particular attention to what he heard ; but soon afterwards, as he was crossing London-bridge with his father, he addressed him as follows : " Father, I have been extremely ill ; and, as I am afraid I shall not live long, I should be glad to discover something that lays heavy on my mind."

Hereupon they went to a public-house in the Borough, where Bush related the story to his father, which was scarce ended, when seeing Jones at the window, they called him in, and desired him to drink with them.

He had not been long in company, when they told him they heard he was one of the murderers of Sarah Green, on whose account Coleman suffered death. Jones trembled and turned pale on hearing what they said ; but soon assuming a degree of courage, said, " What does it signify ? The man is hanged, and the woman dead, and nobody can hurt us ;" to which he added, " We were connected with a woman, but who can tell that was the woman Coleman died for ?"

In consequence of this acknowledgment, Nichols, Jones, and Welch were soon afterwards apprehended : when all of them steadily denied their guilt ; and the hear-say testimony of Bush being all that could be adduced against them, Nichols was admitted evidence for the crown : in consequence of which all the particulars of the horrid murder were developed.

The prisoners being brought to trial at the next assizes for the county of Surrey, Nichols deposed that himself with Welch and Jones, having been drinking at the house called Sot's-hole, on the night that the woman was used in such an inhuman manner, they quitted that house, in

order to return home, when meeting a woman, they asked her if she would drink ; which she declined, unless they would go to the king's-head, where she would treat them with a pot of beer.

Hereupon they went, and drank both beer and geneva with her, and then all the parties going forward to the parsonage-walk, the poor woman was treated in a manner too shocking to be described. It appeared that, at the time of the perpetration of the fact, the murderers wore white aprons ; and that Jones and Welch called Nichols by the name of Coleman : circumstances that evidently led to the prior conviction of that unfortunate man.

On the whole state of the evidence, there seemed to be no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, so that the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and sentence of death passed of course.

After conviction these malefactors behaved with the utmost contrition, being attended by the Rev. Dr. Howard, rector of St. George's, Southwark, to whom they readily confessed their offences. They likewise signed a declaration, which they begged might be published, containing the fullest assertion of Coleman's innocence ; and, exclusive of his acknowledgment, Welch wrote to the brother of Coleman, confessing his guilt, and begging his prayers and forgiveness.

The sister of Jones living in the service of a genteel family at Richmond, he wrote to her to make interest in his favour ; but the answer he received was, that his crime was of such a nature, that she could not ask a favour for him with any degree of propriety. She earnestly begged of him to prepare for death, and implore pardon at that tribunal, where alone it could be expected.

CAPTAIN JAMES LOWRY,

Executed at Execution Dock, March 25, 1762, for murdering one of his Crew.

THIS cruel man was born in Scotland, and after receiving a good school education, was, at his own earnest request, bound apprentice to a master of a vessel, to whom he served the time faithfully; and from his good conduct, soon himself became master of a ship.

He had just returned from Jamaica, with the charge of a West-India trader, when about the middle of the month of June, 1751, appeared in the daily papers, a remarkable advertisement, with ten signatures thereto, offering a reward of ten guineas for apprehending James Lowry, late master of the Molly, a merchant-ship, lately arrived from Jamaica, who was charged by ten of his crew, with the cruel murder of Kenith Hossack, foremast-man, in his passage home, on the 24th of December last, by ordering his two wrists to be tied to the main-shrouds, and then whipping him till he expired.

To this captain Lowry replied, by charging his crew with depriving him of his command of the said ship, on the 29th of the said month, and carrying her into Lisbon, where the British consul re-instated him in his command, and he sent the ten subscribing men home prisoners; and that he was ready to surrender when a court should be appointed for his trial, which nothing prevented him from doing immediately, but the thoughts of lying in gaol under the detestable name of an inhuman man.

The crew rejoined in another advertisement, that Lowry did not only murder the said Hossack, as appears by the affidavits of the ten subscribers, and sworn before John Russel, Esq. the British consul, at Lisbon, to be by him transmitted to the lords of the Admiralty, but in the said passage, did use Peter Bright and John Grace so cruelly that they died; and still continuing his barbarity, to every man in the ship, broke the jaw-bone and one of the fingers of William Dwight, and fractured the scull of William Wham.

They admitted that they (the subscribers) had been sent from Lisbon to England, by the said British consul; but this was done in consequence of a pretended charge of piracy sworn against them by Lowry, as the only means he had to screen himself from justice; for the sake of which, and to deter other masters of ships from exercising the like barbarities at sea, they repeated their reward, which they deposited in proper hands for apprehending the murderer.

These advertisements naturally excited public curiosity, and Lowry was apprehended and brought to trial at the Admiralty sessions at the Old Bailey, on the 18th of February, 1752, for the wilful murder of Kenith Hossack.

James Gatherah, mate of the vessel, deposed, that they left Jamaica on the 28th of October, 1750, having on board fourteen hands; that, on the 24th of December, he came on deck between four and five in the afternoon, and saw the deceased tied up, one arm to the haulyards, and the other to the main shrouds, when the prisoner was beating him with a rope, about an inch and a half in thickness. This deponent returning again in half an hour, the deceased begged to be let down on a call of nature; the captain being now below, Gatherah obtained his permission to release him for the present, but was to tie him up again; but when let down, he was unable to stand; which being made known to Lowry, he said, "D---n the rascal, he shams Abraham;" and ordered him again to be tied up. This was done; but he was not made so fast as before, which the captain observing, ordered his arms to be extended to the full stretch, and taking the rope, beat him on the back, breast, head, shoulders, face, and temples, for about half an hour, occasionally walking about to take breath.

About six o'clock he hung back his head, and appeared motionless; on which Lowry ordered him to be cut down, and said to Gatherah, "I am afraid Kenny is dead." Gatherah replied, "I am sorry for it, but hope not." Gatherah then felt his pulse; but finding no motion there, or at his heart, said, "I am afraid he is dead, indeed;" on which the captain gave the deceased

a slap on the face, and exclaimed, "D---n him, he is only shamming Abraham now."

On this the deceased was wrapped up in a sail, and carried to the steerage, where Lowry whetted a penknife, and Gatherah attempted to bleed him, but without effect.

Gatherah deposed further, that the deceased had been ill of a fever, but was then recovering, and though not well enough to go aloft, was able to do many parts of his duty.

Gatherah likewise deposed to the tyranny and cruelty of the captain to the whole ship's company, except one James Stuart; and gave several instances of his inhumanity, particularly that of his beating them with a stick which he called "the royal oak's foremast."

It was asked of Gatherah, why Lowry was not confined till the 29th of December, as the murder took place on the 24th? to which he answered, that the ship's crew had been uneasy, and proposed to confine the captain; but that he (Gatherah) represented the leaky condition of the ship, which made it necessary that two pumps should be kept going, night and day; and the ship's crew were so sickly, that not a hand could be conveniently spared; that he believed the captain would be warned by what he had done, and treat the rest of the crew better, during the remainder of the voyage; that Lowry could not escape while on the voyage, and that, on their arrival in England, he might be charged with the murder before any magistrate.

The seamen were satisfied by these arguments; but Lowry continuing his severities, it was determined to deprive him of his command, and confine him to the cabin. At length the ship became so leaky, that they did not expect to live from night till morning; and the men quitted the pumps, and took a solemn farewell of each other: but Gatherah advised them to renew their endeavours to save the vessel, and to steer for the port of Lisbon.

This advice was followed; and having arrived off the rock of Lisbon, they hoisted a signal for a pilot, and one coming off in a fishing-boat, found that they had no pro-

duct,* on which he declined conducting them into port ; but by this pilot the captain sent a letter to the British consul, informing him that the crew had mutinied : on which the consul came on board, put ten of the seamen under an arrest, and sent them to England.

The account given by Gatherah to the consul corresponded with that he had given in evidence at the Old Bailey. During the voyage, the crew of Lowry's ship worked their passage ; and, on their arrival in England, though they were committed to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison, yet they had liberty to go out when they pleased ; and considered themselves only as evidences against Lowry.

The rest of the crew, who were examined on the trial, gave testimony corresponding with that of Gatherah ; and declared that the deceased was sober and honest. Some questions were asked, if they thought Lowry's ill treatment was the occasion of Hossack's death. They replied there was no doubt of it ; " that it would have killed him had he been in good health and strength, or the stoutest man living ; and that he generally beat them with a thick oak stick, which he exultingly called, his royal oak's foremast."

It may be proper to mention that Lowry, having taken men on board to work his ship to England, arrived soon after his accusers ; but they having given previous information to the lords of the admiralty, a reward was offered for apprehending him : he remained some time concealed ; but at length he was discovered by a thief-taker, who took him into custody, and received ten guineas from the marshal of the admiralty.

The prisoner in his defence said, that his crew were a drunken set of fellows, that they altered the ship's course and were mutinous, that the deceased had stolen a bottle of rum and drank it, whereby he became intoxicated, that he tied him up to the rails to sober him, and that he flourished a rope three times round, and gave him a few strokes which could not hurt him, that he fell through drunkenness, and he did all he could to recover him.

* That is, they had no effects to dispose of.

After the evidence was recapitulated by the judge, the jury retired for about half an hour, and then delivered their verdict, that the prisoner was guilty; on which he received sentence of death, and orders were given for his being hung in chains.

After conviction, Lowry behaved with great apparent courage and resolution, till a smith came to take measure of him for his chains; when he fainted away, and fell on his bed, and was measured while insensible. On his recovery, he said that it was the disgrace of a public exposure that had affected him, and not the fear of death.

On the 25th of March, at half past nine in the morning, the unfortunate convict was brought out of Newgate, to undergo the sentence of the law; on seeing the cart which was to convey him to the gallows, he became pale but soon recovered a degree of serenity of countenance. He had on a scarlet cloak over a morning gown, and a brown wig, of the colour of his eye-brows. His eyes were very bright and piercing, his features regular and agreeable, and by no means evinced the cruelty of his disposition. He was, in stature, about five feet seven inches, very well proportioned, and about forty years of age. His behaviour was quite composed and undaunted. Before the cart was carried a silver oar of a very antique form.

The dreadful procession had not moved many yards, before the populace began to express their indignation at the culprit. Some sailors cried out, "Where is your royal oak's foremast?" others vociferated, "He is shamming Abraham;" and with such tauntings and revilings was he drawn to Execution Dock; near which a number of sailors being collected, they poured execrations on his devoted head.

He was then taken out of the cart, and placed upon a scaffold under the gallows, where he put on a white cap. He prayed very devoutly with the ordinary of Newgate, about a quarter of an hour; then giving the executioner his money and watch, the platform fell. After hanging twenty minutes, the body was cut down, put into a boat, and carried to Blackwall, and there hung in chains, on the bank of the Thames.

WILLIAM STROUD,

[A notorious Swindler,]

*Six Times whipped through the Streets of Westminster,
in the Month of March, 1752.*

THIS specious robber was well born and educated; but very early in life took to little tricks of cheating, which sufficiently marked his character. When but a school-boy, he used to purloin blank leaves from the books of his companions, and was remarkable for robbing them of their marbles.

This disposition continued while he was an apprentice; and at length he embarked in business for himself: but he had not been long a master before he considered trade as a drudgery; on which he sold off his stock, took lodgings in Bond-street, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman.

He now lived in a most expensive manner, supplying the extravagances of women of ill-fame; which soon reducing him to indigent circumstances, he fixed on a plan of defrauding individuals; for which purpose he got credit with a taylor for some elegant suits of apparel, took a genteel house, and hired some servants, by which he imposed himself upon the public as a man of large estate.

An extensive credit, and a splendid mode of living, was the consequence of his elegant appearance; but some tradesmen bringing in bills which he was equally unable and unwilling to discharge, he sold off his household furniture, and privately decamped.

He now took handsome lodgings in Bloomsbury; and dressing himself in velvet clothes, he pretended to be the steward of a nobleman of high rank. He likewise took a house in Westminster, in which he placed an agent, who ordered in goods as for the nobleman; and the tradesmen who delivered these goods were directed to leave their bills for the examination of the steward; but the effects were no sooner in possession, than they were

sold to a broker, to the great loss of the respective tradesmen.

Stroud used to travel into the country in summer, and having learnt the names of London traders with whom people of fortune dealt, he used to write in their names for goods; but constantly meeting the waggons that conveyed them, generally received the effects before they reached the places to which they were directed.

It would be endless to mention all the frauds of which he was guilty. London and the country were equally laid under contribution by him: and jewellers, watch-makers, lacemen, taylor, drapers, upholders, silversmiths, silk-mercens, hatters, hosiers, &c. were frequent dupes to his artifices.

It was impossible for a man, proceeding in this manner, to evade justice. He was at length apprehended as a common cheat, and committed to the Gatehouse, Westminster. On his examination, a coach-maker charged him with defrauding him of a gilt chariot, a jeweller, of rings to the amount of a hundred pounds; a taylor, of a suit of velvet trimmed with gold; a cabinet-maker, of some valuable goods in his branch; and several other tradesmen, of various articles.

The grand jury having found bills of indictment against him, he was tried at the Westminster sessions; when clouds of witnesses who had been duped and plundered by him appeared to give their evidence; and he was instantly found guilty.

The court sentenced him to hard labour in Bridewell, for six months, and in that time to be whipped through the streets six times; which was inflicted with the severity which they intended.

ELIZABETH JEFFERIES, THE MURDERER OF
HER UNCLE, AND JOHN SWAN, HER ACCOM-
PLICE,

Executed March 5, 1752, on Epping Forest.

THIS dreadful case, we are sorry to observe, evinces such vile ingratitude, and determined cruelty in a young female, as have not been exceeded in the most hardened villain, in this long and melancholy catalogue.

Strong suspicions of this murder falling upon Miss Jefferies and Swan, they were apprehended and brought to trial at Chelmsford assizes, the 12th of March, 1752.

The counsel for the crown opened the case thus : "The unfortunate person deceased had been in considerable trade, and had acquired such an ample fortune as to enable him to retire to Walthamstow. The only thing he wanted to complete his happiness was a child, to be the companion of his age, a partaker of his fortune while living, and an inheritor of it after his death. Accordingly, he took his brother's daughter, the prisoner at the bar, treated her like his own child, and left her by will almost his whole estate. He frequently mentioned this as an inducement to her to be dutiful ; but when she became negligent in her behaviour, he declared his intention to alter his will, if she did not alter her conduct. This she determined to prevent by compassing his death. The other prisoner at the bar, to whom the deceased had been a very kind master, till he was offended at his familiarity with his niece, meditated this villany in conjunction with her, and they found a simple fellow, one Matthews, that Mr. Jefferies had employed, whom they thought a proper person to accomplish their villany. This man for a time rejected their proposals, till at last promises of a considerable reward staggered him, but did not produce the desired effect ; for when the execution was to be performed, the favours he had received, from his master obliged him to refuse it, and neither threats, nor abuses, nor temptations could tempt him to alter his resolution.

The court then proceeded to examine witnesses, and Edward Buckle, a neighbour, being first called, deposed, that July 3, about two in the morning, he heard Miss Jefferies make an outcry; when, getting up, he went to her, and found her in her shift without shoe or stocking, at a neighbour's door, about twenty yards from her uncle's house, crying out, "Oh! they have killed him, they have killed him, I fear. Go, see after my uncle." That he then desired her to go and put something about her, but she replied, "Don't mind me, see after my uncle;" he then went, and John Swan unlocking or unbolting the door on the inside, he went in, Swan saying, "Go up, and see after my master, whom I fear some cruel rogues have killed." He found the deceased lying on his right side, with three wounds on the left side of his head; that then taking hold of his left hand, he said, "If you cannot speak to me, signify it to me;" that he then squeezed his hand, but did not speak. That Miss Jefferies, after some time, said to this witness, Mr. Buckle, will you go and lay information about the country of this unhappy affair? He said he would; and if, added he, I light of Matthews I'll take him up. She replied, Mr. Buckle, don't meddle with him, for you will bring me into trouble, and yourself too. Here Miss Jefferies interrupted the witness a second time, and said, "Are you positive? look to the jury: take care what you say; you are on your oath."

Thomas Matthews already mentioned deposed, that he had worked for Mr. Jefferies nine days, only for his bread; that once Miss Jefferies ordered him up stairs to wipe down a chest of drawers, that she came up just after, and said, "What will you do to get one hundred pounds?" He asked her what he was to do for it? she asked again, "If he was willing to do it?" he said, yes, in an honest way. She bid him go to John Swan in the garden, and he would tell him what it was. He went to him, when John smiled, and called him into an out-house, and told him that if he would knock that old miser his master on the head, he would give him 700*l*. and Miss Jefferies heard all: she said she would see the money paid, and that she should not have a moment's peace,

while that miser was living. That after he was discharged from Mr. Jefferies, Swan shewed him the pistols, he said, he had bought to shoot his master, as he took a walk in the evening. That he once gave him half-a-guinea to buy a case of pistols to shoot Mr. Jefferies as he came home from Chelsea with one Mr. Gallant; but instead of buying the pistols, he went to the Green Man, at Low Layton, and spent the money. They had several interviews, and at last he agreed to come on Tuesday, July 2, at about ten at night, to the backside of Mr. Jefferies's garden, and Swan would give him some money to knock the old miser on the head, in the hearing of Miss Jefferies. He accordingly came to the garden, and thence into the pantry, where he stood behind a tub, till Swan came to him, and gave him some cold beef. Both Swan and Miss Jefferies came to him about twelve o'clock, and said, "Now's the time to knock your master on the head:" he said, he could not find in his heart to do it; on which Miss Jefferies damned him for a villain, because he would not perform his promise; and Swan damned his blood, and pulling a book out of his pocket made him swear not to discover what had passed, otherwise he would blow his brains out; on this, witness said, he would not, except he was in danger of his life. They then parted, and went up stairs; and half an hour afterwards, he heard a pistol go off, and hastened out of the house the backway. Being asked, whether he promised to commit the murder? he said, he did, near Walthamstow church, and that Swan said, "If this witness would not do it, by G---d, he or somebody must do it; for Miss Jefferies was big with child, and if the old miser should know it, they should be both banished the house."

Mr. Forbes, surgeon, deposed, that he observed Mr. Jefferies's wounds, and the blood about the floor: that he examined the wounds, and found two, one with a gun, or pistol, on the left side of his face, and the other by a knife, which he took to be mortal, it being a stab in the ear of about four inches deep: there was a knife on the floor with a sharp point. He added, that Swan had a clean shirt on that morning.

Sarah Arnold, maid-servant, deposed, that the night before, Mrs. Martin and her children supped at her master's, when John Swan waited at table; that between eleven and twelve o'clock, Swan and Miss Jefferies went out and returned in a quarter of an hour, when John Swan, who was pretty much in liquor, went to bed without asking leave, and Miss Jefferies coming in, pressed her uncle, in a very particular manner, to go to bed, and the company to go away; and half an hour after her master was in bed, she went up stairs, having first, by her master's orders, fastened all the doors. That they had cold boiled beef in the house; that Miss Jefferies lay in a room divided from her uncle's by a very thin partition, which had a hole in it, and Swan lay on the same floor. That about three o'clock she heard an alarm, and looking out of the window, saw Miss Jefferies in the yard; that she then called to Swan, and asked where her master was? he said, he believed he was a-bed and murdered: she then ran directly into her master's chamber, and found him on his back, his legs drawn up, and rattling in the throat, and putting her hand on his wounds found the blood quite congealed: on the floor by the bedside lay her master's knife, which the day before had been left on the bench at the garden door. She afterwards saw the pistol, which had burst into several pieces; she found the back door open that goes into the yard, but did not observe that the house had been broke open: one of the pistols that used to hang over the fire-place in the kitchen was also gone, and some chips of the bullets lay about the kitchen floor. Being asked, whether she had observed any disagreement between her master and Miss Jefferies? she replied, that her master did not like her so often conversing with Swan, as people took notice of it; he was displeased at her manner of life, and threatened to turn her out of doors. She heard him tell Mrs. Martin, in Miss Jefferies's hearing, that he would alter his will, and make Joe Martin his heir, though she had before heard him say, that all he had in the world was hers. When her master threatened her, she seemed to be uneasy, but she never heard her make him any answer.

Being asked, if she knew where her master's will used to be kept? she said, in a little box in an iron chest, by his bedside, and that box was gone that very morning.

Elizabeth Gallant deposed, that in about an hour and a half after she came, which was soon after the murder, Miss Jefferies called to Mrs. Buckle, to go into Mr. Jefferies's room, take the box of writings, carry them into her room, lock the door, and bring her the key.

Jeffery Mead deposed, that he looked about the house, and saw only the bar of one window at the back door bent, but the lead as regularly untwisted, as if by a glazier, and that he apprehended it was done by some of the family; that he desired John Swan to give him a rake, and shew him the pond, where they might make a search; and in searching, they found a new sack with some pewter and brass in it. When Miss Jefferies was apprehended, this witness said, she hoped they would not use her ill, for she had given Mr. Smart a five hundred pound bank note that day; and, said she, to let all the world know that Mr. Jefferies did not lose his life to wrong Mrs. Martin's children (putting her hand into her bosom, and pulling out a one hundred pound bank-note), here, Mrs. Martin, I give you this for you and your children.

Richard Clark deposed, that between two and three he heard the outcry, Murder! Fire! Thieves! and saw Miss at the window over the door, and Swan in the court: Miss said, "Make all the haste you can, for there are thieves in the house, and I am afraid my uncle is murdered." Swan said, he believed they got in at the window, and out at the door backwards; but on examining the window and door, he found nothing broke, nor the least track of feet in the garden, though it was a dewy morning. He deposed farther, that about a quarter of a year before the murder, Swan called on him to take a walk to fetch a horse, and that coming back by my lord Castlemain's, he asked him, if he were a hearty man, sufficient to shoot any thing? to which he answered, that he was no sportsman, and could not shoot well;

when Swan said, if he was, he could help him to fifty pounds and a horse to ride on.

John Ball gave evidence that he went into the room with Mr. Tipping, the apothecary, and drew near to Mr. Jefferies, and said to him, "My dear Sir, I am sorry to see this; if you think you know who did it, hold up your hand:" with that he held up his left hand, dropping out of it a handkerchief with which he had been dabbing his wounds.

The prisoners being called upon to make their defence, Miss Jefferies said, she concluded that most of them were perjured, and that she left her cause to her counsel; but John Swan called witnesses.

First, Elizabeth Diaper deposed, that she lived a few yards from Mr. Jefferies, and was alarmed that morning by Miss Jefferies, who cried, "Diaper, Diaper, for God's sake come, there are rogues in the house, and they are going to set it on fire." When she came, the maid was sitting on the garret window with her right thigh on the window board, and her hand on her thigh, saying, there are thieves in the house; she raised the street, and coming to the gate, saw Miss Jefferies and Mrs. Buckle; she asked Miss Jefferies how she got out? she said out of the window, and called out, "See where my uncle is, Oh! for God's sake, my uncle and Joe Martin." John Swan, opened the door, and came out directly.

Here this witness fainting was obliged to be carried out of court.

John Diaper, her husband, added to what his wife had said, that taking the alarm and hastening, he saw Miss Jefferies half way out of window before he went down stairs; being asked the height of the window above ground, he said, between ten and eleven feet, with a covering over the door called a pent-house, about five feet from the ground; he hastened down stairs, took a bill, and when he came to the door, turned about, and saw Miss Jefferies standing at his door in her shift barefooted, and very much affrighted. Being asked by the prisoner's counsel, whether her terror seemed to be real? he said, he did believe her to be really affrighted. The prisoner's

counsel asking how did Swan appear to be? he said, very much affrighted, and crying he had rather have died with his master. Being asked again, whether the linen of Swan, or Miss Jefferies, were bloody? he said no: or, whether they were clean? he said, they seemed to have been lain in, neither being clean.

Miss Jefferies fainted away at this time, and continued in convulsions near forty minutes.

Elizabeth Diaper being recovered, was brought again into court, and confirmed the former evidence, as to the shirt and shift of the prisoners being free from blood, and said further, that she generally nursed Mr. Jefferies in his illness, and observed Miss very kind to him; and that John Swan had often fetched Mr. Jefferies home from Chelsea, the forest, and elsewhere, at all hours.

Mary Buckle, who lived in the same court with Mr. Jefferies, deposed, that on Wednesday morning between two and three o'clock, she heard a calling out, "I am afraid the house is on fire." When she came into the court, Miss Jefferies was falling from the window; she asked her the reason, and was answered, Don't mind me, seek after my uncle; some men are gone down stairs, crying, "Damnation to the old rogue, we have done all the mischief we could, and now we'll set the house on fire."

Catherine Griffiths said, she heard the alarm, and when Miss Jefferies came into the room, she said, "Dear uncle, if you can speak, speak to me; if you know me, make motions," and he made none; that he died at eight or nine in the evening, while Miss Jefferies was in the room.

Robert Clifton, apothecary, deposed, that John Swan came to him about ten in the morning, and desired him to hasten, for he feared his master was murdered; that Miss Jefferies asked if any help could be had in London, if there could she desired he might have it; that a surgeon there imagined he might be dead before any help could come: that he really believed the hand which discharged the pistol must be wounded by the bursting of it; that John Swan was not wounded, and therefore he thought

he did not discharge the pistol; and that he had frequently taken Mr. Jefferies out at the request of Miss, that she might receive or pay a visit; that if John Swan were inclined to hurt his master, he had many better opportunities, when he often came home with him in dark nights; that he once fell off his horse's neck into a pond, and Swan saved him, for which he was always kind to him.

The counsel for the prosecution then observed, that the pistol being a long one, as appeared from the length of the rammer, produced in court, and also the shattered remains of the pistol, and that part where the lock was fixed being entire, the hand that discharged it might not be hurt.

Being asked by the king's counsel, if he had not received a sum of money from the prisoner that morning? his son, he said, had received a twenty-pound note, in part of a former debt of twenty-two pounds, for goods sold and delivered.

Sir Samuel Gower witnessed, that he had Matthews under examination four or five times before him, and Mr. Bateman and Mr. Quarrel; that he gave different accounts, and that this witness told him, that he could put no confidence in his evidence; he prevaricated so much, that he suffered him to sign two of his examinations, and when any thing was said of murdering Mr. Jefferies, he always said, he was offered money to do it.

Mr. Quarrel deposed, that Matthews differed in the latter part of his account, but as to his saying he was hired, he kept to that all the time of his examination.

J. Warriner deposed, that on Matthews's first examination, he said he knew nothing of the murder, nor did he hear of it before he was taken: at his second examination he contradicted himself, and said, what he told before was a lye. This witness being desired to go into another room to take his confession, did so, and confessed that he was hired, and was to have 700*l.* for the murder.

The prisoners making no farther defence, nor speaking a word in their own behalf, the judge, after summing up the evidence, observed, that though the principal evidence

might be represented as prevaricating in some particulars, yet when his evidence was corroborated by so many other strong evidences, it could not be disputed.

The jury then retired, and after staying about an hour, brought in the prisoners---Guilty.

The Confession of Elizabeth Jefferies, concerning the murder of her Uncle, Joseph Jefferies, after she received sentence of death.

“I, Elizabeth Jefferies, do freely and voluntarily confess, That I first enticed and persuaded John Swan and Thomas Matthews, to undertake and perpetrate the murder of my deceased uncle, which they both consented to do, the first opportunity. That, on the third day of July, 1751, myself and John Swan (Matthews, to my knowledge, not being in the house) agreed to kill my said uncle; and accordingly, after the maid was gone to bed, I went into John Swan’s room, and called him, and we went down together into the kitchen, and having assisted Swan in putting some pewter and other things, into a sack, I said I could do no more, and then I went into my room; and afterwards Swan came up, as I believe, and went into my uncle’s room, and shot him; which done, he came to my door, and rapped. Accordingly, I went out in my shift, and John Swan opened the door, and let me out; that done, I alarmed the neighbourhood. And I do solemnly declare, that I do not know that any person was concerned in the murder of my deceased uncle, but myself and John Swan: for that Matthews did not come to my uncle’s house the day before, or night, in which the murder was committed, as I know of.

“ELIZABETH JEFFERIES.”

Taken and acknowledged March 12, 1742.

Miss Jefferies fainted under the gallows, and was not recovered, when she was launched into eternity. Her body was delivered to her friends; but that of Swan was hung in chains, in another part of the forest.

NICHOLAS MOONEY AND JOHN JONES,

Executed at Bristol, May 24, 1752, for Highway Robbery.

NICHOLAS MOONEY being no less notorious for his sincere penitence and happy death than for his repeated acts of criminality and violence, we shall exceed the limits to which we are usually confined in recording the cases of so many offenders, and present to our readers some extracts from a life written by himself, while under sentence of condemnation, at the Newgate in Bristol.

“ I thought it necessary to give a particular account of myself; and this I do, not to satisfy the curious part of mankind, but to stir up all men to repent, and believe in Jesus Christ; to shew that I readily own the justice of the sentence passed upon me, and above all, to magnify the wisdom, justice, and mercy of Almighty God, who has made a notorious offender a public example to the world, and at the same time a happy monument of his amazing love and free grace to *the worst of sinners*.

“ Whatever other names I have at any time taken upon myself, my real name is Nicholas Mooney. My father, John Mooney, who kept a large dairy farm, and was likewise a master gardener, lived in good credit at Regar, near Refarman, within two miles of Dublin, in Ireland, where I was born, July 10, 1721.

“ I lived at home with my father, till I was about fifteen years of age: in the mean time, I was put to school, and had the benefit of a tolerable education. About sixteen, I was put apprentice to Andrew Muckleworth, a paper-maker at Glassneven, one mile from Dublin. After I had served near a year of my time, a quarrel happened between me and one William Reney, a journeyman that worked for my master, whom I almost killed, by giving him a violent blow on the head with a stone. This brought upon me the dislike of my master and mistress, which I was impatient to bear; whereupon I packed up my clothes, together with a prayer-book that belonged to

my master's daughter, the Whole Duty of Man, and a pair of stockings that were my master's, and ran away by night to Drogheda, about twenty miles off; where I was known and entertained by an acquaintance of my father's. This inconsiderate action paved the way for all the after extravagancies of my life.

"The fear of being apprehended by my master prevented my staying long at Drogheda: I therefore sold my working clothes, and the books I had purloined, and then embarked for Liverpool in Lancashire. After we were put to sea, a violent storm arose, which detained us at sea some days, expecting every moment to be cast away. The ship was stripped of her masts and rigging, and all were carried off. The swelling of the sea was so great, that the sailors were obliged to tie themselves with ropes to the ship, to prevent their being washed overboard. Being driven near the Isle of Man, there was the utmost danger of being lost off Douglas-bay. One signal instance of Providence, though it does not concern me, I will relate:---a boy, who came with some liquor to give the sailors to refresh them, was washed overboard, and afterwards thrown on board again. On the fifth day, the tempest abated. We then took in a pilot from Douglas, who carried us safe in our shattered vessel into that harbour.

"Not being ready to go with the ship, it sailed without me, and I was left in Douglas, where I stayed three weeks, and then embarked in another ship, and had a fair passage to Liverpool. From thence I proceeded to London, and worked in Kent-street-road as a gardener. Being of an unsettled disposition I did not continue long in this situation.

"After some time I took to work again, and wrought at Mr. Nelson's, a sugar-baker, near Thames-street, London. I had been here but a short time, before I was discharged on suspicion of a criminal intrigue with a servant-maid in the family; but I soon after got a place at Mr. Shoemaker's, a sugar-baker in Lemon-street, where I continued some time. From thence I went to Mr. Cooper's, in Old Fish-street, where I made love to my

master's sister, which coming to his ear, he discharged me from his service, before I had been there quite a year. My mind was then bent on roving again, and I went and enlisted into captain Cunningham's company, in the train of artillery at Greenwich, by the name of Nicholas Moon. From thence I went for Scotland, this being the time the rebellion broke out there; but afterwards I joined the rebel party, and continued in the service of the Pretender, till his defeat and escape to France.

"It will easily be imagined, that all this while I gave up myself to all those vices, for which the soldiery in general are so notoriously infamous. But notwithstanding the impious life I led, my conscience was often roused with the accuser in my own breast. This sometimes made me think of breaking off my evil course of life, and I would set about a reformation. Divers times did I in a formal manner repent and sin, and repent and sin again: and when I have happened in company where religious people have been discoursing, I have made vows and resolutions of a new life, and afterwards wrote them down in a book that I might not forget them. But, alas! what are man's best resolutions when he does not look to God for his gracious assistance!

"Soon after leaving the Pretender, I returned to England, and pursued my way to Exeter; where I got acquainted with a shopkeeper's daughter, to whom I pretended love, and having ingratiated myself into her favour, I borrowed money of her, and set out in order to go to London. But first I swore I would return and marry her.

"In my way to London, I met with an honest, virtuous young woman, whose father was a farmer of good circumstances, in Wiltshire. I cast my vulture's eye upon her, as a destined prey. I attired myself in a gay manner; and, in the appearance of a gentleman, paid my addresses to her, making her believe I was a man of fortune, and by this and other devilish artifices I gained her consent to be married. We went together to London, where I took her to the Fleet and married her. I had one child by her, which dying unbaptised, though I was

such an abandoned wretch, gave me no little concern.— How cautious ought every young woman to be what company she goes into, especially with whom she contracts a familiarity! What calamities have young people brought upon their friends, what misery and distress upon themselves, by giving too easy credit to appearances!

“After I had spent what money I had with this wife, I applied myself to work at gardening again; but my income not being sufficient to support my extravagancies, I took to coining half-crowns and shillings, in moulds of my own making. I had not followed this practice long, before I was overheard by some in the house as I was at work, who suspected what I was doing, and threatened to inform against me; whereupon I threw away my moulds, and left off coining. But my leaving off one vice was but to make way for another.

“I now resolved to take to the highway; accordingly, I equipped myself with a brace of pistols, and set out. The first I robbed was a gentleman going to Deptford. Then I robbed a man and his wife at Hyde Park corner: the woman’s pocket I snatched from her side. After this I got two accomplices, and we committed a great many robberies in and about London. Among the many others, we set upon a gentleman belonging to the play-house, near a watch-house in London. One kept the watchman in the house, while the other two committed the robbery. The gentleman had his sword drawn in his hand, with which he stabbed me in the side: however I got his sword from him, and made off with it. Soon after, I was taken up for this robbery, and carried before a magistrate, who committed me to Clerkenwell bridewell. At the next sessions of the Old Bailey, I was tried and condemned to die by my right name of Nicholas Mooney.

“My carelessness at this time was in a great measure owing to the expectation I had of a reprieve; of this I seemed almost confident, my wife, who shewed herself a true friend to me in the time of my necessity, notwithstanding my baseness to her, assuring me, that I should

not die. I was respited several times. At last justice Fielding's brother came to me a few days before the day of execution, and desired me to tell him ingenuously and truly, whether those three men I had impeached were guilty? I confidently affirmed they were; though I knew it to be false. I pray God make them amends for the wrong I did them, I cannot.---After this, Mr. Fielding became my friend, and through his and the favour of sir J. Ligonier, a pardon was procured for me.

"When I had gotten my liberty, I waited on general Ligonier, to return him thanks for his favour, who gave me a guinea. I then took to work again at gardening, and had a very good place: but it happened, after I had been there for some time, that, being drinking in a public-house with my master's brother, a quarrel broke out in the company between another man and me, and I, as concerned in the riot, was sent to the New Gaol, Southwark. From hence I was carried to Guildford gaol, and after some time released.

"During the time I was under confinement at Guildford, I contracted an acquaintance with two poor creatures like myself: with these I agreed, that if we were acquitted, we would all take to the highway together; and we did not fail of our word: many were the robberies we committed in and about London, I was at last wounded in attempting to rob a gentleman near the half-way house going to Kensington. One of my accomplices was taken and afterwards hanged. Upon his impeachment (oh! what a rope of sand is the confederacy of the wicked!) my other companion and I were forced to fly. I bent my course to the west, having first bought me a very long knife, either to defend myself, or rob withal, and got to Salisbury, disguised in a sailor's habit. There I became acquainted with one who was formerly a carpenter in the French service. With him I set out for Exeter, and on the road asked him to rob a gentleman, but he was afraid, and would not consent. When we came to Exeter, he made information against me for advising him to rob, and moreover took an oath that I was an outlawed smuggler; whereupon I was apprehended.

and committed to prison. On my examination I swore, that my name was John Jackson, and that I was born at Prescott in Lancashire. This is the only time that I ever got any advantage by changing my name; but now it stood me instead, for by this means I got clear of outlawry, and was also acquitted of the other indictment, and set at liberty.

“Being discharged, I went to Taunton, in Somersetshire, and got work at gardening, and at leisure times painted pictures, and sold them; for I had made some proficiency in painting and drawing patterns for needlework. Here I assisted in making a new garden for a gentleman, and by this means got acquainted with several noted gentlemen’s gardeners, and by one of them was recommended to Esquire P——r, of Fairfield, near Stokegussey, where I lived about three quarters of a year. My outward demeanour here was such as gained me respect, and none suspected what my former life had been, yet all the while my heart was going after its lusts. During my stay here, I contracted an intimacy with a virtuous young woman that was my fellow-servant: and let me here ask pardon of God and her, which I do from the ground of my heart) I ensnared her affections, and debauched her. After I had lived in sin with her some time, I began to fear, lest she should prove with child, and be brought to disgrace; I therefore resolved to have no more criminal conversation with her; and that I might be afraid to break my resolution, I went the Sunday following to church, and took the sacrament upon it: but how weak are the resolves of feeble man, without the strength of God! My passion soon grew too strong for my reason and resolution. I relapsed, and it happened according to my fears; the poor, ruined creature proved with child.

“When I found this poor creature advancing in her pregnancy, I resolved to leave my place. I communicated to her my intention of going away, and, to make her easy, swore I would return and marry her. I had lately received half a year’s wages, and with that I set out for Bristol, and got work there at Messrs. Hillhouse

and Stevens's sugar-house, where I wrought for some time, and was well-beloved, though I so ill deserved it. Here it was I became acquainted with my unhappy companion and fellow-sufferer John Jones. It happened that Jones fell into company with one that was a noted boxer, who challenged him to box him, which challenge Jones accepted. He afterwards came and acquainted me with the affair, and desired me to second him. I refused, saying, I did not like fighting upon a stage, it exposed a man so much: "but," added I, "if you want money, go upon the highway." He urged that we had no pistols. I told him, I could rob any man with a stick, and bid him not fear, saying, I am a stout man, and so are you: who can take us? we shall soon fill our pockets, and then we may buy pistols and horses too. Bristol is much better than London for robbing, and, as it is the fair-time, I don't question getting two or three hundred pounds before it is over." But he was still unwilling to go without pistols, so we concluded to buy a brace; and at length he consented.

"At our first setting out, we met with alderman Rich's son, in Magdalen-lane, near his father's house: I proposed robbing him, but Jones objected, there being a woman near: I said, I feared nobody, and accordingly attacked him; and robbed him of a pinchbeck watch, a 36s. piece, a moidore, and some silver. As I was robbing him, he dropt his cane or stick, which I picked up and gave him, I likewise asked him where he lived, and on his telling me at Mile-hill, I bid him go home and say nothing, for if he did, I would blow his brains out. We went from thence to Queen's-square the same night, and robbed Mr. Sheirclift of his watch and money; after which I was going to rob a gentleman in the square at his own door, though Jones persuaded me to the contrary; but before I could lay hold of him, the door was opened, and he went in and escaped my hands. The next day we went to Durham-down, and attacked Mr. Wasborough of Henbury, who struck me on the head with the butt-end of his whip, and wounded me, whereupon I fired at him: the ball went through his great

coat, but happily did him no further harm, for which I can never sufficiently thank God. I went then to a pond, and washed the blood off my face, and then we rode off for Bristol, and went to Jones's lodging, where after I had washed my face again, and gotten a plaister for my head, I proposed to go out again on foot; but Jones absolutely refused, saying, he was ill. However, I was resolute, and swore I would have some money that night (so was I hurried on by the devil); and accordingly went by myself to College-Green, and robbed a gentleman of a mourning-ring and seven shillings. When I had done, I returned to Jones's lodging, and gave him half the money, leaving my pistols with him. I then went to the Bell, in Broad-street, to enquire for lodging. Being asked from whence I came, I immediately replied from Westbury; not in the least imagining I could be suspected from that circumstance. But God is wise, and here he meant to stop me short in my career. I was suspected to be the person who attacked Mr. Wasborough on the Down, and more so from a drop of blood that was left on my face, notwithstanding I had washed it twice.---But by what small means can God bring great matters to light, when he sees proper, when at other times much stronger circumstances escape unobserved. To put an end to all doubt, while I was here, Mr. Wasborough himself came in, who charged me with the robbery. Being searched, and powder and ball found upon me, I was then committed to Bridewell, where being searched again, there was found upon me Mr. Sheirclift's watch, the mourning-ring, and the 36s. piece. Seeing no possibility of getting clear of the charge, I thought I had better to declare the whole of the matter; and accordingly, I impeached poor Jones, who was taken the next morning in bed, with the pistols at his bed-side, and Mr. Rich's watch in his pocket. We were afterwards both examined before the mayor of Bristol, and by him committed to Newgate.---I should here observe the reason why the things could not be found upon me the first time I was searched; they were concealed in a pri-

vate pocket, many of which every common highwayman has about his clothes.

“ When I was committed to prison, I was very heavily ironed and closely confined in the condemned room, it being apprehended that I, being a stout, sturdy, resolute person, might find means to make my escape.

“ Surely the all-wise Providence of God over-ruled in all this affair: for had I robbed Mr. Wasborough, I must have taken my trial at Gloucester, where I had in all probability been destitute of such spiritual helps as I have met with at Bristol: this, and my being so closely confined here, is such an instance of God’s mercy to me, as I shall have reason to praise him to all eternity. Hereby, I had the opportunity of reflecting on my past misconduct, and the conversation of some religious friends, uninterrupted by the rest of the prisoners.

“ On Easter-Tuesday, March 31, as soon as I arose, I was so terrified in my conscience I could get no rest. I knew not what to do. I longed for some good Christian to advise me, but knew not whom to send to. The agonies of my mind increasing more and more, I thought to ease myself by reading a little: accordingly, I took up the common-prayer-book, in which I read, and sometimes prayed on my knees (the prisoners that lay in the room with me being all gone out). While I was in this distress of soul, and as I was reading, according to my wish, a woman came to the window, saying, *My friend, I am glad to see thee so well employed; I am not come to look at you, but to speak to you for the good of your soul.* She had not spoken many words more, before I was cut to the heart, and had I not given way to my distress by a flood of tears, my heart must have burst. As soon as I was able to answer her, I could not forbear crying out, “ I am the vilest sinner upon earth; I have been guilty of all manner of wickedness.” She told me if I felt the burden of sin, I was the very person for whom Christ died; at which news I was a little refreshed, and for that time she left me. After this she came to me every day, with others that had like care of

my soul, and gave me such advice as they saw I stood in need of, and sung hymns suitable to my condition, and joined in fervent prayer for me, and directed me to proper portions of Scripture.---All this time, the conviction of my lost state sank deeper and deeper into my soul, and I made an open confession of such crimes as would have touched my life, if the fact I was committed for had not.

“ On Friday, April 10, the trumpet gave its solemn, pleasing sound, to call me and the rest of my fellow-criminals to the bar of justice. It was to me as a welcome voice from heaven, and it filled my heart with joy, hoping I should be shortly there. When I was put to the bar, knowing myself worthy of more than one death, I determined, as I had done before, to give the court no trouble, but to plead guilty, and addressed the judge nearly in this manner :

“ My lord,

“ I am called by the name of Jackson, but I desire to be indicted by the name of Nicholas Mooney, for the other is a fictitious name. And, my lord, I beg I may have the liberty of speaking a few words before I am arraigned, to let your lordship know, that I am the man who hath drawn Jones into these unhappy circumstances, and hope your lordship will therefore shew him favour. My lord, I have been arraigned for my life before at the Old Bailey, and was convicted ; and the cart came to the door to take me to execution, but I was reprieved. I then depended altogether upon the favour of my friends ; but now I rely only upon God. Had I died then I had gone to hell, and been damned to all eternity ; but now I am snatched as a brand from the burning, and my sentence will be pleasing.” His lordship then asked me, if I did not expect mercy, by pleading guilty. I replied, “ No, my lord, I expect no mercy from any man on this side the grave. The Lord is on my side. I do not fear what man can do unto me. I desire to die, for I have not only committed many robberies, but have been a rebel, and fought against my king and country. His majesty’s clemency to me I have abused. Till within these few days, I neither knew what it was to fear

or love God, but now I know both, and I know that God is reconciled to me, and has forgiven me all my sins, and I am content to die."

"The next day I was called to the bar again, to receive sentence of death, which I did with the utmost calmness, my soul being kept all the time in sweet peace and full of love. I here again addressed his lordship much to this purpose :

"My lord,

"Permit me again to entreat for John Jones, whom I have drawn into this trouble.---As for my own part, I have committed many robberies, and been a rebel against my king, and have wronged my country by coining money ; for which I can never make the public restitution ; therefore I am content to die, as I deserve. And I pray God to bless every one to whom I have done any wrong. And if there be any gentlemen of Bristol here, whom I have injured, I ask them forgiveness, and especially Mr. Wasborough (he then stood near me), whom I attempted to murder, but God saved him ; for which I can never praise him enough.

"My lord, I desire only three Sundays, and I am willing to launch into eternity. And I hope, when I come to the place of execution, that God will open my mouth, to warn all to flee from their wicked course of life. I pray God to bless your lordship and the honourable court ; and the Lord Jesus receive my soul !"

"After condemnation, I wrote letters, one to the poor creature who is now with child by me, and another to a gentleman who had been formerly my friend, part of which, for special reasons, I think proper here to subjoin.

"Dear Nelly,

Bristol, April 14, 1752.

"Righteous is the Lord, and just are his judgments. His hand hath at last overtaken me : his hand of justice to cut short my life, and his hand of mercy to save my soul. You, for one, can witness the justice of my sentence. Were it in my power, I would gladly make you and every one else amends, whom I have injured in their goods, persons, or credit ; but seeing it is not, I hereby ask your forgiveness for the wrong I have done

you; and I trust that God, to whom I owe this duty first, and you and every one else, will accept my willing mind to make full restitution.

"I am too apprehensive what you have to undergo on my account, not to be concerned for you. Oh! that I had sufficiently considered this before I had brought you into this trouble!—The shame naturally attending your circumstances, the trouble consequent thereon, the slight of friends, the indignity and reproaches of an ill-natured world, are all grievous to be borne; but yet I hope that God, who comforts and supports me under my trials, in a manner I am not able to express, will do the same for you. Put your trust in him, and you shall never be confounded.

"On Wednesday fortnight, or as some tell me, on Friday se'nnight, I am to be delivered out of the miseries of this sinful world. Glory be to God through Jesus Christ; He has given repentance and remission of sins to me the worst of sinners. He has taken away the sting of death, and I am preparing to meet my Saviour and my judge. Let my example encourage every sinner to break off his sins and come unto God through Jesus Christ, pleading but his merits and their guilt, and he will freely forgive them: but let none presume on the long-suffering of God, for he will surely visit their iniquity with a rod, and their sins with scourges.

"As a dying man I give you this advice: give yourself up wholly to God, pray to him continually, and never rest till you have secured an interest in the blood of Jesus Christ. Live in his fear, and you will, as I trust I shall, die in his favour. I now commend you to God's grace and almighty protection, and request your earnest prayers for

"Your dying friend and well-wisher,

"NICHOLAS MOONEY."

"Please to communicate these lines to Mr. B——ht, with my due respects."

"TO A FRIEND.

"Before I die, I take this opportunity of acknowledging your kindness to me in times past. Oh! that I had

deserved it ; for then I had not brought myself into these unhappy circumstances. But God is wise ; and seeing I would not hear his voice, and leave my wicked life, he gave me up to my heart's lust, and permitted me to fill up the measure of mine iniquity, that in me at last might be shewn the severity of his justice, and riches of his mercy.

" You took me, the most abandoned wretch, for an honest man ; and as such, you kindly and generously recommended me where I might have done well. It is my own fault I did not. On Friday se'nnight I am to meet the fate my crimes have justly deserved. I deserve not only death, but hell ! to the former, man hath doomed me ; from the latter, Christ will save me. Of this I have such a firm hope in myself, being assured that God is reconciled to me (O the riches of his mercy in Christ Jesus !) that my prison is a palace, my chains are as ornaments, and I am quite happy. I hope every one will pray for me, that my faith fail not.

I am longing for death, and in firm expectation of a glorious resurrection to eternal life.

" Your much obliged and dying servant,

Bristol, April 14, 1752.

" NICHOLAS MOONEY."

" On the Sunday before I was to die, a friend proposed our going in a coach to execution ; but I told my fellow-sufferer, as our crimes have been public, let us be public examples : let us be seen of all, that all may take warning. God will support us. We do not know what good we may do by being exposed in a cart. I had likewise a friendly visit from Mr. Wasborough and Mr. Sheirclift, which gave me no small satisfaction : and that day I received the blessed sacrament. On Tuesday night, W. Cudmore, who was condemned to die with Jones and me, found means to get off his irons, and had begun to break the prison, but was discovered. But had all the prison-doors been set open, here would I have stayed to meet the fate my crimes have deserved. On the following day, I kept a fast to the Lord, took the sacrament and attended at chapel."

Some further Particulars relating to NICHOLAS
MOONEY

THE night before he died, the executioner came into the room and said, "Gentlemen, if you are not willing, I will not perform the office, although I am come:" at which Mooney took him by the hand, and said, "My friend, you are a welcome man to me."

That night six persons sat up in the room, and spent the time till midnight in reading, singing, and solemn prayer. At one, the prisoners went to bed, and desired the eighth chapter of the Romans to be read to them, which being done, they went to sleep. At three, Mooney arose, and washed himself, saying, "My wedding-day is come at last!" He conversed cheerfully with his friends, till four, and then called up Jones and Cudmore, and all together spent about an hour in devotion. After this, Jones falling into a great agony, as he stood at the window, reading in the Bible, retired to the bed, and seemed under such great terrors, that he had fainted, had not timely application been made: at which Mooney clapped his hands, and rejoicing, cried out, "I bless God for this: more of my sort of work; mine began in this manner." When Jones came to himself, Mooney took him by the hand, saying, "Come, my dear brother Jones, fear not; we shall take our flight above the clouds soon."

One then asked Jones how he did? he replied, "my heart is ready to burst; and yet at the same time I find in me such rejoicing as if I had the whole world given to me. I was never so happy in my life."

About seven o'clock, company began to flock in, and Mooney, with the utmost cheerfulness testified to all the consolation, he felt from God. He then dressed himself in mourning, saying, "I hope this is no sin; I do it not out of vanity, but decency, No, no more of the devil's works for me."

About eight his fetters were taken off; at which he said, "thus hath God taken off the chains of my sins."

He continued reading, praying, and speaking to the people till he was called to the sacrament at nine.

At the place of execution, they all joined the minister in singing and prayer; which done, Mooney earnestly exhorted all to take warning by him.—He then gave this printed narrative of his life to the sheriff, and said, “this was revised by me last night, and contains nothing but the truth, and it is my desire it should be dispersed abroad as much as possible, to shew my wickedness and God’s goodness, who has forgiven me all my sins.” He then added, “O, Sir, I cannot express the happiness I feel. There is more pleasure in serving God one hour, than in a long life of sin. Oh! what hath he done for so vile a sinner! I know Christ died for me, and the moment the breath is out of my body, my soul will be in heaven. I can from my heart triumph with the apostle, and say, “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?” As the executioner was preparing to tie up Jones, he cried out, “Tie me up first; for I am the greatest offender:” desiring that no one would pull his legs, for that he was willing to suffer all the pains of death.—The rope being fixed, he cried out, “My soul is so full of the love of God, that it is ready to start out of my body; and in a few moments I shall be at my father’s house.” The cart being drawn away, he was launched into eternity. It is remarkable, that he never stirred hand or foot, after he was turned off; but his soul seemed to have willingly taken its flight, before it was forced from the body.

His corpse was conveyed in a hearse from the place of execution to a friend’s house in Temple-street, from whence it was interred the Sunday following in Temple-church-yard, in the presence of several thousands of people.

A DARING BURGLARY,

Committed in the House of Mr. Porter, of the Raike Farm House, near Chester, by M'Cannelly, Morgan Stanley, Boyd, and Neill, Irish Haymakers ; for which the two first were executed on the 25th of May, 1752.

As the harvest approaches, numbers of the lowest class of Irish come over to the nearest counties in England, to be hired, as they receive better wages, and live better than in their own country ; and a wild, ferocious, and knavish set generally mix among the industrious and honest, for the purpose of plundering their employers.

Mr. Porter, a wealthy farmer, of Cheshire, had engaged a number of these people, in the year 1752, in his harvest-fields. One evening his house was beset by a gang of them, who forcibly broke open his doors, advanced to him while at his supper-table, seized and bound him with cords, at the same time, with horrid threats demanding his money.

They also seized his eldest daughter, pinioned her, and obliged her to shew them where her father's money and plate were deposited. In the confusion, the youngest daughter, an heroic little girl of thirteen years of age, made her escape, ran into the stable, got astride the bare back of a horse, only haltered ; but not daring to ride past the house, beset by the thieves, she galloped over the fields, leaping hedges and ditches, to Pulford, to inform her eldest brother of the danger they were in at the village. He, and a friend named Craven, determined on attacking the villains, and for that purpose set off at full speed, the little girl accompanying them.

On entering his paternal roof, the son found one of the villains on guard, whom he killed so instantaneously, that it caused no alarm. Proceeding to the parlour, they found the other four, in the very act of setting his father on the fire, after robbing him of fourteen guineas, in order to extort more. They had stripped down his

breeches to his feet, and his eldest daughter was on her knees, supplicating for his life.

What a sight was this for a son ! Like an enraged lion, and backed by his brave friend, he flew upon them. They fired two pistols, and wounded both the father and the son, and a servant boy whom they had also bound, but not so as to disable them, for the son wrested a hanger from one of them, cleft the villain to the ground, and cut the others.

The eldest daughter having unbound her father, the old man united his utmost efforts by the side of his son and friend ; and so hard did they press, that the thieves jumped through a widow, and ran off.

The young men pursued, and seized two more on Chester-bridge, who dropped a silver tankard. The fifth got on board a vessel at Liverpool, of which his brother was the cook, bound for the West-Indies ; which sailed, but was driven back by adverse winds.

The account of the robbery, with the escape of the remaining villain, having reached Liverpool, a king's boat searched every vessel, and at length found the robber, by the wounds he had received, and sent him in fetters to Chester gaol.

Mr. Porter had a servant man in the house at the time, a countryman of the robbers, who remained an unconcerned spectator, and as he afterwards run away, he was also sent to prison, charged with being an accomplice. They were brought to trial at Chester assizes, in March, 1752, and condemned.

Boyd, on account of his youth, and his having endeavoured to prevail upon the others not to murder Mr. Porter, had his sentence of death remitted for transportation.

The hired servant of Mr. Porter was not prosecuted.

On the Thursday previous to the day fixed for execution, Stanley slipped off his irons, and changing his dress, escaped out of gaol, and got clear off.

On the 25th of May, 1752, M'Cannelly and Morgan were brought out of prison, in order to be hanged. Their behaviour was as decent as could be expected from such

low-bred men. They both declared that Stanley, who escaped, was the sole contriver of the robbery.

They died in the catholic faith, and were attended by a priest of that persuasion.

THOMAS WILFORD,

[A Cripple, who murdered his Wife.]

Executed at Tyburn, June 22, 1752.

IN this malefactor, a wretch of the most depraved and low class of the metropolis, we find the passion of love enflamed by the "green-eyed monster," into jealousy; which, as in greater men, knowing no bounds, works up the mind to madness and desperation. The murder, in such instances, of the fair, and too often the frail, partner of the heart generally ensues.

Thomas Wilford was born of very poor parents, at Fulham, in the county of Middlesex; and coming into the world with only one arm, he was received into the workhouse, where he was employed in going of errands for the paupers, and occasionally for the inhabitants of the town; and was remarkable for his inoffensive behaviour.

A girl of ill-fame, named Sarah Williams, being passed from the parish of St. Giles in the Fields to the same workhouse, had art enough to persuade Wilford to marry her, though he was then only seventeen years of age; and their inclinations being made known to the churchwardens, they gave the intended bride forty shillings, to enable her to begin the world.

The young couple now went to the Fleet, and were married: after which they took lodgings in St. Giles's; and it was only on the Sunday succeeding the marriage, that the murder was perpetrated. On that day, the wife having been out with an old acquaintance, staid till midnight; and on her return, Wilford, who was jealous of her conduct asked her where she had been. She said

to the Park, and would give him no other answer ; a circumstance that inflamed him to such a degree, that a violent quarrel ensued, the consequence of which was fatal to the wife ; for Wilford's passions were so irritated, that he seized a knife, and she advancing towards him, he threw her down, and kneeling on her, cut her throat, so that her head was almost severed from her body.

He had no sooner committed the horrid deed, than he threw down the knife, opened the chamber-door, and was going down stairs, when a woman, who lodged in an adjacent room, asked who was there ? to which Wilford replied, " It is me ; I have murdered my poor wife, whom I loved as dearly as my own life."

On this the woman went down to the landlord of the house, and was immediately followed by Wilford, who said he had killed the woman that he loved beyond all the world, and was willing to die for the crime he had committed : and he did not make the slightest effort to escape.

On this the landlord called the watch, who, taking Wilford into custody, confined him for that night, and on the following day he was committed to Newgate by justice Fielding.

Being arraigned on the first day of the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty ; but the court refusing to record his plea, he was put by till the last day, when he again pleaded guilty, but was prevailed on to put himself on his trial.*

Accordingly the trial came on ; during which the prisoner did not seek to extenuate the crime of which he had been guilty : on the contrary, his penitent behaviour and flowing tears seemed to testify the sense he entertained of his offence. Every person present seemed penetrated with grief for his misfortunes.

The case of this malefactor has been the rather inserted, because he was the first that suffered in consequence of

* Much praise is due to the humanity of the judges, who frequently prevail on prisoners to retract their first plea of guilty ; and many instances have occurred in which they have been acquitted on their second arraignment.

an act that passed in the year 1751, for the more effectual prevention of murder, which decrees that the convict shall be executed on the second day after conviction : for which reason it has been customary to try persons charged with murder on a Friday ; by which indulgence, in case of conviction, the execution of the sentence is necessarily postponed till Monday : and by the same act it is ordained, that the convicted murderer shall be either hung in chains, or anatomized.

The jury having found Wilford guilty, sentence against him was pronounced in the following terms : Thomas Wilford, you stand convicted of the horrid and unnatural crime of murdering Sarah your wife. This court doth adjudge, that you be taken back to the place from whence you came, and there to be fed on bread and water till Wednesday next, when you are to be taken to the common place of execution, and there hanged by the neck until you are dead ; after which your body is to be publicly dissected and anatomized, agreeable to an act of parliament in that case made and provided : and may God Almighty have mercy on your soul !”

Both before and after conviction, Wilford behaved as a real penitent, and at the place of execution he exhibited the most genuine signs of contrition for the crime of which he had been guilty.

CAPTAIN PETER DE LA FONTAINE,

Condemned to die for Forgery, but afterwards transported, September, 1752.

DE LA FONTAINE was born of noble parents in France, and received a military education, and served at the siege of Phillipsburgh, under the duke of Berwick.

The campaign being ended, he went to Paris, where a gentleman invited him to spend some time at his country seat, when he fell in love with his daughter, who wished to marry him ; but the father interposing, she eloped with

her lover, and they lived a considerable time as married people, at Rouen.

On their return to Paris the young lady lodged in a convent; but De la Fontaine appearing in public, some officers of justice, seeing him in a coffee-house, told him they had the king's warrant for apprehending him: on which, he wounded two of them with his sword; notwithstanding which, he was seized and lodged in prison.

On this he wrote to the young lady, telling her he was obliged to go into the country on urgent business, but would soon return; and having made an interest with the daughter of the keeper of the prison, she let him out occasionally, to visit his mistress.

Being brought to trial for running away with an heiress, he would have been capitally convicted, agreeably to the laws of France, but that the young lady voluntarily swore that she went off with him by her own consent. Soon after his acquittal, she was seized with the pains of labour, and died in child-bed.

Soon afterwards De la Fontaine went again into the army, and behaved so bravely at the battle near Kale, that the duke of Berwick rewarded his courage with the commission of lieutenant of grenadiers.

A young lady of Strasburgh, who had fallen in love with De la Fontaine at Paris, before his former connection, now obtained a pass from the marshal de Bellisle, and being introduced to the duke of Berwick, told him she wished to see De la Fontaine; and the duke, judging of the cause, ordered her to be conducted to him.

On the following day she went to the duke, dressed in men's clothes, and begging to enter as a volunteer in the same regiment with De la Fontaine, she was indulged for the novelty of the humour. She went through the regular duties of a soldier, and reposed in the same tent with her paramour; but, in the winter following the campaign, she died of the small-pox, leaving a part of her fortune to her lover.

The duke of Berwick being killed at the siege of Philipsburgh, De la Fontaine made the tour of Europe; but returning to Paris, he fought a duel with an officer, who

being dangerously wounded, our hero repaired to Brest, and embarked as lieutenant of marines on board a vessel bound for Martinico.

The ship being taken by a Turkish corsair was carried into Constantinople, where De la Fontaine was confined in a dungeon, and had only bread and water for his sustenance. While in this situation, he was visited by another prisoner, who had more liberty than himself, and who advised him, as the French consul was then absent, to apply to a Scotch nobleman then in the city, who was distinguished for his humane and generous feelings.

De la Fontaine having procured pen, ink, and paper, with a tinder-box to strike a light (all by the friendship of his fellow-prisoner), sent a letter to the nobleman, who had no sooner read it, than he hurried to the cells, to visit the unfortunate prisoner.

Having promised his interest to procure his enlargement, he went to the grand vizier, and pleaded his cause so effectually, that De la Fontaine was released, and went immediately to thank the vizier, who wished him happy, and presented him with a sum of money.

Hence our adventurer sailed to Amsterdam, where, having a criminal connection with a lady, who became pregnant, he embarked for the Dutch settlement of Curaçoa; but finding the place unhealthy, he obtained the governor's permission to go to Surinam, where he continued above five years.

While in this place, the governor invited him to a ball, where one of the company was a widow lady of rank, of whom he determined, if possible, to make a conquest; nor did he long fail of an opportunity, for dining with her at the governor's house, they soon became very intimately acquainted.

The consequence of their sociability was a residence as husband and wife; and four children were the fruits of the connection, three of whom died: but the other, a boy, was educated by the Dutch governor.

Other officers having addressed the same lady, De la Fontaine was occasionally involved in difficulties on her account. One of these officers having traduced him in

his absence, our hero, on meeting him, bid him draw his sword, but the other refused, on which De la Fontaine struck him with his cane, and cut off one of his ears. On this our adventurer was seized, and tried by a court-martial, but acquitted; and the officer degraded, on account of the provocation he had given; and from this time De la Fontaine was treated with unusual marks of civility.

He still lived on the best terms with the lady, and their affection appeared to be reciprocal.

The governor bestowed on him a considerable tract of land, which he cultivated to great advantage; but the malice of his enemies was so restless, that they prevailed on one of his negro servants to mix a dose of poison in his food.

Unsuspecting of any villainy, he swallowed the poison, the consequence of which was, that he languished several months; and the lady, affected by his situation, gave way to melancholy, which brought on a consumption, that deprived her of life.

After her death, De la Fontaine obtained the governor's permission to return to Europe; and lived for some time in a splendid manner at Amsterdam; but at length he determined to embark for England.

Having arrived in London, he took elegant lodgings, lived in the style of a gentleman, and made several gay connections.

Among his acquaintance was Zannier, a Venetian, who had been obliged to quit his own country, on account of his irregularities. This man possessed such an artful address, that De la Fontaine made him at all times welcome to his table, and admitted him to a considerable share of his confidence.

Zannier soon improved this advantage; for, contriving a scheme with an attorney and bailiff, he pretended to have been arrested for three hundred pounds, and prevailed on his new friend to bail him, on the assurance that he had a good estate in Ireland, and would pay the money before the return of the writ; but when the term arrived, our hero was compelled to discharge the debt, as Zannier did not appear.

Hitherto De la Fontaine had been in London without making any connection with the ladies ; but there being a procession of free-masons at that time, he dressed himself in the most superb manner, and his chariot being the most elegant of any in the procession, he was particularly noticed by the spectators.

Among the rest, the daughter of an alderman had her curiosity so much excited, that she caused enquiry to be made who he was ; and on the following day sent him a letter, intimating that she should be at a ball at Richmond, where he might have an opportunity of dancing with her.

Our hero did not hesitate to comply ; and when the ball was ended, he received an invitation to dine with the young lady on the following day, at her father's house. He attended accordingly ; but the father having learnt his character, insisted that he should decline his visits, which put an end to all his hopes from that quarter.

The circumstances of our hero being greatly reduced, he resolved, if possible, to repair them by marriage, and was soon afterwards wedded to a widow of considerable fortune ; but his taste for extravagance rendered this fortune unequal to his support ; nor was his conduct to his wife by any means generous.

Soon after his marriage he was at the lord-mayor's ball, where he made an acquaintance with the wife of a tradesman, which ended in a criminal connection.

The parties frequently met at taverns and bagnios, and De la Fontaine having written to the lady, appointing her to meet him at a tavern, the letter fell into the hands of her husband, who communicated the contents to her brother, and the letter was sealed up, and delivered according to its address.

The brothers agreed to go to the tavern, where they told the waiter to shew any lady to them who might enquire for De la Fontaine.

In a short time the lady came, and was astonished to be introduced to her brother and husband : but the latter was so affected, that he promised a full remission of all that was passed, on her promise of future fidelity. These

generous terms she rejected with contempt, and immediately left the room.

De la Fontaine being informed of this circumstance was overcome with a sense of the husband's generous behaviour, and advised the lady to return to her duty. At first she insulted him for his advice, but at length thought proper to comply with it.

Our hero now saw his own conduct in an unfavourable light; on which he went into the country with his wife for some time, to avoid his old associates, and then returned to London, determined to abandon his former course of life.

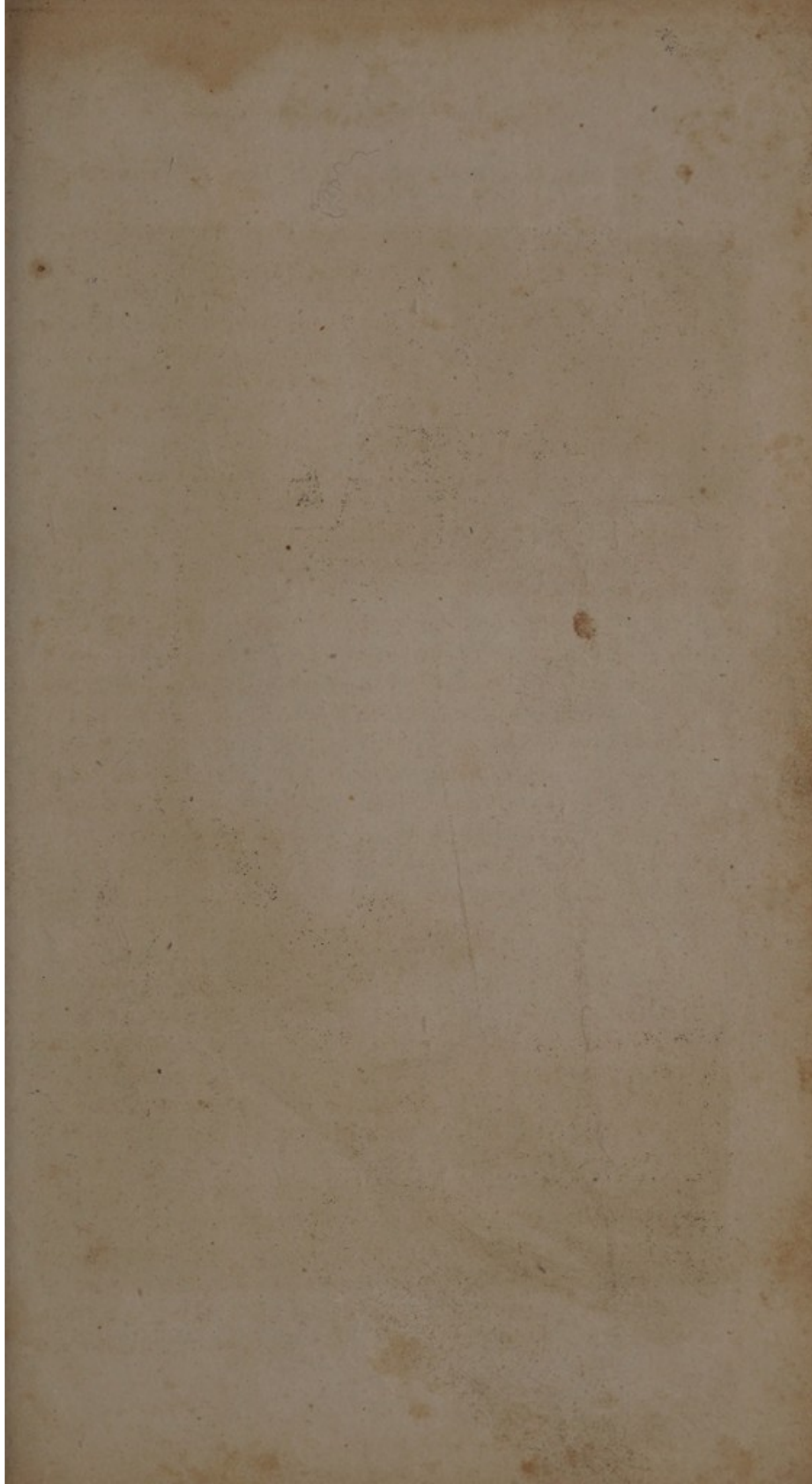
Unfortunately, however, he had not long formed this resolution, when Zannier went to him, begging his forgiveness for obliging him to pay the debt. De la Fontaine too easily complied with his request, and once more considered him as a friend.

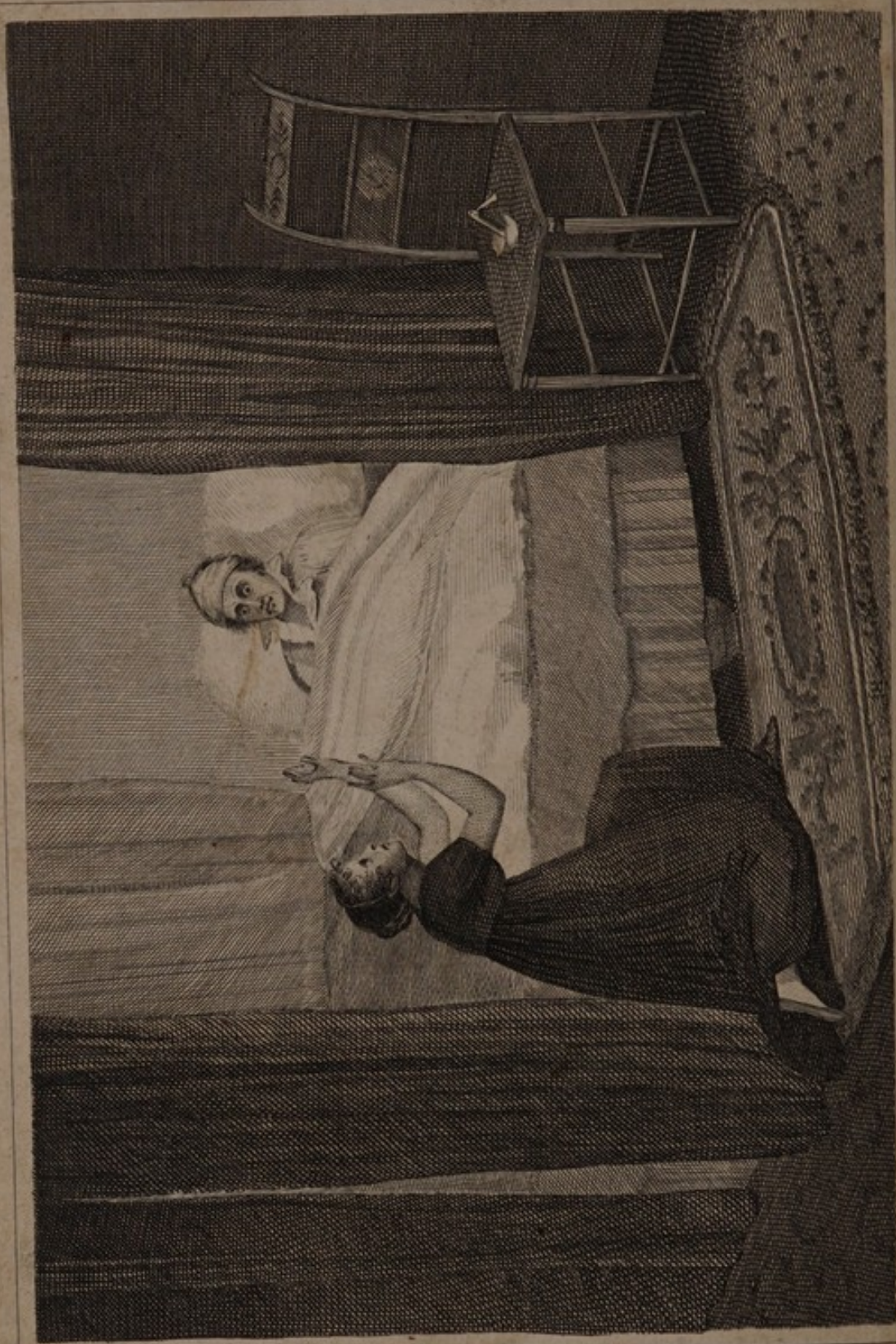
Zannier and De la Fontaine going to a tavern, met with a woman whom the latter had formerly known, and a man who was dressed in black. While De la Fontaine was conversing with the woman, the stranger (who afterwards appeared to be a Fleet parson) read the marriage-ceremony from a book which he held in his hand; and the next week De la Fontaine was apprehended on a charge of bigamy, and committed for trial at the Old Bailey.

The villain Zannier visiting him in Newgate, De la Fontaine was so enraged at his perfidy, that he beat him through the press-yard with a broom-stick with such severity, that the turnkey was obliged to interpose to prevent murder.

In revenge of this, Zannier swore that De la Fontaine had been guilty of forgery, in imitating the hand-writing of a gentleman named Parry: in consequence of which De la Fontaine was brought to his trial, and capitally convicted, though a gentleman swore that the writing resembled that of Zannier, and there was too much reason to believe that his hand committed the forgery.

Yet the jury found De la Fontaine guilty; the court sentenced him to death, and the day was appointed for





Mary Blandy begging pardon of her Father for having poisoned him.

his execution. He was, however, respited, and this was from time to time continued, during five years, when he was pardoned on condition of transportation.

In September, 1752, with many other convicts, he was shipped to the English colony of Virginia, in America.

MARY BLANDY,

Executed at Oxford, April 6, 1752, for the Murder of her Father.

THE following case excited an uncommon degree of interest at the time it occurred ; and is, we think, without exception, the most affecting that has hitherto fallen under our notice. Many comparisons were made at the time, between the subject of this narrative and Miss Jefferies ; but we think them totally different : and the latter was incomparably the worst character, as the murder of her uncle was the consequence of a premeditated scheme between her and her accomplice ; whereas Miss Blandy was seduced by a profligate wretch, who professed to have honourable intentions, and to whom she unfortunately became so attached, that she blindly followed what his vicious inclination prompted him to advise. We do not intend in the least to palliate the wicked and unnatural crime, but merely to shew the difference between the two cases. Miss Jefferies committed a premeditated murder, and used every hypocritical artifice to conceal it ; whereas Miss Blandy ingenuously and penitently confessed what she had done ; and there is much reason to believe her assertion, that she did not think the powders were poisonous ; or, what is still more probable, that she did not think at all about it.

Mary Blandy was the only daughter of Mr. Francis Blandy, an eminent attorney at Henley-upon-Thames, and town-clerk of that place. She had been educated with the utmost tenderness, and every possible care was taken to impress her mind with sentiments of virtue and religion. Her person had nothing in it remarkably engaging ; but

she was of a sprightly and affable disposition, polite in manners, and engaging in conversation; and was uncommonly distinguished by her good sense.

She had read the best authors in the English language: and had a memory remarkably retentive of the knowledge she had acquired. In a word, she excelled most of her sex in those accomplishments which are calculated to grace and dignify the female mind.

The father being reputed to be rich, a number of young gentlemen courted his acquaintance, with a view to make an interest with his daughter: but of all the visitors, none were more agreeable, both to father and daughter, than the gentlemen of the army; and the former was never better pleased than when he had some of them at his table.

Miss Blandy was about twenty-six years of age when she became acquainted with captain William Henry Cranstoun, who was then about forty-six. He was the son of lord Cranstoun, of an ancient Scotch family, which had made great alliances, by intermarriages, with the nobility of Scotland. Being a younger brother, his uncle, lord Mark Ker, procured him a commission in the army; which, with the interest of 1500*l*. was all he had for his support.

Cranstoun married a Miss Murray in Scotland, in the year 1745, and received a handsome fortune with her: but he was defective in the great article of prudence. His wife was delivered of a son within a year after the marriage; and about this period he received orders to join his regiment in England, and was sent on a recruiting-party to Henley, which gave rise to the unhappy connexion that ended so fatally.

It may seem extraordinary, and is, perhaps, a proof of Cranstoun's art, that he could ingratiate himself into the affections of Miss Blandy; for his person was diminutive; he was so marked with the small-pox, that his face was in seams, and he squinted very much: but he possessed that faculty of small-talk which is but too prevalent with many of the fair sex.

Mr. Blandy, who was acquainted with lord Mark Ker,

was fond of being deemed a man of taste, and so open to flattery, that it is not to be wondered at that a man of Cranstoun's artifice ingratiated himself into his favour, and obtained permission to pay his addresses to the daughter.

Cranstoun, apprehending that Miss Blandy might discover that he had a wife in Scotland, informed her that he was involved in a disagreeable law-suit in that country with a young lady, who claimed him as a husband; and so sure was he of the interest he had obtained in Miss Blandy's affections, that he had the confidence to ask her if she loved him well enough to wait the issue of the affair. She told him, that if her father and mother approved of her staying for him, she had no objection.

This must be allowed to have been a very extraordinary declaration of love, and as extraordinary a reply.

Cranstoun endeavoured to conduct the amour with all possible secrecy; notwithstanding which, it came to the knowledge of lord Mark Ker, who wrote to Mr. Blandy, informing him that the captain had a wife and children in Scotland, and conjuring him to preserve his daughter from ruin.

Alarmed by this intelligence, Mr. Blandy informed his daughter of it; but she did not seem equally affected, as Cranstoun's former declaration had prepared her to expect some such news: and when the old gentleman taxed Cranstoun with it, he declared it was only an affair of gallantry, of which he should have no difficulty to free himself.

Mrs. Blandy appears to have been under as great a degree of infatuation as her daughter, for she forbore all farther enquiry on the captain's bare assurance that the report of his marriage was false. Cranstoun, however, could not be equally easy. He saw the necessity of devising some scheme to get his first marriage annulled, or of bidding adieu to all the gratifications he could promise himself by a second.

After revolving various schemes in his mind, he at length wrote to his wife, requesting her to disown him for a husband. The substance of this letter was, that,

“ having no other way of rising to preferment but in the army, he had but little ground to expect advancement there, while it was known he was encumbered with a wife and family ; but could he once pass for a single man, he had not the least doubt of being quickly preferred : which would procure him a sufficiency to maintain her, as well as himself, in a genteeler manner than he was now able to do. All therefore,” adds he, “ I have to request of you, is, that you will transcribe the inclosed copy of a letter, wherein you disown me for a husband : put your maiden-name to it, and send it by the post. All the use I shall make of it shall be to procure my advancement, which will necessarily include your own benefit. In full assurance that you will comply with my request, I remain,

“ Your most affectionate husband,

“ W. H. CRANSTOUN.”

Mrs. Cranstoun, ill as she had been treated by her husband, and little hope as she had of more generous usage, was, after repeated letters had passed, induced to give up her claim, and at length sent him the requested paper, signed Murray, which was her maiden-name.

The villainous captain, being possessed of this letter, made some copies of it, which he sent to his wife's relations, and his own : the consequence of which was that they withdrew the assistance that they had afforded the lady, which reduced her to an extremity she had never before known.

Exclusive of this, he instituted a suit before the lords of session, for the dissolution of the marriage ; but when Mrs. Cranstoun was heard, and the letters read, the artful contrivance was seen through, the marriage was confirmed, and Cranstoun was adjudged to pay the expenses of the trial. At the next sessions, captain Cranstoun preferred a petition, desiring to be heard by council, on new evidence, which, it was pretended, had arisen respecting Miss Murray. This petition, after some hesitation, was heard ; but the issue was, that the marriage was again confirmed, and Cranstoun was obliged to allow his wife a separate maintenance.

Still, however, he paid his addresses to Miss Blandy with the same fervency as before; which coming to the knowledge of Mrs. Cranstoun, she sent her the decree of the court of session, establishing the validity of the marriage.

It is reasonable to suppose, that this would have convinced Miss Blandy of the erroneous path in which she was treading. On this occasion, she consulted her mother: and Cranstoun having set out for Scotland, the old lady advised her to write to him, to know the truth of the affair.

Absurd as this advice was, she wrote to him; but, soon after the receipt of her letter, he returned to Henley, when he had impudence enough to assert, that the cause was not finally determined, but would be referred to the house of lords.

Mr. Blandy gave very little credit to this assertion; but his wife assented at once to all he said, and treated him with as much tenderness as if he had been her own child; of which the following circumstance will afford ample proof.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter being on a visit to Mrs. Pocock of Turville-court, the old lady was taken so ill as to be obliged to continue there for some days. In the height of her disorder, which was a violent fever, she cried, "Let Cranstoun be sent for." He was then with the regiment at Southampton; but her request being complied with, she no sooner saw him, than she raised herself on the pillow, and hung round his neck, repeatedly exclaiming, "My dear Cranstoun, I am glad you are come; I shall now grow well soon." So extravagant was her fondness, that she insisted on having him as her nurse; and he actually administered her medicines.

On the following day she grew better; on which she said, "This I owe to you, my dear Cranstoun; your coming has given me new health and fresh spirits. I was fearful I should die, and you not here to comfort that poor girl. How like death she looks!"

It would be ungenerous to the memory of Mrs. Blandy to suppose that she saw Cranstoun's guilt in its true light

of enormity ; but certainly she was a most egregious dupe to his artifices.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter having come to London, the former wanted forty pounds, to discharge a debt she had contracted unknown to her husband ; and Cranstoun coming into the room while the mother and the daughter were weeping over their distresses, he demanded the reason of their grief ; of which being informed, he left them, and soon returning with the requisite sum, he threw it into the old lady's lap. Charmed by this apparent generosity, she burst into tears, and squeezed his hand fervently ; on which he embraced her, and said, " Remember, it is a son ; therefore do not make yourself uneasy : you do not lay under any obligation to me."

Of this debt of forty pounds, ten pounds had been contracted by the ladies while in London, for expenses in consequence of their pleasures ; and the other thirty by expensive treats given to Cranstoun at Henley, during Mr. Blandy's absence.

Soon after this Mrs. Blandy died ; and Cranstoun now complaining of his fear of being arrested for the forty pounds, the young lady borrowed that sum, which she gave him, and made him a present of her watch : so that he was a gainer by his former apparent generosity.

Mr. Blandy began now to shew evident dislike of captain Cranstoun's visits : but he found means to take leave of the daughter, to whom he complained of the father's ill treatment ; but insinuated that he had a method of conciliating his esteem ; and that when he arrived in Scotland he would send her some powders proper for the purpose ; on which, to prevent suspicion, he would write, " Powders to clean the Scotch pebbles."

Cranstoun sent her the powders, according to promise ; and Mr. Blandy being indisposed on the Sunday se'nnight before his death, Susan Gunnell, a maid-servant, made him some water-gruel, into which Miss Blandy conveyed some of the powder, and gave it to her father, and repeating this draught on the following day, he was tormented with the most violent pains in his bowels.

When the old gentleman's disorder increased, and he

was attended by a physician, his daughter came into his room, and falling on her knees to her father, said, "Banish me where you please ; do with me what you please, so you do but forgive me : and as for Cranstoun, I will never see him, speak to him, or write to him, as long as I live if you will forgive me."

In reply to this, the father said, " I forgive thee, my dear, and I hope God will forgive thee ; but thou shouldst have considered before thou attemptedst any thing against thy father ; thou shouldst have considered I was thy own father."

Miss Blandy now acknowledged that she had put powder in his gruel, but that it was for an innocent purpose : on which the father turning in his bed, said, " O such a villain ! to come to my house, eat of the best, and drink of the best my house could afford ; and in return take away my life, and ruin my daughter. O ! my dear, thou must hate that man."

The young lady replied, " Sir, every word you say is like a sword piercing to my heart ; more severe than if you were angry : I must kneel, and beg you will not curse me." The father said, " I curse thee, my dear ! how couldst thou think I would curse thee ? No ; I bless thee, and hope God will bless thee, and amend thy life. Do, my dear, go out of the room ; say no more, lest thou shouldst say any thing to thy own prejudice. Go to thy uncle Stephens, and take him for thy friend : poor man ! I am sorry for him."

Mr. Blandy dying in consequence of his illness, it was suspected that his daughter had occasioned his death ; whereupon she was taken into custody, and committed to the gaol at Oxford.

She was tried on the 3d of March, 1752, and after many witnesses had been called to give evidence of her guilt, she was desired to make her defence, which she did in the following speech :

" My lord,

" It is morally impossible for me to lay down the hardships I have received.—I have been aspersed in my character. In the first place, it has been said, I spoke

ill of my father ; that I have cursed him, and wished him at hell ; which is extremely false. Sometimes little family affairs have happened, and he did not speak to me so kind as I could wish. I own I am passionate, my lord ; and in those passions some hasty expressions might have dropped ; but great care has been taken to recollect every word I have spoken at different times, and to apply them to such particular purposes, as my enemies knew would do me the greatest injury. These are hardships, my lord, such as yourself must allow to be so. It was said too, my lord, that I endeavoured to make my escape. Your lordship will judge from the difficulties I laboured under : I had lost my father ;—I was accused of being his murderer ;—I was not permitted to go near him ;—I was forsaken by my friends—affronted by the mob—and insulted by my servants.—Although I begged to have the liberty to listen at the door where he died, I was not allowed it. My keys were taken from me ; my shoe-buckles and garters too—to prevent me from making away with myself, as though I was the most abandoned creature. What could I do, my lord ? I verily believe I must have been out of my senses. When I heard my father was dead, I ran out of the house, and over the bridge, and had nothing on but an half sack and petticoats, without a hoop—my petticoats hanging about me : the mob gathered about me. Was this a condition, my lord, to make my escape in ? A good woman beyond the bridge, seeing me in this distress, desired me to walk in, till the mob was dispersed : the town serjeant was there. I begged he would take me under his protection, to have me home : the woman said it was not proper ; the mob was very great, and that I had better stay a little. When I came home, they said I used the constable ill. I was locked up for fifteen hours, with only an old servant of the family to attend me. I was not allowed a maid for the common decencies of my sex. I was sent to gaol, and was in hopes there, at least, this usage would have ended ; but was told, it was reported, I was frequently drunk ; that I attempted to make my escape ; that I did not attend at chapel. A more abste-

innocent woman than I am, my lord, I believe is not in existence.

“ Upon the report of my making my escape, the gentleman, who was high-sheriff last year (not the present), came and told me, by order of the higher powers, he must put an iron on me. I submitted, as I always do, to the higher powers. Some time after, he came again, and said he must put a heavier upon me ; which I have worn, my lord, till I came hither. I asked the sheriff why I was so ironed ? He said, he did it by the command of some noble peer, on his hearing that I intended making my escape. I told them I never had any such thought, and I would bear it with the other cruel usage I had received on my character. The reverend Mr. Swinton, the worthy clergyman who attended me in prison, can testify I was regular at the chapel, whenever I was well ; sometimes I really was not able to come out, and then he attended me in my room. They have likewise published papers and depositions, which ought not to have been published, in order to represent me as the most abandoned of my sex, and to prejudice the world against me. I submit myself to your lordship, and to the worthy jury. I do assure your lordship, as I am to answer at the great tribunal, where I must appear, I am as innocent as the child unborn, of the death of my father. I would not endeavour to save my life, at the expence of truth ; I really thought the powder an innocent, inoffensive thing ; and I gave it to procure his love (meaning towards Cranstoun). It has been mentioned, I should say I was ruined. My lord, when a young woman loses her character, is not that her ruin ? Why then should this expression be construed in so wide a sense ? Is it not ruining my character to have such a thing laid to my charge ? And whatever may be the event of this trial, I am ruined most effectually.”

The trial lasted eleven hours, and then the judge summed up the evidence, mentioning the scandalous behaviour of some people respecting the prisoner, in printing and publishing what they called depositions taken before the coroner, relating to the affair before them : to which

he added, "I hope you have not seen them; but if you have, I must tell you, as you are men of sense and probity that you must divest yourselves of every prejudice that can rise from thence, and attend merely to the evidence that has now been given."

The judge then summed up the evidence with the utmost candour; and the jury, having considered the affair, found her guilty without going out of court.

After conviction, she behaved with the utmost decency and resignation. She was attended by the reverend Mr. Swinton, from whose hands she received the sacrament on the day before her execution, declaring that she did not know there was any thing hurtful in the powders she had given her father.

The night before her death she spent in devotion: and at nine in the morning she left her apartment, being dressed in a black bombazine, and having her arms bound with black ribbons.

The clergyman attended her to the place of execution to which she walked with the utmost solemnity of deportment; and, when there, acknowledged her fault in administering the powders to her father, but declared that, as she must soon appear before the most awful tribunal, she had no idea of doing him any injury, nor any suspicions that the powders were of a poisonous nature.

Having ascended some steps of the ladder, she said, "Gentlemen, don't hang me high, for the sake of decency." Being desired to go something higher, she turned about, and expressed her apprehensions that she should fall. The rope being put round her neck, she pulled her handkerchief over her face, and was turned off on holding out a book of devotions which she had been reading.

The crowd of spectators assembled on this occasion was immense; and when she had hung the usual time, she was cut down, and the body being put into a hearse, was conveyed to Henley, and interred with her parents, at one o'clock on the following morning.

It will now be proper to return to Cranstoun, who was the original contriver of this horrid murder. Having heard of Miss Blandy's commitment to Oxford gaol, he

concealed himself some time in Scotland, and then escaped to Boulogne in France. Meeting there with Mrs. Ross, who was distantly related to his family, he acquainted her with his situation, and begged her protection : on which she advised him to change his name for her maiden name of Dunbar.

Some officers in the French service, who were related to his wife, hearing of his concealment, vowed revenge if they should meet with him, for his cruelty to the unhappy woman : on which he fled to Paris, whence he went to Furnes, a town in Flanders, where Mrs. Ross had provided a lodging for his reception.

He had not been long at Furnes, when he was seized with a severe fit of illness, which brought him to a degree of reflection to which he had been long a stranger. At length, he sent for a father belonging to an adjacent convent, and received absolution from his hands, on declaring himself a convert to the Romish faith.

Cranstoun died on the 30th of November 1752, and the fraternity of monks and friars looked on his conversion as an object of such importance, that solemn mass was sung on the occasion, and the body was followed to the grave, not only by the ecclesiastics, but by the magistrates of the town.

His papers were then sent to Scotland, to his brother, lord Cranstoun ; his clothes were sold for the discharge of his debts ; and his wife came into the possession of the interest of the fifteen hundred pounds before mentioned.

DR. A. CAMERON,

*Executed at Tyburn, June 7, 1753 (greatly lamented)
for High Treason.*

As the rebellion was suppressed, and the British nation enjoyed internal peace, we could almost have wished the royal mercy had been extended to Dr. Cameron; as he took so small a part in the crime for which he suffered, and was drawn into it by attending, in his professional capacity, upon his elder brother.

The brother of this unfortunate man was the chief of the family of their name in the Highlands, and had obtained the highest degree of reputation by his zealous and effectual endeavours to civilize the manners of his countrymen.

Dr. Cameron, being intended by his father for the profession of the law, was sent to Glasgow; where he continued his studies some years; but, having an attachment to the practice of physic, he entered in the university of Edinburgh; whence he went to Paris, and then completed his studies at Leyden in Holland.

Though well qualified to have cut a respectable figure in any capital city, yet he chose to reside for life near his native place; and, having returned to the Highlands, he married, and settled in the small town of Lochaber; where, though his practice was small, his generous conduct rendered him the delight and the blessing of the neighbourhood. His wife bore him seven children, and was pregnant of the eighth at the unfortunate period of his death.

While Dr. Cameron was living happy in the domestic way, the rebellion broke out, and laid the foundation of the ruin of himself and his family. The Pretender having landed, went to the house of Mr. M'Donald, and sent for the doctor's brother, who went to him, and did all in his power to dissuade him from an undertaking from which nothing but ruin could ensue.

The elder Mr. Cameron having previously promised

to bring all his clan in aid of the Pretender, the latter upbraided him with an intention of breaking his promise; which so affected the generous spirit of the Highlander, that he immediately went and took leave of his wife, and gave orders for his vassals, to the number of near twelve hundred, to have recourse to arms.

This being done, he sent for his brother, to attend him as a physician; but the doctor urged every argument against so rash an undertaking; from which he even besought him on his knees to desist. The brother would not be denied; and the doctor at length agreed to attend him as a physician, though he absolutely refused to accept any commission in the rebel-army.

This unhappy gentleman was distinguished by his humanity; and gave the readiest assistance, by night or day, to any wounded men of the royal army, who were made prisoners by the rebels. His brother being wounded in the leg at the battle of Falkirk, he attended him with the kindest assiduity, till himself was likewise slightly wounded.

Dr. Cameron exhibited repeated instances of his humanity; but when the battle of Culloden gave a decisive stroke to the hopes of the rebels, he and his brother escaped to the western islands, whence they sailed to France, in a vessel belonging to that kingdom.

The doctor was appointed physician to a French regiment, of which his brother obtained the command; but the latter dying at the end of two years, the doctor became physician to Ogilvie's regiment, then in Flanders.

A subscription being set on foot, in England and Scotland, in the year 1750, for the relief of those persons who had been attainted, and escaped into foreign countries; the doctor came into England to receive the money for his unfortunate fellow-sufferers. At the end of two years another subscription was opened; when the doctor, whose pay was inadequate to the support of his numerous family, came once more to this country, and having written a number of urgent letters to his friends, it was rumoured that he was returned.

Hereupon, a detachment from lord George Beauclerk's

regiment was sent in search of him, and he was taken in the following manner :---Captain Graves, with thirty soldiers, going towards the place where it was presumed he was concealed, saw a little girl at the extremity of a village, who, on their approach, fled towards another village. She was pursued by a servant and two soldiers, who could only come near enough to observe her whispering to a boy, who seemed to have been placed for the purpose of conveying intelligence.

Unable to overtake the boy, they presented their guns at him; on which he fell on his knees, and begged his life; which they promised, on the condition that he would shew them the place where Dr. Cameron was concealed.

Hereupon the boy pointed to the house where he was, which the soldiers surrounded, and took him prisoner. Being sent to Edinburgh, he was thence conducted to London, and committed to the Tower.

While in this confinement, he was denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, and was not suffered to speak to his friends but when the warder was present. On his examination before the lords of the privy-council, he denied that he was the same Dr. Cameron whose name had been mentioned in the act of attainder; which made it necessary to procure living evidence to prove his identity.

Being brought to the bar of the court of king's-bench on the 17th of May, he was arraigned on the act of attainder, when, declining to give the court any farther trouble, he acknowledged that he was the person who had been attainted: on which the lord chief justice Lee pronounced sentence in the following terms: "You, Archibald Cameron, of Lochiel, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, must be removed from hence to his majesty's prison of the Tower of London, from whence you came, and on Thursday, the 7th of June next, your body to be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution; there to be hanged, but not till you are dead; your bowels to be taken out, your body quartered, your head cut off, and affixed at the king's disposal; and the Lord have mercy on your soul!"

After his commitment to the Tower, he begged to see his wife, who was then at Lisle in Flanders; and, on her arrival, the meeting between them was inexpressibly affecting. The unhappy lady wept incessantly, on reflecting on the fate of her husband, herself, and numerous family.

Coming to take her final leave of him on the morning of execution, she was so agitated by her contending passions, that she was attacked by repeated fits; and, a few days after the death of her unfortunate husband, she became totally deprived of her senses.

On the 7th of June, the sheriffs went to the Tower, and demanded the body of Dr. Archibald Cameron, who was accordingly brought to them by William Ranford, Esq. the deputy-lieutenant.

As soon as he was seated on the sledge, whereon he was to be drawn to the place of execution, he requested to speak to his wife, but being informed that she had left the Tower, after taking leave of him, at eight o'clock, he replied, he was sorry for it; upon which the sledge moved towards Tyburn, among a great number of spectators, who all pitied his situation.

The doctor was dressed in a light-coloured coat, red waistcoat and breeches, and a new bag-wig. He looked much at the spectators in the houses and balconies, as well as at those in the streets, and bowed to several persons with whom he had been acquainted.

At a quarter past twelve the solemn procession reached the place of execution, where he looked on the officers and spectators, with an undaunted and composed countenance; and as soon as unloosed from the sledge, he started up, and with an heroic deportment, stepped up into the cart, whence looking round with unconcern on all the apparatus of death, he smiled. Seeing the clergyman, that had before attended him, coming up the steps, he came forward to meet him, and endeavoured, with his fettered hands, to help him up, saying, "So, you are come :---this is a glorious day to me!---'tis my new birthday!---there are more witnesses at this birth than at my first."

The clergyman being now at the side of the cart, asked "how he felt himself;" he answered, "thank God, I am very well, but a little fatigued with my journey: but, blessed be God, I am now come to the end of it."

The sheriff asking the clergyman, whether he would be long about his office, Dr. Cameron immediately took the words, and said, he required but very little time; for it was disagreeable to be there, and he was as impatient to be gone as they were.

The clergyman then demanded of the gentleman who had spoke, whether he was the sheriff, and on being answered in the affirmative, he told him Dr. Cameron's business would be chiefly with him; that he had something to communicate to him, if he would take the trouble to come near, which he very readily complied with, and endeavoured to ride his horse close to the cart; but finding the beast a little unruly, and that he could not hear what the doctor said, by reason of the noise of the multitude, he beckoned with his hand for silence, but to no purpose: whereupon, he humanely alighted, and came up to the steps; whence, with great civility and attention, he listened to the doctor, who spoke to the following purpose:

"Sir,

"You see a fellow-subject, just going to pay his last debt: I more cheerfully resign my life, as it is taken from me for doing my duty, according to my conscience. I freely forgive all my enemies, and those who have been instrumental in taking away my life. I thank God, I die in charity with all men.

"As to my religion, I die a stedfast, though unworthy, member of that church in which I have always lived, the church of England; in whose communion, I hope, through the merits of my blessed Saviour, for forgiveness of my sins, for which I am heartily sorry.

"The custom of delivering something in writing, on such occasions as this, I should willingly have complied with, had it not been put out of my power, being denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, except in the presence of some of my keepers

"But what I intend my country should be informed of, with regard to my dying sentiments, I have, by means of a blunt pencil, endeavoured to set down on some slips of paper, as I came by them, in as legible characters as I was able; and these I have left in the hands of my wife, charging her on her duty to her dying husband, to transmit with all convenient speed, a faithful transcript of them to you, and I am confident she will faithfully discharge the trust."

This truly unfortunate man then told the sheriff, he would no longer presume upon his patience; but the sheriff, with looks that shewed a great deal of concern, begged he would take as much time as he pleased, for he would wait until he was ready. The doctor thanked him. He turned to the clergyman, and said, "I have now done with this world, and am ready to leave it."

He now joined him in some short prayers, and repeated some ejaculations out of the Psalms; then embraced the clergyman, and took his farewell.

As the divine was going down from the cart, he had nearly missed the steps, which the doctor observing, called to him in a cheerful tone of voice, saying, "Take care how you go; I think you don't know this way as well as I do;" and now, giving the signal, the cart drew from under him.

The body, after hanging twenty minutes, was cut down: it was not quartered; but the heart was taken out and burnt.

On the following Sunday, the remains of Dr. Cameron were interred in a large vault in the Savoy chapel.

CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON AND JOHN
STOCKDALE,

*Executed at Tyburn, July 3, 1753, and their Bodies
hung in Chains, for Murder.*

JOHNSON was born in Newgate; and was the son of one Roger Johnson and his wife, who were confined in that prison on a charge of fraud. Soon after they obtained their liberty, the father died; and the mother sent the child to her relations at Derby, who, having given him a tolerable education, apprenticed him to a sadler; but, at the expiration of three years, he ran away, and travelled to London.

On his arrival, he went to some of his mother's relations, who persuaded him to return to Derby: but, deaf to their advice, and having imbibed false ideas of gentility, he procured some elegant clothes, and frequented the gaming-houses, where he soon made the most dangerous connexions, and arrived at the head of his profession.

From the practice of gaming, he took to that of forgery, at which he was remarkably expert in imitating the hands of other people to notes payable to himself; by which he repeatedly acquired money, but still escaped detection.

His daringness was such, that he sometimes arrested persons on whom he had committed forgeries, and compelled the payment of the money, by having people ready to swear that the hand-writing was that of the party whose name was subscribed to the draft.

The following is one specimen of his devices. He forged a note on a lady of considerable fortune, and signed her name to it so like her writing, that she almost discredited her own sight when she read it. Johnson arrested her; but as she knew she had given no such note, she bailed the action, and prepared to stand trial; but the guilty man declined all farther proceedings.

During this abandoned course of life, he became acquainted with the daughter of a man who kept an ale-

house in the Strand ; and they were privately married in the Fleet ; but, animosities soon arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows ; the consequence of which was, that they parted, and his wife became a common street-walker.

After this, Johnson took to picking pockets, and other low practices of defraud ; but a miserable poverty still attended him, for what he got dishonestly was soon spent in dissipation. At length he met with Stockdale at Sadler's-Wells, and agreed to see him the next evening, at a house in Holborn.

Stockdale was born at Leicester, where his father was a reputable proctor, who gave him an excellent education, but was too fond of him to keep that strict guard over his conduct which might have been essential to his future welfare. He very soon shewed a disposition to idleness, which was not properly checked by his parents, who would not permit his school-master to chastise him for his faults.

When the father saw his error, he determined, in pursuance of the advice of some friends, to send him to a proctor in Doctors'-Commons, where he hoped to hear of a speedy reformation in his manners.

Stockdale, however, was of too idle a disposition to brook confinement. His extravagance exceeded the bounds of his father's allowance, and he borrowed of his acquaintance to supply his immediate wants.

In this way he went on, frequenting places of public diversion, till those who had lent him money teased him for a return of it ; and he was at a loss for farther resources, when he met Johnson at Sadler's-Wells, as above-mentioned.

On the following day these ill-fated youths met at the appointed place, and made a contract for their mutual destruction. At this time Johnson was under twenty, and Stockdale not eighteen years of age.

Stockdale agreed to accompany Johnson ; and the next day they hired horses and rode towards Runford, near which the party lived whom they intended to rob ; and having wasted the time till night, they tied their

horses to a hedge, and being armed with pistols, they knocked at the door, which being opened by the old gentleman, Johnson presented a pistol to his breast; and then they bound him and his two servants, and told the master, that he must expect immediate death, if he did not discover where his money was concealed.

Terrified by this threat, he told them to take a key from his pocket, which would open a bureau, where they would find a bag containing all the cash then in his possession. The robbers having seized the property, Johnson put the bag into his pocket, and then re-mounted, and rode to London, where they found the booty to consist of one hundred and fifty pounds: but this they soon dissipated in acts of extravagance; and then proceeded to commit a number of robberies on the roads of Essex and Kent.

It is now proper to mention the crime for which they suffered: a murder equally barbarous and unprovoked. They took horses in Holborn, and having rode to Edmonton, turned up a lane, where they met a postman who was carrying letters round the neighbourhood: the man goodnaturedly opened the gate for them to pass, when Johnson demanded his money and watch, which he held out to them, and at that instant was shot dead by Stockdale.

The murder was no sooner committed than they hastened to London; and though the country was alarmed by what had happened, they rode on the following day to Hounslow, where they dined. After dinner, they called for their horses; but Stockdale was so intoxicated that he at first fell from the horse, but was replaced.

The magistrates having by this time sent out a number of constables, the murderers were taken into custody, and carried before a magistrate, when Stockdale acknowledged his guilt; but by this time Johnson was so drunk, that he was insensible of his commitment to Newgate.

When Stockdale's master heard of his unhappy situation, he immediately wrote to his father, who coming to London, had a very affecting interview with his son, who exclaimed, "Oh, Sir, how shall I look you in the face!"

what disgrace have I brought upon you, what destruction upon myself! A shameful death is preparing for me in this world: but what in the next, God knows."

The father advised him to an early preparation for the awful fate that awaited him, and refused to flatter him with hopes of that pardon which could not reasonably be expected. He comforted himself accordingly, and intended to have pleaded guilty, but was afterwards advised not to do so.

When brought up to receive sentence of death, Johnson was so unwell, that he was indulged with a chair.

Stockdale kept up his spirits with decent fortitude, until his eyes met those of a gentleman near him, with whom he had lived, when he burst into tears, and continued in great agitation the remainder of the awful time, frequently beating his head and breast in a violent manner.

Johnson was so extremely debilitated that he could pay no attention at the place of execution to the preparation of his soul for another life; but Stockdale prayed fervently, and made a pathetic address to the populace at the fatal tree.

After hanging the usual time, their bodies were taken to Surgeons' Hall for dissection; and preparations for that purpose were making, when an order came from the office of the secretary of state, that they should be hung in chains on Winchmore-hill, where they were accordingly placed—a terrible example!

Soon after they were hung in chains, the following advertisement appeared in the London Gazette:

"General Post-Office, Oct. 28, 1753.

"Whereas an anonymous letter has been sent to the right honourable Thomas Earl of Leicester, his majesty's postmaster-general, in the following terms:

'My Lord, Thursday, Oct. 1753.

'I find that it is by your orders that Mr. Stockdale was hung in chains; now, if you don't order him to be taken down, I will set fire to your house, and blow your brains out the first opportunity.'

"A reward of one hundred pounds is hereby offered to any person who shall or may make a discovery of

the party or parties concerned in writing or sending the aforesaid letter, so that he, she, or they, may be convicted thereof, together with his majesty's most gracious pardon, to any accomplice who shall make discovery of the same.

“ By order of the postmaster-general,

“ GEORGE SHELVOKE, Sec.”

The writer of the letter was not discovered; Stockdale's remains continued on the gibbet; and the postmaster-general and his house remained in safety.

CAPTAIN JOHN LANCEY,

*Executed at Execution Dock, June 7, 1754, for
burning his Ship.*

THIS unfortunate man fell a dupe to the wickedness of an artful and villainous employer; who, at the time, was a member of the house of commons; and who fled the country to avoid the punishment due to his crimes, and left his unfortunate agent to bear the whole weight of the law.

Captain John Lancey was a native of Biddeford, in Devonshire, respectably born, and well educated. As he gave early proofs of an inclination for a seafaring life, he was taught navigation, was attentive to his studies, and gave proofs of a goodness of disposition that promised a better fate than afterwards attended him.

Lancey was sent to sea as mate of a ship, of which Mr. Benson, a rich merchant at Biddeford, was the proprietor. Lancey, having married a relation of Benson's, was soon advanced to the command of the vessel. This Benson was member of parliament for Barnstaple, in Devonshire: and what kind of character he deserved will appear in the sequel.

After Lancey had returned from a long voyage he was for a considerable time confined to his bed by a violent illness, the expence of which tended considerably to impoverish him. When he was in part recovered, Benson

told him that he proposed to refit the ship in which he had formerly sailed : that Lancey should have the command of her : that he (Benson) would insure her for more than double her value ; and then Lancey should destroy the vessel.

This proposal appeared shocking to Lancey, who thought it but a trial of his honesty, and declared his sentiments, saying, that he would never take any part in a transaction so totally opposite to the whole tenor of his conduct.

For the present nothing more was said ; but soon afterwards Benson invited Lancey and several other gentlemen to dine with him. The entertainment was liberal ; and captain Lancey being asked to stay after the rest of the company were gone, Mr. Benson took him to a summer-house in the garden, where he again proposed the destroying the ship, and urged it in a manner that proved he was in earnest.

Captain Lancey hesitated a short time on this proposal, and then declined to have any concern in so iniquitous a scheme ; declaring, that he would seek other employment rather than take any part in such a transaction ; but Benson, resolving if possible not to lose his agent, prevailed on him to drink freely, and then urged every argument he could think of to prevail on him to undertake the business, promising to shelter him from punishment in case of detection.

Lancey still hesitated : but when Benson mentioned the poverty to which his family was reduced by his late illness, and offered such flattering prospects of protection, the unhappy man at length yielded to his own destruction.

A ship was now fitted out, and bound for Maryland : goods to a large amount were shipped on board, but re-landed before the vessel sailed, and a lading of brickbats taken in by way of ballast.

They had not been long at sea, when a hole was bored in the side of the ship, and a cask of combustible ingredients was set on fire, with a view to destroy her. The fire no sooner appeared, than the captain called to some

convicted transports, then in the hold, to enquire if they had fired the vessel; which appears to have been only a feint, to conceal the real design.

The boat being hoisted out, all the crew got safe on shore; and then Lancey repaired immediately to Benson to inform him of what had passed: Benson instantly dispatched him to a proctor, before whom he swore that the ship had accidentally taken fire, and that it was impossible to prevent the consequences which followed.

Lancey now repaired to his own house, and continued with as much apparent unconcern as if such a piece of villany had not been perpetrated; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody by a constable, who informed him, that oath had been made of the transaction before the mayor of Exeter by one of the seamen. Lancey, however, did not express much concern, secure in his idea of protection from the supposed influence of Benson.

On the following day, Lancey, and one of the ship's crew, were committed to the gaol of Exeter, where they remained three months; and being then removed to London, were examined by sir Thomas Salisbury, the judge of the admiralty-court, and committed to the prison of the Marshalsea. Application was afterwards made to the court of admiralty, to admit them to bail; and there appeared to be no objection to granting the favour; but Benson, on whom they had depended for bail, had absconded, to escape the justice due to his atrocious crime.

Being committed to Newgate, they were brought to trial at the next sessions of admiralty held at the Old Bailey; when Lancey was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but the other was acquitted.

Lancey lay in prison about four months after conviction, during which his behaviour was altogether consistent with his unhappy situation. His christian charity was remarkable towards Benson; for, though that wicked man had been the cause and instigator of his ruin, yet he never once reflected on him, but imputed all the crime to himself, and appeared to behold it in its genuine

It was presumed, when he was first apprehended that he might have been admitted an evidence against Benson, if he would have impeached him but this he steadily refused to do.

His devotional exercises were exemplary : he attended prayers in the most regular manner, and gave every proof of his contrition. He was accompanied by two clergymen to the place of execution, and he confessed his guilt in a speech to the surrounding multitude.

This unhappy man suffered at Execution-dock, in the 27th year of his age.

MARY SQUIRES, *convicted of Robbery ; and*
ELIZABETH CANNING, *transported for Per-*
jury.

[A Case of Mystery, on which the Public were greatly divided in Opinion.]

THIS is a case upon which human sagacity can hardly determine ; we shall therefore only give an abridged account, fairly stated from the evidence as it arose.

If Elizabeth Canning's own story may be credited, she quitted the house of her mother, near Aldermanbury, on the first of January, 1753 ; and, having visited her uncle and aunt, who lived near Saltpetre-bank, was, on her return, assaulted in Moorfields by two men, who robbed her of half-a-guinea, which was in a small box in her pocket, and three shillings that were loose. They also took her gown, apron, and hat, which one of them put into the pocket of his great-coat : on which she screamed out ; but he bound a handkerchief round her mouth, and tied her hands behind her ; after which she received a violent blow on the head, which, added to her former terror, occasioned her falling into a fit, a disorder to which she had been subject about four years.

On her recovery from the fit, and about half an hour before she reached Wells's house, she found herself by the road-side, the two men dragging her forward. She observed water near the road, and arrived at the house

where she said she was confined about three hours before day-light. When she came into the house, she did not see the mistress of it, Susannah Wells; but saw Mary Squires, a gipsey, and two girls.

Squires taking Canning by the hand, asked her if she chose to go their way, and if she would, she should have fine clothes. Canning, understanding that her meaning was to commence prostitute, replied in the negative; on which Squires took a knife from a drawer, cut the lace from her stays, and took them from her. Then Squires pushed her up a few stairs out of the kitchen, to a place called the hay-loft, and shut the door on her. On the approach of day-light, she found that the room had neither bed nor bedstead, and only hay to sleep on; that there was a black pitcher nearly full of water, and about twenty-four pieces of bread, in the whole about the quantity of a quartern-loaf; and that she had in her pocket a penny minced-pie, which she had bought to carry to her brother.

She said, that she covered herself with a bed-gown and handkerchief, which she found in the grate; and that, for the space of twenty-eight days within a few hours, which she remained there, she had no food nor liquor except what is above-mentioned, nor had the common evacuation of nature.

About four in the afternoon of Monday the 29th of January, she pulled down a board that was nailed on the inside of the window, and getting her head first out, she kept fast hold by the wall, and then dropped into a narrow place by a lane, behind which was a field.

Having got into the highway, she enquired her way to London, but did not stop. When she came into Moorfields the clock struck ten; and she thence proceeded to her mother's near Aldermanbury, where she told the above story to two gentlemen with whom she had lived as a servant: to which she added, that the place where she had been confined was near the Hertfordshire road, which was evident from her having seen a coachman drive by, who had frequently carried her mistress into Hertfordshire.

A number of circumstances giving reason to suspect that the house in which she had been confined was that of Susannah Wells, a warrant was issued to apprehend her and Squires, and such other people as might be found in the house.

Mr. Lion, with whom she had lived servant, and several other persons, went with her to execute the warrant. When she came to the place, she fixed on Mary Squires as the person who had robbed her; and she said that Virtue Hall stood by while her stays were cut off.

On this, all the parties were carried before justice Tyshmaker; when Hall so solemnly denied all knowledge of any such transaction having happened since she had been in the house, that she was discharged; but Squires was committed to New-prison for the robbery, and Wells for aiding and abetting her.

Soon afterwards, justice Fielding was applied to for a warrant for the apprehension of Hall, and she was examined before that magistrate for six hours, during which she continued in her former declaration. At length the justice said, that he would examine her no longer, but would commit her to prison, and leave her to stand or fall by the evidence that should be produced against her; and he advised an attorney to prosecute her as a felon.

Hereupon she begged to be heard, and said she would tell the whole truth; and the substance of her declaration was, that Canning had been at Mrs. Wells', and was robbed in the manner that she herself had declared.

On this, Squires and Wells were brought to trial at the Old Bailey, and convicted, principally on the evidence of Virtue Hall, the first for assaulting and robbing Elizabeth Canning, and the latter for harbouring, concealing, and comforting her, well knowing her to have committed the robbery; and John Gibson, William Clark, and Thomas Grevil, having positively sworn that Squires was in Dorsetshire at the time when the robbery was said to have been perpetrated, they were committed to be tried for perjury.

Some gentleman who had heard the trial, being dissatisfied with the evidence which had been produced,

made such application, that a free pardon was granted to Squires.

In the mean time, numbers of people were of opinion that the countrymen had sworn to the truth; and measures were accordingly taken to indict Canning for perjury: but, at the next sessions, her friends preferred bills of indictment against the men. Bills of indictment against the opposite parties being brought at the same time, the grand jury threw them all out; being resolved not to give any countenance to such a scene of perjury as must arise on the one side or the other.

This happened at the sessions in April; but, at the next sessions, in June, bills of indictment were found against the countrymen: these, however, were intended to be removed into the court of King's-bench, by writ of certiorari; but the court refused to grant the writ, alleging, that the indictments ought to be tried at the Old Bailey, because the king's commission of gaol-delivery was directed to that court. Hereupon the countrymen were bailed; and, at the sessions held in the month of September following they were arraigned, but were honourably acquitted, no person appearing to give evidence against them.

Squires being pardoned, and these men thus acquitted, the public opinion of this singular case became still more divided. Every one saw that there must have been perjury in the affair; but it was impossible to determine on which side it lay.

The lord mayor of London, at that time, was sir Crisp Gascoyne, who exerted himself in the most vigilant manner to come at the truth of this mysterious affair; for which, as is but too common, he was abused with a degree of virulence that reflected the highest infamy on his calumniators; for, whatever might be their private opinion, or whatever his own, it was certainly the duty of a good magistrate to endeavour to investigate the truth.

In the month of May, 1754, Elizabeth Canning was indicted at the Old Bailey for wilful and corrupt perjury, in swearing that she had been robbed by Mary Squires. A great number of witnesses swore that Squires was near

Abbotsbury at the time that the robbery was said to have been committed : and, on the contrary, more than thirty persons of reputation declared on oath, that Canning's character stood so fair, that they could not conceive her capable of being guilty of such an atrocious crime as wilful perjury.

Ingenious arguments were used by the counsel on each side ; and the jury, after mature deliberation, brought in a verdict, that she was guilty ; in consequence of which she received sentence to be transported for seven years.

No affair, that was ever determined in a judicial way, did perhaps so much excite the curiosity, or divide the opinion, of the public, as that in question. The newspapers and magazines were for a long time filled with little else than accounts of Canning and Squires : prints of both parties were published, and bought up with great avidity. Canning was remarkable for what is called the plainness, and Squires for the ugliness, of person ; and perhaps there never was a human face more disagreeable than that of the latter.

We should hardly be thought to exceed the truth, if we were to say, that ten thousand quarrels arose from, and fifty thousand wagers were laid on this business. All Great Britain and Ireland seemed to be interested in the event : and the person who did not espouse either one party or the other was thought to have no feeling. The first question in the morning was, "What news of Canning?" and the last squabble at night was, whether she was honest or perjured ; but this, however, could never be determined ; and it will probably remain a mystery as long as the world endures.

Elizabeth Canning was transported to New England on the 31st of July, 1754, having first received some hundreds of pounds collected by the bounty of her friends and partizans.

She was afterwards reputably married in America ; and the newspapers gave notice that she died some years ago in that country.

NICHOL BROWN,

Executed at Edinburgh, for the Murder of his Wife.

THERE appears to have been in this man more savage ferocity than has hitherto come under our notice: for, though we have read of cannibals, and that even civilized men, when compelled by the excruciating pains of hunger, have slain, and with horrible compunction, eat one of their companions, to support life in the rest; we have never before found an instance of one in the land of civilization and of plenty, eating human flesh! The murder which this wretch committed was perpetrated with the most wanton barbarity, and in a way which shewed him to be as insensible as he was cruel.

This brute in human form was a native of Cramond, a small town near Edinburgh, where he received a school education. At a proper age he was placed with a butcher in that city, and, when his apprenticeship was expired, went to sea in a man of war, and continued in that station four years. The ship being paid off, Brown returned to Edinburgh, and married the widow of a butcher, who had left her a decent fortune.

Soon after this marriage, Brown commenced dealer in cattle, in which he met with such success, that, in the course of a few years, he became possessed of a considerable sum. His success, however, did not inspire him with sentiments of humanity. His temper was so bad, that he was shunned by all serious people of his acquaintance: for he delighted in fomenting quarrels among his neighbours.

Taking to a habit of drinking, he seldom came home sober at night; and, his wife following his example, he used frequently to beat her for copying his own crime. This conduct rendered both parties obnoxious to their acquaintance; and the following story of Brown, which may be relied on as a fact, will incontestibly evidence the unfeeling brutality of his nature.

About a week after the execution of Norman Ross,

for murder, Brown had been drinking with some company at Leith, till in the height of their jollity, they boasted what extravagant actions they could perform. Brown swore, that he would cut off a piece of flesh from the leg of the dead man and eat it. His companions, drunk as they were, appeared shocked at the very idea : while Brown, to prove that he was in earnest, procured a ladder, which he carried to the gibbet, and cutting off a piece of flesh from the leg of the deceased, brought it back, broiled, and ate it.

This circumstance was much talked of, but little credit was given to it by the inhabitants of Edinburgh, till Brown's companions gave the fullest testimony of its truth. It will be now proper that we recite the particulars of the shocking crime for which this offender forfeited his life.

After having been drinking at an ale-house in the Cannongate, he went home about eleven at night, in a high degree of intoxication. His wife was also much in liquor ; but, though equally criminal himself, he was so exasperated against her that he struck her so violently, that she fell from her chair. The noise of her fall alarmed the neighbours ; but, as frequent quarrels had happened between them, no immediate notice was taken of the affair.

In about fifteen minutes the wife was heard to cry out " Murder ! help ! fire ! the rogue is murdering me ! help, for Christ's sake ! " The neighbours, now apprehending real danger, knocked at the door ; but no person being in the house but Brown and his wife, no admission was granted ; and the woman was heard to groan most shockingly.

A person looking through the key-hole saw Brown holding his wife to the fire ; on which he was called on to open the door, but neglected to do so. The candle being extinguished, and the woman still continuing her cries, the door was at length forced open ; and when the neighbours went in they beheld her a most shocking spectacle, laying half naked before the fire, and her flesh in part broiled. In the interim, Brown had got into bed,

pretended to be asleep, and when spoken to appeared ignorant of the transaction. The woman, though so dreadfully burnt, retained her senses, accused her husband of the murder, and told in what manner it was perpetrated. She survived till the following morning, still continuing in the same tale, and then expired in the utmost agony.

Hereupon the murderer was seized, and being lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh, was brought to trial, and capitally convicted.

After sentence he was allowed six weeks to prepare himself for a future state, agreeable to the custom in Scotland.

He was visited by several divines of Edinburgh, but steadily persisted in the denial of his guilt, affirming that he was ignorant of his wife being burnt till the door was broke open by the neighbours.

Among others who visited the criminal was the Reverend Mr. Kinloch, an ancient minister, who, urging him to confess his crime, received no other reply than that "if he was to die to-morrow, he would have a new suit of clothes, to appear decently at the gallows." Mr. Kinloch was so affected by his declaration, that he shed tears over the unhappy convict.

On the following day he was attended to the place of execution by the Reverend Dr. Brown; but to the last he denied having been guilty of the crime for which he suffered.

After execution, he was hung in chains; but the body was stolen from the gibbet, and thrown into a pond, where being found, it was exposed as before. In a few days, however, it was again stolen; and though a reward was offered for its discovery, no such discovery was made.

THE
SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF THE MAIL-ROBBER,
DAVIS,

*Executed and hung in chains near the place where he
committed the robbery.*

THIS man was a tallow-chandler in Carnaby-market, London, where he had some time carried on business with apparent credit, until his goods were distrained upon by his landlord, for rent. On taking an inventory thereof, a pistol was found in a drawer of a bureau, with some parts of bank notes, and several bills of exchange.

As the Cirencester mail had been robbed above two years before, and the customary reward had been in vain advertised for the discovery of the thief, a suspicion arose against him. The notes being shewn to an officer of the post-office, he suspected them to have been taken out of the mail; but lest he should prove innocent, and the charge be detrimental to him, a stratagem was used to carry him before a magistrate, to answer for some broils in which he had lately been involved. He was then charged with robbing the mail, which he denied.

But when he was upon the point of being discharged, a person came to the office with a silver tankard, which had been advertised to have been purchased with one of the notes plundered from the mail, of Mr. Harding in the Minorities, and found concealed in Davis's house.

Mr. Harding was then sent for, who swore that the prisoner purchased it of him. Hereupon he confessed that he knew the person who had robbed the mail, and who, he said, then lay under sentence of death in Newgate.

To this falsehood he was answered, that the person he described, was sentenced only to transportation; upon which he turned pale and was agitated. He was thereupon committed to prison, and a warrant of detainer lodged against the convict whom he had accused.

He was removed by writ of habeas corpus, to Ayles

bury, and on the 12th of March, 1755, there brought to trial.

When asked, in the usual form, whether he was guilty, or not guilty, to the charges laid in the indictment? He refused to plead till his irons were taken off. This the court consented to, and he then pleaded, "Not guilty;" but after a trial which occupied five hours, he was convicted.

On the third of April following, he was executed at Gerrard's Cross, in Buckinghamshire, the place where he committed the robbery and there hung in chains.

JOHN BERRY, STEPHEN M'DANIEL, JAMES
EGAN, JAMES SALMON, AND — BLEE,

*A new species of Murderers, and a most horrid Gang of
Conspirators.*

Our readers might imagine that we have already related every species of murder, and it will hardly be credited, that so diabolical a conspiracy could be engendered in the mind of man, as that of enticing innocent youths to commit a robbery, and then apprehending them, for the sake of the reward, thus making a very trade of human blood. This infernal plot was however long successfully carried on, and many an innocent man fell a victim to the pretended violated laws of the country.

The head, or captain, as they dignified him, was Berry; a runner, or as commonly denominated a "Thief-taker," who lived at the bottom of what was then called George-yard, at the bottom of Hatton-Garden, and Blee was his servant.

M'Daniel had kept a public-house in Holborn; Egan was a shoemaker, in Drury-lane; and Salmon a leather-breeches-maker, in Drury-lane.

These villains, horrid to relate, conspired together, in accusing innocent people of crimes which took away life, for the reward offered. Various were the diabolical plans they laid for this purpose.

At one time, they enticed two victims to join them in committing a highway robbery upon one of their own gang; a third was to purchase the stolen goods; and the other was to apprehend the intended victims, permitting his accomplice, who had been concerned in the robbery, to escape, and then to join the party robbed and the receiver in the prosecution. But if, through the information of the other two, the thief-taker, who proposed and assisted in the robbery, was apprehended, then, in order to preserve him, the prosecution was not supported.

These villains exhibited an accusation of robbery against two young men, named Newman and March. Upon their trial, they related the manner in which they had been seduced; but the evidence of the thief-takers was so strong, that they were convicted and suffered death.

A poor man, named Tyler, was met by one of the gang, who said he would make him a present of a horse, for which he had no further occasion. The unfortunate man joyfully received the horse from his apparently generous benefactor; by whom he was advised to take the beast to an inn in Smithfield, there to be taken care of till he should determine in what manner to dispose of him. Before he could reach Smithfield, he was seized by Egan, who took him before the sitting alderman; and it being sworn that he had stolen the horse, he was committed to Newgate, and soon afterwards hanged. In the year 1753, they charged an innocent man, named Woodland, with felony; and he was committed, and sentenced to suffer death: but he was so fortunate as to receive a pardon, on condition of transportation. The villains, however, claimed, and actually received, the reward, in consequence of having prosecuted him to conviction.

Joshua Kidden, whom we shall mention hereafter, was the next who fell a sacrifice to their diabolical artifices. It would be tedious to recount the particulars relating to the many people who suffered death through the false evidence of these atrocious villains; and especially as the several cases bear much similarity to each other. We

shall now proceed to a narrative of the fact of which they were convicted.

The money obtained by the conviction of Kidden being nearly expended, they employed themselves in concerting new schemes of villany for recruiting their finances. It was determined to employ a man named Blee, a fellow of abandoned principles, who had for some time acted as an assistant to Berry, in attending in the fields about Islington till he could decoy two idle boys to consent to join him in a robbery.

They all held a meeting in an arbour belonging to a public-house, the sign of Sir John Oldcastle, in the neighbourhood of Islington, where they appointed the time for committing the robbery, and that it should be near Deptford, on account of the inhabitants of Greenwich having advertised twenty pounds for the apprehending any highwayman or footpad, in addition to the reward allowed by parliament. Their wicked plan being settled, they separated; for, lest they should be suspected of holding an improper correspondence, they were particularly careful not to be seen together, where there was a probability of their persons being known.

The time for holding the assizes being arrived, Mr. Cox, having a warrant for apprehending Berry, Salmon, M'Daniel, and Egan, went to Maidstone, having Blee in custody. Mr. Cox waited till the conclusion of the trial, but had no sooner heard the foreman of the jury pronounce the prisoners guilty, then he caused the four iniquitous accomplices to be taken into custody. They obstinately persisted in declaring themselves innocent; and even when confronted with Blee, denied having the least knowledge of him: but, on the following day, they severally requested to be admitted evidences for the crown; in this none of them were indulged, the evidence of Blee being deemed sufficient for their conviction.

They were removed to London, in order for trial, as being accessaries before the fact. The jury were not able to determine whether the prisoners came within the description of the statutes fourth and fifth of Philip and Mary, or third and fourth of William and Mary, and

therefore referred the case to the decision of the twelve judges.

The special verdict being brought to a hearing before the judges in the hall of Serjeant's inn, counsel was heard on both sides, and it was unanimously determined that the offences charged against the prisoners did not come within the meaning of the statutes above-mentioned: but orders were given for the indicting them for a conspiracy.

An indictment being found against them, they were again put to the bar at the Old Bailey, and the evidences exhibited against them on their former trial being recapitulated, the jury pronounced them guilty, and they were sentenced to be punished in the following manner: Berry and M'Daniel to stand on the pillory, once at the end of Hatton Garden, in Holborn, and once at the end of King-street in Cheapside; Salmon and Egan to stand once in the middle of West Smithfield, and the second time at the end of Fetter-lane, in Fleet-street; and all to be imprisoned in Newgate for the space of seven years; and upon the expiration of that time not to be discharged without finding sureties to be bound in the penalties of a thousand pounds each for their good behaviour for the seven following years.

March the 5th, 1756, M'Daniel and Berry were set on the pillory at the end of Hatton Garden, and were so severely treated by the populace that their lives were supposed to be in danger.

Egan and Salmon were taken to Smithfield on Monday the eighth of the same month, amidst a surprising concourse of people, who no sooner saw the offenders exposed on the pillory, then they pelted them with stones, brick-bats, potatoes, dead dogs and cats, and other things. The constables now interposed; but being soon overpowered, the offenders were left wholly to the mercy of an enraged mob. The blows they received occasioned their heads to swell to an enormous size; and they were nearly strangled by people hanging to the skirts of their clothes. They had been on the pillory about half

an hour, when a stone striking Egan on the head, he immediately expired.

This man's fate, however illegally he met his death, will cause but little sorrow; yet, living under wholesome laws, we would not see even such a wretch as Egan punished but by the sentence of a court.

The sheriffs, fearing that should the survivors be again exposed to the vengeance of an enraged people, they would share the fate of their companion in iniquity, the remainder of the sentence of pillory was on that account remitted; but the length of their sentence of imprisonment, added to the great amount of the sureties for their good behaviour after the expiration thereof, might have been considered tantamount to imprisonment for life; a fate well suited to such mischievous, hard-hearted, and unrelenting villains.

They, however, soon died in Newgate, thus ridding the world of the principal part of this terrific gang.

JOSHUA KIDDEN,

A Victim of the horrid Conspirators, whose crimes and punishments are described above.

WE have already given the names of some of the devoted victims of these conspirators; but as they were chiefly selected from the very lowest part of society, the particulars of their unhappy cases are lost in obscurity.

The subject of this melancholy history, was in a superior rank of life to his innocent fellow-sufferers; and, like them, it will be found had taken no part in the pretended robbery of which he was accused.

The father of Kidden, was a reputable watch-maker in London, and having given his son a classical education, bound him apprentice to an apothecary; but being fond of idleness, he was soon discontented with culling simples and pounding roots. His indulgent parents, thinking that the watery element might better suit his lazy turn of mind, accordingly procured him a situation as a petty-officer in the royal navy; in which he remained during six years.

Having now returned to his paternal home, his father, fondly hoping that he had settled his mind to a sea-faring life, procured masters to instruct him in the theoretical parts of navigation, and every other branch of that art ; but he neglected his opportunity, and hung about his father, a useless and expensive burden ; however, we find no propensity in him to dishonesty.

At length, somewhat arousing from his apathy, he made an essay to earn his own bread, and for that purpose ranged himself among the porters, at the end of Fleet-market ; for he had neglected to acquire any trade or business.

Going one evening, after the toil of a hard day's work, to regale himself with the London labourer's most wholesome beverage, porter, he was unfortunately marked by the villain Blee, one of the gang last mentioned, who conceived him a fit object upon whom to exercise his hellish design.

Kidden, who had uncertain employ, told Blee that he was in want of work ; and the latter engaging to procure some for him, got him lodgings in an alley in Chick-lane, where he continued from Friday till the following Monday, when he was told that there was a job at Tottenham to remove some effects of a gentleman, which would otherwise be seized for rent.

At the time appointed, Kidden and Blee went to Tottenham ; and having waited at a public-house till the approach of night, Blee went out, with a pretence of speaking to the gentleman whose goods were to be removed ; but, on his return, said that the business could not be transacted that night.

They now quitted the public-house, and proceeded towards London, after Blee had given Kidden eighteen-pence, as a compensation for the loss of his day's work. On the London side of Tottenham they observed a chaise, and a woman sitting on the side of the road near it. Kidden asked her if she was going to London ; she replied in the affirmative ; but he walked forwards, paying no attention to what she said, till he heard Blee call him back, demanding to know why he walked so fast. Kid-

den turning back, observed that Blee was robbing the woman; on which he declined a nearer approach, disdaining to have any concern in such a transaction: but Blee, running up to him, said, "I have got the money:" and would have prevailed on him to take half a crown; but this he declined.

Blee then desired Kidden not to leave him; and the latter staying two or three minutes, a thief-taker, named M'Daniel, rushed from a hedge, and seizing Kidden, told him that he was his prisoner.

The woman thus pretendedly robbed was one Mary Jones; and all the parties going before a magistrate, it was positively sworn that Kidden was the robber, and that he took twenty-five shillings from the woman; on which he was committed to Newgate.

Mary Jones, the woman supposed to have been robbed, lodged in Broker's-alley, Drury-lane; and the friends and relations of Kidden, assured in their own minds of his innocence, went thither to inquire after her character, which they found to be so totally abandoned, that they had no doubt but that the whole was a pre-concerted plot for his destruction.

When the trial came on, Mary Jones, and two thief-takers, swore positively to the unhappy lad, who was capitally convicted, and sentenced to die; and a report was industriously circulated that he had committed several robberies as a footpad: but this was only the effort of villany, to depreciate the character of an innocent man, in order to receive the reward for his conviction, which was actually paid.

After sentence of death was passed, Kidden made a constant, uniform, and solemn avowal of his innocence. He told how the thief-takers had imposed on him; and his tale was universally credited, when it was too late to save him from the fatal consequences of their villainous devices.

Repeated applications were made that mercy might be extended to the unhappy convict; but these were in vain. The warrant for his execution arrived, and he resigned himself to his fate in the most becoming manner, lamenting

the present disgrace that his relations would undergo but entertaining no doubt that the decrees of Providence would soon give ample testimony of his innocence.

He resigned his innocent life to the executioner, after pathetically addressing the multitude, and declaring again his innocence, in the year 1756, greatly lamented.

From a comparison of the circumstances of the case of Kidden, and other miserable youths whom this destructive gang, under pretence of being thief-takers, for the ends of justice, had given evidence against, we fear there is too much reason to believe that many more than those we have mentioned, fell victims to their crimes.

CHRISTOPHER WOODLAND,

Another Victim of the horrid gang of Thief-takers.

THE cases of the wretched men who fell victims to the horrid plots of the thief-takers already mentioned, shew how many arts had been practised in seeking the innocent blood of their fellow-creatures.

The fate of Woodland, however, is deserving of much less pity than that of Kidden; the former consented to join in a burglary, which, though a trap laid for him, it proved that he was a man, ready to join any hardened gang of robbers.

They thus practised upon Woodland. Berry, the head of the gang, hired a single room of one Mr. Eveness, on Saffron-hill, ostensibly for James Egan, another of the gang. They put into this room some mean articles of furniture, and thus made the place suited to their purpose. Then Berry, M'Daniel, Egan, and Mary Jones, who had now become associated with them, ordered Blee to procure a victim, who might join some of them in robbing this room.

Blee, ever the drudge of the gang, pitched upon a half-witted fellow, the immediate subject of the present enquiry.

Egan, who had been a shoemaker, took possession of

the room, and hammered upon his lapstone ; not to mend soles, but to make souls arise from the bodies of his victims. Blee intoxicated Woodland, and then proposed what he called a plan to ensure the road to wealth. The sot, delighted with the offer, readily joined him in breaking into the shoemaker's room, where he was assured a large booty might be obtained.

Woodland committed the burglary, and was followed by Blee. He seized some bundles of clothes, placed there for the purpose, and was advised by his deceitful companion, to offer them for sale to Mary Jones. The gang rushed into her apartment, seized Woodland, but permitted Blee to escape. They took him before a justice of the peace, swore to the burglary, and consequently he was committed to Newgate.

As he did not appear to be an old offender, no other offence being laid to his charge, the capital part of the indictment, the burglary, was not pressed ; and he was found guilty alone of stealing.

This disappointed the gang of their reward, as he was sentenced to transportation only, and was sent to America.

WILLIAM CANNICOTT,

*Executed at Tyburn, September 20, 1756, for the
Murder of his Wife.*

WILLIAM CANNICOTT was about forty years of age, and had been a livery servant from a youth, though his parents, who were substantial people, would fain have had him learn a trade.

When he was about twenty years old, he married Dorothy Tamlyn, a woman near forty years of age, with whom he had lived fellow-servant ; and soon after he set her up in a little haberdasher's shop, in Boswell-court. This shop she kept near ten years, and Cannicott being then servant to the late admiral Matthews, took a house

for her in East-street, and furnished it to be let out into lodgings.

Till about three years ago, he says, they lived peaceably, if not happily, together ; but it then happened, that in his absence, and without his knowledge, she sold two suits of his best clothes, though she had no reasonable pretence or provocation ; for he constantly gave her all his money, and she received, without any account, the profits that arose from the house. Cannicott was naturally passionate, and coming in haste one day to put on a suit of these clothes upon a particular occasion, he was so exasperated to find they had been sold by his wife, that he swore he would never come home to her any more.

It is probable, that this incident only gave colour to break a connection which he had no inclination to continue ; for he kept the resolution which he had declared in his passion, after that passion had subsided ; and when he was next out of place, which happened soon afterwards, he took himself a lodging in a distant part of the town, instead of going home to his wife, though he still continued to give her his money.

In this new neighbourhood he was of course considered as a single man ; a mistake that he was rather desirous to countenance than correct, because he knew that as a single man he was more likely to get into place than as married ; and indeed he was soon after hired to a gentleman in Cavendish-square, who declared that he would not hire a married man ; so that he was from that time under a kind of necessity to deny that he had a wife. After the first deviation from truth a man is almost necessarily, though insensibly, led to deviate farther and farther from the strait path at every step. As the women were less upon their guard against him, he was encouraged to indulge himself in the pleasure of such addresses as would not otherwise have been permitted ; and thus engagements are often brought on which were never formally designed, and connections are gradually strengthened merely because the difficulty of breaking them gradually increases. Among Cannicott's fellow servants there was a young woman that waited upon his master's

daughter, to whom he found a secret pleasure in recommending himself by many little acts of kindness, with which he saw she was pleased, and which he therefore repeated with greater assiduity and delight, though he declares he had then no design to seduce her, either as a mistress or a wife; yet his regard for her grew every day more tender, as he became more acquainted with her. He loved her, he says, not only for her person but for her mind, which was continually improved by the free conversation of her amiable lady. Still, however, he avoided every thing that had a direct tendency to make him be regarded as a lover; but here happened two incidents, which, joining with his inclinations, and the facility with which he saw it might be gratified, overbore all his resolutions. As love is always vigilant and suspicious, he discovered that his master had a design upon her virtue, and that at the same time she was addressed by a young man, who would have married her, and whom he thought she would consent to marry, if he did not profit of the influence he had over her by soliciting her for himself. In this situation he determined to gain her if it was possible, let the consequence be what it would. From this time his courtship commenced, and the girl sincerely believing he had no other connexion, consented to have him. When this was agreed, he resolved to leave his place, because the girl would not consent to conceal her marriage from her lady, nor would her lady part with her on that account, and because his master would notwithstanding think it a sufficient reason to part with him. In pursuance of this scheme he hired himself to the earl of Darnley, and on the third of June, 1754, he married his new wife at Mary-le-bone chapel.

He went into lord Darnley's place the same day, and his wife continued in her's a twelvemonth after they were married, and might have continued there till now, if her master had not pursued his design with more importunity than before, notwithstanding the declaration of her marriage, which, upon that account, as well as others, she had determined to make as soon as it should have taken place. As these solicitations made her very uneasy she complained of them to her husband, and he advised her to give

warning. She immediately followed his counsel, but staid five months longer to oblige her lady, who was very desirous she should go with her to Bath. When they came back, and her master found that she was determined to go, and that another maid had been engaged in her stead, he was so enraged at his disappointment, that he would scarce suffer her to stay long enough in the house to put her clothes together. When she was come away Cannicott hired a lodging for her as near him as he could, that he might spend every leisure minute in her company ; and he perceived, he says, with unspeakable pleasure, an excessive fondness in her which increased his own ; and he believes it is impossible for any two persons to be more happy in each other than they were, except when his fears anticipated her discovery of his former marriage.

This event so much dreaded, and so carefully guarded against, in a short time put an end to their felicity, and made the wife, who was deserted, yet more wretched than before.

One Hobson, a coachman in lord Darnley's family, knew Cannicott when he lived in another place, and knew also his first wife. It happened, that the wife of this Hobson had become acquainted with some person in the house where Cannicott had taken a lodging for his second wife, and thus discovered the secret. His second wife, however, she did not know where to find, for she had removed into the country when Cannicott went out of town with his lord, and was not yet returned ; but word was immediately sent to his first wife, who took every opportunity to haunt and reproach her husband with his new connection. This, he says, made him extremely wretched, not only because it was irksome in itself, but because it kept him in continual dread and solicitude, lest they should find out his favourite, and interrupt her peace, as they had interrupted his. As his fears increased, so did his caution ; he took another lodging for his young wife, whom he calls Nanny, at a considerable distance, and required her never to call, on any pretence, where she had lodged before ; with this request, he says, she cheer-

fully complied, without knowing or enquiring why it was made; but her old landlady once meeting her by chance, dogged her home, and immediately acquainted Hobson and his wife where she lodged, who with great expedition sent Mrs. Cannicott to acquaint her with her situation. Here was an end to all the stolen felicity at once; Nanny, at the next interview, reproached him: but she reproached him, he says, with such tenderness as shewed less anger than love. She was overwhelmed with grief, and, as often as she could find words, she intreated, that he would never attempt to see her more, but leave her to struggle alone with her misfortunes, and endeavour to get into another place. He could not consent to leave her, but promised to procure her a place. This indeed he attempted, but without success; for it was necessary to refer to her last master for a character, and he besides telling that she was married, suggested several faults that might conceal the true reason why she left the place. She then urged him to let her go abroad, but this he opposed with the utmost vehemence; and declared that he would destroy himself if she attempted it.

She had twice removed her lodging, and was still followed by Mrs. Cannicott, who acquainted the neighbourhood with her story. Nanny, therefore, would not suffer Cannicott to visit her in her lodgings, where it was known she could not be his lawful wife; and though he persuaded her sometimes to meet him early in the morning, yet, as it was chiefly in the street, that afforded him no pleasure.

Hobson and his wife in the mean time fomented the difference between Cannicott and his first wife, telling her that he had received his wages, and urging her to solicit him for more money. This she did, with threats of prosecution if he refused, saying, that she could and would hang him for having two wives.

As he believed this to be in her power, he restrained his aversion, for fear she should execute it, and therefore appointed to meet her on Thursday evening at the Red Lion in Berkeley-square, to take a little walk. He declares, that in making this appointment he had no design upon

her life, but that being obliged to put up at a public-house near Tottenham-court, by a sudden storm of thunder and rain, she asked him for money, which he refusing to give her, she had recourse first to expostulation, then reproach, and then threatening, which threw him into a dreadful rage, in the midst of which he broke away from her, and she followed him. That as they were going down stairs he saw a cord hang over the banisters, upon which he conceived a design to use it as an instrument to murder her, and therefore snatched it up and put it into his pocket; when they got out of the house, they went towards home, though the storm increased, and it thundered and lightened very much. Her passion had probably abated while his was at the height, as it often happens that the mind relents immediately after expressions of too keen reproach, which render a reconciliation on the other side for a time impossible. This appears to have been the case here, for she twice desired him to let down his hat, that the lightning might not hurt his eyes; this he refused the first time, but the last time seemed to consent, and bidding her go on, took that opportunity not to flap his hat, but to prepare the cord for the murder; and it is surely an horrid aggravation of his guilt, that he made the voice of kindness a signal to silence it for ever, and prepared to perpetrate the greatest injury against his wife, while he seemed to be profiting by her solicitude to do him good. When he had formed the cord to his purpose, having tied a noose in one end, and passed the other end through it, he walked apace after her, and coming behind her, threw it over her head and drew it tight. She immediately seized it with her hands, and struggled so hard that the cord broke, and he feared she would overpower him. He then thought of his scissars, and drawing them from the sheath, he thrust them many times into her throat and body, upon which her grasp relaxed, and she soon expired.

As soon as he saw she was dead, his passion subsided in a moment, and he was so struck with the horror of what he had done, that he fell down in a swoon, though

he cannot tell how long he continued in it ; when he came to himself he began to think how he might conceal the fact ; he stripped her, and scattered her clothes, which he cut to pieces, in different places as he went along.

About ten o'clock he got home extremely wet, and immediately retiring to the place where he cleaned his glasses, he washed the blood from the ruffles and sleeves of his shirt, and putting it into the foul clothes bag, went to bed. The next morning, his lordship being out of town, he went out and bought a new pair of scissars, having left the others in the field near the body, and sold the ring and buckles, which he brought away ; he did not return till night, and was then told by his fellow servants, that justice Fielding had sent for him upon a suspicion of murder, and advised, if he was guilty, not to come in ; but he insisted upon his innocence, and when Mr. Welch came soon after, he was denied. Next morning, however, he went with the butler to Mr. Barnes, the high constable, in order, as he said, to clear himself.

He was examined by the justices, and though many circumstances appeared against him, yet the first day he confessed nothing ; but the next day, finding that they had found out his second wife, and confined her upon suspicion that she had been accessory to the fact, he immediately accused himself, that she might be discharged ; and having fully disclosed the whole affair, he pleaded guilty at his trial, and died with great penitence and resignation.

EUGENE ARAM,

Executed at York, August 6, 1759, for a Murder discovered Fourteen Years after being committed, and his body hung in chains in Knaresborough Forest.

THE following is, perhaps, the most remarkable and extraordinary trial in our whole Calendar.

The criminal was a man of extraordinary endowments,

and of good education ; and therefore no one suspected him of having committed this horrid crime, which was discovered in a most remarkable manner.

Mr. Eugene Aram was born in a village called Netherdale, in Yorkshire, in the year 1704, of an ancient family ; one of his ancestors having served the office of high sheriff for that county, in the reign of Edward III. The vicissitudes of fortune had, however, reduced them ; as we find the father of Eugene, a poor, but honest man, by profession, a gardener ; in which humble walk in life he was, nevertheless, greatly respected.

The sweat of his brow alone, we must conclude, was insufficient both to rear and educate his offspring. From the high erudition of the unfortunate subject under consideration, he may be truly called a prodigy. On the very slender stock of learning, found in a day-school, he built a fabric, which would have been worthy the shoulders of our literary Atlas, Dr. Johnson. It may be truly said, that like M'Nally, the celebrated Irish barrister and admirable dramatist, he was self-taught. As the one excelled in his profession, an usher to an academy ; so does the other, as an advocate at the bar of justice.

In the infancy of Aram, his parents removed to another village called Shelton, near Newby, in the said county ; and when about six years of age, his father, who had laid by a small sum from his weekly labour, made a purchase of a little cottage in Bondgate, near Rippon.

When he was about thirteen or fourteen years of age, he went to his father in Newby, and attended him in the family there, till the death of sir Edward Blackett. It was in the house of this gentleman, to whom his father was gardener, that his propensity for literature first appeared. He was indeed always of a solitary disposition, and uncommonly fond of retirement and books ; and here he enjoyed all the advantages of leisure and privacy. He applied himself at first chiefly to mathematical studies, in which he made a considerable proficiency.

At about sixteen years of age, he was sent to London to the house of Mr. Christopher Blackett, whom he served for some time in the capacity of book-keeper. After con-

tinuing here a year, or more, he was taken with the small-pox, and suffered severely under that distemper. He afterwards returned into Yorkshire, in consequence of an invitation from his father, and there continued to prosecute his studies, but found in polite literature much greater charms than in the mathematics; which occasioned him now chiefly to apply himself to poetry, history, and antiquities. After this he was invited to Netherdale, where he engaged in a school, and married. But this marriage proved an unhappy connection; for to the misconduct of his wife he afterwards attributed the misfortunes that befel him. In the mean while, having perceived his deficiency in the learned languages, he applied himself to the grammatical study of the Latin and Greek tongues; after which he read, with great avidity and diligence, all the Latin classics, historians and poets. He then went through the Greek Testament; and lastly, ventured upon Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Herodotus, and Thucydides, together with all the Greek tragedians. In 1734, William Norton, Esq. a gentleman who had a friendship for him, invited him to Knaresborough. Here he acquired the knowledge of the Hebrew, and read the Pentateuch in that language. In 1744, he returned to London, and served the Rev. Mr. Plainblanc, as usher in Latin and writing, in Piccadilly; and with this gentleman's assistance, he acquired the knowledge of the French language. He was afterwards employed as an usher and tutor in several different parts of England; during which time he became acquainted with heraldry and botany. He also ventured upon Chaldee and Arabic, the former of which he found easy from its near connection with the Hebrew.

He then investigated the Celtic, as far as possible, in all its dialects: and having begun to form collections, and make comparisons between the Celtic, the English, the Latin, the Greek, and the Hebrew, and found a great affinity between them, he resolved to proceed through all these languages, and to form a comparative Lexicon. But, amid these learned labours and enquiries it appears, that Aram committed a crime, which could no.

naturally have been expected from a man of so studious a turn, as the inducement that led him to it was merely gain of wealth, of which the scholar is seldom covetous. On the 8th of February, 1745, he, in conjunction with a man named Richard Houseman, murdered one Daniel Clarke, a shoe-maker at Knaresborough.

This unfortunate man having lately married a woman of a good family, ostentatiously circulated a report that his wife was entitled to a considerable fortune, which he should soon receive. Hereupon Aram, and Richard Houseman, conceiving hopes of making advantage of this circumstance, persuaded Clarke to make an ostentatious shew of his own riches, to induce his wife's relations to give him that fortune of which he had boasted. There was sagacity, if not honesty, in this advice, for the world in general are more free to assist persons in affluence than those in distress.

Clarke was easily induced to comply with a hint so agreeable to his own desires; on which, he borrowed, and bought on credit, a large quantity of silver plate, with jewels, watches, rings, &c. He told the persons of whom he purchased, that a merchant in London had sent him an order to buy such plate for exportation; and no doubt was entertained of his credit till his sudden disappearance in February, 1745, when it was imagined that he had gone abroad, or at least to London, to dispose of his ill-acquired property.

When Clarke was possessed of these goods, Aram and Houseman determined to murder him, in order to share the booty; and, on the night of the 8th of February, 1745, they persuaded Clarke to walk with them in the fields, in order to consult with them on the proper method to dispose of the effects.

On this plan they walked into a field, at a small distance from the town, well known by the name of St. Robert's Cave. When they came into this field, Aram and Clarke went over a hedge towards the cave, and when they had got within six or seven yards of it, Houseman (by the light of the moon) saw Aram strike Clarke several times, and at length beheld him fall, but never saw him

afterwards. This was the state of the affair, if Houseman's testimony on the trial might be credited.

The murderers going home, shared Clarke's ill-gotten treasure, the half of which Houseman concealed in his garden for a twelvemonth, and then took it to Scotland, where he sold it. In the mean time Aram carried his share to London, where he sold it to a Jew, and then engaged himself as an usher at an academy in Piccadilly; where, in the intervals of his duty in attending on the scholars, he made himself master of the French language, and acquired some knowledge of the Arabic, and other eastern languages.

After this, he was usher at other schools in different parts of the kingdom: but, as he did not correspond with his friends in Yorkshire, it was presumed that he was dead.

Thus had nearly fourteen years passed on without the smallest clue being found to account for the sudden exit of Clarke.

In the year 1758 a labourer was employed to dig for stone to supply a lime-kiln, at a place called Thistle-hill, near Knaresborough, and having dug about two feet deep, he found the bones of a human body, and the bones being still joined to each other by the ligatures of the joints, the body appeared to have been buried double. This accident immediately became the subject of general curiosity and enquiry. Some hints had been formerly thrown out by Aram's wife, that Clarke was murdered; and it was well remembered, that his disappearance was very sudden.

This occasioned Aram's wife to be sent for, as was also the coroner, and an inquisition was entered into; it being believed, that the skeleton found was that of Daniel Clarke. Mrs. Aram declared, that she believed Clarke had been murdered by her husband and Richard Houseman. The latter when he was brought before the coroner, appeared to be in great confusion, trembling, changing colour, and faltering in his speech during the examination. The coroner desired him to take up one of the bones, probably to observe what further effect that might produce; and Houseman, accordingly taking

up one of the bones, said, "This is no more Dan. Clarke's bone than it is mine."

These words were pronounced in such a manner as convinced those present, that they proceeded not from Houseman's supposition that Clarke was alive, but from his certain knowledge where his bones really lay. Accordingly, after some evasions, he said that Clarke was murdered by Eugene Aram, and that the body was buried in St. Robert's cave, near Knaresborough. He added further, that Clarke's head lay to the right, in the turn, at the entrance of the cave; and a skeleton was accordingly found there exactly in the posture he described. In consequence of this confession, search was made for Aram, and at length he was discovered in the situation of usher to an academy at Lynn in Norfolk. He was brought from thence to York Castle; and on the 18th of August, 1759, was brought to trial at the county assizes. He was found guilty on the testimony of Richard Houseman, who being arraigned, and acquitted, became an evidence against Aram; and whose testimony was corroborated by Mrs. Aram, and strong circumstantial evidence. The plunder which Aram was supposed to have derived from the murder was not estimated at more than one hundred and sixty pounds.

His defence, for ingenuity and ability, would have done credit to the best lawyers at the bar. He thus addressed the court and jury:

"My lord, I know not whether it is of right, or through some indulgence of your lordship, that I am allowed the liberty at this bar, and at this time, to attempt a defence, incapable and uninstructed as I am to speak. Since, while I see so many eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a concourse, fixed with attention, and filled with I know not what expectancy, I labour not with guilt, my lord, but with perplexity. For having never seen a court but this; being wholly unacquainted with law, the customs of the bar, and all judiciary proceedings, I fear I shall be so little capable of speaking with propriety in this place, that it exceeds my hope if I shall be able to speak at all.

“ I have heard, my lord, the indictment read, wherein I find myself charged with the highest crime, with an enormity I am altogether incapable of; a fact, to the commission of which there goes far more insensibility of heart, more profligacy of morals, than ever fell to my lot. And nothing possibly could have admitted a presumption of this nature, but a depravity not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I stand indicted at your lordship's bar, and have heard what is called evidence adduced in support of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your lordship's patience, and beg the hearing of this respectable audience, while I, single and unskilful, destitute of friends, and unassisted by counsel, say something, perhaps, like argument, in my defence. I shall consume but little of your lordship's time; what I have to say will be short, and this brevity, probably, will be the best part of it: however, it is offered with all possible regard, and the greatest submission to your lordship's consideration, and that of this honourable court.

“ First, my lord, the whole tenor of my conduct in life contradicts every particular of the indictment. Yet had I never said this, did not my present circumstances extort it from me, and seem to make it necessary. Permit me here, my lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge upon me any immorality, of which prejudice was not the author. No, my lord, I concerted no schemes of fraud; projected no violence, injured no man's person or property; my days were honestly laborious, my nights intensely studious. And I humbly conceive my notice of this, especially at this time, will not be thought impertinent or unseasonable; but, at least, deserving some attention, because, my lord, that any person, after a temperate use of life, a series of thinking and acting regularly, and without a single deviation from sobriety, should plunge into the very depth of profligacy, precipitately, and at once, is altogether improbable and unprecedented, and absolutely inconsistent with the course of things. Mankind is never corrupted at once; villany is always progressive, and declines from right, step after step, till every regard of

probity is lost, and every sense of all moral obligation totally perishes.

“ Again, my lord, a suspicion of this kind, which nothing but malevolence could entertain, and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very situation at that time, with respect to health ; for but a little space before I had been confined to my bed, and suffered under a very long and severe disorder, and was not able, for half a year together, so much as to walk. The distemper left me indeed, yet slowly, and in part ; but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to crutches ; and so far from being well about the time I am charged with this fact, I have never, to this day, perfectly recovered. Could then a person in this condition take any thing into his head so unlikely, so extravagant ? I, past the vigour of my age, feeble and valetudinary, with no inducement to engage, no ability to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a fact ; without interest,—without power,—without motive,—without means.

“ Besides, it must needs occur to every one, that an action of this atrocious nature is never heard of but, when its springs are laid open, it appears that it was to support some indolence, or supply some luxury ; to satisfy some avarice, or oblige some malice ; to prevent some real, or some imaginary want ; yet I lay not under the influence of any of these. Surely, my lord, I may consistent with both truth and modesty affirm thus much ; and none who have any veracity, and knew me, will ever question this.

“ In the second place, the disappearance of Clarke is suggested as an argument of his being dead ; but the uncertainty of such an inference from that, and the fallibility of all conclusions of such a sort, from such a circumstance, are too obvious, and too notorious, to require instances ; yet, superseding many, permit me to procure a very recent one, and that afforded by this castle.

“ In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all the vigilance of this place, in open day-light, and double ironed, made his escape ; and notwithstanding an immediate enquiry set on foot, the strictest search, and all adver-

tisement, was never seen or heard of since. If then Thompson got off unseen, through all these difficulties, how very easy was it for Clarke, when none of them opposed him? But what would be thought of a prosecution commenced against any one seen last with Thompson?

“ Permit me next, my lord, to observe a little upon the bones which have been discovered. It is said, which perhaps is saying very far, that these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible, indeed it may; but is there any certain known criterion, which incontestibly distinguishes the sex in human bones? Let it be considered, my lord, whether the ascertaining of this point ought not to precede any attempt to identify them.

“ The place of their deposition, too, claims much more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it; for, of all places in the world, none could have mentioned any one, wherein there was greater certainty of finding human bones than a hermitage, except he should point out a church-yard: hermitages, in time past, being not only places of religious retirement, but of burial too. And it has scarce, or never been heard of, but that every cell now known contains, or contained, these relics of humanity; some mutilated, and some entire. I do not inform, but give me leave to remind your lordship, that here sat solitary sanctity, and here the hermit, or the anchoress, hoped that repose for their bones, when dead, they here enjoyed when living,

“ All the while, my lord, I am sensible this is known to your lordship, and many in this court, better than to me. But it seems necessary to my case, that others, who have not at all, perhaps, adverted to things of this nature, and may have concern in my trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my lord, to produce a few of many evidences, that these cells were used as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a few in which human bones have been found as it happened in this question; lest, to some, that accident might appear extraordinary, and consequently occasion prejudice.

“ 1. The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon St

Dubritius, were discovered buried in his cell at Guy's cliff near Warwick, as appears from the authority of sir William Dugdale.

" 2. The bones thought to be those of the anchoress Rosia, were but lately discovered in a cell at Royston, entire, fair, and undecayed, though they must have lain interred for several centuries, as is proved by Dr. Stukely.

" 3. But my own county, nay, almost this neighbourhood, supplies another instance, for, in January, 1747, were found, by Mr. Stovin, accompanied by a reverend gentleman, the bones, in part, of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm, near Hatfield. They were believed to be those of William of Lindholm, a hermit, who had long made this cave his habitation.

" 4. In February, 1744, part of Wooburn-abbey being pulled down, a large portion of a corpse appeared, even with the flesh on, and which bore cutting with a knife; though it is certain this had lain above two hundred years, and how much longer is doubtful; for this abbey was founded in 1145, and dissolved in 1538 or 9.

" What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an accident to the bones in question?

" Farther, my lord, it is not yet out of living memory, that a little distance from Knaresborough, in a field, part of the manor of the worthy and patriot baronet who does that borough the honour to represent it in parliament, were found, in digging for gravel, not one human skeleton only, but five or six deposited side by side, with each an urn placed at its head, as your lordship knows was usual in ancient interments.

" About the same time, and in another field, almost close to this borough, was discovered also, in searching for gravel, another human skeleton, but the piety of the same worthy gentleman ordered both pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the dead.

" Is the invention of these bones forgotten then, or industriously concealed, that the discovery of those in question may appear the more singular and extraordinary? Whereas, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it. My lord, almost every place contains such remains. In

fields, in hills, in highway sides, in commons, lie frequent and unsuspected bones. And our present allotments for rest for the departed is but of some centuries.

“ Another particular seems to claim a little of your lordship’s notice, and that of the gentlemen of the jury, which is, that perhaps no example occurs of more than one skeleton being found in one cell : and in the cell in question was found but one ; agreeably, in this, to the peculiarity of every other known cell in Britain. Not the invention of one skeleton, but of two, would have appeared suspicious and uncommon. But it seems another skeleton had been discovered by some labourer, which was full as confidently averred to be Clarke’s as this. My lord, must some of the living, if it promotes some interest, be made answerable for all the bones that earth has concealed, and chance exposed ? and might not a place where bones lay be mentioned by a person by chance, as well as found by a labourer by chance ? or is it more criminal accidentally to name where bones lie, than accidentally to find where they lie ?

“ Here, too, is a human skull produced, which is fractured : but was this the cause, or was it the consequence of death ? Was it owing to violence, or was it the effect of natural decay ? If it was violence, was that violence before or after death ? My lord, in May, 1732, the remains of William, lord archbishop of this province, were taken up, by permission, in this cathedral, and the bones of the skull were found broken ; yet certainly he died by no violence offered to him alive, that could occasion that fracture there.

“ Let it be considered, my lord, that, upon the dissolution of religious houses, and the commencement of the reformation, the ravages of those times affected both the living and the dead. In search after imaginary treasures, coffins were broken up, graves and vaults dug open, monuments ransacked, and shrines demolished ; and it ceased about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. I entreat your lordship, suffer not the violence, the depredations, and the iniquities of those times, to be imputed to this.

Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant that Knaresborough had a castle; which, though now a ruin, was once considerable both for its strength and garrison? All know it was vigorously besieged by the arms of the parliament; at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, flights, pursuits, many fell in all the places round it, and where they fell were buried; for every place, my lord, is burial earth in war; and many, questionless, of these rest yet unknown, whose bones futurity shall discover.

"I hope, with all imaginable submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this indictment; and that it will be far from the wisdom, the learning, and the integrity of this place, to impute to the living what zeal in its fury may have done; what nature may have taken off, and piety interred; or what war alone may have destroyed, alone deposited.

"As to the circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe, but that all circumstances whatever are precarious, and have been but too frequently found lamentably fallible; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost degree of probability, yet they are but probability still. Why need I name to your lordship the two Harrisons recorded by Dr. Howel, who both suffered upon circumstances, because of the sudden disappearance of their lodger, who was in credit, had contracted debts, borrowed money, and went off unseen, and returned a great many years after their execution? Why name the intricate affair of Jaques du Moulin, under king Charles II. related by a gentleman who was counsel for the crown; and why the unhappy Coleman, who suffered innocent, though convicted upon positive evidence, and whose children perished for want, because the world uncharitably believed the father guilty? Why mention the perjury of Smith, incautiously admitted king's evidence, who, to screen himself, equally accused Faircloth and Loveday of the murder of Dun; the first of whom, in 1749, was executed at Winchester; and Loveday was about to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been proved perjured, to the satisfaction of the court, by the surgeon of Gosport hospital?

“ Now, my lord, having endeavoured to shew that the whole of this process is altogether repugnant to every part of my life ; that it is inconsistent with my condition of health about that time ; that no rational inference can be drawn, that a person is dead who suddenly disappears ; that hermitages were the constant repositories of the bones of a recluse : that the proofs of this are well authenticated ; that the revolutions in religion, or the fortune of war, have mangled, or buried the dead, the conclusion remains, perhaps, no less reasonably than impatiently wished for. I, at last, after a year’s confinement, equal to either fortune, put myself upon the candour, the justice, and the humanity of your lordship, and upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the jury.”

Judge Noel, before whom he was tried, summed up the evidence with great perspicuity ; and in his comments on the prisoner’s defence, declared it to be one of the most ingenious pieces of reasoning that had ever fallen under his notice. The jury, with little hesitation, found him *guilty*, and he received sentence of death.

After his conviction, he confessed the justice of his sentence to two clergymen, who were directed to attend him in York castle, to whom he acknowledged that he murdered Clarke. Being asked by one of them, what was his motive for committing that action, he answered, that “ he suspected Clarke of having an unlawful commerce with his wife ; that he was persuaded at the time when he committed the murder, he did right ; but that since he thought it wrong.” In hopes of eluding the course of justice, he made an attempt upon his own life, by cutting his arm in two places with a razor, which he had concealed for that purpose. On a table, in his cell, was found the following paper, containing his reasons for the above attempt :—“ What am I better than my fathers ? To die is natural and necessary. Perfectly sensible of this, I fear no more to die than I did to be born. But the manner of it is something which should, in my opinion, be decent and manly. I think I have regarded both these points. Certainly nobody has a better right to dispose of a man’s life than himself : and he, not

others, should determine how. As for any indignities offered to my body, or silly reflections on my faith and morals, they are (as they always were) things indifferent to me. I think, though contrary to the common way of thinking, I wrong no man by this, and hope it is not offensive to that eternal Being that formed me and the world : and, as by this I injure no man, no man can be reasonably offended. I solicitously recommend myself to that eternal and Almighty Being, the God of nature, if I have done amiss. But perhaps I have not ; and I hope this thing will never be imputed to me. Though I am now stained by malevolence, and suffer by prejudice, I hope to rise fair and unblemished. My life was not polluted, my morals irreproachable, and my opinions orthodox. I slept sound till three o'clock, awaked, and then writ these lines :

“ Come, pleasing rest, eternal slumbers fall,
“ Seal mine, that once must seal the eyes of all ;
“ Calm and composed my soul her journey takes,
“ No guilt that troubles, and no heart that aches ;
“ Adieu ! thou sun, all bright like her arise,
“ Adieu ! fair friends, and all that's good and wise.”

These lines, found with the following letter were supposed to have been written by Aram just before he attempted his own life :

“ *My dear friend,*

“ Before this reaches you I shall be no more a living man in this world, though at present in perfect bodily health ; but who can describe the horrors of mind which I suffer at this instant ? Guilt ! the guilt of blood shed without any provocation, without any cause, but that of filthy lucre, pierces my conscience with wounds that give the most poignant pains ! 'Tis true, the consciousness of my horrid guilt has given me frequent interruptions in the midst of my business, or pleasures ; but yet I have found means to stifle its clamours, and contrived a momentary remedy for the disturbance it gave me, by applying to the bottle or the bowl, or diversions, or company, or business ; sometimes one, and sometimes the other, as opportunity

offered : but now all these, and all other amusements, are at an end, and I am left forlorn, helpless, and destitute of every comfort ; for I have nothing now in view but the certain destruction both of my soul and body. My conscience will now no longer suffer itself to be hood-winked or brow-beat : it has now got the mastery ; it is my accuser, judge, and executioner ; and the sentence it pronounceth against me is more dreadful than that I heard from the bench, which only condemned my body to the pains of death, which are soon over ; but conscience tells me plainly, that she will summon me before another tribunal, where I shall have neither power nor means to stifle the evidence she will there bring against me ; and that the sentence which shall then be denounced, will not only be irreversible, but will condemn my soul to torments that will know no end

“ O ! had I but hearkened to the advice which dear bought experience has enabled me to give ! I should not now have been plunged into that dreadful gulph of despair which I find it impossible to extricate myself from ; and therefore my soul is filled with horror inconceivable. I see both God and man my enemies ; and in a few hours shall be exposed a public spectacle for the world to gaze at. Can you conceive any condition more horrible than mine ? O, no ! it cannot be ! I am determind, therefore, to put a short end to trouble I am no longer able to bear, and prevent the executioner, by doing his business with my own hand, and shall by this means at least prevent the shame and disgrace of a public exposure ; and leave the care of my soul in the hands of eternal mercy. Wishing you all health, happiness and prosperity, I am, to the last moment of my life, your's, with the sincerest regard,

“ EUGENE ARAM.”

When the morning appointed for his execution arrived, the keeper went to take him out of his cell, when he was surprised to find him almost expiring through loss of blood, having cut his left arm above the elbow near the wrist, with a razor ; but he missed the artery. A

surgeon being sent for, soon stopped the bleeding, and when he was taken to the place of execution he was perfectly sensible, though so very weak as to be unable to join in devotion with the clergyman who attended him.

THEODORE GARDELLE,

*Executed in the Hay-market, April 4, 1761, for
Murder.*

THIS was a murder which also considerably engaged the public mind. Though in the commission of the act itself, there may be some extenuation afforded to the unhappy man ; yet the means he took to conceal it, are attended with circumstances horrible to relate. We have to lament that the woman might not have met her death at his hands, had she allotted some discretion to the limits of her tongue—a weapon, we may call it, often goading a man to a frenzy of the mind, ending in horror. How earnestly would we intreat the weaker vessel, not to run rashly upon the stronger ; or, in other words, we would pray of females, to let their tongues move in unison with the comfort which, by nature, they were formed to accord to man.

Theodore Gardelle was a foreigner, a man of education and talents in his profession—the fine art of painting. That he was not a man of a bad disposition, or given to irregularities, appears from Mrs. King's receiving him back as an inmate, after he had once quitted her lodgings.

He was born at Geneva, a city which is famed for giving birth to great men, in both the arts and sciences. He chose the miniature style of painting, and having acquired its first rudiments, went to Paris, where he made great proficiency in the art. He then returned to his native place, and practised his profession for some years, with credit and emolument ; but, being unhappy in his domestic concerns, he repaired to London, and took

lodgings at Mrs. King's, in Leicester-fields, in the year 1760.

Some time afterwards, for the benefit of purer air, he removed to Knightsbridge, but finding that place too far from his business, he returned to his former residence, where he was pursuing his business until the fatal cause arose, which brought him to an ignominious death.

The particulars of this shocking transaction, we have collected, partly from evidence adduced on his trial, and partly from the repentant confession of the malefactor.

On Thursday the 19th of February, 1761, in the morning, the maid got up about seven o'clock and opened the fore parlour windows. There is a fore parlour and a back parlour, both have a door into the passage from the street-door, and there is also a door that goes out of one into the other: the back parlour was Mrs. King's bed-chamber, and the door which entered it from the passage was secured on the inside by a drop-bolt, and could not be opened on the outside when locked, though the drop-bolt was not down, because on the outside there was no key-hole. The door into the fore parlour was also secured on the inside by Mrs. King when she went to bed, and the door of the fore parlour into the passage was left open; when the maid had entered the fore parlour by this door, and opened the windows, she went to the passage door of the back parlour where Mrs. King was in bed, and knocked, in order to get the key of the street-door, which Mrs. King took at night into her room. Mrs. King drew up the bolt, and the maid went in; she took the key of the street-door which she saw lie upon the table by a looking-glass; and her mistress then shut the passage door and dropped the bolt, and ordered the maid to open the door that communicated with the fore parlour, which she did, and went out; she then kindled the fire in the fore parlour that it might be ready when her mistress arose, and about eight o'clock went up into Gardelle's room, where she found him in a red and green night-gown at work. He gave her two letters, a snuff-box, and a guinea, and desired her to deliver the letters, one of which was directed to one Mozier in the Hay-

market, and the other to a person who kept a snuff-shop at the next door, and to bring him from thence a penny-worth of snuff.

The girl took the messages, and went again to her mistress, telling her what Gardelle had desired her to do, to which her mistress replied, "Nanny, you can't go, for here is nobody to answer at the street-door;" the girl being willing to oblige Gardelle, or being for some reason desirous to go out, answered, "that Mr. Gardelle would come down and sit in the parlour till she came back." She then went again to Gardelle, and told him what objection her mistress had made, and what she had said to remove it. Gardelle then said he would come down, as she had proposed, and he did come down accordingly.

The girl immediately went on his errand, and left him in the parlour, shutting the street-door after her, and taking the key to let herself in when she came back.

Immediately after the girl was gone out, Mrs. King, hearing the tread of somebody in the parlour, called out, "Who is there?" and at the same time opened her chamber door. Gardelle was at a table, very near the door, having just then taken up a book that lay upon it, which happened to be a French grammar; he had some time before drawn Mr. King's picture, which she wanted to have made very handsome, and had teased him so much about it, that the effect was just contrary. It happened unfortunately that the first thing she said to him, when she saw it was he whom she had heard walking about in the room, was something reproachful about this picture: Gardelle was provoked at the insult; and as he spoke English very imperfectly, he, for want of a less improper expression, told her, with some warmth, "That she was an impertinent woman." This threw her into a transport of rage, and she gave him a violent blow with her fist on the breast, so violent, that he says he could not have thought such a blow could have been given by a woman; as soon as the blow was struck, she drew a little back, and at the same instant, he says, he laid his hand on her shoulder and pushed her from him, rather in contempt than anger, or with a design to hurt her; but her foot hap-

pening to catch in the floor-cloth, she fell backwards, and her head came with great force against the corner of the bedstead ; the blood immediately gushed from her mouth, not in a continued stream, but as if by different strokes of a pump ; he instantly ran to her and stooped to raise her, expressing his concern at the accident ; but she pushed him away, and threatened, though in a feeble and interrupted voice, to punish him for what he had done ; he was, he says, terrified exceedingly at the thought of being condemned for a criminal act upon her accusation, and again attempted to assist her by raising her up, as the blood still gushed from her mouth in great quantities ; but she still exerted all her strength to keep him off, and still cried out, mixing threats with her screams ; he then seized an ivory comb with a sharp taper point continued from the back, for adjusting the curls of her hair, which lay upon her toilet, and threatened her in his turn to prevent her crying out ; but she still continuing to cry out, though with a voice still fainter and fainter, he struck her with this instrument, probably in the throat, upon which the blood flowed from her mouth in yet greater quantities, and her voice was quite stopped : he then drew the bed-clothes over her, to prevent her blood from spreading on the floor, and to hide her from his sight ; he stood, he says, some time motionless by her, and then fell down by her side in a swoon. When he came to himself, he perceived the maid was come in ; he therefore went out of the room without examining the body to see if the unhappy wretch was quite dead, and his confusion was then so great, that he staggered against the wainscot, and hit his head, so as to raise a bump over his eye. As no person was in the house but the murdered and the murderer while the fact was committed, nothing can be known about it but from Gardelle's own account ; the circumstances related above, contain the sense of what he related both in his defence, and in the account which he drew up in French to leave behind him, taken together as far as they are consistent ; for there are in both several inconsistencies and absurdities, which give reason to suspect they are not true

But however that be, all was quiet when the maid returned, which, she says, was in a quarter of an hour. She went first into the parlour where Gardelle had promised to wait till she came back, and saw nobody. She had paid three shillings and ninepence out of the guinea at the snuff-shop, where she delivered one of the letters; to the other she had no answer; and she laid the change and the snuff-box with the snuff she had fetched in it upon the table; then she went up into Gardelle's room and found nobody, and by turns she went into every room in the house, except her mistress's chamber, whither she never went, but when she called, and found nobody. She then made some water boil in the kitchen, made a bit of toast, and sat down to breakfast. In a short time she heard somebody walk over head in the parlour, or passage, and go up stairs, but did not go to see who it was. When she had breakfasted she went and stirred up the fire in the parlour against her mistress got up, and perceived that the snuff and change had been taken from the table; she then went up stairs again to Gardelle's room, to clean and set it to rights as she used to do, and it was now between ten and eleven o'clock. Soon after, Gardelle came down from the garret into his bed-chamber, which somewhat surprised her, as he could have no business that she knew of in the garret. When she first saw him, which was about an hour afterwards, she says, he looked confounded, and blushed exceedingly, and she perceived the bump over his eye, which had a black patch upon it as big as a shilling; he had also changed his dress, and had written another letter with which he sent her into Great Suffolk-street, and ordered her to wait for an answer; she went directly, and when she returned, which was in a quarter of an hour, she found him sitting in the parlour, and told him the gentleman would be there in the evening. He then told her that a gentleman had been in the room with her mistress, and that she was gone out with him in a hackney coach. It appears, by this, that Gardelle knew the maid was acquainted with his mistress's character. The maid, however, though she might have believed this story at another time, could

not believe it now; she was not absent above a quarter of an hour; she had left her mistress in bed, and the time would not have permitted her receiving a gentleman there, her being dressed, a coach being procured, and her having gone out in it; besides, when she came back, she knew Gardelle was in her chamber. This gave her some suspicion, but it was of nothing worse than that Gardelle and her mistress had been in bed together. She went, however, and looked at the door of the chamber, which opened into the parlour, and which she had opened by her mistress's order, and found it again locked. About one o'clock Mr. Wright's servant, Thomas Pelsey, came and told the maid at the door that the beds must be got ready, because his master intended to come hither in the evening, but did not go in. The maid still wondered that her mistress did not rise; and supposed that, knowing she came in from her errand while Gardelle was yet in her chamber, she was ashamed to see her. Gardelle, in the mean time, was often up and down stairs; and about three o'clock he sent her with a letter to one Broshet, at the Eagle and Pearl in Suffolk-street. As he knew that it would be extremely difficult to conceal the murder, if the maid continued in the house, he determined that he would, if possible, discharge her: but as the girl could not write, and as he was not sufficiently acquainted with our language to draw a proper receipt, he requested Mr. Broshet, in this letter, to write a receipt for him, and get the maid to sign it, directing her to deliver it to him when he paid her; he did not, however, acquaint her with his design. When Mr. Broshet had read the letter, he asked her if she knew that Mr. Gardelle was to discharge her; she said no. Why, says he, Mrs. King is gone out, and has given Mr. Gardelle orders to discharge you; for she is to bring a woman home with her: at this the girl was surprised, and smiled, telling Broshet, that she knew her mistress was at home. The girl was now confirmed in her first thought, that her mistress was ashamed to see her again; and thus she accounted for the manner of her dismissal. She returned between three and four to Gardelle, whom she found sitting in

the parlour with a gentleman whose name she did not know : she continued in the house till between six and seven o'clock in the evening, and then Gardelle paid her six shillings for a fortnight and two days wages, and gave her five or six shillings over, upon which she delivered him the receipt that Broshet had written, took her box and went away. As she was going out, Mr. Wright's servant came again to the door, and she told him that she was discharged, and going away ; that her mistress had been all day in her bed-room, without either victuals or drink, and that if he stayed a little after she was gone, he might see her come out : the man, however, could not stay, and Gardelle about seven o'clock was thus left alone in the house.

The first thing he did was to go into the chamber to the body, which upon examination, he found quite dead ; he therefore took off the blankets and sheets with which he had covered it, stripped off the shift, and laid the body quite naked upon the bed ; before this, he said, his linen was not stained ; but it was much stained by his removing the body. He then took the two blankets, the sheet, the coverlet, and one of the curtains, and put them into the water-tub in the back wash-house, to soak, they being all much stained with blood ; her shift he carried up stairs, and putting it in a bag, concealed it under his bed ; his own shirt, now bloody, he pulled off, and locked it up in a drawer of his bureau.

When all this was done, he went and sat down in the parlour, and soon after, it being about nine o'clock, Mr. Wright's servant came in without his master, who had changed his mind, and was gone to a gentleman's house in Castle-street. He went up into his room, the garret, and sat there till about seven o'clock : then he came down, and finding Gardelle still in the parlour, he asked if Mrs. King was come home, and who must sit up for her ? Gardelle said she was not come home, but that he would sit up for her.

In the morning, Friday, when Pelsey came down stairs, he again asked if Mrs. King was come home, and Gardelle told him that she had been at home, but was gone

again. He then asked how he came by the hurt on his eye ; and he said he got it by cutting some wood to light the fire in the morning. Pelsey then went about his master's business, and at night was again let in by Gardelle, who, upon being asked, said he would sit up for Mrs. King that night also.

In the morning, Saturday, Pelsey enquired again after Mrs. King ; and Gardelle, though he had professed to sit up for her but the night before, now told him she was gone to Bath or Bristol ; yet, strange as it may seem, no suspicions of murder appear yet to have been conceived.

On Saturday, Mozier, an acquaintance of Gardelle's, who had been also intimate with Mrs. King, and had spent the evening with her the Wednesday before the murder, came by appointment about two or three o'clock, having promised to go with her that evening to the opera. He was let in by Gardelle, who told him that Mrs. King was gone to Bath or Bristol, as he had told Pelsey. This man, and another of Gardelle's acquaintance, observing him to be chagrined and dispirited, seem to have imagined that Mrs. King's absence was the cause of it, and that if they could get him another girl they should cure him : they therefore were kind enough to procure for him on this occasion ; and having picked up a prostitute in the Hay-market, they brought her that very Saturday to Gardelle at Mrs. King's. The worthy, whose name is not known, told her Mrs. King was gone into the country, and had discharged her servant. Gardelle made an apology for the confusion in which the house appeared, and Mozier or Muzard, as he is sometimes called, asked her if she would take care of the house : she readily consented ; and Gardelle acquiescing, they left her with him. He asked her what her business was ; she said she worked plain-work ; he then told her he had some shirts to mend, and that he would satisfy her for her trouble.

All this while the body continued as he had left it on Thursday night, nor had he once been into the room since that time. But this night the woman and Pelsey being in bed, he first conceived a design of concealing or de-

stroying the dead body by parts, and went down to put it in execution ; but the woman, whose name is Sarah Walker, getting out of bed and following him, he returned up stairs, and went to bed with her. In the morning, Sunday, he arose between seven and eight, and left Walker in bed, saying, it was too soon for her to rise ; she fell asleep, and slept till ten ; it is probable that in the mean time he was employed on the body, for when she came down between ten and eleven, he was but beginning to light the parlour-fire. He had spoke to her the night before to get him a chair-woman, and he was in so much confusion that he did not ask her to stay to breakfast ; she went out therefore and hired one Pritchard as a chair-woman, at one shilling a-day, victuals and drink : in the afternoon she brought Pritchard to the house, and found with Gardelle two or three men and two women ; Gardelle went up with her and stayed by her while she made his bed, then the company all went out together. The chair-woman kept house, and about ten o'clock they returned and supped in Gardelle's room. She was then dismissed for the night, and ordered to come the next morning at eight. The next morning, Monday, the chair-woman was ordered to tell Pelsey the footman, that Walker was a relation of Mrs. King's, who was come to be in the house till Mrs. King returned ; but Pelsey knew that she and Gardelle had but one bed, for when he came down on Monday morning, Gardelle's chamber-door stood open, and looking in, he saw some of her clothes. On Monday night he again enquired after Mrs. King, and Gardelle told him she was at Bath or Bristol, he knew not where ; he differed at times in his account of her, yet no suspicion of murder was yet entertained. On Tuesday morning, Pelsey, who was going up to his master's room, smelt an offensive smell, and asked Gardelle, who was shoving up the sash of the window on the staircase, what it was ; Gardelle replied, somebody had put a bone in the fire : the truth, however, was, that while Walker was employed in mending and making some linen in the parlour, he had been burning some of Mrs.

King's bones in the garret. At night, Pelsey renewed his enquiries after Mrs. King, and Gardelle answered with a seeming impatience, "Me know not of Mrs. King; she give me a great deal of trouble, but me shall hear of her Wednesday or Thursday;" yet he still talked of sitting up for her, and all this while nobody seems to have suspected a murder.

On Tuesday night he told Mrs. Walker he would sit up till Mrs. King came home, though he had before told her she was out of town, and desired her to go to bed, to which she consented; as soon as she was in bed, he renewed his horrid employment of cutting the body to pieces, and disposing of it in different places; the bowels he threw down the necessary, and the flesh of the body and limbs cut to pieces, he scattered about in the cock-loft, where he supposed they would dry and perish without putrefaction: about two o'clock in the morning, however, he was interrupted, for Walker having waked, and not finding him, she went down stairs, and found him standing upon the stairs; he then, at her solicitation, went up with her to bed.

Wednesday passed like the preceding days, and on Thursday he told his female companion, that he expected Mrs. King home in the evening, and therefore desired that she would provide herself a lodging, giving her, at the same time, two of Mrs. King's shifts, and being thus dismissed, she went away.

Pritchard, the chair-woman, still continued in her office. The water having failed in the cistern on the Tuesday, she had recourse to that in the water-tub in the back kitchen; upon pulling out the spiggot a little water run out, but as there appeared to be more in, she got upon a ledge, and putting her hand in she felt something soft; she then fetched a poker, and pressing down the contents of the tub, she got water in a pail. This circumstance she told Pelsey, and they agreed the first opportunity to see what the things in the water-tub were; yet so languid was their curiosity, and so careless were they of the event, that it was Thursday before this tub was examined: they found in it the blankets, sheets, and coverlet that Gardelle

had put in it to soak : after spreading, shaking, and looking at them, they put them again into the tub ; and the next morning when Pelsey came down, he saw the curtain hanging on the banisters of the kitchen-stairs upon looking down, he saw Gardelle just come out at the wash-house door, where the tub stood. When Pritchard the chair-woman came, he asked her if she had been taking any of the clothes out of the tub, and she said no, she then went and looked in the tub, and found the sheets had been wrung out. Upon this the first step was taken towards enquiring after the unhappy woman, who had now laid dead more than a week in the house. Pelsey found out the maid whom Gardelle had dismissed, and asked her if she had put any bed-clothes into the water ; she said, no, and seemed frightened ; Pelsey was then also alarmed, and told his master.

These particulars also came to the knowledge of Mr. Barron, an apothecary in the neighbourhood, who went the same day to Mrs. King's house, and enquired of Gardelle where she was. He trembled, and told him, with great confusion, that she was gone to Bath. The next day, therefore, Saturday, he carried the maid before Mr. Fielding, the justice, to make her deposition, and obtained a warrant to take Gardelle into custody. When the warrant was obtained, Mr. Barron, with the constable, and some others, went to the house, where they found Gardelle, and charged him with the murder ; he denied it, but soon after dropped down in a swoon. When he recovered, they demanded the key of Mrs. King's chamber ; but he said she had got it with her in the country ; the constable therefore got in at the window, and opened the door that communicated with the parlour, and they all went in. They found upon the bed a pair of blankets wet, and a pair of sheets that appeared not to have been lain in ; and the curtain also which Pelsey and the chair-woman had seen first in the water-tub, and then on the banisters, was found put up in its place wet. Upon taking off the clothes, the bed appeared bloody, the blankets also were bloody, and marks of blood appeared in

other places; having taken his keys, they went up into his room, where they found the bloody shift and shirt.

The prisoner, with all these tokens of his guilt, was then carried before Fielding, and though he stiffly denied the fact, was committed. On the Monday, a carpenter and bricklayer were sent to search the house for the body, and Mr. Barron went with them. In the necessary they found what he calls the contents of the bowels of a human body, but what were certainly the bowels themselves; and in the cock-loft they found one of the breasts, some other muscular parts, and some bones. They perceived also that there had been a fire in the garret, and some fragments of bones, half consumed, were found in the chimney, so large as to be known to be human. On the Thursday before, he had carried an oval chip-box to one Perronneau, a painter in enamel, who had employed him in copying, and pretending it contained colours of great value, desired him to keep it, saying, he was uneasy to leave it at Mrs. King's while she was absent at Bath. Perronneau, when he heard Gardelle was taken up, opened the box, and found in it a gold watch and chain, a pair of bracelets, and a pair of ear-rings, which were known to be Mrs. King's. To this force of evidence Gardelle at length gave way, and confessed the fact, but signed no confession. He was sent to New Prison, where he attempted to destroy himself by swallowing some opium, which he had kept several days by him as a remedy for the tooth-ach. He took at one dose 40 grains, which was so far from answering his purpose, that it did not procure him sleep; though he declared he had not slept once since the commission of the fact, nor did he sleep for more than a fortnight after this time. When he found the opium did not produce the effect he desired, he swallowed half-pence to the number of twelve; but neither did these bring on any fatal symptom, whatever pain or disorders they might cause; which is remarkable, because verdigrese, the solution of copper, is a very powerful and active poison, and the contents of the stomach would act as a dissolvent upon them.

On the 2d of March he was brought to Newgate, and diligently watched, to prevent any further attempts upon his life. He shewed strong marks of penitence and contrition, and behaved with great humility, openness, and courtesy to those who visited him.

On Thursday, the 2d of April, he was tried at the Old Bailey; and in his defence, he insisted only that he had no malice to the deceased, and that her death was the consequence of the fall. He was convicted, and sentenced to be executed on Saturday the 4th. The account which he wrote in prison, and which is mentioned in this narrative, is dated the 28th of March, though he did not communicate it till after his trial. The night after his condemnation his behaviour was extravagant and outrageous; yet the next morning he was composed and quiet, and said he had slept three or four hours in the night. When he was asked why he did not make his escape, he answered, that he feared some innocent person might then suffer in his stead. He declared he had no design to rob Mrs. King, but that he removed some of the things merely to give credit to the story of her journey to Bath; he declared too, that he never had any sentiments of love or jealousy with respect to Mrs. King; though it is evident, his friends, who prescribed for his lowness of spirits, supposed that he had.

He affirmed, that he regarded the woman they brought him with horror, but that he did not dare to refuse her, lest it should produce new suspicions with respect to the cause of his uneasiness. It is, however, certain, that he felt the ill effects of her company in more ways than one to his last hour.

He was executed amidst the shouts and hisses of an indignant populace, in the Haymarket, near Panton-street, to which he was led by Mrs. King's house, where the cart made a stop, and at which he just gave a look. His body was hanged in chains upon Hounslow-heath.

One reflection, upon reading this dreadful narrative, will probably rise in the mind of the attentive reader; the advantages of virtue with respect to our social connections, and the interest that others take in what befalls us.

It does not appear that, during all the time Mrs. King was missing, she was enquired after by one relation or friend; the murder was discovered by strangers, almost without solicitude or enquiry; the murderer was secured by strangers, and by strangers the prosecution against him was carried on.

But who is there of honest reputation, however poor, that could be missing a day, without becoming the subject of many interesting enquiries, without exciting solicitude and fears, that would have no rest till the truth was discovered, and the crime punished?

LAURENCE, EARL FERRERS,

Executed at Tyburn, May 5, 1760, for Murder.

LORD FERRERS having taken lodgings at Muswell-hill, and having left a mare with one Williams, who kept an inn at some distance, to be taken care of, he sent for her one Sunday, in the afternoon, during divine service. He had given particular orders that no person should have access to the mare but his own groom, for which reason the stable was kept locked, and it happened that the boy who kept the key was at church, so that the mare could not be delivered; upon this Lord Ferrers immediately seized a tuck stick, and taking with him two servants, armed with guns, and a hammer to break open the stable-door, went to Williams's house. When he came there, Williams's wife, hearing a noise in the yard, came out to see what was the matter; upon which his lordship, without hesitating a moment, knocked her down with his fist; when the man appeared in his wife's behalf, he wounded him with his tuck, and after having committed many other unaccountable extravagancies, he broke open the stable-door, and carried away his mare in triumph.

At this house he sometimes lodged and boarded, and his behaviour being such as deterred persons of rank from associating with him, he kept low company, among whom

he indulged himself in many extravagancies, and it was the common opinion of all the neighbours that he was mad; when he had ordered coffee, he would frequently drink it out of the spout of the coffee-pot; he used to threaten to break the glasses, to force open Mrs. Williams's bureau, and to throttle her if she opposed him; these freaks he frequently had when he had drank nothing that had the least intoxicating quality. He is said to have lamented his fits of lunacy to one Philips, at whose house he was about to lodge, about ten years ago, with a view of cautioning the people, and that they might not be affronted at his behaviour.

During all this time, however, he managed his affairs with great acuteness and penetration; and it would have been less easy to injure him undetected, than most other men. He was even by his attorney, Mr. Goostry, thought to know so well what he was about, that he suffered him to perform several legal acts that were necessary to cut off an intail, which, if he had considered him as a person insane, he neither ought, nor, as it is said, he declared would have suffered him to perform.

When his rents were ordered to be paid to a receiver, the nomination of the receiver was left to himself; and he appointed Mr. John Johnson, a person who had been taken into the service of Lord Ferrers' family in his youth, and was then his lordship's steward, hoping, probably, that he should have had sufficient influence over him to have procured some deviation from his trust in his favour. But he soon found that Mr. Johnson would not oblige him at the expence of his honesty, and from that time he seems to have conceived an implacable resentment against him; and it is easy to conceive every opposition to the will of a man so haughty, impetuous, and irascible, would produce such an effect. He, from this time, spoke of him in opprobrious terms, said he had conspired with his enemies to injure him, and that he was a villain; with these sentiments he gave him warning to quit an advantageous farm, which he held under his lordship, but finding that the trustees under the act of separation had already granted him a lease of it, it having been

promised to him by the earl, or his relations, he was disappointed, and probably, from that time, he meditated a more cruel revenge.

He thought proper, however, to dissemble his malice to the man, as the most probable method to facilitate the gratification of it; so that poor Johnson was deceived into an opinion, that he never was upon better terms with his lord in his life, than at the very time he was contriving to destroy him.

His lordship, at this time, lived at Stanton, a seat about two miles from Ashby de la Zouch, in Leicestershire, and his family consisted of himself, Mrs. C——, a lady who lived with him, and her four daughters, and five servants; an old man and a boy, and three maids. Mr. Johnson lived at the house belonging to the farm, which he held under his lordship, called the Lount, about half a mile distant from Stanton.

On Sunday, the 13th of January, my lord went to the Lount, and after some discourse with Mr. Johnson, ordered him to come to him at Stanton, on the Friday following, the 18th, at three o'clock in the afternoon. My lord's hour of dinner was two, and soon after dinner, Mrs. C—— being in the still-house, his lordship came to her, and told her, that she and the children might take a walk: Mrs. C——, who seems to have considered this an order to go out, prepared herself and the young ladies immediately, and asked, whether they might go to her father's, which was not far off, to which he assented, and said they might stay till half an hour after five. The two men-servants he also contrived to send out of the way so that there was no person in the house but himself and the three maids.

In a very short time after the house was thus cleared, Mr. Johnson came, and was let in by Elizabeth Burge-land, one of the maids. He asked if his lordship was within: and the girl replied, yes, he was in his room: Mr. Johnson immediately went, and knocked at the door, and my lord came to the door, and ordered him to wait in the still-house.

After he had been there about ten minutes, his lordship

came out again, and calling him to his own room, went in with him, and immediately locked the door.

When they were thus locked in together, my lord first ordered him to settle an account, and, after a little time, produced a paper to him, purporting, as he said, to be a confession of his villany, and required him to sign it; Johnson refused, and expostulated, and his lordship then drawing a pistol, which he had charged and kept in his pocket for the purpose, presented it, and bid him kneel down; the poor man then kneeled down upon one knee, but Lord Ferrers cried out so loud as to be heard by one of the maids at the kitchen door, "Down, on your other knee; declare what you have acted against Lord Ferrers, your time is come, you must die;" and then immediately fired: the ball entered his body just below the last rib, yet he did not drop, but rose up, and expressed the sensations of a dying man, both by his looks and by such broken sentences as are usually uttered in such situations. My lord, though he at first intended to shoot him again, upon finding he did not drop, was yet forced out of that resolution by involuntary remorse, upon the complaints of the poor man, and the dreadful change that he perceived in his countenance. He then came out of the room, having been shut up in it with the unhappy victim about half an hour; and the report of the pistol having frightened the women into the wash-house, he called out, "Who is there?" One of them soon heard, and answered him: He ordered her to see for one of the men, and another to assist in getting Mr. Johnson to bed.

At this time his lordship was perfectly sober, and having dispatched a messenger for Mr. Kirkland, a surgeon, who lived at Ashby de la Zouch, he went back to the room where he had left Mr. Johnson with the maid, and asked him how he found himself; Johnson replied, that he found himself like a dying man, and requested his lordship to send for his children; his lordship consented, and a messenger was dispatched to the Lount, to tell Miss Johnson that she must come to the hall directly, for that her father was taken very ill; upon coming to the hal

she soon learnt what had happened, and Lord Ferrers sent one of the maids with her up to the room into which her father had been removed, and immediately followed himself; Mr. Johnson was in bed, but did not speak to her: Lord Ferrers pulled down the clothes, and applied a pledget dipt in arquebusade water to the wound, and soon after left him; from the time the fact was committed Lord Ferrers continued to drink porter till he became drunk; in the mean time the messenger that had been sent for the surgeon, having at length found him, at a neighbouring village, about five o'clock told him that his assistance was wanted for Mr. Johnson at Stanton; he came immediately with the messenger, but, in his way to Stanton called at the Lount, where he first heard that Mr. Johnson had been shot, the rumour of the event having by that time reached all the neighbouring parts.

When he came to the hall, my lord told him that he had shot Johnson, but believed that he was more frightened than hurt; that he had intended to shoot him dead, for that he was a villain, and deserved to die; but, says he, now I have spared his life, I desire you would do what you can for him. My lord at the same time desired that he would not suffer him to be seized, and declared if any one should attempt it he would shoot them.

Mr. Kirkland, who wisely determined to say whatever might keep Lord Ferrers, who was then in liquor, from any further outrages, told him that he should not be seized.

The patient complained of a violent pain in his bowels, and Mr. Kirkland preparing to search the wound, my lord informed him of the direction of it, by shewing him how he held the pistol when he fired it. Mr. Kirkland found the ball had lodged in the body, at which his lordship expressed great surprise, declaring, that he had tried that pistol a few days before, and that it then carried a ball through a deal board near an inch and an half thick.

Mr. Kirkland then went down stairs to prepare some dressings, and my lord soon after left the room. From this time, in proportion as the liquor, which he continued to drink, took effect, his passions became more tumult-

tuous, and the transient fit of compassion, mixed with fear for himself, gave way to starts of rage, and the predominance of malice: he went up into the room where Johnson was dying, and pulled him by the wig, calling him villain, and threatening to shoot him through the head. The last time he went to him, he was with great difficulty prevented from tearing the clothes off the bed, which he attempted with great fury, that he might strike him.

A proposal was made to my lord by Mrs. C——, that Mr. Johnson should be removed to his own house, but he replied, "He shall not be removed, I will keep him here to plague the villain." Many of these expressions were uttered in the hearing of Miss Johnson, whose sufferings in such a situation it is easier to conceive than express; yet, after his abuse of her father, he told her that if he died he would take care of her and of the family, provided they did not prosecute.

When his lordship went to bed, which was between eleven and twelve, he told Mr. Kirkland that he knew he could, if he would, set the affair in such a light as to prevent his being seized, desiring that he might see him before he went away in the morning, and declaring that he would rise at any hour.

Mr. Kirkland, in prosecution of his plan, told him, that he might go to bed in safety; and to bed he went.

Mr. Kirkland, for his own sake, was very solicitous to get Mr. Johnson removed, because if he died where he was, contrary to the assurances he had given his lordship, he had reason to think his own life would be in danger. As soon as my lord was in bed, therefore, he went and told Mr. Johnson that he would take care he should be removed with all expedition.

He accordingly went to the Lount, and having fitted up an easy chair, with two poles, by way of a sedan, and procured a guard, he returned about two o'clock, and carried Mr. Johnson to his house, without much fatigue, where he languished till about nine the next morning, and then expired.

As soon as he was dead, the neighbours set about seizing

the murderer ; a few persons armed, set out for Stanton, and as they entered the hall-yard, they saw him going towards the stable, as they imagined, to take horse ; he appeared to be just out of bed, his stockings being down, and his garters in his hand, having probably taken the alarm immediately, on coming out of his room, and finding that Johnson had been removed.

One Springthorpe advancing towards his lordship, presented a pistol, and required him to surrender ; but my lord putting his hand to his pocket, Springthorpe imagined he was feeling for a pistol, and stopped short, being probably intimidated, and suffered his lordship to escape back into the house, where he fastened the doors, and stood upon his defence.

The number of people who had come to apprehend him, beset the house, and their number increased very fast. In about two hours my lord appeared at the garret window, and called out, " How is Johnson ? " Springthorpe answered, " He is dead ; " upon which my lord insulted him, called him liar, and swore he would not believe any body but Kirkland ; upon being again assured he was dead, he desired the people might be dispersed, and said he would surrender ; yet almost in the same breath, he desired the people might be let in, and have some victuals and drink ; but the issue was, he went away from the window swearing he would not be taken.

The people, however, still continued near the house, and about two hours after his lordship had appeared at the garret-window, he was seen by one Curtis, a collier, upon the bowling-green ; my lord was then armed with a blunderbuss, two or three pistols, and a dagger ; but Curtis, so far from being intimidated by supposing he had a pistol in his pocket, marched up boldly to him, in spite of his blunderbuss, and my lord was so struck with the determined resolution that appeared in this brave fellow, that he suffered him to seize him, without making the least resistance ; yet the moment he was in custody declared, he had killed a villain, and that he gloried in the fact.

He was carried from Stanton, to a public-house, kept

by one Kinsey, at Ashby de la Zouch, where he was kept till the Monday following, during which time the coroner had sat upon the body, and the jury had brought in their verdict "Wilful murder."

From Ashby de la Zouch he was sent to Leicester gaol; from thence, about a fortnight afterwards, he was brought in his own landau and six under a strong guard to London, where he arrived on the fourteenth of February, about noon, dressed like a jockey, in a close riding frock, jockey boots and cap, and a plain shirt.

Being carried before the House of Lords, he was committed to the custody of the black-rod, and ordered to the Tower, where he arrived about six o'clock in the evening, having behaved, during the whole journey, and at his commitment, with great calmness and propriety. He was confined in the round tower, near the draw-bridge; two warders were constantly in the room with him, and one at the door; two centinels were posted at the bottom of the stairs, and one upon the draw-bridge, with their bayonets fixed; and from this time the gates were ordered to be shut an hour sooner than usual.

Mrs. C—— and the four young ladies, who had come up with him from Leicestershire, took a lodging in Tower-street, and for some time a servant was continually passing with letters between them; but afterwards, this correspondence was permitted only once a-day.

During his confinement, he was moderate both in eating and drinking; his breakfast was a half-pint bason of tea, with a small spoonful of brandy in it, and a muffin; with his dinner he generally drank a pint of wine, and a pint of water, and another pint of each with his supper. In general his behaviour was decent and quiet, except that he would sometimes start, suddenly tear open his waistcoat, and use other gestures, which shewed that his mind was disturbed.

Mrs. C—— came three times to the Tower to see him, but was not admitted: but his children were suffered to be with him some time.

On the sixteenth of April, having been a prisoner in the Tower two months and two days, he was brought to his

trial, which continued till the eighteenth, before the House of Lords, assembled for that purpose; Lord Henley, keeper of the great seal, having been created lord high steward upon the occasion.

The fact was easily proved, and his lordship, in his defence, examined several witnesses to prove his insanity, none of whom proved such an insanity as made him not accountable for his conduct. His lordship managed this defence himself, in such a manner as shewed perfect recollection of mind, and an uncommon understanding; he mentioned the situation of being reduced to the necessity of attempting to prove himself a lunatic, that he might not be deemed a murderer, with the most delicate and affecting sensibility; and when he found that his plea could not avail him, he confessed that he made it only to gratify his friends; that he was always averse to it himself; and that it had prevented what he had proposed, and what perhaps might have taken off the malignity, at least of the accusation.

His lordship immediately upon conviction received sentence to be hanged on Monday, the 21st of April, and then to be anatomized; but in consideration of his rank, the execution of this sentence was respited till Monday, the 5th of May.

During this interval he made a will, by which he left 1300*l.* to Mr. Johnson's children; 1000*l.* to each of his four natural daughters; and 60*l.* a-year to Mrs. C—— for her life. This will, however, being made after his conviction, was not valid; yet it is said, that the same, or nearly the same, provision, has been made for the parties.

In the mean time a scaffold was erected under the gallows, at Tyburn, and part of it, about a yard square, was raised about eighteen inches above the rest of the floor, with a contrivance to sink down upon a signal given, and the whole was covered with black baize.

In the morning of the 5th of May, about nine o'clock his body was demanded of the keeper, at the gates of the Tower, by the sheriffs of London and Middlesex. His lordship being informed of it, sent a message to the sheriffs,

requesting that he might go in his own landau, instead of the mourning coach which had been provided by his friends; and this request being granted, he entered his landau, drawn by six horses, with Mr. Humphries, chaplain of the Tower, who had been admitted to his lordship that morning for the first time; the landau was conducted to the outer gate of the Tower, by the officers of the Tower, and was there delivered to the sheriffs.

Here Mr. Sheriff Vaillant entered the landau to his lordship, and expressing his concern at having so melancholy a duty to perform, his lordship said, "He was much obliged to him, and took it kindly that he accompanied him."

He was dressed in a suit of light-coloured clothes, embroidered with silver, said to be his wedding-suit; and soon after Mr. Vaillant came into the landau, he said, "You may, perhaps, Sir, think it strange to see me in this dress, but I have my particular reasons for it."

The procession then began in the following order:

A very large body of constables for the county of Middlesex, preceded by one of the high constables.

A party of horse-grenadiers, and a party of foot.

Mr. Sheriff Errington in his chariot, accompanied by his under-sheriff, Mr. Jackson.

The landau, escorted by two other parties of horse-grenadiers and foot.

Mr. Sheriff Vaillant's chariot, in which was his under-sheriff, Mr. Nicols.

A mourning coach and six, with some of his lordship's friends.

A hearse and six, which was provided for the conveyance of his lordship's corpse, from the place of execution to Surgeons'-hall.

The procession moved so slow, that my lord was two hours and three quarters in his landau; but during the whole time he appeared perfectly easy and composed, though he often expressed his desire to have it over, saying, that "the apparatus of death, and the passing through such crowds of people, were ten times worse than death itself."

He told the sheriff that he had written to the king, to beg "that he might suffer where his ancestor, the earl of Essex, had suffered, and was in greater hopes of obtaining that favour, as he had the honour of quartering part of the same arms, and of being allied to his majesty; and that he thought it was hard that he must die at the place appointed for the execution of common felons."

Mr. Humphries took occasion to observe, that "the world would naturally be very inquisitive concerning the religion his lordship professed, and asked him if he chose to say any thing upon that subject." To which his lordship answered, "that he did not think himself accountable to the world for his sentiments on religion; but that he had always believed in, and adored one God, the maker of all things;—that whatever his notions were, he had never propagated them, or endeavoured to gain any persons over to his persuasion;—that all countries and nations had a form of religion by which the people were governed, and that he looked upon whoever disturbed them in it as an enemy to society.—That he very much blamed my lord Bolingbroke for permitting his sentiments on religion to be published to the world.—That the many facts and disputes which happen about religion, have almost turned morality out of doors.—That he never could believe what some sectaries teach, that faith alone will save mankind; so that if a man, just before he dies, should say only, 'I believe,' that *that* alone will save him."

As to the crime for which he suffered, he declared, "that he was under particular circumstances, that he had met with so many crosses and vexations, he scarce knew what he did:" and most solemnly protested, "that he had not the least malice against Mr. Johnson."

When his lordship had got to that part of Holborn which is near Drury-lane, he said, "he was thirsty, and should be glad of a glass of wine and water;" but upon the sheriffs remonstrating to him, "that a stop for that purpose would necessarily draw a greater crowd about him, which might possibly disturb and incommode him, yet, if his lordship still desired it, it should be done;"

he most readily answered, "That's true, I say no more, let us by no means stop."

When they approached near the place of execution, his lordship told the sheriff, "that there was a person waiting in a coach near there, for whom he had a very sincere regard, and of whom he should be glad to take his leave before he died;" to which the sheriff answered, that, "if his lordship insisted upon it, it should be so; but that he wished his lordship, for his own sake, would decline it, lest the sight of a person, for whom he had such a regard, should unman him, and disarm him of the fortitude he possessed." To which his lordship, without the least hesitation, replied, "Sir, if you think I am wrong, I submit:" and upon the sheriff telling his lordship, that if he had any thing to deliver to that person, or any one else, he would faithfully do it; his lordship delivered to him a pocket-book, in which was a bank-note and a ring, and a purse with some guineas, in order to be delivered to that person, which were delivered accordingly.

The landau being now advanced to the place of execution, his lordship alighted from it, and ascended upon the scaffold, with the same composure and fortitude of mind he had possessed from the time he left the Tower. Soon after he had mounted the scaffold, Mr. Humphries asked his lordship, if he chose to say prayers? which he declined; but upon his asking him, "if he did not choose to join with him in the Lord's Prayer?" he readily answered, "he would, for he always thought it a very fine prayer;" upon which they knelt down together, upon two cushions, covered with black baize, and his lordship, with an audible voice, very devoutly repeated the Lord's prayer, and afterwards, with great energy, the following ejaculation: "O God, forgive me all my errors—pardon all my sins!"

His lordship then rising, took his leave of the sheriff and the chaplain; and after thanking them for their many civilities, he presented his watch to Mr. Sheriff Vaillant, which he desired his acceptance of; and requested that his body might be buried at Breden or Stanton, in Leicestershire.

His lordship then called for the executioner, who immediately came to him, and asked him forgiveness ; upon which his lordship said, " I freely forgive you, as I do all mankind, and hope myself to be forgiven." He then intended to give the executioner five guineas, but by mistake, giving it into the hands of the executioner's assistant, an unseasonable dispute ensued between those unthinking and unfeeling wretches, which Mr. Sheriff Vaillant instantly silenced.

The executioner then proceeded to do his duty, to which his lordship, with great resignation, submitted. His neckcloth being taken off, a white cap, which he had brought in his pocket, being put upon his head, his arms secured by a black sash, and the cord put round his neck, he advanced by three steps to the elevated part of the scaffold, and standing under the cross-beam which went over it, which was also covered with black baize, he asked the executioner, " Am I right ?" Then the cap was drawn over his face, and, upon a signal given by the sheriff, (for his lordship, upon being before asked, declined to give one himself) that part upon which he stood instantly sunk down from beneath his feet, and left him entirely suspended.

For a few seconds his lordship made some struggles against the attacks of death, but was soon eased of all pain by the pressure of the executioner.

From the time of his lordship's ascending upon the scaffold, until his execution, was about eight minutes ; during which his countenance did not change, nor his tongue falter.

The accustomed time of one hour being past, the coffin was raised up, with the greatest decency, to receive the body, and being deposited in the hearse, was conveyed by the sheriffs, with the same procession, to Surgeon's-hall, to undergo the remainder of the sentence.

A large incision was made from the neck to the bottom of the breast, and another across the throat ; the lower part of the belly was laid open, and the bowels taken away. It was afterwards publicly exposed to view, in a room up one pair of stairs at the hall ; and on the evening

of Thursday, the 8th of May, it was delivered to his friends for interment.

The following verse is said to have been found in his apartment :—

“ In doubt I liv'd, in doubt I die,
“ Yet stand prepar'd the vast abyss to try,
“ And undismay'd expect eternity.”

FRANCIS DAVID STIRN,

Convicted of Murder, but poisoned himself in Newgate, September 12, 1760.

SCARCELY had the execution of Earl Ferrers taken place, when the attention of the public was called to the remarkable case and unhappy fate of Francis David Stirn, by birth a German ; a man of learning, and unfortunately possessed of as violent passions as that unfortunate lord.

Francis David Stirn was born in the principality of Hesse Cassel, about the year 1735. His father was a minister, and his brother is now a metropolitan minister at Hersfeldt, having the superintendence over the Calvinist clergy of a certain district.

At a proper age he was sent to a public grammar-school in Hesse Cassel, where he made a considerable progress, and was then removed to a college at Bremen, which is endowed with professorships, as a university. While he was here, he preached some probationary discourses, according to the custom of the place, and though he was scarce twenty years of age, became tutor to the son of one Haller, a doctor of laws, and burgomaster of the city. But he soon forfeited the favour both of Mr. Haller and his wife, by a suspicious and supercilious disposition, which broke out into so many acts of indecorum, that he was dismissed from his employment.

He was then taken home by his brother, who soon after placed him at the university of Hintelin, belonging to Hesse, where he pursued his studies from the year 1756

till the middle of the year 1758. During this time he improved his knowledge in the Latin and Greek classics to an uncommon degree; he also acquired a very considerable skill in the Hebrew, and became a great proficient both in vocal and instrumental music, dancing, fencing, and other polite accomplishments.

About this time, the French having made an irruption into Hesse, and impoverished the inhabitants by raising exorbitant contributions, his brother was no longer able to support him, and therefore sent him to England with very strong recommendations to a friend, who is in a station of great honour and interest.

This person received him kindly, and promised to procure him an appointment that should be agreeable to his friends; but as no opportunity immediately presented, he offered himself as an assistant to Mr. Crawford, who kept a school in Cross-street, Hatton-garden, and was received, upon the recommendation of the Reverend Mr. Planta, who had himself lived with Mr. Crawford in that station, and left him upon his having obtained a place in the Museum. It was also proposed that he should assist the German minister at the chapel in the Savoy, where he preached several probationary discourses; but as he made use of notes, he was not approved by his auditory. Stirn, however, with the suspicion natural to his temper, imputed his disappointment to some unfriendly offices of Mr. Planta, and some unaccountable combination between him and the people.

He then turned his thoughts towards a military life, in which some offer of advantage seems to have been made him; but his friends here were so well apprized of his infirmity, that knowing it would be impossible for him to submit to the subordination established in an army, they earnestly dissuaded him from it, that he might not incur the censure of a court-martial, or bring himself into other inextricable difficulties.

He then formed a design of entering into one of our universities; and having communicated it to his friends he obtained the interest of several clergymen of considerable influence: but some new sally of his jealous and

ungovernable temper, disgusted his friends and disappointed his expectations. But instead of imputing his disappointment to himself, he threw out many threats against those whom he had already offended by his petulance and ill behaviour.

In the mean time, he continued in Mr. Crawford's family, where he gave frequent and mortifying instances of his pride and indiscretion ; one of which is too remarkable to be omitted.

He set out one day with Mr. Crawford, and a Prussian gentleman to dine with Mr. V——, a Dutch merchant at Mousewell-hill ; in his way thither he quitted his company, and, by crossing the fields, got to the house before them. When he came there he took such offence at something Mr. V—— said, in some trifling dispute which happened between them, that he called him fool, and proceeded from one outrage to another, till Mr. V—— ordered his servants to turn him out of doors, which was done before his companions, Crawford and the Prussian, got there. Yet Stirn, when they came back in the evening, fell into another fit of rage against them, and charged them with having got to Mr. V——'s before him, and concealed themselves in another room, to enjoy the injurious treatment which Mr. V—— was prepared to offer him ; insisting that he had heard them rejoicing and laughing at his disgrace.

While he lived with Mr. Crawford, he became acquainted with Mr. Matthews, a surgeon in the neighbourhood, who advertised the cure of fistulas, and other disorders of the like kind. Matthews is said to have insinuated to Stirn, that, though Crawford professed great friendship to him, yet his intention was only to keep him in a state of poverty and dependence, and to render his abilities subservient to his own advantage, without giving him a valuable consideration ; telling him, that it was in his power to provide much better for himself. From this time, Stirn's behaviour to Mr. Crawford was very different from what it had been before, and Mr. Crawford was proportionably less satisfied ; so that, though he still continued with him, yet Crawford says, that he now kept

him merely from the regard he had to him and his family.

Soon after this, Matthews made him a proposal to come and live with him, offering him an apartment ready furnished, and his board, upon condition that he should teach Mrs. Matthews and her daughter music, and Matthews himself the classics. This proposal Stirn inclined to accept; but Mr. Crawford hearing of it, endeavoured to persuade Matthews to retract it, telling him, that Stirn had failings which would render him a very troublesome inmate. Matthews, who seems to have had neither a good opinion of Crawford, nor good-will to him, immediately told Stirn that he had been attempting to persuade him to go back from his proposals, and mentioned also the reasons he gave for so doing. This threw Stirn into a rage, and he expressed his resentment to Crawford in strong terms, and a boisterous behaviour.

Stirn soon after accepted Matthews's proposal, and Matthews offered to secure him a continuance of what he had offered for twelve months, by writing; but Stirn refused the obligation, saying, that his honour was sufficient.

Crawford, having failed in persuading Matthews not to receive Stirn, now endeavoured to prevail upon Stirn not to go to Matthews; and therefore, though he says he would not have kept him so long, but in regard to Stirn himself and his friends, he now offered to raise his salary, that he might keep him longer, at greater expence.

But this offer was refused, and Stirn took possession of his apartment at Matthews's house: a very little time, however, was sufficient to shew that they could not long continue together. Stirn's pride, and his situation in life concurred to render him so jealous of indignity, and so ingenious in discovering oblique reproach and insult in the behaviour of those about him, that, finding one evening, after he came home, some pieces of bread in the dining-room, which had been left there by a child of the family, he immediately took it into his head, that they were left there as reproachful emblems of his poverty, which obliged him to subsist on the fragments of charity.

This thought set him on fire in a moment ; he ran furiously up stairs ; and knocking loudly and suddenly at Mr. Matthews's chamber-door, called out, Mr. Matthews ! He was answered by Mrs. Matthews, who was in bed ; that Mr. Matthews was not there ; but he still clamorously insisted on the door's being opened, so that Mrs. Matthews was obliged to rise, and having put on her clothes, came out, and asked him what he wanted, and what he meant by such behaviour ; he answered, that he wanted Mr. Matthews, and that he knew he was in the room. It happened that at this instant Mr. Matthews knocked at the street door, and put an end to the dispute with his wife. The moment Mr. Matthews entered the house, Stirn in a furious manner charged him with an intention to affront him by the crusts ; Mr. Matthews assured him that he meant no such thing, and that the bread was carried thither by the child : Mrs. Matthews also confirmed it, and Stirn was at length pacified. He seems to have been conscious of the strange impropriety of his conduct, as soon as he had time for reflection ; for the next morning he went to Mr. Crawford, and expressed a most grateful sense of Mr. and Mrs. Matthews's patience and kindness in suffering, and passing over, his fantastic behaviour.

It is however probable, that, from this time, they began to live together upon very ill terms ; Matthews soon after gave him warning to quit his house, and Stirn refused to go. What particular offences had been given on each side does not appear ; but they had been carried to such lengths, that Crawford consulted Mr. Welch, (a Middlesex justice) about them, on Stirn's behalf. What directions he received are not known ; but, on Wednesday the 13th of August, Stirn having been then in Mr. Matthews's family about two months, Matthews went to a friend upon Dowgate-hill, whose name is Lowther, and telling him that Stirn had behaved so ill he could no longer keep him in his house, and that he had refused to quit it, requested his advice and assistance to get rid of him. Mr. Lowther then went with Mr. Matthews to Mr. Welch, who, finding there was no legal contract be-

tween them, told Matthews he might turn Stirn out when he pleased, without notice. Matthews then determining to turn him out that night, Mr. Welch desired he would be cautious, and advised him to get a couple of friends to be with him; and, when Stirn came in, first to desire him to go away peaceably, and, if he refused, to lead him out by the arm. Matthews then said, he was a desperate man, and, if he should offer any rudeness to him, would make no scruple of stabbing him. He was then advised to take a peace-officer with him. And having now received sufficient instructions, he went away with his friend, determined to put them in execution.

While Matthews and his friend were at Mr. Welch's, Stirn was making his complaint to Mr. Crawford, whom he met at Bartlet's-buildings coffee-house, near Holborn. He told him, with great emotion, that Mr. Matthews had villainously and unjustly charged him with having alienated the affection of his wife, and, by her means, having had access to his purse.

Mr. Crawford, who appears to have known that Matthews had warned Stirn to be gone, and that Stirn had refused to go, advised him, as the best way of removing Matthews's suspicions, immediately to quit his house.—Upon this he started up in a violent rage, and told him, if he spoke another word, he would———and muttered something else to himself, which Mr. Crawford could not hear.—But the next moment he told him, that he and Mr. Chapman (a surgeon in the neighbourhood) had conspired with Mr. Matthews to ruin his character, and oblige him to quit England with infamy. After some farther altercation, he sat down, and appeared somewhat more composed; but on a sudden, started up again, with new fury in his looks, and said, his honour was wounded, his character ruined, and his bread lost; that under such circumstances, he could not live; and that, if Matthews scandalously turned him out of his house, which he seems to have threatened, he would be revenged. Mr. Crawford attempted some farther expostulation, but finding it in vain, and it being now near eleven o'clock, he accom

panied him to Mr. Matthews's door, and there left him. But though he was in a temper that made expostulation nopeless, yet, he says, he left him, as he thought, in a disposition to do as he advised him.

Matthews, in the mean time, had got two friends, of which Mr. Lowther was one, and a constable; and having removed all that belonged to Mr. Stirn out of his room, into the passage, they were waiting for his coming in; Matthews having determined to turn him into the street at that time of the night, and leave him to get a lodging where he could.

When Stirn knocked at the door, it was opened to him by Lowther; and upon entering the passage, and seeing his clothes and other things lying in it, he cried out, with great passion, "Who has done this?" Matthews replied, "I have done it—You told me, you would not leave my house but by force, and now I am determined you shall go." Stirn then reproached Matthews with being a bad man, and told him that he was a coward, and would not have dared thus to insult him if he had not procured persons to abet him and assist him. Some farther words passed on both sides; after which, Matthews desired Stirn to take a glass of wine, there being then wine and glasses upon the table; and said, "let us part friendly." Stirn then said, he would not go till he had played his last tune; and there being a spinnet in the room, he went and struck it five or six times; then he said, "I want but half a guinea: you may do what you will with my clothes and books." Matthews replied, "If you will tell me what you want with half a guinea, and have not so much, I will lend you the money." Stirn then put his hand in his pocket, and taking out some money, looked at it, and said, "No, I have as much money as I want; I have spoke to a man to-day who will write my life and yours." "Have a care," said Matthews, "what you say; you have before said enough for me to lay you by the heels."—"Why what have I said before?" said Stirn. "Why, you have said," replied Matthews, "that Crawford might thank his God he had got rid of you in the manner he had; but

that you would have your revenge of me." Stirn then desired Matthews to give him his hand, and Matthews stretching it out, Stirn grasped it in both his, and said, "I have said so, and here is my hand, I will have revenge of you." After this, a good deal of opprobrious language passed between them, and then Stirn went out of the house with the constable, though not in his custody.

Where this forlorn and infatuated creature passed the night, does not appear; nor is any thing related of the transactions of the next day, Thursday the 14th, except that Mr. Chapman endeavoured to procure a meeting of the parties with himself and Mr. Crawford that evening, to bring about a reconciliation, but without success, Mr. Matthews being unfortunately from home, when he called to make the appointment. It appears, however, from divers circumstances which happened afterwards, that, on that day, Stirn bought a pair of pistols, and that having loaded them, he sent Mr. Matthews a challenge which Matthews refused to accept; and it is probable, that from this time he resolved upon the murder, no other means of revenge being left him. On Friday morning, the fifteenth, Mr. Crawford, hearing that Stirn was in great anxiety and distress of mind, gave him an invitation to dinner. This invitation he accepted, and he behaved with great propriety and politeness till after the cloth was taken away; but just then he started up, as if stung by some sudden thought, and uttered several invectives against Matthews; saying, that none but an execrable villain could impute to him the horrid character of a thief and adulterer. He said this, without any mention having been made of his own situation, or of Mr. Matthews's name, and soon after went away.

About half an hour after five, the same evening, as Mr. Crawford was going down Cross-street, Stirn overtook him. Crawford at this time discovered such an expression of despair in his countenance, that he suspected he had formed a design to destroy himself especially as it was said he had made an attempt of that kind six months before.

Stirn turned the conversation principally upon the point

of honour, and the proper means of maintaining it. Crawford, who saw him greatly moved, so as frequently to start, and change colour, turned the discourse to religion; but observing he gained no attention, he hoped to soothe his mind by mentioning the prospect he still had of doing well; but Stirn then hastily interrupted him: "Who," says he, "will entertain a person under the horrid character of an adulterer and a thief! No, Sir, I am lost both to God and to the world."

Mr. Crawford then told him, that if he should fail of success here, he would assist him with money to return to his brother. "To my brother!" says Stirn, in an agony, "neither my brother nor my country can receive me under the disgrace of such crimes as are imputed to me." As he pronounced these words, he burst into tears; and Mr. Crawford, not being able longer to support the effect of such a conversation upon his mind, was obliged to take his leave.

Mr. Crawford, in order to recollect himself, went out into the fields, where he could not help musing on what had passed; and finding his suspicions, that Stirn intended to destroy himself, grow stronger and stronger, he determined to return, and endeavour to find him out a second time.

It happened that about half an hour after eight o'clock he met with him at Owen's coffee-house, where the conversation upon his quarrel with Matthews was renewed, though with much more temper than before; yet Stirn often started, saying, he expected that every one who opened the door was Matthews.

While he was at Owen's coffee-house, he called for a pint of porter and some potatoes, which he devoured ravenously, though he had supped before, and drank a pint of porter, and three gills of wine.

About ten o'clock he got up, and said, he would go to Mr. Pugh's; Pugh kept an alehouse, the sign of the Pewter-platter, in Cross-street, Hatton Garden, next door to Crawford's school, where Crawford, Matthews, Chapman, and other persons in the neighbourhood, frequently met to spend the evening.

Mr. Crawford endeavoured to persuade him to go home to his lodgings, upon which Stirn, without making any reply, caught him by the hand, and pressed with such violence as almost to force the blood out of his finger ends.

They went together to Mr. Pugh's door, where Mr. Crawford left him, and went home. Stirn went into the neighbour's room, at the Pewter-platter, where he found Matthews, who had been to see Foote's farce called the Minor, in the Haymarket, and with him, Mr. Chapman and Mr. Lowther; several other persons were in the room, but not of the same company.

Stirn sat down at the same table with Matthews and his friends; but Chapman perceiving by his gestures and countenance, that he was in great agitation, called him out, and admonished him not to do any thing that might have disagreeable consequences either to himself or others. After this Stirn returned alone into the room, and Chapman went home. Stirn walked about the room by himself, and in the mean time Mr. Crawford came in, having heard who were in company, and fearing some fatal effect of Stirn's passion, which he hoped he might contribute to prevent.

Stirn, after some time, applying himself to Mr. Matthews, said, "Sir, you have accused me of theft and adultery." Matthews denied the charge; but said, "If his wife's virtue had not been more to be depended upon than *his* honour, he did not know what might have been the consequence."

After some mutual reproaches, Matthews called him a dirty fellow, and said he ought to be sent into his own lousy country: Stirn, after this, took two or three turns about the room, without reply, and then took a small piece of paper out of his pocket, and held it some time in his hand, with a design that Matthews should take notice of it; but Matthews not regarding it, he held it in the candle till it was burnt; he then walked about the room for a few minutes more, and Crawford observing uncommon fury and desperation in his looks, desired the company to drink his health; Mr. Lowther immediately did

so, and, as he thinks, so did Mr. Matthews too ; after which Stirn still walked about the room, but in a few minutes came and stood at Mr. Crawford's elbow ; Mr. Lowther sat next to Mr. Crawford, and Mr. Matthews next to Mr. Lowther. He then went and stood between Mr. Lowther and Mr. Crawford, and having continued there about a minute, or a minute and a half, he drew out the two pistols he had procured for the duel, wrapped up in a piece of paper, and stretching his arm across the table before Mr. Lowther, he discharged one of them at Matthews's breast, who gave a sudden start, and then falling forward, died instantly, without a groan. Stirn, almost at the same moment discharged the other at himself ; but, by some accident, the ball missed him. As soon as the smoke was dissipated, and the company recovered from their first astonishment and confusion, Stirn was seen standing as it were torpid with amazement and horror. As soon as he saw the attention of all that were in the room turned upon him, he seemed to recollect himself, and made towards the door ; but a person in the room, whose name was Warford, seized him, and after some struggle pulled him to the ground. Lowther immediately went up to him, and Stirn cried out, " Shoot me, shoot me, shoot me, for I shall be hanged." Somebody then saying, Matthews is dead, Stirn replied, " I am not sorry ; but I am sorry that I did not shoot myself."

After his commitment he obstinately refused all kinds of food, with a view to starve himself, that he might avoid the infamy of a public death by the hands of the executioner : he persisted in this abstinence till the Friday following, the 22d of August, being just a week, drinking only a dish or two of coffee, and a little wine ; this conduct he endeavoured to justify, by saying, that his life was forfeited both by the law of God and man, and that it was not lawful even for the government to pardon him ; and what does it signify, says he, by whose hands this forfeit is paid ? The ordinary indeed told him, in answer to this argument, that his life was not in his own power, and that as he did not, and could not, give it to himself, so

neither had he a right to take it away ; it is indeed pity that upon this occasion the ordinary was master of no better argument ; for the argument which he used against Stirn's right to take away his own life, would prove, that his life could not be lawfully taken away by any other ; for if Stirn had not a right to take away his own life, because he did not, and could not, give it to himself, the hangman, as he could no more give life than Stirn, had no more right to take it away. He was, however, urged to eat, by arguments addressed to his passions ; for he was told, that he would incur more infamy by suicide than by hanging, as his body would be dragged like that of a brute to a hole dug to receive it in a cross-road, and a stake would be afterwards driven through it, which would remain as a monument of his disgrace. These arguments, however, were without effect, for he never eat any solid food, till he had, by the assistance of some who visited him, procured a quantity of opium sufficient to answer his purpose by a nearer way.

On Wednesday the 10th of September having then in some degree recovered his strength, he was brought to the bar and arraigned ; he was then decently dressed in a suit of black cloth, but, contrary to the general expectation, he pleaded *not guilty*, and requested that his trial might be put off till Friday the 12th, which was granted.

On the 12th he was brought to the bar again, but, instead of his suit of black, he appeared in a green night-gown ; he had been advised to feign himself mad, but this advice he rejected with disdain.

During his trial, which lasted about four hours, he was often ready to faint : he was therefore indulged with a seat, and several refreshments ; when sentence was passed upon him he quite fainted away, but being recovered by the application of spirits, he requested the court that he might be permitted to go to the place of execution in the coach with the clergyman ; upon which the court told him, that was at the sheriff's option, but that such a favour, if granted, would be contrary to the intention of the law, which had been lately made to distinguish murders by exemplary punishment : upon this he

made a profound reverence to the court, and was taken back to prison.

About six o'clock, the same evening, he was visited by the ordinary, who found in the press-yard a German; this man said he was a minister, whom Stirn had desired might attend him. The ordinary therefore took him up with him to Stirn's chamber, he having been removed from the cells by the assistance of some friends. They found him lying on his bed, and as he expressed great uneasiness at the presence of the ordinary and a prisoner that had been set over him as a guard, they withdrew and left him alone with his countryman; soon after this, alarm was given that Stirn was extremely ill, and supposed to have taken poison; he was immediately visited by the sheriff, and Mr. Akerman, the keeper of the prison, who found him in a state of stupefaction, but not yet convulsed; a surgeon was procured, and several methods tried to discharge his stomach of the poison, but without effect; he was then let blood, which apparently rendered him worse.

About nine o'clock he was pale and speechless, his jaw was fallen, and his eyes were fixed, and about five minutes before eleven he expired.

It does not appear what reason Matthews had for charging Stirn with an attempt upon his wife; but Stirn solemnly declared in his last moments that there was none. He expressed many obligations to Mr. Crawford, who often visited him in prison with great kindness and humanity; and perhaps if he had been in a situation more suitable not only to his hopes, but to his merit and his birth, he would have been less jealous of affronts, and, conscious of undisputed dignity, would have treated rudeness and slander with contempt, instead of pursuing them with revenge.

He spent his life in perpetual transitions from outrage and fury, to remorse and regret; one hour drawing his sword upon his dearest friends, to revenge some imaginary affront, and the next lamenting his folly, and entreating their pardon with contrition and tears. How many are they whose keen sensibility, and violence of temper, keep

them nearly in the same situation, though they have not yet been pushed to the same excess ; let such take warning from this mournful example, and strive gradually to cure their vehemence of temper, instead of allowing it to overcome them.

JOHN PERROTT,

(A BANKRUPT,)

Executed in Smithfield, November 11, 1761, for concealing part of his effects.

JOHN PERROTT was born at Newport Pagnal, in Buckinghamshire, about sixty miles north of London, in the year 1723, being about thirty-eight years of age at his death. His father died when he was seven years old, and his mother about two years afterwards, leaving him a fortune of about 1500*l*. After the death of his parents, he was, by the direction of a guardian, placed in the foundation school of Gilsborough, in Northamptonshire, where he continued five years : he was then, being about fifteen years old, put apprentice to his half-brother at Hempstead in Hertfordshire, where he served out his time. In the year 1747, he came up to London, and began to trade for himself in foreign white lace, but kept no shop. In the beginning of the year 1749, he took a house, and opened a warehouse in Blow-bladder-street. About the year 1752, he removed from Blow-bladder-street to Ludgate-hill, where he opened a linen-draper's shop, and dealt in various other articles, stiling himself merchant. From the time of his opening this shop, till the year 1759, he returned annually about two thousand pounds ; and was remarkably punctual in his payments. Having thus established his reputation, and finding that no credit which he should ask, would be refused him, he formed a scheme of abusing this confidence, which he began to put in execution by contracting for goods of different sorts, to the value of 30,000*l*. the greatest part of which, amounting to the value of 25,000*l*. he actually got into his possession. In pursuance of his project, it was

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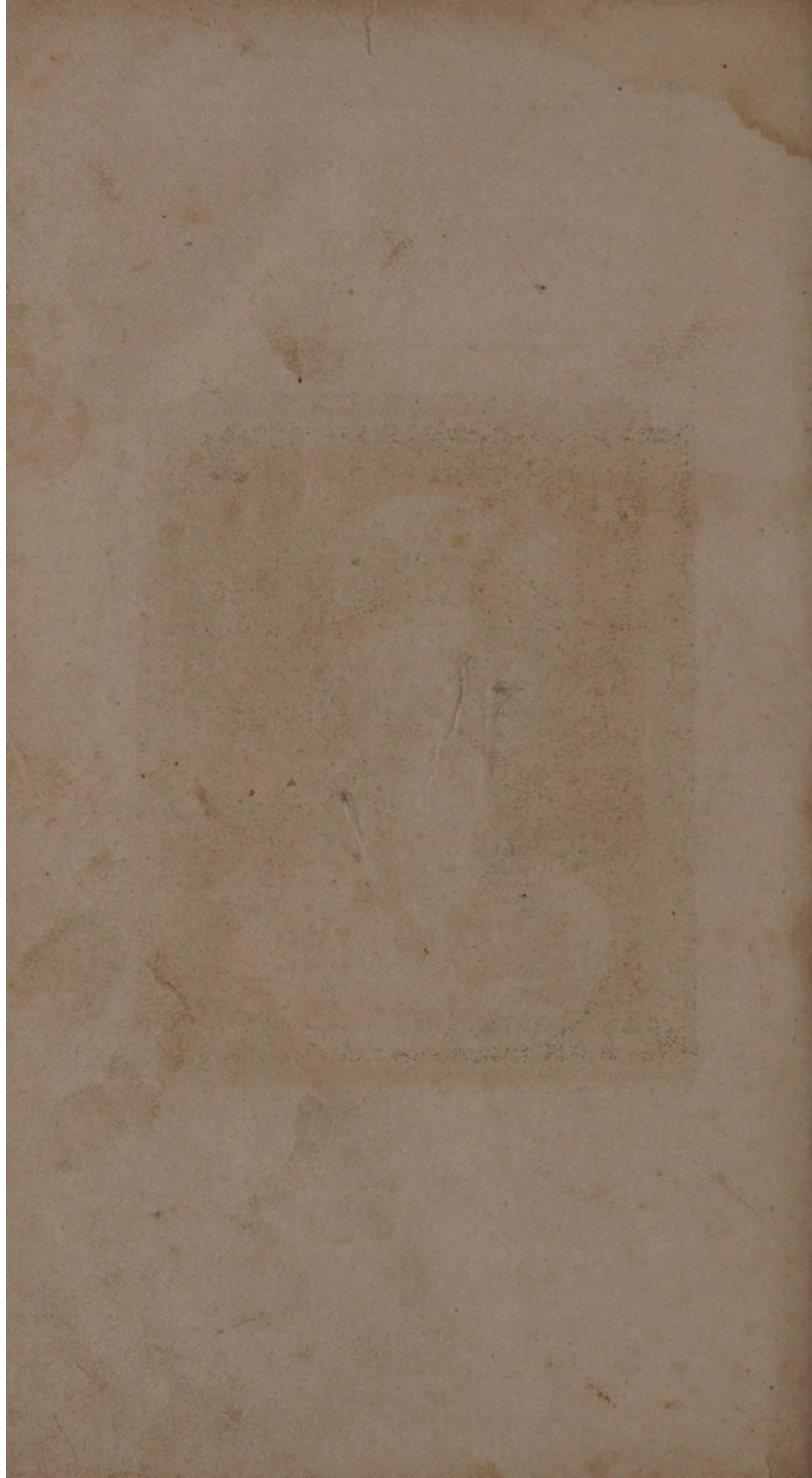


MARY SQUIRES.



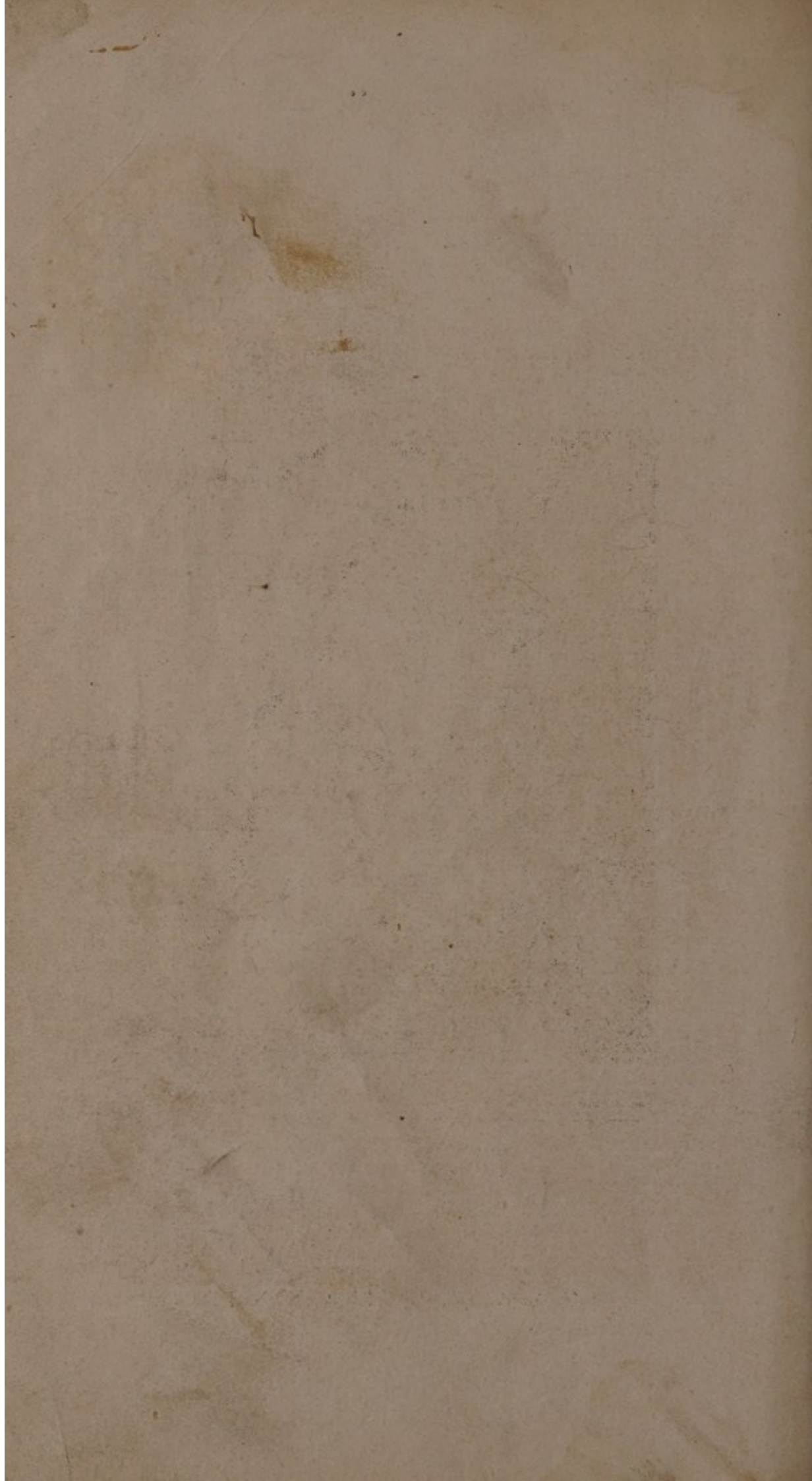


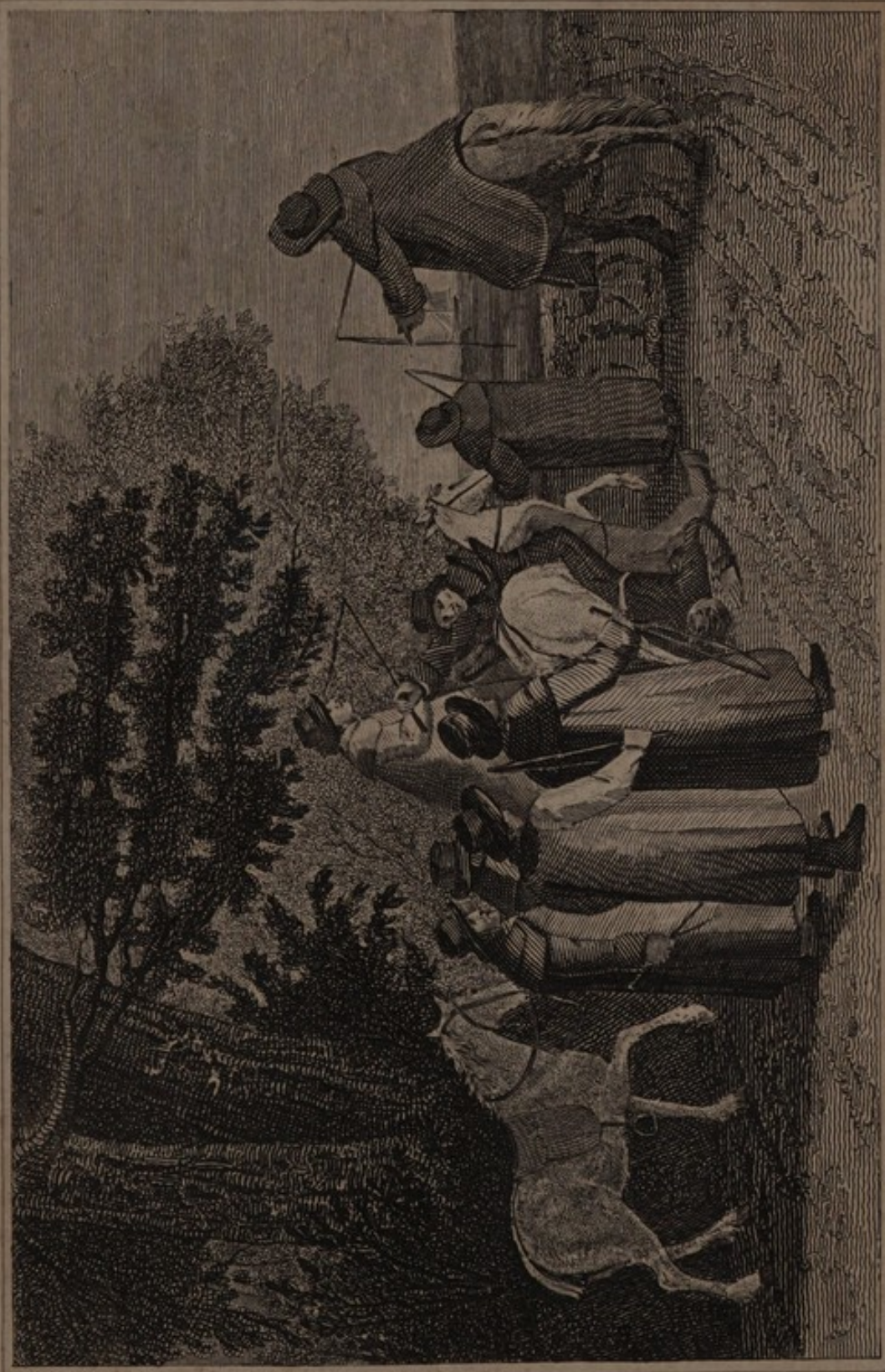
M^{RS} PHIPOE.





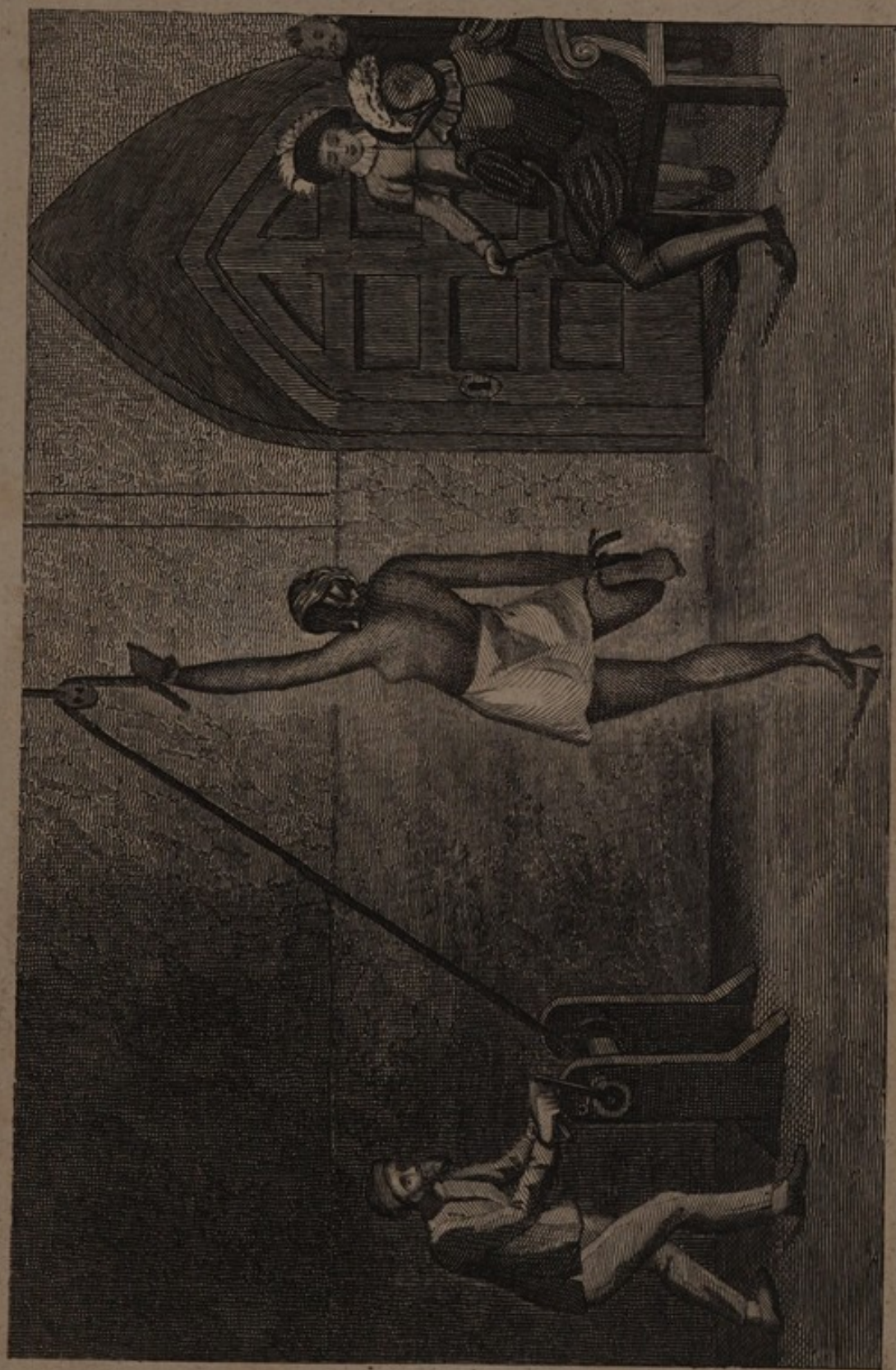
ELIZABETH CANNING.



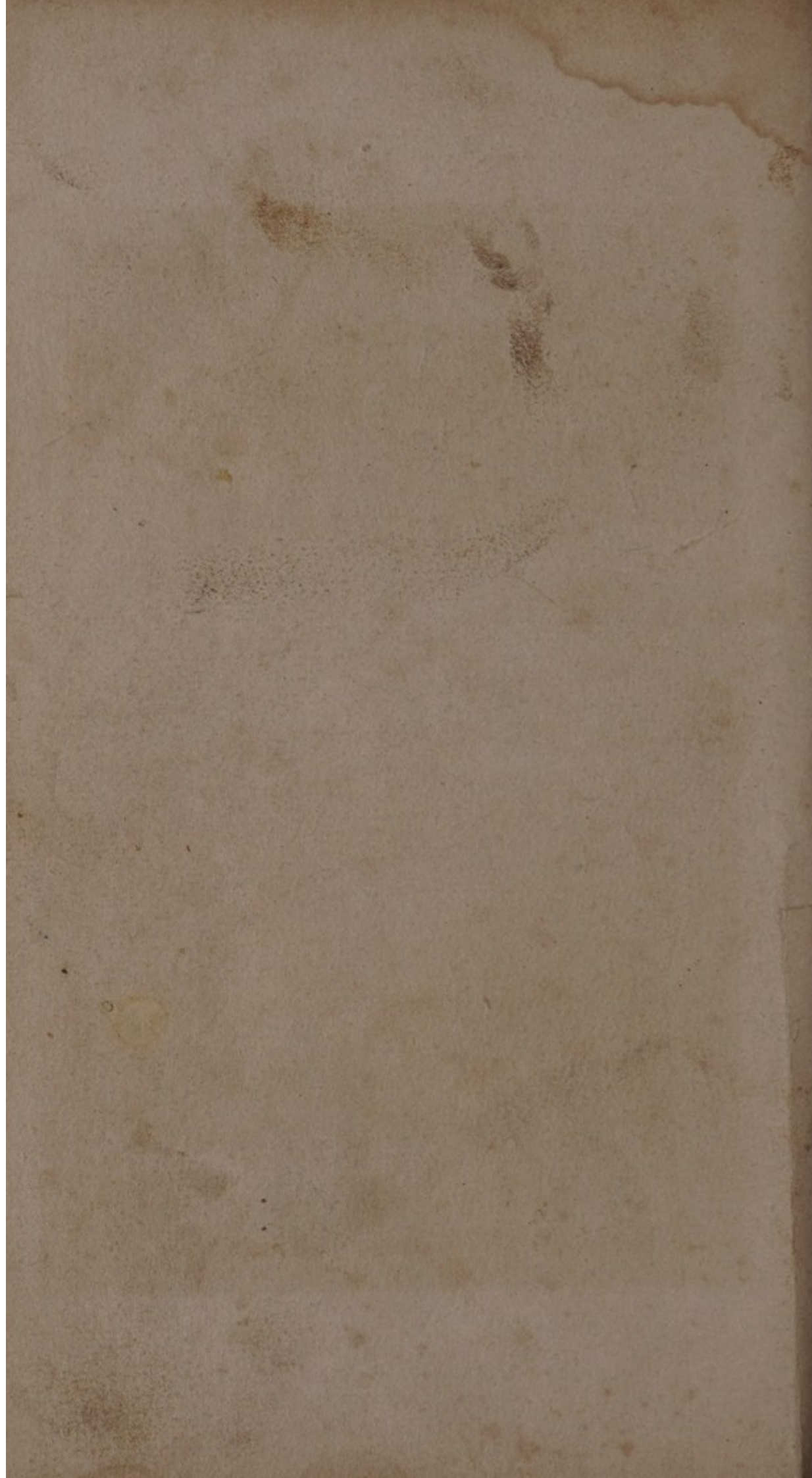


The murder of two Custom House Officers by a gang of Snugglers.





Gov.^r Picton's Cruelty.



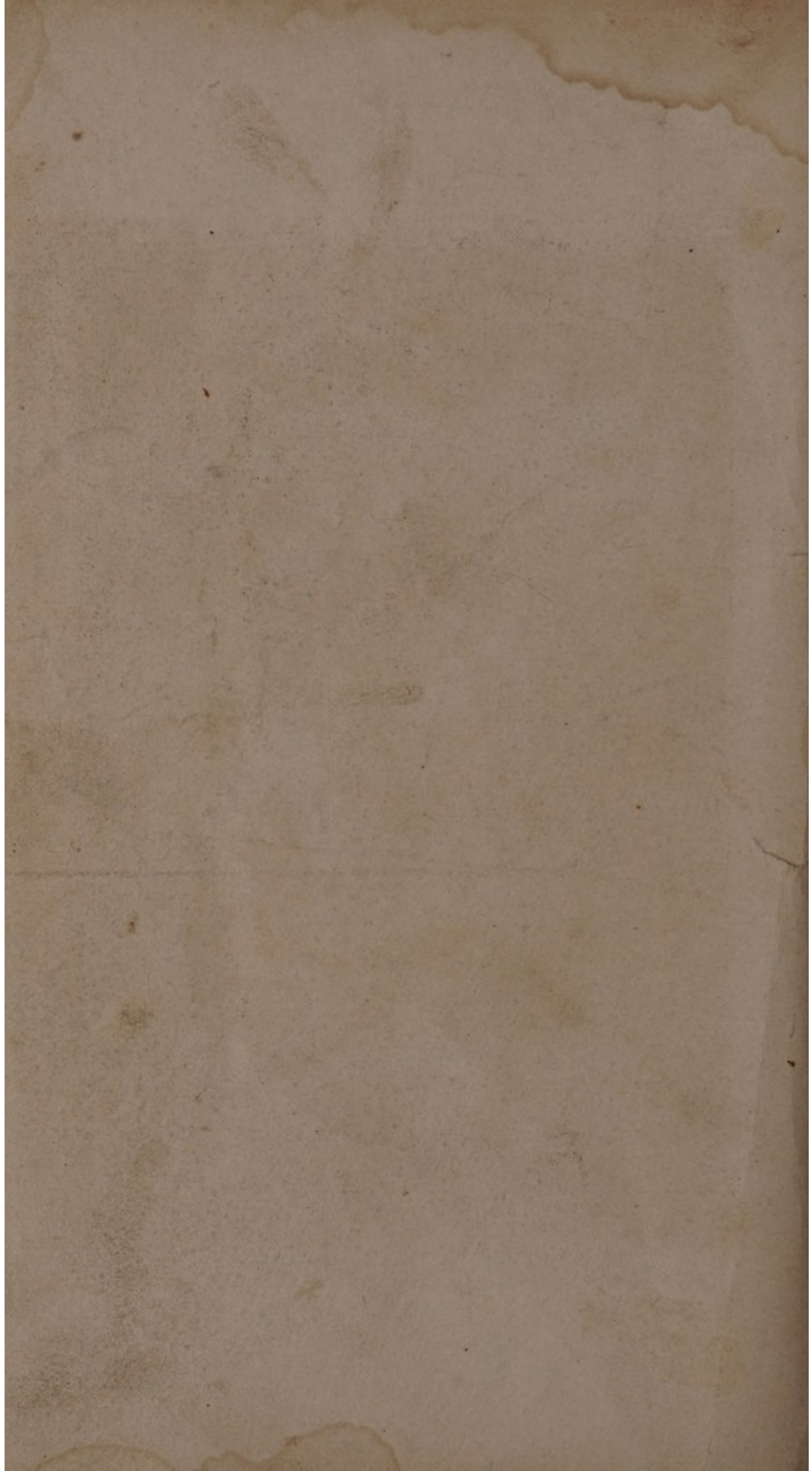


THE HORRID MURDER OF MR BIRD & HIS HOUSE-KEEPER AT GREENWICH FEB 7. 1818.





THE CRUEL MURDER OF MR STEELE, ON HOUNSLOW HEATH. NOV 6 1802.





COLD BATH FIELDS PRISON.





