

**The life of David Haggart, alias John Wilson, alias John Morison, alias Barney M'Coul, alias John M'Colgan, alias Daniel O'Brien, alias the Switcher. Written by himself, while under sentence of death.**

### **Contributors**

Haggart, David, 1801-1821.

Robertson, George, 1793?-1844.

Combe, George, 1788-1858. Sketch of the natural character of David Haggart, as indicated by his cerebral organization.

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1821

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*M. M. M.*  
1821

LIFE

DAVID HAGGART

*L. Munro*

*1821*

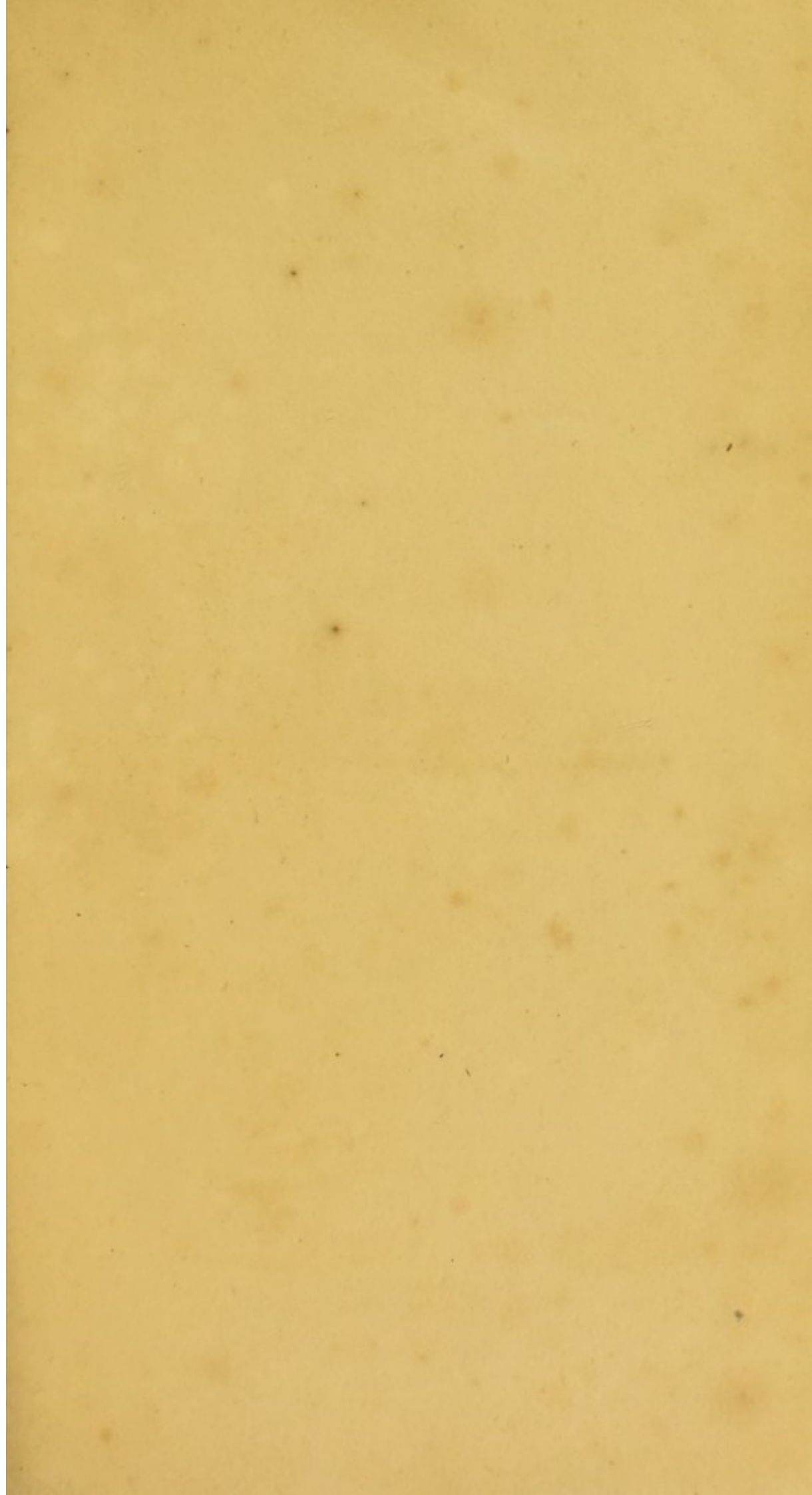
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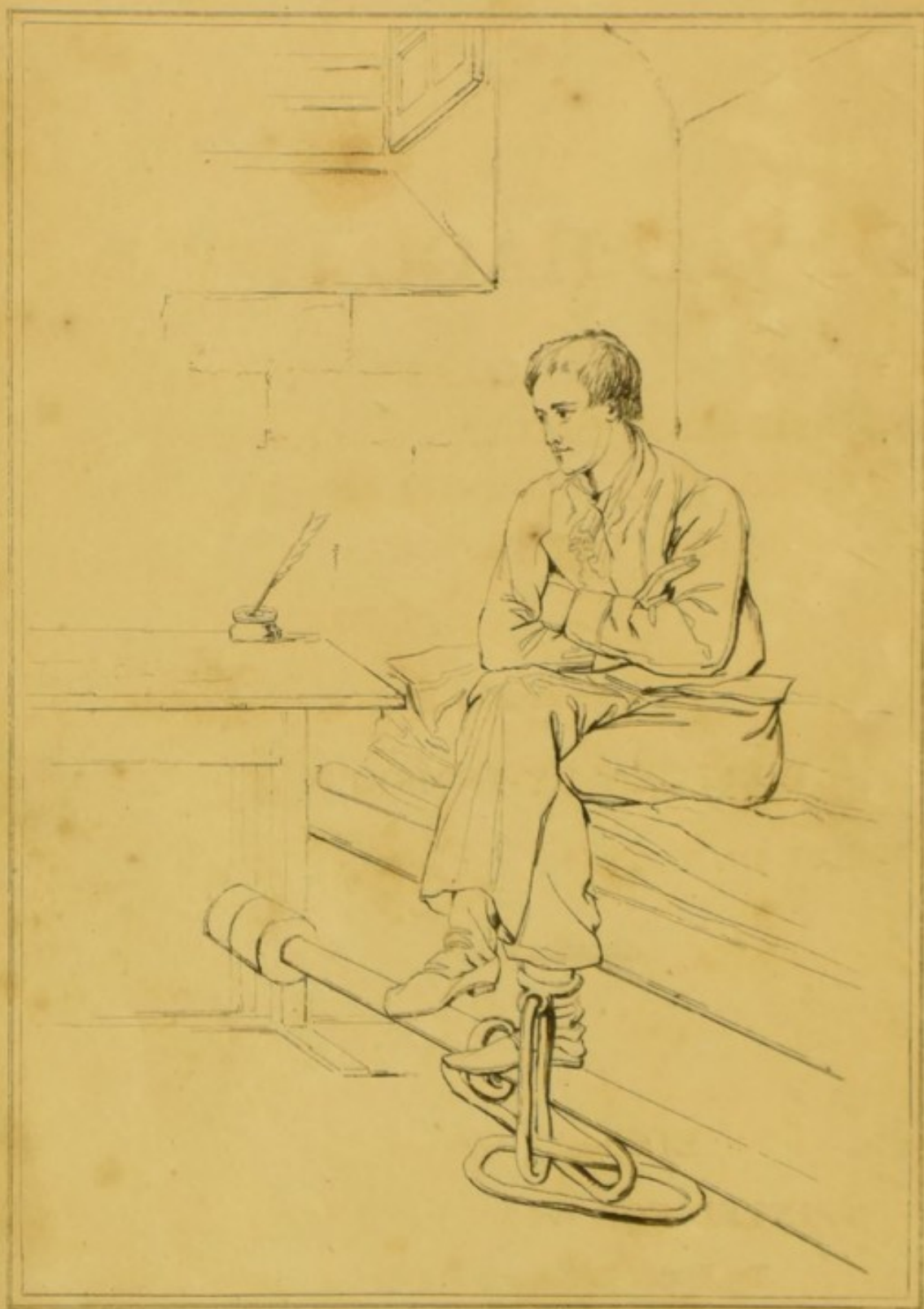
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*1877*

DAVID BART







DAVID HAGGART.

*While under Sentence of Death.*

THE  
L I F E  
OF  
DAVID HAGGART,

ALIAS JOHN WILSON, ALIAS JOHN MORISON,  
ALIAS BARNEY M'COUL, ALIAS JOHN  
M'COLGAN, ALIAS DANIEL O'BRIEN,  
ALIAS THE SWITCHER.

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WRITTEN BY HIMSELF,  
WHILE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH.

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EDINBURGH:  
PRINTED FOR W. AND C. TAIT,  
By James Ballantyne and Co.

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MDCCCXXI.





## ADVERTISEMENT.

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THE ill-fated Author, of the following Narrative, was arraigned before the High-Court of Justiciary, at Edinburgh, on the 11th of June, 1821, under an indictment, charging him with the murder of the late Thomas Morrin, turnkey in the jail of Dumfries. The trial lasted the greater part of the day; and, after a charge from the presiding Judge, the Jury returned a verdict, finding the prisoner guilty, art and part of the murder. He was then sentenced to be publicly executed at Edinburgh, on the 18th of



July. His conduct, during the interval between his trial and his execution, was such as to give satisfaction to the respectable clergymen by whom he was attended. His time was partly devoted to religious exercises, and partly to furnishing materials for an account of his life. These were either written by himself, or taken down from his dictation, with such trifling alterations, as were necessary to render the Narrative intelligible.

The thought of writing his Life was entirely his own. It originated in a wish to atone in some degree for his crimes, by disclosing them, and to benefit his father's family, upon whom it was his express desire, that a portion of the profits of this publication should be bestowed. He also enjoined, that the remainder should be given in charity.

Any levity of expression, in the course of the Narrative, may be readily excused. It was impossible for the unfortunate youth faithfully to record the thoughts and actions of his past life, without recurring to the language and habits of thinking, with which alone he had been familiar. Although, however, his crimes are described with apparent thoughtlessness, he uniformly expressed a deep sense of their enormity ; and there is every reason to believe, that he has left the world a sincere penitent.

An Appendix, containing some curious craniological information, has been very kindly furnished by Mr George Combe, Writer to the Signet.

The task of preparing this small work for publication, was not a pleasant one, and it was undertaken with great hesita-



tion and reluctance. But, having been twice called upon to act as agent for the unfortunate Author while under trial for his life, I did not think myself justified in refusing a request, which he anxiously pressed upon me since his condemnation, more especially as his motive seemed to me a good one,—that of securing a small sum for his father's family.

GEO. ROBERTSON, W. S.

EDINBURGH, *July* 20, 1821.

This is a true account of  
My life partly written  
By myself and partly  
Taken down from my  
own lips while under  
sentence of Death.-

David Haggart

Edinr Jail  
Iron Room  
14 July  
1821.





very kind to me and never failed to give me the most attentive and particular attention to their duties. I was also taken to the Highlands for two seasons.

# L I F E

OF

## DAVID HAGGART.



I WAS born at a farm-town called the Golden Acre, near Canon-mills, in the county of Edinburgh, on the 24th of June, 1801. My father, John Haggart, was a game-keeper, but after his family began to increase, he followed the occupation of dog-trainer, and was much taken up in accompanying gentlemen on shooting and coursing excursions. On these occasions I used to assist in keeping the kennel; and the gentlemen, who had their dogs in training, were generally



very kind to me, and never failed in giving me a few shillings for paying particular attention to their dogs. I was also taken to the Highlands for two seasons, when I was very young, to *carry the bag* during the shooting time; and as I was always a merry boy, the sportsmen took a liking to me, and sent me home with plenty of blunt, so that I never wanted money for supplying my childish follies; and this, perhaps, was the melancholy cause of my future evil habits.

Notwithstanding the great use I was of to my father in his business, he did not fail in his duties to me as a parent, by early instructing me in religion, and placing me at school, where I acquired a considerable knowledge of English grammar, writing, and arithmetic. I had been with several teachers, and I well recollect that I was always the leader of my schoolmates, both in learning my lessons, and in our sports; but it was with Mr Robert Gibson, teacher at Canon-mills, where I made the greatest progress in my education. He afterwards removed to Brough-



ton. I was his scholar upwards of two years ; I was always dux of my class, and do not recollect that I ever lost my place for want of my lessons, but I was sometimes turned down for kipping.

About the age of ten, I was seized with a fever, and, on my recovery, I did not return to school, but stayed at home to assist my father in his business ; and thus terminated my education for a considerable time. I could then read well, and write tolerably, and I understood the simple rules of arithmetic. A trifling accident occurred about this period at home, which, for fear of punishment from my father, brought me to the resolution of quitting his house ; and, from this hour, I date the commencement of my sinful career. I had formed no wicked acquaintances, but, having a bold and fearless disposition, I, by myself, even at this early period of life, committed several depredations. The first of these was stealing a Bantam-cock. It belonged to a woman at the back of the New-Town of Edinburgh, and I took a great fancy to it, for



it was a real beauty. I offered to *buy*, but mistress would not *sell*, so I got another cock, and set the two a-fighting, and then off with my prize. I also tried shop-lifting, and carried off the till of one poor woman, who lived near Stockbridge, bodily. I knew all this was wrong, but I took no time to be sorry, or repent; and what would have been the use of repenting, for it was just all *fate*.

One of my next ploys was this.—A boy of the name of William Matheson, who lived at Silver-Mills, and with whom I had been very intimate, met me one day, and requested me to accompany him to Currie, a small village on the Lanark road, about six miles from Edinburgh, where he was going to visit a relation. I consented, but when we came within half a mile of Currie, I saw a poney grazing on the road side, and finding myself rather tired, I proposed to Willie to return home on the poney. He offered no objection, and we both mounted and set off at full gallop. The animal was very restive, and threw us off several times. When we



got to Slateford, Willie refused to mount again, so I came on by myself, and got to Silver-mills, where I put the poney in a small hut, which we had formerly built for a cuddie. We kept it there for several days, and the poney had a poor time of it, as it was rode and abused by all the boys in the place. At last the owner, who was an egg and butter merchant, made his appearance, having traced the new abode of his poney, and he threatened to have us both punished. This created a great noise in the town, but the women succeeded in appeasing him, by buying up the whole of his stock, and he went quietly away with the poney, without giving us further molestation. I do declare that I had no intention to steal the poney, but having once taken the notion of getting a ride home, I was determined to avail myself of the opportunity, and I was at a loss how to return the beast.

Shortly after this adventure, I went to attend Leith Races in July 1813. I had no previous intention of committing depredations, but merely to idle away a few



days, and amuse myself. About the end of the week, I got myself intoxicated, and listed in the Norfolk militia, which was then stationed in Edinburgh Castle, and had a recruiting party at the races. I learnt to beat the drum very well in the course of three months, and afterwards made considerable progress in blowing the bugle-horn. I liked the red coat and the soldiering well enough for a while, but I soon tired. We were too much confined, and there was too little pay for me. I remained in the regiment about a year, when we were ordered off to England to be disbanded; and having made interest with the commanding officer, Colonel Nilthop, I obtained my discharge in Edinburgh. My father was then living at the south-back of the Canongate, and I went home to him. He put me to school with Mr Danskin, teacher in the Canongate, where I remained about nine months, and acquired a tolerable knowledge of arithmetic and book-keeping, and was bound apprentice to Messrs Cock-



ourn and Baird, mill-wrights and engineers, for the period of six years.

I had now reflected on my past follies, and formed a resolution of following my new business with honesty and zeal. I applied closely to my work for upwards of two years, and I acquired the good opinion of my masters. Mr Baird particularly had a great liking to me. I was entrusted to pay in and draw considerable sums at the Bank, and was in every respect a confidential servant. The affairs of my masters having been involved in bankruptcy, I was thrown idle, and, of course, a burden upon my parents.

Although, during my service, I acted with fidelity towards my masters; yet, in the latter part of it, I had contracted an intimacy with several very loose characters, and had various adventures in the streets at night: but these were very limited, owing to the early hours which my parents forced me to keep, and also owing to my want of knowledge of the flash kanes, where I might fence my



snib'd lays; therefore my attentions were entirely confined to blunt. I was very fond of company, and I now had greater opportunities of gratifying my propensities. I never was given to drink, or, indeed, to the company of men, but principally frequented dances and raffles, where I mingled in the society of both sexes of the most dissolute character. I was thrown idle about the month of April, 1817, and in less than three months I found myself plunged in such a state of vice and wickedness, that my mind could not suffer reflection. I spent whole nights in the streets, or in worse places. Everything I saw, or heard, or did, was wicked; my nights and my days were evil; I could not bear to look at my relations; and growing at last impatient of the restraint of living in my father's house, I formed the resolution of shifting my scene of action.

Among my associates, I had formed a great intimacy with Barnard M'Guire, an Irishman, a darling of a boy. He was



brought up to the trade of a tailor, in Dumfries. He was considerably older than myself. He was of a bold, enterprising spirit, of great bodily strength, and a most skilful pickpocket. He was good at every thing in his profession, and always gave me fair play; but we sometimes did our comrades, even Barney's own brother.

Barney put me up to his tricks, and he and I agreed to travel to England together, and share the fruits of our unlawful occupation. It was when in company with, and encouraged by, the daring acts of this man, that I first attempted a pocket in open daylight. About the month of August, 1817, and just when on the point of going to England, we went to pass a day at Portobello races; we observed a gentleman on the race stand, who had been very successful in his bets. We could also discover that there were a good many old prigs keeping an eye to him,—we waited till he descended, when I found I was not alone in my speculation. But I got the



first dive at his keek cloy, and was so eager on my prey, that I pulled out the pocket along with the money, and nearly upset the gentleman. I passed the notes to Barney, who was close by me; the gentleman turned quickly round, and examined my hands, and seeming satisfied that I was not the thief, said, that some one had picked his pocket. We got eleven pounds on this occasion. It would be impossible for me to enumerate all the acts of a similar kind which I had by this time, and since have committed, but I have mentioned the above as my earliest public exploit. I shall now endeavour to detail, as minutely as I can, and with the utmost candour and truth, the more remarkable occurrences in my way of life.

After Portobello races were finished, we took outside places on the Jedburgh coach, where we arrived in the evening; having left Edinburgh with about L.31 betwixt us, a sizeable trunk full of clothes, and ourselves very well dressed. We remained two days in Jedburgh without



doing any business, and went to Kelso in a post-chaise, to attend St James's Fair, which was held next day. We repaired to the ground after breakfast, where we remained till darkening. We were tolerably successful, having got L.20 in bank-notes, and two or three purses with a few shillings in each. I may mention the way in which we obtained the L.20. It was by two separate adventures ; the first of them, and indeed our first business of the day, was rather a comical one, but not very unusual among knowing ones. We observed a man who had some horses for sale, and who had a good bulk in his breast-pocket. I priced a fine looking riding horse, upon which occasion Barney acted as judge or assistant to me ; we were disputing as to age, and the jockey, eager to satisfy us that he was right, and that we were wrong, held the jaws of the animal and shewed his teeth, which occasioned him to stretch his arms aloft, when Barney eased him of his blunt. I immediately ordered him to give the horse a turn to shew his paces,



when we made off. We found that the pocket-book only contained nine pounds, and was full of papers, which we destroyed. The other L.11 was taken by myself, from a gentleman whom we had observed, in the early part of the day, with a very large bundle of notes; but it was five o'clock at night before I could get a touch of him, when, to my disappointment, I only got L.11. I think I got all he had, as it was wrapt in a parchment wrapper, where the large quantity had been. I took it out of his breeches-pocket in the usual way. He was talking to a gentleman, when I slipp'd past and did him. The keek-cloy is easily picked. If the notes are in the long fold, just tip them the forks; but if there is a purse or open money in the case, you must link it.

We took a post-chaise the same evening, and returned to Jedburgh; stopt all night, and took a post-chaise to Hawick next morning, where we remained about eight days, and put up at the Black-bull inn. We found we could do nothing at



this place ; so we took our departure for Langholm by Moss Paul, and posted the whole road. We remained at Langholm about fourteen days, but without doing any business ; and afterwards travelled to Dumfries on foot. We remained in Dumfries about three weeks, during which the Rood fair was held. Barney was well known here ; and for some old affair he did not think himself altogether safe. He therefore kept close in his lodgings at the Black-bull, and the whole duty devolved on a younger brother of Barney's and myself. Young M'Guire was a well known snib, and I did not keep much by him, and never spoke to him in the streets. We attended the fair only one day. M'Guire got L.7 of smash ; I got a L.10 bank-note. I observed the person who had it go in quest of change. I followed him into a hosier's shop in the High-street, where he again asked for change ; the shop was throng, and the shopman said he would give it presently. He put the note in a careless manner into



his waistcoat-pocket, when I was standing by him with my arms across, and in that position touched him of his screave. I immediately asked the shopman the price of silk-stockings, which were in the window. His answer was, "The price is marked upon them, sir." This was the best answer in the world for me. I went out to see, but missed my way back. I did not inform young M'Guire of this prize; but Barney and I shared it with L.4 of the smash taken by him.

The whole three of us started next day in the coach for Annan; remained a night there; and next morning went to Lockerby to attend the gaff, which was held three days after we got there. We were not in safety to be seen at this place, as the M'Guires were well known by John Richardson, (a most respectable sheriff-officer from Dumfries,) whom we suspected was at the fair; and he had seen me in Dumfries with young M'Guire, which was enough to make him suspect me. We sallied forth in the evening, Barney and I keeping together. We went to the



principal inn, and were put into a room where there were two men sitting opposite each other at a large table. The one seemed a drover, the other a farmer. They were both pretty lushy and quarrelling. I blew the coal; but Barney dissuaded them from fighting. At last they rose and stript. Barney rose to stop them; the drover struck him, and that moment the farmer let fly at the drover, which floored him. The whole three were now grappling on the carpet, and I was rumbling the cloys of the tuigs. I got nothing there; but the farmer rose lighter by L.23 and a pocket-book. I immediately called the waiter in a violent passion, paid him for a bottle of porter which we had, abused him for putting us into a room with such company, and decamped all in a minute. Young M'Guire had taken some skins with a few shillings in each, which he shared with us; but we told him nothing about our stake.

We departed next morning for Ecclefechan on foot; remained there one



night, and walked to Langholm; and stopt a day or two in order to attend the gaff, and were upon the ground in the forenoon. We made a strict survey, and were convinced that we were the only prigs in the gaff. We therefore determined not to raise a down by doing any petty jobs; but to look out for a good stake, and content ourselves with one or two rum lils, if they could be had. We were idle till about three o'clock, when young M'Guire came to us, and pointed out a conish cove, with a great swell in his suck. He said he had seen him with the lil in his fam, and he was sure there were hundreds in it. He was looking at some cattle. I came up close to him, with young M'Guire at my back. I raised my hand to my chin, and, in the act of doing so, my elbow turned over the left breast of his coat on his arm. Barney touched him on the right shoulder, and said, "Are these sheep yours, sir?" He turned round his head to give an answer, when young M'Guire snib'd



the lil, and passed it to Barney, who made off, we remaining a minute or two, and then following slowly. Picking the suck is sometimes a kittle job. If the coat is buttoned, it must be opened by slipping past. Then bring the lil down between the flap of the coat and the body, keeping your spare arm across your man's breast, and so slip it to a comrade ; then abuse the fellow for jostling you. When we foregathered with Barney, he shewed us the dumbie stuffed with cambric-paper, and he quized his brother for having given us so much trouble about luke. But when Barney and I got by ourselves he shewed me the blunt, which consisted of L.100 in ten pound notes, and L.101 in twenty-shilling notes, making in all L.201. I never was happier in my life than when I fingered all this money ; but I thought sore about it afterwards, when I was ill, and like to die. About half an hour after this adventure, we saw, to our great surprise, John Richardson running about, but he did not see us. Barney and I immediately ordered a post-chaise,



and took the road to Annan, leaving word at Brown's, our landlord, that we were off to Dumfries. We set out in high spirits, and before we got far, we had lushed the coachman so neatly, that Barney was obliged to drive. We remained at Annan one night, and next day went inside of the coach to Carlisle.

We lived in Carlisle about four weeks. We put up at a respectable inn; I do not now remember the sign, but the landlord's name was Fleming. We never attempted any thing during this stay; but amused ourselves with riding in the mornings, passed the evenings at gambling-houses, and twice or thrice went to dances. Barney was an excellent card-player, and to him I am indebted for the great proficiency I afterwards arrived at in the use of cards, dice, and billiards, besides a number of legerdemain tricks.

I may mention a trifling occurrence which took place at a toll-bar, a few miles from Carlisle, on the Cockermouth road. Barney and I had gone to ride, and spent the whole day amusing ourselves about



the country, and we had not omitted refreshing ourselves sufficiently often at least. Returning home in the evening, the toll-keeper refused us passage through the bar unless we paid, saying it was past twelve o'clock; we insisted, and refused his demand. Barney leaped a small fence into a field, and came out on the other side of the bar; but I, not knowing the powers of my horse, attempted to leap the gate. He stuck on the top, having only got two legs over, and I fell over his head. The terrified toll-keeper ran into his house, and locked the door. Barney dismounted, and flung up a window; but the man at that moment opened his door, at which Barney entered, and, laying his hands on an axe, with two or three blows, cut the upper bar of the gate, and, with the assistance of the man behind, the animal was released without any material injury. Barney abused the man, and really would have given him a beating, if he had not quickly secured himself within doors. I mounted behind Barney, and returned to Carlisle leading



my own horse. I was afraid to mount him, being ignorant of the extent of his injury.

About this time a gaff was held at Cockermouth, to which we repaired; but were rather unsuccessful, having only got L.3. We returned next day to Carlisle.

A day or two afterwards we observed a conish cove, who sported an elegant dross-scout, drag, and chats. This was too strong a temptation for our fish-hook fingers. We attempted to snib. He was walking along Rickergate, when Barney came up behind him, and I came in front of him. At this moment he was passing the head of a narrow close. Barney trod upon his heel, upon which he turned round. I made a dart at the scout, but it certainly was secured in the cloy; for I gave a smart pull, but it did not come. He abused me for a pickpocket, but he found me as ready in paying him back the compliment. No one had seen me, and I was at no loss in vindicating myself, and giving him plenty of lip.



Barney, as a byestander, after hearing us both, rather appeared to take my part; and the gentleman finding himself worsted made off. I soon observed, however, that he was keeping an eye after me, and he saw me go into my lodging;—Barney happened to come in shortly after, and he also had been observed. We only stopped within a few minutes, and went to call for Robert Telfer, residing at the head of Rickergate. On our return, we found our portmanteau and trunk coming out at the door in the possession of constables. We did not go in till they were fairly off, when our landlady informed us of what had taken place. We appeared much surprised, and pretended to go after them; but we returned to Telfer's, where we slept all night.

Next morning, finding our stock of clothes reduced to what was on our backs, we went to a respectable merchant-tailor in Corn-market, who took our measures for a suit of superfine clothes. He had them ready for us in two days, when we called for them. We had them nicely



packed up in the back shop; when Barney desired him to bring some vests, to make choice of one. Barney had observed a back-door; and while the tailor was getting the vests, we stepped out, taking with us our new clothes, and next day we started for Kendal by the stage-coach.

We stopped at this place two days, waiting to attend the gaff. I believe, it is one of the finest horse markets in England. We appeared on the ground at an early part of the day, and we were not long till we observed a good many deekers watching the prigs. We had fixed our eye on a horse-dealer, and had some conversation with him about the purchase of a prad; but we could not agree, and parted, on account of a deeker, who was eyeing us closely, and I observed him speak to the jockey. Notwithstanding of this we did not like to quit him, as he had a good swell in his suck; so we again accosted him when the deeker went away. He asked 36 guineas for the prad; Barney offered 28. He came down a screave, Barney advanced one, when he instantly



seized Barney by the hand, and closed the bargain at 29 guineas. We now found ourselves owners of a horse against our wish; although I dare say the man had no intention to sell at that price, but was only trying us, in consequence of the hint he had got from the deeker. We went to a public-house, and paid him the money.

Our next object was to get rid of our bargain; so we employed a boy to shew him off, and were not long without a merchant. A well-dressed cove asked his price at Barney. "Thirty guineas," was the answer; and, after a little difference, the prad was sold to him for L. 29, having lost five per cent on the transaction. He took a large bunch of screaves from his keek cloy, and paid the price; and, when turning towards the prad, Barney made a very unceremonious flip at the bit. The cove turned quickly round to make a snatch at him; and I, who had been standing aloof all the while, instantly passed hurriedly between them, and, with the force with which the cove



and I came in contact, we both fell; and when I got up I stared strangely at him, rubbing my shoulder, which got a bruise from the fall. Barney got clear off, and we found ourselves L.43 richer by this transaction.

We remained in Kendal all night, and set off next day, on the top of the coach, for Newcastle; but learning from the guard, that Morpeth fair was to be held two days afterwards, we left the coach at a village, where the road is crossed by the highway from London to Edinburgh, where we remained till the London mail came up, in which we went to Morpeth.

We put up at the second inn of the town, and waited for the fair, which was held two days afterwards. We repaired to the ground at an early hour, and took a general survey of the appearance of the people. We could observe a great many prigs, and particularly one school of six, whom we learnt were from York. The leader's name was Park, alias Boots; Simpson, an old bass-drummer in a mili-



tia regiment; James Graham, alias the Highflyer; and Fitzwilliam, alias Busy Bee. The names of the other two I did not hear, nor have I seen them since. Barney had formerly known them, but I never saw them before. The others were from different parts of the kingdom. I knew none except Frank Steedman, alias Captain; he had been a sailor, and generally assumed the character of a ship-master. We also saw a few bulkies.

We did nothing till the after part of the day, when we obtained L.32 by two separate adventures. The first was L.15, which we got off a gentleman who was looking at some cattle. We observed two of the Yorks watching him. The screaves were in his benjy cloy. One of the Yorks succeeded in raising the screaves to the mouth of the cloy, when Barney neatly interposed his forks, and brought them with him. It was the duty of the other to have taken them when raised, but Barney was too quick for him. So neatly was this done, that the two snibs saw nothing



of it. The second catch was L.17, a short time after. We observed a man bargaining for a prad, and holding the blunt in his fam which he was offering for the prad; but they did not agree, and he returned the screaves to his lil, and placed it in his suck. He had not gone many paces, when, passing through a throng, I eased him of his lil, and passed it to Barney.

We returned to our lodgings; and, in the evening, we happened to get into company with a bulkie, with whom Barney was formerly acquainted. In the course of conversation he asked us, if we had had a good market? Barney said, he could not complain. He then informed us, that he had only got notice of two stakes of any amount, but that a number of small skins had been snibbed. I also got acquainted with the six Yorks that evening through Barney; they said, they had done nothing to mang about.

We started next morning for Newcastle, on the top of the coach, and, on our arrival, we put up at the house of Wil-



liam Fleming, in Groat-market, where we staid ten days, and did nothing all that time; but we found it prudent to remove to private lodgings, in the house of a Mrs Anderson, in Castle-street, where we lived about a month. This lady had three daughters, very pleasant girls; and with her family we spent a jolly Christmas day, on the 25th of December, 1817. During our stay here, I went by the name of John Wilson, Barney by that of James Arkison, and we passed for gentlemen travelling on pleasure. Indeed, Barney and I were great swells in Newcastle, with our white-caped coats, top boots, and whips. We frequented the theatre, and other places of public amusement; to the former of these, two of the Miss Andersons often accompanied us. One evening when we were in a box in the theatre with these ladies, Barney observed a conish cove in the pit, with a great swell in his suck, which, from its shape, he suspected to be a lil. Towards the close of the performance, he said to me, "I see a cove with a rum lil, I'll nap it before he



goes." I said it might be done if it were not for the blones. He then affected sickness, and went out. On my coming out at the box-door he joined, and giving me a smart tap on the fam with the lil, said, he was much better than he had been. I easily guessed he had been successful; we obtained L.33 by this affair.

A few nights afterwards we went to the theatre by ourselves two, entirely on business—Barney to the boxes, and I to the pit. I had not been long seated till I observed a cove and blone, the latter sporting an elegant dross-scout, drag, and chats. In the course of the evening I got a seat behind them, and succeeded in undubbing the stretch which slung the scout round her waist, and got clear off with all. I immediately retired slowly, and got speedily home. Barney came in about one in the morning, pretty lushy, having another elegant dross-scout, drag, and chats, flashing in his benjy cloy. During our stay in Newcastle we got about L.70, including the produce of one of the scouts;



but this sum did not defray our expenses by L.14.

I may mention an occurrence which took place in a sort of gambling flash-house, in Sandgate. We were engaged one evening there playing at loo with the bully of the house, from whom we gained about L.3. He lost temper, and swore an oath that we should not leave the house with his money; upon which he rose to make good his words. Barney and I jumped up also; the first blow from Barney brought the bully to the floor, and, getting up, some smart blows were exchanged. At last Barney got a knock-down blow, and the bully got above him. I immediately up with a crab which was heeled with iron, with which I beat him till he fell off; and we both went out, leaving him on the floor, only second best of the two.

In January 1818 we went to Durham, to attend a gaff. On the evening of our arrival, Barney and I went out six miles on the York road. We came to a house in a lonely place, and we immediately de-



terminated to break into it. Barney entered by a window, and I followed him. We met with strong resistance from the master of the house ; but Barney knocked him down, and we succeeded in binding him hand and foot, and gagging him with a handkerchief. The rest of the family seemed to be all women ; but they were so terrified that they did not interrupt our proceedings. We got about L.30, with which we returned to Durham. I was apprehended next day, but as I had changed my clothes, and disguised myself a good deal, the man whose house we had entered could not identify me. I was accordingly liberated, and Barney and I returned to Newcastle.

In about two or three days after this, we were both apprehended ; and we had unfortunately on the same clothes in which we had committed the burglary. We were carried back to Durham, and the man whom we had robbed recognized us at once. He was bound over to prosecute, and our trial came on at the Durham spring assizes. I was tried under



the name of Morrison, and Barney under that of Arkison. We were found guilty, and sent back to prison, in order to be brought up for sentence of death at the end of the assizes.

I lost no time in setting about contriving my escape, and, after long deliberation with my fellow-prisoners, we resolved on an attempt. We set to work upon the wall of our cell, and got out to the back passage, when the turnkey made his appearance. We seized him, took the dubs, bound, and gagged him. Having gained the back-yard, we scaled the wall; but Barney and another prisoner fell after gaining the top. By this time the down rose, and poor Barney and the other man were secured.

I travelled back to Newcastle in company with a Yorkshire man, and remained there a day, during which I was occupied in obtaining a fiddlestick for Barney. This being got, we were returning to Durham, when we were pursued by two bulkies. They got close upon us, on a wild part of the road, before we observed.



Just as they were springing on me, I laid one of them low with my pistol ; whether I have his murder to answer for, I cannot tell ; but I fear my aim was *too true*, and the poor fellow looked dead enough ; the Yorkshire-man knocked down the other. We got safely to Durham ; and, in the night-time, I got over the back wall of the jail by means of a rope-ladder, and succeeded in giving Barney the fiddlestick. He made his escape that same night, by cutting the iron bars of his cell window, and came off with me to Newcastle.

In a few days afterwards, leaving that place, we went to Berwick-upon-Tweed, inside passengers by the mail-coach, where we remained about three weeks, and put up at a house in Woolpack-lane. We did nothing of consequence ; indeed, we were only upon the outlook one night, and got three skins at a coach which arrived, I believe, from Edinburgh. We left Berwick for Dunse, having got an opportunity by a return chaise. We remained one night there,



and travelled on foot next day to Coldstream, for the purpose of attending the market, but found it adviseable not to do so. We stopt in the house all day, which was a flash cane, kept by Robert Inglis. We went to take a stroll in the evening, but had not gone many yards when we met with a drover, quite lushy, and did him of L.9, which was in his keek cloy. We returned to our lodging, and took a post-chaise next morning for Kelso, and remained there a few days to attend the next market. We put up at the house of Thomas Rae, at the sign of the Crown and Thistle.

On the morning of the market, we went to the market-house, and we were not long there till Barney attempted a farmer's cloys. He had raised the money to the cloy mouth, which the farmer discovered, and seized him instantly by the collar; Barney struck him, I joined, and a terrible milvadering took place. They both went to the ground; but the farmer, who was very powerful, still held his



grip, although milled by me with the but-end of my whip. A great mob got round us, and I consulted safety in taking to my heels. Barney was secured, and got three months imprisonment in Jedburgh jail.

Being now left without an associate, I determined to leave Kelso immediately. I went to the Waggoner's inn to forward my Peter by the carrier to Coldstream; but hearing of a return chaise, I went to Coldstream, bag and baggage, leaving Barney's clothes in Rae's house till he sent for them. I lived in Inglis's house eight days till I heard of Barney's fate; I then went by the coach to Newcastle, where I remained from February till about the middle of June, residing all the time with my old friend, Mrs Anderson. During my stay there, her daughter, Miss Maria, was married to a respectable shopkeeper in Newcastle. There was a large party at the marriage, and I took a great lead in conducting the festivities, and we spent a very merry night of it, in eating, drinking, dancing, and singing.



I did nothing in the way of business till the end of April, having been tolerably successful in gambling. My old friend the bully and I got very gracious, and we generally were partners in our play, when we could manage it. One evening I happened to accompany Miss Euphemia Anderson to the theatre. On our return home, I was accosted by a gentleman, apparently pretty lushy, who mistook the lady for a girl of the town, and made several attempts to disengage her arm from mine. I kept pushing him off with my shoulder, and in doing so I sunk into his keek cloy, and eased him of a skin, containing nineteen quids of dross. I then disengaged Miss Anderson from my arm, threatened to call the watchman, or take a shorter method with him, if he would not be off. My threats had the effect, and we got home without further interruption.

My next adventure was a few weeks afterwards. One evening at the gambling house I observed a conish cove along with the bully and some others playing at crib-



bage at another table. The cove was pretty lushy, and sported a lay of screaves. I regretted I was not one of their party, but thought if they did not ease him of all by the cards, I would come in for my regulars with my forks. I went off before him, and waited his coming out. I made no less than three unsuccessful attempts on him in the street. However I thereby ascertained where the blunt lay. I kept by his side to be ready to lift him in case he should have fallen, for he was very lushy. He went into an entry, and I shirry'd past him, and, wheeling round at the stair-foot, said, "O! I have mistaken the stair," and at that instant I jostled upon him. "Oh! I beg pardon," said I. "No offence, sir," returned he; but had he known the extent of the injury, my pardon would not have been so easily granted, for I had eased his bengy cloy of 33 quid screaves.

A few nights after this I snib'd a scout from a conish cove in Rickergate, with a dot drag, and two dross chats; it was scarcely out of his cloy when he rose the



down. The shirry became general—I was run to my full speed, but getting into an entry which I knew, with a door at the end of it, leading to a back area, I secured myself from the outside with a wooden bar which was in it, and made the best of my way home. I did not attempt any other adventure in Newcastle upon this occasion; and in the month of June I took leave of Mrs Anderson and her worthy daughters, with sincere regret and sorrow, at parting, on both sides. Never will I forget the kindness, and even friendship, of these good people to me. Little did they know the person whom they had so long harboured in their house, and introduced to the most of their acquaintances and relations under the name of Mr John Wilson.

From Newcastle I took the coach to Berwick-upon-Tweed, and remained there about two weeks in the house of one Kennedy, a flash cove, who resided at the Parade Ground. I did no business during my stay there. I took a post chaise from Berwick to Dunse, and from thence



to Greenlaw, where I put up at the Cross-keys, and remained about eight days. I attended a market at that place; but only got three screaves at one adventure, which I attempted upon a keek cloy.

From Greenlaw I came to Edinburgh by the stage coach, but travelled leisurely, having taken two days to come.

On my arrival in Edinburgh, I first put up at the house of one Train, on the south side of the Grass Market, but stopped there only two days. I removed to Mrs Wilson's, East Richmond Street, having joined a new associate, William Henry, a well-known snib in Edinburgh. We remained there about three months, during which time we were principally engaged upon the hoys and coreing, which was rather a new occupation to me. We also had a few adventures on the streets at darky, but our stakes in the latter were limited, and, upon the whole, unproductive, having only acquired a few scouts, and skins with a little smash in them; and the sleek and chatterry which we obtained in the former, were generally fenced



for one-fourth part of their value. The cribs of William, alias Billy Cook, in the Calton, and John Johnston, at Crosscauseway, were always ready receptacles for our lays.

Although I had not been idle during these three months, I found my blunt getting shy, and I therefore resolved to take a country stroll. In the end of September we started for Perth by the morning coach from Prince's Street, and arrived about four o'clock ; we took lodgings at the house of Michael Garland, a flash cove, who resided in South Street, Perth, where we remained nearly three weeks, during which we attended a market, and obtained nine screaves at one snib. We observed a Highland farmer dressed in a blue cherry top't tile, sky-blue tuig, benjy, and keeks, tartan stamp drawers, and a spur on one heel ; he was very lushy, and appeared well acquainted, at least made himself so, with many on the ground. I heard him named Neil, and, taking an opportunity stepped up to him, shook him by the fam, and with a look of surprise,



said, "Oh, Neil, what's the matter with you the day, ye're makin sic a noise?" Henry came forward next, shook him by the fam, and said he was glad to see him. I proposed giving him a glass, to which he consented, and we went to a public house hard by, and on entering the door I eased his keek cloy of the nine screaves; we drank our gauge and parted good friends.

A day or two after this I was seized with a violent illness. We took the coach back to Edinburgh, and on my arrival I lived three days in John Johnston's, at Causewayside. I arrived on a Thursday, and on Saturday, finding myself a good deal recovered, I went out at darky to take a walk, but no way anxious for business. Going up the High Street, and nearly opposite the Tron Church, I met George Bagrie, and William Paterson, alias old Hag, two very willing, but poor snibs, accompanying a lushy cove, and going to work in a very forkless manner. I accosted them, on which Paterson said, "Here, Davie, you ought to be here," and quitted the cove's arm, which



I took hold of, and with my other fam entered his keek cloy, and brought it out full of smash. I then gave him a push from me, saying, "You can find the way home better than I can take you." I whack't the smash between Bagrie and Paterson, but kept none to myself. We all three went to a house on the South Bridge, kept by Miss Gray, and stopped till about twelve o'clock, when we came out, and having parted with Bagrie, Paterson and I returned to Miss Gray's and slept all night. Next morning, Bagrie and George M'Connon called for us before I was out of bed. M'Connon was an old apprentice of my father's, who had faithfully promised to him to bring me home if ever he chanced to see me. Bagrie and he accompanied me to my father's, where I was gladly and kindly received, and I promised faithfully to remain with my parents, and apply myself to my old business of a mill-wright. But when asked where I had been, or what I had been about, I would give no satisfactory answer. I staid at home Sunday and Mon-



day. On the Tuesday afternoon, being determined to have another night's pleasure in Miss Gray's, and ripping the neck of my tuig, I took two screaves from the blunt which I had plankt there. This was a plan of my own, and it puzzled all the bulkies that ever searched me. Just when I was thinking of going out, I took such a shock of sickness that I was forced to go to bed ; and in the course of my illness, which lasted four weeks, feelings of remorse operated greatly upon me. I really thought I was to be cut off in the midst of my wickedness, to give an account of all my crimes, for which I was very unprepared. I felt that I was such a sinner that I was ashamed to ask forgiveness either from God or man, and such a stranger of late to religious instruction, that I had no words for prayer. I was altogether without hope.

When I recovered, my thoughts of repentance soon left my mind ; and even while in a feeble and weak state, I attempted the hoys ; but I kept very good hours at home, never being out past eight o'clock



at night, and hardly ever out above half an hour at a time, which made my parents think that I could not be doing any thing that was wrong.

One evening, about the end of November or beginning of December, I accompanied a lad named John Steel to Leith, a well-known character at the Police Office. I went into a shop at the head of the Sheephead Wynd to buy some tobacco, not intending to do any thing in the way of business, when, to my surprise, Steel snatched the roll of tobacco from the woman's hand who was serving me, and bolted. I was so much taken unaware by this paltry adventurer, that I never thought of shirrying till her son took hold of me by the breast. He soon found he had caught a tartar, for I instantly planted a right-hand blow on his under jaw, which sent him reeling to the ground, and bolted. The down rose upon me, and the pursuit was general ; and for the first and last time my heels failed. Having fallen, I was overloaded with numbers, and carried to the Police Office. I had not been



many minutes there when Steel came, asking what I was doing here; upon which a policeman asked me his name. I answered, "You may ask him, he is there to answer for himself." That moment the tobacco woman came in and said, "That's the other fellow." We were detained in Leith all night, and next morning sent to Edinburgh Police Office. Steel got clear, but I was turned over to the Sheriff, before whom an inquiry was going on as to the stealing of a firkin of butter from one Richmond. Alexander M'Donald, Daniel Morrison, and John M'Manus, had been charged with the theft, and M'Donald had given information that I had been concerned with it. I was therefore taken from the Police Office to the Lock-up-house, and in a day or two afterwards was examined before the Sheriff. There was not sufficient proof against me, but three of us were sent to the Calton Hill Jail till we found bail, and M'Donald got clear.

I remained here ten days, when two of my uncles became cautioners for my ap-



pearance at any time within six months, and I was released on the 18th of December. I went to my father's, where I was kindly received, for neither he nor my mother could believe my projects, I put such a good face upon them.

My next adventure was on the 23d of the same month. I went up the High-street to take a turn about six o'clock in the evening, and met two blones with whom I was acquainted, the one named Mrs Kean, the other Kate Cameron, both completely flash, as well as game. They told me they knew a shop in the New Town where something could be done. I made no objections to accompany them. They conducted me to South Frederick Street, and they both went into a muslin-shop, kept by a person whose name I have forgot. They priced some caps, when I slipt in behind them, and cut a string which tied a large bundle of muslins, linens, and prints, to a form which stood on the outside of the counter. I lifted as much as I could grasp in one hand, and laid them down outside of the



door. I then returned for another handful, but in taking hold, I upset the bundle, form, and all. This gave the alarm. I ran out, lifting what lay at the door, and made my retreat along Rose-street eastwards. Kate Cameron followed me, but Mrs Kean pulled in the shop. I planked my lay with an acquaintance in the Canon-gate, and was home ten minutes after seven o'clock—stript, and went to bed. My father and mother, who had been out, came in soon afterwards, and asked my sister where I was, and if I had been out. She answered I had not, and that I was in bed. My sister, though quite ignorant of what I had been about, was very indulgent to me, and gave that answer to prevent reflections from my father, for being out contrary to his orders; but next morning, about three o'clock, three bulkies came down and took me to the Police-office, and being interrogated by Captain Brown concerning the last night's adventure, I denied the charge, and told that I was in bed from six o'clock till the hour they had taken me. In the forenoon



I was put to the bar, and Mrs Kean was brought in evidence against me. She told the whole affair, which I stoutly denied, and offered to prove an *alibi*. I then sent for my father and mother, who proved that I was in bed at a quarter past seven o'clock. They did not know any thing of my being out at all on the preceding evening. The Magistrate proposed bail for my future appearance, but Captain Brown said that he would take my father's word to produce me, as he knew he was an honest man, but said he was afraid his son was a rogue.

I remained in my father's about three weeks, keeping myself very quiet, when one morning two or three bulkies came in upon me when in bed, and told me that Captain Brown wanted me in the office. When I got there, I learnt that Kate Cameron was taken, and had snitched every thing. I was again put to the bar, and she was brought against me, but Mrs Kean had absconded. Kate was put upon oath, and examined by Mr Davidson the Sheriff. She swore that she saw



me cut the string, and carry out the lay, but when cross-questioned by me, I puzzled her so much, that the judge put no faith in her evidence, and I was only ordered to find bail. Mr Willison, an acquaintance of my father's, became surety for me that night.

This was about the middle of January, 1819. I lived quietly at home till the beginning of February, when one night going up the Cowgate, I met with George Bagrie, and another cove whom I did not know. Bagrie asked me what I was doing. I said, "Nothing!" Upon which he replied, "It is a pity such a good workman should be idle;" and asked me if I would accept of a gauge of budge, which I did; and after whidding over it about an hour, he asked me to take a walk and see what was doing. I said, "I will punsh outsidies with your nibs, but not with that gloach;" so we came out of the budging crib and parted with the stranger. Going up the Candlemaker Row, we observed a conish cove walking before us a little lushy. We agreed to en-



gage him, I for the blunt, and Bagrie for the tatler. Neither of us could obtain our object, till he entered a common stair near George's Square. I shirry'd up after him, and pulled the scout; he turned round and made a grab at me, when I took him a clip on the breadbasket, and levelled him. We immediately fenced the scout and chat at Billy Cook's for a few bobs.

Next day, Bagrie and I started for Musselburgh, and had a weighty lay of thaan that same evening, at the shop of Brown, a merchant-tailor there. About eight o'clock, taking the opportunity of nobody being in the shop, we both entered. I got inside of the counter, and concealed myself under it. Brown came from his back apartment, and Bagrie asked if he had any worsted stockings. He was shewn some; and he went out, saying he would call back in a little and buy a pair. Brown returned to his back shop, when I came from under the counter, and pick't out from the shelves two webs—one of blue, and one of green cloth, both superfine; a piece of grey, and a piece of black



cloth, containing a few yards each. Upon giving the agreed on signal, Bagrie came in, and I waddled out heavily loaded before Brown came in. Bagrie bought a pair of stockings, and came off. We carried our lay to Edinburgh, and hid it at the Dumbie-dykes. I slept all night at John Johnston's. I got up early next morning, went to where our plunder was lying, and cut enough from the web of green to make a greatcoat for a favourite girl of mine, who then lived in Johnston's. Her name was Mary Bell; she belonged to Ecclefechan. We fenced this valuable prize with Johnston for a few screaves. It was when we were very lushy, and I don't remember how much we got for it.

I had now again deserted my father's house, and, having involved myself in the society of the most abandoned of both sexes, I became very careless and shabby in my dress and appearance.

A few days after this adventure, Bagrie and I went into the house of a person named Rutherford, near the Potterrow, to get a dowie of ale, where he had



formerly seen a scout hanging in the room. When I saw it, I was resolved not to leave the room without it; it was fixed in a mahogany-stand. After taking our dowie, I put the whole under my greatcoat, and came off. We had not gone far at a very quick pace, when, having just taken the scout out of the case, a porter came bump against me. Some words took place, and I dashed the case at his head, and passed on.

Next night, Bagrie and I went into a budging crib in West Richmond-street. After being a considerable time in it, he observed to me that the till might be knapt; upon which I left the room, where Bagrie remained with some mixed company, and went into the fore-shop, which was fitted up as a coffee-room. Going out at the door, Bagrie called the woman of the house, kept her in gammon in the back-room, while I returned and brought off the till. There was only about sixteen bobs in it, and a few tannies; but the woman missing it immediately, she sent for the hornies, and had Bagrie taken



to the Bulkie Kain on suspicion. On being interrogated who was with him at Rutherford's, he owned it was *Haggart*; and I was apprehended in a house in the Canongate next day, and brought before Captain Brown; but they were unable to bring home the charge against me. Bagrie got clear; but I was detained upon another charge for striking a man, and knocking him down in his own house in the Calton. His name was Roohdie; he kept an eating-house. I had been at the Calton Jail visiting some acquaintances, and had drank pretty heartily with them. After leaving the jail, Johnston, Bagrie, Mary Bell, and myself, went to Roohdie's to get some pick. After having some budge, he brought us two routers putters, and left the room. I lifted up one of them, and looking at it, observed that the hair was scarcely off it, and that it was quite raw. Holding it in my hand, I rung the bell in a passion; he came in, and holding it up, I asked if that was fit for any person to eat? He said, "It is; what's the matter with it?" I imme-



diately struck him over the nose with it, which brought him down, and I kickt him in falling. We all left the house without paying him ; he rose the down, but we escaped. He gave information to the bulkies. He did not know my name ; but from description I was suspected. He was brought against me after the Court was over, and he identified me in a moment, notwithstanding both his oglers being darkened by the milvad with the putter. I denied the charge, and insisted on having his oath ; that was refused by Captain Brown, and Sheriff Davidson addressed me nearly as follows :—“ Haggart, you are a great scoundrel, and the best thing I can do for you, to make you a good boy, is to send you to Bridewell for sixty days, bread and water, and solitary confinement.” I was immediately removed from the bar, and conducted to my doleful cell

About ten days after, I was taken over to the Bulkie Kane, and put to the bar,



along with George Bagrie, on a charge for stealing the woman's watch at the Candlemaker-row. Bagrie had told every thing, for the purpose of being admitted evidence against me. However, it was thought that the proof was clear without him, and I got other sixty days in the Planting; he got sixty also. I succeeded in bothering the servant-girl of the house a good deal, and I really thought that the charge was not made out, and I gave the Sheriff and Captain Brown a good deal of lip. Bagrie was removed from the bar, and Captain Brown addressed me nearly as follows: "Now, Haggart, I know that four months in Bridewell, on bread and water, will kill you; I will give you a chance, if you'll accept of it. If you will tell to whom you sold the watch, you shall not put a foot within the door of it." I answered, "If I die there, you will be at the expence of burying me. I know nothing of what you mean; I will stand the punishment." I was sent back to the Planting, with a num-

ber of others, each of us in custody of a bulkie. Passing under the arch of the North Bridge, next the stables, a stabler came gaping towards me. When he got within my reach, I hit him a clip on the ear; upon which the bulkie struck me. I returned his blow, and he and I had a tight milvadering; but the other bulkies assisting, I was secured and safely lodged.

I remained four months in the Planting, without any thing remarkable occurring to me. I made shift to work little after the first three weeks, and got very gracious with the dub coves, on account of my being a quiet orderly prisoner. They used to trust me with the charge of the younger prisoners, to keep them at work. This I faithfully performed. I was not well liked as a master; for I kept them tightly at it. I had a rope for punishing them, and I never spared the use of it. I became popular among the prisoners as a manufacturer of tinder for lighting their pipes.

I was released on the 23d of July, 1819,



and went home to my father's house, where I lived quietly for about five weeks, when I got a good deal stouter, and could stand a brush. Taking a stroll through Leith, I met in with Alexander M'Bean, a Dunfermline lad, who had been for some time a baker in Edinburgh. He was a tolerable geach. I had known him for some time ; but got well acquainted with him in the Planting. We agreed to do something together, and thought that Leith was a pretty good place for a few adventures. We met in with Tom Wilson, alias Tommy Twenty, a mush toper feeker, and another cove, whose name I did not know ; and we played at flats in a budging crib, in the Shirra' Brae, till next morning. M'Bean and I cleared about ten bobs, after paying our whack. We took a walk to Portobello to refresh us, and, on our return, slept an hour or two among the Frigate whins. We took lodgings in the Kirkgate of Leith, where we remained about eight or ten days ; we did several petty jobs. My first



adventure was snibing seven screaves from a conish cove's keek cloy. We were on the pier, and saw him looking at a vessel coming into harbour; I got beside him, and the screaves being in the long fold, I sunk on the keek with my forks, and brought them up with me. Our second adventure was near the foot of the Easter Road, in a house near a wood-yard, upon the south side of the road leading to the foot of Leith Walk. M'Bean went in for a blink to his steamer, and jaum'd a scout on the chimney-piece. Upon getting this information, I said I would have her, although she was not worth three tannies. Into the crib I went, pretending to be very lushy, and asked the gudewife how her gudeman did? She said he was pretty well. I then lighted my steamer, and observed to her, that she had a pane of glass broken in her window, and if she choosed I would mend it. She asked me what I would take; I answered I would do it for a shilling; she said she would employ me, for she paid eighteenpence



for the last one. There was a smart little boy in the house, as quick as a monkey in a cage; he had his eye upon every thing. I gave him a tanner, and desired him to go for a gauge; while he was out, I measured the window, and nailed the scout; the woman and I took our budge. I then came off, promising to return next day to mend the window; but I had already done my job. We fenced the scout with a fellow named Alexander, an auctioneer and flash cove, who lived near the Green Tree, in Leith; he only gave us a few bobs for it.

Next morning, being about the 10th of September, we started for Perth on foot, and arrived late at night. We were accompanied by Walter Graham, a Perth man, who had a wife in Dundee, where he sometimes lived; he was a rum cove at the hoys, and did not stick much at doing any thing. We were overtaken at the Crossgates by William S<sup>utherland</sup>\*\*\*\*\* alias Doctor Black, alias Sailor Black and two flash blones, who had got a return chaise at North Queensferry. They

were going to attend Perth fair; they offered us a ride, which we refused, and making game of them, I said I would outwalk them, and, for a frolic, I started at the Crossgates, and beat them to Kinross.

The whole six of us put up at a house in the Meal Vennel, but I do not recollect the person's name. We remained in Perth two or three days, but did nothing of any consequence. I got a skin with eighteen bobs, which was all that was got among us.

The Doctor, Graham, and I, had a curious frolic at the fair. Graham had a barber's bill for 5d., made in imitation of a L.5 note. I accosted an Irishman who had a little prad for sale, for which he asked three screaves; I offered him fifty bobs, which he agreed to; the whole of us went into a budging cane, to pay the price, and have a gauge. Graham gave him the barber's bill, and Paddy returned three screaves; Graham went out for change. The Doctor went to take the



prad to the stable, and I remained with Pat, as they knew I could best get quit of him when proper; but Paddy got uneasy, and with all my skill, I failed to keep him in gammon. Out he went, and found the Doctor full mounted, bolting into a grocer's shop. Never having been on the top of a prad before, he allowed the animal to go where it pleased. By this time, Pat had found out his mistake, and told the Doctor it was a forgery. The grocer informed him it could not be a forgery, for it was a note of Urquhart the barber's for fivepence. The Doctor turned it all into joke; we gave Pat back his three screaves, and quized him for his simplicity. The whole of the first market day was spent with Pat, and in another frolic.

There were three boys to be coored through the voil next day; we were acquainted with one of them, a boy from Edinburgh. The other two were David Lunan and David Duncan, two well-known characters in the north country,



and now under sentence of lag for spunk. We went to jail to see the boy, and sweetened the toping cove with plenty of budge, and the Doctor and I threatened him, that, if he was severe upon them, we would darken him; upon which he gave us his hand, that he would not. We attended the cooring next day, where I got the eighteen bobs.

The following morning we all started for Aberdeen on foot, but left the two blones in Perth, and were accompanied by a fifth cove, named James M'Lauchlan. We got to Dundee the first day; next day to Arbroath; the third day to Bervie; and the fourth to Aberdeen. At Dundee I sunk into a cove's benjy cloy, and eased him of eight half ounces, and, at the same time, the Doctor eased him of a lil, with a few papers in it, and a small constable's baton.

When we arrived at Aberdeen, we all put up at the crib of Mr Sutherland, at Justice Port, and next day attended the race course. The Doctor and I keeping together, in two days we got nearly thir-



ty lils, and not so much as sweeten a grawler in the whole of them ; we planted them all in a corn stalk near the race ground.

We determined to snib no more lils, unless we could see the blunt planked in them, as it was of no use endangering ourselves for nothing.

On the Thursday evening of the races we went into the slangs, and, on seeing a conish cove ogling the yelpers, the Doctor eased him of his dross-scout, drag, and chats ; we then left the slangs. The Doctor and I ordered off the other three upon the hoys, and we walked about the streets. In one shop, they nabbed two mush-topers ; and, in another, some black sleek wipes : which was all that night's work. We fenced the dross-scout, drag, and chats, with Mary Kidd, alias Dougall, a well known flash-blone, who then resided at Dundee, and had gone to Aberdeen to follow after her business. She gave us six quids for the scout, and one quid for the wipes.

The following day we attended the

race ground, where I pulled a scout, and passed it to Graham, to go and plank. He went to the lodgings, and hid it in the draught-hole at the back of the grate. That very night a mason was employed to put in another grate, when the scout was discovered; and it was taken to Simon Grant, a bulkie. It was known, that there were several snibs in town, and he went immediately in search of us.

The Doctor, M'Lauchlan, M'Bean, and I, had been at the theatre in the evening, seeing the performance of Rob Roy; and, on coming out, we met two young blones, and took them to a flash kain kept by Mill, in the Guest Row. We had not been long there, when seven or eight bulkies came in upon us, and asked what we were doing there?

I answered, "That's a very foolish question; you see we are drinking toddy."

"Far de ye a' belang te," said he; "ye dinna belang te this town."

The Doctor replied, "Fat do ye say! Gude fath, I am sure I belang te it."



“Belang te far ye like, I maun search yere bodies.”

I jumped up, and bade him search me first; which he did, but found nothing on me. I did this to give the rest time to plank their blunt; and, after searching us, we were conveyed to a kind of bulkie kain, and afterwards to the quoad.

Graham was taken the same night, on going back seeking the watch; and we were all brought next day before one of the beeks for examination, and sent back to quoad.

In eight days afterwards we were tried before the Sheriff. Graham was found guilty of reset of the watch, he having declared, that he bought it from a man on the race-course; M'Bean, M'Laughlan, and Graham, were found guilty of the shoplifting of the mush-topers. They got half a stretch in the Planting; and the Doctor, alias James Gordon, and myself, got two months each, for being found among snibs.

The beek said, he was “sorry to see so

mony guid-looking lathies ga'en on the way we war ga'en."

I answered, " You old sinner, it does not appear so, when you are sending innocent people to Bridewell."

He returned, " Ye are the warst amang them a'; if I had ken't ye better, I wa'd hae gi'en ye a twalmonth."

The Doctor was very unwilling to go, but was secured at last; and we were all safely lodged.

The Doctor and I were released from the Planting on the 25th of November, when we started for Montrose, on our way to Edinburgh. We got to Montrose on a Saturday night, and put up at the crib of John Logan.

A packman, named Brown, was then stopping at Logan's. He came in late, and very lushy. The Doctor and he happened to quarrel, and were nearly fighting. I think the Doctor gave him one milvad, when I interferred, and hearkened to him, that we would do the swag cove in a far neater manner. The Doctor took the hint, and peace was restored.



We held a long consultation next day how we should do him, when we agreed upon a plan which was to be practised on Monday night; but, owing to that day being very wet, he did not take out his swag, but went to Fairy Den on some business. I, taking this opportunity, got into his room, and rumbled the swag of all the dross that was in it; but, before I could get out, the woman of the house came into the room, but I got under the bed unnoticed. She immediately raised the down that the swag was roused. The Doctor came from the kitchen, and played the part of the gammoner so well, that I made my escape without being observed. The Doctor soon followed me; and we set out immediately for Forfar, and got there about eight o'clock at night, having gone about twenty miles in three hours. Next day we went to Cupar Angus, and the following day to Perth, and put up in our old lodgings at the Meal Vennel, and determined to go no further without doing something. We went the same night of our arrival to a



merchant-tailor's shop, where the Doctor priced some vests; while he was doing so, I stuck my fam into a stretcher of thaan on a shelf behind me, and brought it to the ground by my side. I then said to the Doctor, "I must be going; will you call down, sir?"—"Stop," said he, "I'll go with you;" and turning to the shopman, said, "I'll call back,"—and off we came; I with the web on my shoulder, and the Doctor behind me, holding up an end which was hanging down. We went and plank't it on the Dundee road, and returning, we went to a hosier's shop to price some stockings. I nap't a bundle with twelve pairs. The whole voil was in an uproar, and all the suspicious characters belonging to it were searched.

We started next morning for Dundee, taking with us our swag. I performed the part of a swag cove through the Carse of Gowrie, where I disposed of most of the stockings. Having got to Dundee, we fenced the thaan to a broker and flash-cove, named James Davidson, who gave us four or five screaves for it. Next



day we left Dundee, and walked to Cupar-Fife, stop't all night, and got to Edinburgh next evening. This was about the beginning of December.

Next day we went to Leith, and took lodgings in the Broad Wynd, where we remained a few days without doing any thing. One night we walked up to Edinburgh, and went into a hatter's shop on the North Bridge, a little way below Weddel's corner. I priced a hat, and the Doctor was looking at it, when I saw the gentleman of the shop take a snuff from a very large silver box. I whidded to the Doctor, and he gave me gammon. The gentleman stretched across the counter to fit the hat upon my head, and I forked the box from his benjy cloy. I paid for the hat, and we came off. We fenced the box with Mary Kidd, alias Dougall, who had by this time removed from Dundee, and kept a flash-kain in Leith; but we only got a few bobs for it.

Our next depredation was on Leith-shore. One evening we met a cove, pretty lushy, and sounding him all over,



could find no blunt; so I nap't his scout, and left him. This was fenced to Alexander, at the Green-Tree, for about a screave; and the same night the Doctor and I parted.

Next night, the 25th of December, I entered a house at the south-east end of York-Place, opposite the chapel, where I got a scout, some wedge-feeders, and a pair of boots. I fenced the scout at the Green-Tree; but I do not recollect what became of the feeders, as I disposed of them when I was very lushy.

I did nothing else until the new-year's morning, when I was in Edinburgh, in company with Bill Forbes, alias Fleming, and David Brown; when, for my own share, I got five scouts, and a dross one; they were all taken principally on the North and South Bridges, and High Street.

I may mention the circumstances attending the taking of the dross scout. Three of us were going up the North Bridge arm in arm, when we saw a conish cove at the Post Office, with his back



to the wall, beset by a great number of geachs. He was a brave fellow, and was keeping the whole of them off with his mush toper. Forbes said, "There's a fellow playing a good stick—it won't be easy doing him."—"I'll do it," said I; and immediately putting myself in his position, and getting close by him, and beating off his assailants, I eased him of his scout, skin, and pen chive. The geachs, seeing me leave him, soon retired also, knowing that I would take all I could get before I went. I fenced my six scouts to a flash cove, named M'Kay, who lived in the Castle Hill, and got fourteen screaves for the whole, which, with the rest of my plunder that morning, came to about twenty-five screaves.

I remained in Edinburgh till the 18th of January, 1820, during which I committed various depredations, both there and in Leith, in the way of pocket-picking, and was that night apprehended on Leith Walk, on suspicion of some of them. I was taken to the Bulkie Kain, and, after being examined, nothing could



be brought out against me, but I was sent to the Lock-up-House, along with John Johnston, till I should find bail to keep the peace, as there were circumstances of strong suspicion against me. I remained there two days, when I found bail. I now associated myself with a girl called Jean Johnston, alias Carlisle, who had formerly been living with John Johnston, and had taken his name.

David Brown and Bill Forbes were at this time in the Lock-up-House, having been handed over to the Sheriff for stealing money in a budge kain; and being old comrades, I determined to get them out, if possible. Jean Johnston and I went to the Lock-up-House, and having plied the keeper with plenty of budge, I took the key, and let out six of the prisoners.

Next night I went to Leith, and, having tied a shop-door in St Bernard's street, knockt my hand through the window, and carried off a piece of silk. I planked it in Leith Links, but some per-



son had fallen in with it when I went back to look for it.

A few nights after I knockt my hand through Douglas's shop-window in the Kirkgate, and carried off a silk plaid, which I gave to Jean Johnston. At this time I also snibed a dross scout at the Tron Church, which I sold for nine screaves to an Irishman, named Ned the Thresher, alias Edward Shirwan, who lived in St Giles'-street, Leith.

My next depredation was one night in the Canongate, where I pulled a scout from a gentleman, which I fenced to Ned, the Thresher; and the night following I got no less than three scouts in the same street, which I also fenced to Ned.

I next hired lodgings in Cupar Street, and lived there with Jean Johnston about eight days. During my stay in Leith I committed the following crimes.—

On the 19th of February I stole various articles from the house of John Hay, shipowner, in the Links of Leith:



among others, I took a plated stand, and a greatcoat. On the 24th of the same month I carried off some plated goods, and a silver tea-pot, from the house of Mr Anderson, surgeon, Quality Street. From the house of William Forbes I carried off two flutes, and I did Mr Robert Dudgeon of an umbrella, and a brown greatcoat. My next attack was upon the house of Mr Longmore, in Warriston Crescent; but on this occasion I only got some clothes, and a silk scarf. From a house in Pilrig street I took away a scout, and a lady's mantle, and I also possessed myself by a thief-like trick of an upper tuig and keeks, the property of Mr Christie, merchant, in Charlotte Street.

On the 27th of February I bought two wedge table-feeders, and a small dross scout, for a few bobs, which I knew had been geached from the house of Mrs Campbell, in Thistle Street. On the following day, a lad Forest and I entered the house of Alexander Gray, in Bonnington-Place, by an open window, and we suc-



ceeded in carrying off on this occasion twelve wedge desert-feeders, eight wedge table-feeders, and some other small articles of the same description.

I generally entered the houses in Leith by forcing in the small window above the outer doors. This was an invention of my own, but it is now common, and I mention it to put families on their guard. It is for the same reason, that, in a former part of my narrative, I have described the methods of snibbing. By knowing how it is done, it becomes easy for a person to take the precautions necessary for the protection of his pockets.

In the course of these operations we removed to a lodging in a tenement close to the water-pipe in North-Leith, where we lived about a week ; and, lastly, we removed to a lodging in Johnston Street, North-Leith, where I was apprehended. On the forenoon of the 1st of March, while sitting in my lodgings with Forest, Captain Ross, of the Leith bulkies, and one of his men, came in upon us. Ross seized Forest, and carried



him off, leaving me in charge of the bulkie. When left by myself, the bulkie opened a bed-room door, and was looking into it, when I forced him in, shut the door upon him, and was running down stairs, when I met Ross returning with another bulkie. I struck at him, and he returning it, we got into grips, and we both lost our feet. I got hold of him by the neckcloth, and getting upon the top of him, I gave him a severe bruizing. During the whole of this struggle, the two bulkies were beating upon my head with their batons. I was at last overpowered, and carried to the Bulkie Kain, streaming all over with blood; and all the way going I struck at Ross whenever he came within my reach, and I got many severe blows in return. I cannot omit mentioning the humanity of Serjeant Thom. I had given one of them a blow, which a bulkie was in the act of returning with his baton, when the serjeant warded it off with his arm, which, I dare say, was nearly broken by it.

I was kept two days in the Police-of



fice, where I met Jean Johnston, who had been apprehended before me, and afterwards put into jail; during this time I underwent many tedious examinations, and was at last committed for trial. I lay in jail about two weeks, when I attempted my escape, but was unsuccessful, being overheard by a bulkie who was watching me all night. But on the evening of the 27th of March, having obtained a small file, I set to work and cut the darbies off my legs. I then, with the assistance of the irons, forced up my cell door, and got into a passage. I then set to work upon a very thick stone wall, through which I made a hole, and got into the stair-case just when twelve struck. I had still the outer wall to penetrate, but I fell to work, and wrought away with great care, lest I should be heard. While I was working at the wall, the bulkie came several times to the door, which was directly below where I was working. Having made considerable progress, I returned to the debtor's room, where Forest was, which was secured on the outside by a bar, and brought him to



my assistance. I also woke one of the debtors whom I knew, and asked him to assist me in taking off my hand-cuffs, having all along been working with them upon me ; and after great labour and violent pain, we succeeded in wrenching the chain in two pieces. I renewed my operations on the outer wall ; and having succeeded in removing a large stone, I got out a few minutes before five o'clock in the morning. When I gained the outside stair, I saw a man coming up Queen Street, and thinking it was a bulkie, I leap't over the back of the stair, but getting to the ground, I recollected that Forest had still to get out, and I prepared to give the man battle, lest he should attempt to seize him ; but he said to me, " Run, Haggart, run, I won't touch ye." When Forest came out, I took hold of his hand, and ran off at full speed pulling him with me. We went through Leith Links, past Lochend, and ran to Dalkeith without stopping. We remained there till night, and went upon the hoys, and got about twelve yards of superfine blue cloth ; we



started about two o'clock next morning, carrying our prize with us. We stopt that night at Kelso. There happened to be a show of cattle on our arrival, and I got into conversation with a farmer about some of the cattle; and, while thus engaged, Forest snib'd his lil from his tuig cloy. We got four screaves by this adventure. We remained another day, and then started for Dumfries. We got to Jedburgh in the evening, started next morning, and got to Langholm; remained a night there, and got to Dumfries on the market day. We were joined at Lockerby by two Irish snibs, named Tom M'Colgan and Felix Donolly. Poor M'Colgan suffered the last sentence of the law at Glasgow, with three others, in the month of November last, for house-breaking.

We attended the market, where I snib'd a lil containing three screaves, which was all my work that day. M'Colgan and I went next day to Dalbeattie fair, where I got fourteen screaves by two adventures not worth mentioning; one was a fork



from the keek cloy, the other from the suck. We returned to Dumfries in the evening, and remained there a few days, during which I got a skin or two, and two scouts at the door of the Circuit Court, which was then sitting. I fenced them to Graham, who resided at the Sands of Dumfries.

One evening, about eight o'clock, I entered the house of Mrs Christian Graham, and carried off one dozen wedge table-feeders, one dozen desert spoons, one dozen tea spoons, a soup divider, two sauce spoons, and one pair of sugar tongs, all of which I fenced to Graham, but never was paid for them.

Here I met with my old associate, Barney M'Guire, whom I had not seen since our parting at Kelso, in 1818. The whole snibs were pulled on the Saturday night after my arrival at Dumfries, and Barney and I determined to leave the town that night for Carlisle. Going to a tailor's shop where I had some clothes making, John Richardson pulled poor Barney when we were both entering the



door. He mistook Barney for me, as he had on my greatcoat. I started next morning for Carlisle in company with Graham, but had only got about six miles on the road when we were overtaken by four Dumfries bulkies, and I was taken back, after making a stout resistance. In a few days afterwards, Captain Ross arrived, and conveyed me back to Leith by the stage-coach. Poor Barney got a free passage to Botany Bay for fourteen stretch. He was a choice spirit, and a good friend to me. We spent many a joyous merry hour together, for I had no thought and no sorrow till I lost Barney.

I lately saw a silly story in an Edinburgh newspaper about my having played off some slight-of-hand tricks in the coach; but the story was so absurd and incredible, that it is scarcely worth while taking notice of it, any further than to say that it is quite untrue.

On my arrival at Leith I underwent an examination, and was finally committed to this jail, and indicted to stand trial before the High Court of Justiciary on the



12th of July, for one act of house-breaking, eleven acts of theft, and one act of prison-breaking. When the judge asked me, I said I was guilty, for I had no hopes of getting free. But they wanted to make me a little worse. So they brought witnesses, and then it turned out that I went into the house by an open window, and the jury cleared me of the house-breaking. They brought me in guilty of theft; but I fancy there was something wrong, for I was sent back to jail without getting any sentence. After lying there for some time, I was indicted to stand my trial at the next Dumfries Circuit, for the business in which I had been concerned there with Graham.

On the 6th of September I was removed in a chaise, accompanied by two bulkies, from Edinburgh jail to Peebles, where I was kept two days in the quoad. This was long enough for me to form a plan of escape, which nearly succeeded. The iron-frame of the window was only fixed with lime. After tearing up one of my blank-



ets, I tied one end of it to the window-bars, and the other to the door of my cell. I then got a short wooden-spoke off part of my bed, and commenced twisting the centre of the blanket. I could, in this way, soon have pulled in the window-frame, but the blankets were so rotten, that they broke as often as I have a purchase upon them. Being disappointed in my plans, I plastered up the lime which I had removed so neatly, that it was not observed by the turnkey. I wrapt part of the torn blanket round my body for future use, little dreaming of the awful purpose it was afterwards to be turned to.

I proceeded to Dumfries in a chaise, and, on the 11th of September, I was carried into court to be tried for reset of theft. For what reason I cannot tell, my trial did not go on, and I was sent back to quoad. There I became acquainted with a lad called ~~John~~ ~~Bar~~, who had just been sentenced to lag for seven stretch. We were frequently together in the *cage*. This is a sort of open-railed place, one story up in the side wall of the jail, where



the prisoners go for fresh air. Dunbar and I got very intimate. I thought him a fine little fellow, and to every appearance quite staunch; but I was cautious with him at first, for I had always admired an advice of my old and faithful pal Barney—"Keep your own secret; if you don't, nobody else will." I had got, during the short time I was in the jail of Dumfries, into the good graces of several decent-like people, who seemed to be interested about me. There was even a respectable young lady, who called frequently at the jail, and behaved kindly to me. There was also *a very respectable man*, who seemed willing to do me a kindness; so to try his sincerity, I handed him the plans of four dubs, as there happened to be four doors between me and my liberty. First the outer jiger, which opens from the yard of the quoad to the street. The quoad itself is one story down, and in the middle of the yard. At the foot of the stair up to the cells, there was a jiger; another in the middle of the stair, and a third at the top. The dub which opened this door,



also opened my cell door. I contrived to get a fiddle-stick for the purpose of cutting the back plate off the wooden door of my cell.

Having thus, as I thought, secured my liberty, by getting every thing ready for a start, in a way which none could prevent, I was too easily engaged in another scheme with Dunbar. As I considered myself safe, I did not care much whether we succeeded or not; but I thought it would be a fine thing to make a clean sweep of the quoad. My cell was opposite to Edward M'Grory's, who was then under sentence of death for robbery, and was afterwards hanged. Another prisoner, called Laurie, under sentence of lag for fourteen stretch, was in the cell next me. One night he asked me through the wall, "You who have been at jail-breaking before, how do you think this could be broke?" Upon which I, thinking that he was pumping me, said, "I don't think it could be broke at all;" although, at the same time, I knew to the contrary. Laurie then said that he would tell me his



plan, which was to get a stone, and tie it up in a wipe, and some morning, when we were all in the passage, to knock down Hunter, the head jailor, and take the dubs from him. To this I objected, saying, that if I should never get my liberty, I would not strike the serjeant for it, because I thought I could do the job in an easier and a better way. This was, some day, in the absence of Hunter, to gag Thomas Morrin, the turnkey, in a closet at the head of the stair, just opposite the cage-door, and take the dubs from him, and let the prisoners all out. Laurie, however, still insisted on getting in a stone, saying, that although I could gag Thomas, we had all the debtors in the yard to get through. I refused to get the stone, but told him to try Dunbar, and that I would do what I had formerly undertaken. Dunbar agreed; and, next day, when John Reid, a prisoner, was passing along the yard under the cage, he asked him for a stone to break a flint. As soon as Dunbar got the stone, he gave it to Laurie, who fixed it in the bottom of a bag, which



we had made for pulling up things from the yard, out of the piece of blanket I had brought from Peebles. The next thing to be done, was to cut the irons off M'Grory and Laurie. My fiddle-stick could have done this in a minute, but I was determined to keep it secret for my own purposes, in case we failed. I made, with the assistance of a small file, a saw out of a table-knife, which I had obtained from Matheson, alias Tom Pepper, a prisoner who had been lately released. I passed the chive to Laurie, and then to M'Grory; and, on the morning of Tuesday, the 10th of October, the blackest day of my life, I spoke through to both of them. I said, "How are things going to-day?" They answered, "Very well!" I then asked if it would do? when they both replied, "Yes."

About ten o'clock in the forenoon, Robert Simpson, another prisoner, was put into the cage along with Dunbar and me. Simpson was ignorant of our plans, but when we told him of them, although he was to be dismissed next day, he agreed



to join us, and said he would go along with me. To this I said nothing, for I was determined, if I escaped, to be off alone. After we had made Simpson as wise as ourselves, I observed Dunbar and him whispering in the corner of the cage. I could not hear what they were saying, but as I had been often deceived, and as I did not think Simpson much to be trusted, I thought they might be laying a plan to betray me. Matters went on quietly till about twelve o'clock, when we saw Hunter leave the quoad, and heard he had gone to the races. Soon after, Morrin brought in two ministers to visit M'Grory, and they were locked into the cells with him. When one o'clock came, although the ministers had not gone away, we thought longer delay dangerous, as we might not get such another chance—so we determined to proceed to business. I concealed myself in the closet at the head of the stair, where I had previously placed the bag with the stone. They were not in my hat when I left the cage, as was supposed on my trial.



Dunbar then called Morrin to come up and let out the ministers. He came up the stair accordingly with a plate of potatoe-soup for M'Grory. When he got to the top, he shut the cage-door. I then came out upon him from the closet, and the pushing open of the door knocked the plate out of his hand. I struck him one blow with the stone, dashed him down stairs, and, without the loss of a moment, pulled the dub of the outer jiger from his suck. I gave only one blow with the stone, and immediately threw it down. Dunbar picked it up, but I think no more blows were given, so that Morrin must have received his other wounds in falling. I observed Dunbar on the top of him, riffling his breast for the key, I suppose, which I had got. Simpson had a hold of Morrin's shoulders, and was beating his back upon the steps of the stair. I rushed past them, crossed the yard as steadily as I could, pulled the dub from my cloy, where I had concealed it, and opened the outer jiger. It was sworn upon my pater, that I had the dub in my fam when



I passed through the yard, but this neither is, nor could be true, for it would have let all the debtors see what I was about. Besides, I well remember, that upon getting to the top of the outer stair, I sunk into my cloys with both fams, not being sure, in my hurry, into which of them I had put the key. Some of the witnesses, on my trial, also said that I was bare-headed at this time, but this was not the case, for I had Dunbar's toper upon me.

On getting out at the jiger, I ran round the east corner of the jail-wall, and then walked rapidly along the back-street, and round a great part of the voil, till I came to the back of the King's Arms Inn. Dunbar made up to me, and at that very moment we saw a bulkie coming right up to meet us. On this we wheeled about and shirried; but Dunbar was pulled before he ran ten yards, and I had the mortification to see my fellow adventurer secured. I once thought of bolting among them to rescue him; but the mob was too great for me. I went up through the yard of the King's Arms without



meeting any body, crossed the High-street, and ran down the Vennel to the Nith. I kept along the water-side till I got away to the east of Cumlungan Wood, having run nearly ten miles in less than an hour. I then got upon the high road to Annan, when I saw a post-chaise at full gallop, almost within twenty yards of me. Upon this I dub'd my tuig, and leapt a hedge into a field, where some coves were rousting ronnies. They all joined the bulkies, who had got out of the chaise, in the pursuit of me. I crossed the field at a slapping pace, and made for Cumlungan Wood. I bolted over a very deep ditch covered with briars, and ran a few steps along the side of the hedge, for the purpose of making the bulkies think I was going into the wood. I then wheeled round, louted, and, when they went up the one side of the ditch, I shirried down the other; little did they know I was so near them—I could have breathed upon John Richardson as he passed me. In this way I came to the cross road which leads from the Nith to the



public road, and never did a fox double the hounds in better style.

I then made for Annan, and got through it before the dawn rose, and getting on a mile or two upon the Carlisle road, I went into a belt of planting close to a small farm town. Watching an opportunity, I dived into a hay-stack, and lay there all night and next day till two o'clock in the afternoon, when I heard a woman ask a boy if "that lad was taken that had broken out of Dumfries jail;" the boy answered "No, but the jailor died last night at ten o'clock." His words struck me to the soul; my heart died within me, and I was insensible for a good while; on coming to myself, I could scarcely believe I had heard them, for the possibility of poor Morrin's death had never entered into my mind. The woman and boy passed on. I came out of the stack, and resolved to proceed, whatever should be the consequence. I advanced upon the road, and would have given the world for a change of clothes. Seeing a scare-crow in a field, I went up,



undressed him, and marched on in the dress of a potatoe-bogle.

On the Wednesday night I slept in a hay-loft. In the morning a man came up to fill the horses racks, and was within a foot of me; but I was nicely plank't amongst the hay, and I heard all his conversation with a cove down in the stable without being observed. They had been talking about me before they came to the stable, for the first thing I heard was,—“He maun be a terrible fallow.”—The other said, “Ou, he's the awfu'st chield ever was; he has broken a' the jails in Scotland but Dumfries, and he's broken hit at last. 'Am sure I wish he may keep awa'—it will no bring back the man's life, and I ken his father.”

About eight o'clock in the morning I started from my place of concealment without being noticed, and proceeded on my weary way. I got to Carlisle on the Thursday evening, about ten o'clock, and went to Mrs Stubs's, in Riccargate; being told there that the whole veil was in an



uproar about me, I said she was quite mistaken, to suppose that my name was Haggart, and assured her that my name was really Barney M'Coul, by which name she formerly knew me. At length she prevailed on me to go out of the house along with her, to a friend of hers, as I was in danger to remain with her.

She conducted me accordingly to a very snug crib, where I got some victuals, which was the first time I had broken my fast since I left Dumfries. Next day I got a fresh dress, and also procured blones tuigs, in which I determined to prosecute the rest of my journey. I remained in Carlisle till Friday evening, when I started for Newcastle on foot, and got there on the Monday, having only entered one public-house all the time. I travelled through night, and lurked about plantings and wild places in day time; I took care to provide myself with a good stock of grub before I left Carlisle. In Newcastle I put up at the head of Sandgate, and remained there about twelve days,



and was dressed in coves tuigs all the time.

One day, another lad named Fleming, alias Yorkshire Bill, with whom I had formerly been acquainted, went with me to the market, and seeing an old conish cove with a rum lil in his suck, we determined to have it. Bill crossed him and undubed his tuig, I followed, and touched his lil with my forks, which Bill had raised from the bottom, brought it with me, and proceeded through the market. We got twenty-two screaves by this adventure, which we whacked.

Next evening, coming out of a house in Corn-market for the purpose of going to the theatre, I espied my old friend John Richardson, and so close was he upon me, that the cape of my top tuig touched his shoulder; he passed on however, without noticing me. I said to Bill, "Do you see that cove there? that's one of the bulkies from Dumfries, wanting to clap the nippers on me, but I think we will cheat him."



I immediately determined to return to Scotland, as I knew they would never suspect me of going there, where I was so well known. I had no hesitation in telling Bill that I was so closely pursued, as he himself had broke several jails in Scotland, and was one of the six whom I assisted at releasing from the Lock-up-house at Edinburgh.

I walked out of the town upon the Scotch road, with a bundle in my hand, containing my blone and cove's tuigs, and the Berwick coach soon overtaking me, I got outside of it, and arrived at Berwick without molestation.

I remained in Berwick about a week, during which time I attended the arrivals of the Edinburgh coaches, to look out for bulkies. On one of these occasions, observing a passenger pull a skin from his keek cloy to pay the guard and driver, and put it in again, I sunk upon it with my forks, and brought it with me; I got eighteen screaves, some smash, and a tanner, by this adventure.

Next day I took the coach for Edin-



burgh, but only went to Dunbar in it—remained there all night, and the following morning took an inside seat to Edinburgh. There was just another person in the coach, whom I intended to do; we got very intimate, and I really found him such a fine fellow, that although I had the best of opportunities, I could not bring my mind to it. I told him I was a stranger, and was at a loss where to put up in Edinburgh; he said he had been in Edinburgh several times—that he always put up at the Lord Duncan Tavern, in the Canongate, and would recommend me to go with him. Little did he know that I knew the place well; many a scout I have snibbed at the door of it, and run through the back entry to John-Street.

I lived along with my friend Mr Wipers, or Wipers, (for that was his name,) two days; he frequently asked me to walk out with him, and to go to the theatre, but I always pretended to be unwell. The last night we were together, he insisted on my accompanying him on a



spree, and we spent two or three hours at Mrs M'Kiunon's, on the South Bridge. I said I was obliged to proceed to Glasgow, and next morning after breakfast he parted with his light fingered friend, whom he knew by the name of Mr John Wilson. I marched down in open daylight to Jock's Lodge, with my portman-teau in my hand.

I remained there with an acquaintance for some days, keeping close within doors through the day, and taking a walk at darky, disguised in blones tuigs; I visited several of my acquaintances, and among the rest I saw my poor father, but did not let him know where I lived, or what my plans were.

One night, when dressed in my own clothes, I ventured from Portobello towards Leith in the darkening. When I got the length of the baths, I saw Captain Ross of the Leith police within ten yards of me—my eyes and his met each other, my heart shrunk for a moment, but it was for a moment only, for, mustering up my pluck, I plunged my fam into my



suck, as if for a pop. The cautious Captain, who knew me too well before to engage me while alone, took to his heels, and in a minute I followed his example, but not in the same direction, for, taking the fields, I cut across to Jock's Lodge, and got under cover for the night.

During my stay at Jock's Lodge, I was in Leith or Edinburgh every night. I had some wedge planked in a garret in North Leith, at the top of a stair near the well, where I formerly lived—I was anxious to convert it into Blunt. The articles consisted of feeders, and other trifles, principally the property of a cork-manufacturer. On getting to the top of the stair, to my disappointment there was a padlock upon the garret jigger; I wheep't out my chive, broke it up, and picked the padlock with the back-spring. I flashed the wedge to Mrs Dougall for three quids.

I made up my mind, first, to go to the north of Scotland, and then take a tour to the west, and so go to Ireland. During my short stay in and about Edin-



burgh, I got acquainted with a geach, named William Thomson; I thought I would be no worse of having a pal to accompany me across the water. His aim was to journey with me, but I only took him to serve my turn, intending to quit him soon. I knew nothing of his pluck, and determined to trust little to his honesty. We got a passage in a fishing-boat from Fisherrow, landed at Siller-Dykes, near Anstruther, and walked on through St Andrews, and then to Cupar-Fife, where we stopt all night. Next day we proceeded to Dundee, and on the road we met with a greyhound coursing match; we joined amongst them, and had not been long there till I snib'd a cove of his scout, and then proceeded to Dundee, where we arrived that evening. Next day I gave Thomson the slip, took lodgings in the Nether-Gate, and in the evening procured a suit of sailor's clothes. I began to think, that I must do something in the way of my business. Passing a jeweller's window, I observed two dross-



scouts hanging amongst a number of wedge ones ; I knock't my fam through the window, and brought the two dross ones with me. I had a severe shirry for them, but I outran the whole. I immediately got to my lodgings, put on my white top tuig above my sailor's clothes, and returned to the crowd, which had by this time surrounded the jeweller's shop to lament his loss. But, before long, some of them had as good reason to lament their own, for I had not been among them three minutes, when I got eighteen quids, good British Linen boys, and a scout. I crossed the river Tay that evening, and walked to Cupar-Fife, where I arrived very early next morning, and waited the coach for Kinghorn. I alighted at Kirkcaldy, and swawp't one of the dross-scouts for ten quids and a silver one. Next day I walked to Burntisland, cross't to Newhaven, and walked to Edinburgh in the evening, leaving my clothes at Newhaven.

When I got to Edinburgh, I began to reflect why I had come back again to a



place which was the scene of all my earliest bad habits, and where danger was most to be dreaded, as I knew there was a price upon my head. These reflections running in my head, I thought I would take a night's spree, and leave the town early next morning for ever. I accordingly went back to Newhaven about three o'clock next morning, and stopt within doors all day; but I could not keep myself from Edinburgh, and, taking my clothes with me, went there in the afternoon. On getting to Edinburgh, the first thing that struck my eye, was a bill posted up, offering a reward of seventy guineas for my apprehension; the folly of my persisting to haunt a place where I was so well known struck me afresh, and I walked to Leith, and got into a boat, which was setting sail for Kinghorn. I slept in Kinghorn all night, and next day took the coach to Dundee water side, crossed the water, slept all night in Dundee, and next night, or rather morning, took the coach for Perth, where I remained for about a week, and put up



at David Taylor's, in South-street. During my stay in Perth, there was an illumination for the Queen's acquittal, at which I played a noble stick, having got four wedge scouts and a dross one, and thirteen screaves, in a lil which I fork't from a suck. I took four of the scouts from shopkeepers who were standing at their own doors. Never was there such a down in a veil. Next day I started for Dunkeld, along with James Sutherland, alias Barnard M'Shain, to attend a fair, where I forked nine screaves from a farmer's benjy cloy, and returned to Perth that evening. Next morning I hired a gig for Dundee, and took with me Laurence Fiscan, a Perth man, who put up at the same house with me; and, after doing my business there, I returned next morning, and brought back Fiscan with me. In Dundee I napt three dozen of table-feeders out of a gentleman's lobby press, which I fenced in Dundee to James Davidson, a flash cove. Fiscan did not know from me what I was about; he was none of my kind himself, not for want of



inclination, but he had no pluck. He made a great outcry of poverty to me, and I gave him four screaves at different times; and, in return, he gave information to the bulkies against me, saying, that I was one of the most notorious pick-pockets in the kingdom; it was lucky he did not know my name too.

The day following, I went to Kenmore fair on horseback, accompanied by James Edgy, a well-known snib in Belfast, where we got thirty-nine screaves in one adventure, from a Highland farmer. Edgy kept him in gammon, bargaining for some sheep, while I link't the blunt from his keek cloy.

We returned to Perth in the evening; and next day, Edgy and I took a gig to Cupar-Fife to attend the fair, where we arrived in the afternoon, and immediately went upon the ground. We observed the fair swarming with snibs and geachs of every description; we thought that nothing could be done, and going to the slangs for amusement, I spied a cove with a silk lil; I made several attempts in the



slang to snib it, Edgy giving me the best of gammon, but the cove was too knowing for me. On coming out of the slang, I determined to have a dive; I got my forks in the cloy, when he pushed me off, but having fork't the bit, I hit him with my whip, which brought him down, and I got clear off with twenty three screaves. The same night we started for Perth, and got there next morning; remained all day, and went to Dundee with M'Shain by the coach, and next morning attended the fair, where Edgy got eighteen screaves.

The boys being quite done up with fatigue, I advised them to return to Perth, and I went by myself to Arbroath fair, which was held next day. There I met in with two Edinburgh snibs, who were hard up; they came to me to borrow a few bobs, when, looking round, I saw a bulky at our backs surveying us; I immediately desired the boys to go to the stable, and do up the horses; on which the bulkie walked off, but shortly after one of them was taken in the act of snib-



ing a cove, and a sharp eye was kept upon me all day by the bulkies. But towards evening I got a touch at a cove's suck, and eased him of twenty-two quids and a lil, which I took in the usual manner, when he was entering the inn door.

I did not think myself safe to remain in Arbroath all night, and started immediately on the Perth road; and, on getting to the first toll-bar, I waited the coming up of the Perth coach, and went inside to Perth. On my arrival I offered to pay my fare to the guard; he was busied giving out the luggage, and told me to step into the inn for a few minutes. It was early in the morning, and very dark and rainy, so I stept away to my lodgings, leaving the guard to look out for me if he could.

The evening after my arrival, I was sitting in my lodgings with a dear acquaintance, and my pal, James Edgy, when two bulkies came in upon us. I said, "Gentlemen, you are in a mistake;" and, at the same time, I rung the bell, and



Mr Taylor came in ; I addressed him, " Shew these gentlemen into a room ;" upon which one of them said, " Oh, no, it's you we want." I very unconcernedly said, " Well, what's your demand ?" he then said, " What's your name ?"— " That's a very rude question to ask of any gentleman." Upon which he became insolent. I then asked him his name, but he refused to tell me. I then turned to the landlord, and asked if he knew him ; he replied, that he was an insolent fellow, a policeman of the town. Upon this I told him I would call to-morrow, and acquaint the magistrates of his conduct, and told them both, if they did not be off, I would apply my horse-whip to them. They left the room, but judging they would soon return, I was anxious to get my fair friend out of the house, and I immediately conveyed her home.

On my return, I said to my pal, that we might expect a fresh assortment every minute ; and arrive they did, ere many minutes elapsed. One of them came into



the room ; I said, " You are there again, you scoundrel." He then held out his baton, and said, " That we must go before the magistrates." I said I had no objections, and rung the bell, and called for my great-coat, saying, " Bring my great-coat from your room, Mr Taylor." But just as he was retiring, I bounced up, saying, " Oh, I believe it's in my own bed-room, I'll get it myself;" and retiring by the back-door, I made off as fast as I could, to the mortification of the bulkie, and surprise of my landlord, who had often before entrusted me with the keys of his drawers, and every thing in his house. I used to see his money lying in his drawers, when entrusted with his keys to take out a pack of cards. I also made out my own bills, and never wronged him out of a tannie.

Being thus deprived of my lodgings, I went to one of the most profligate houses in the town, where I slept all night, and remained most of next day. In the evening, I went back to Mr Taylor's, where I found him and his wife in tears on my



account. Next morning, Edgy and I started for Glammis fair; Edgy on the coach, and I on horseback. We stopt all night at Meigle, and next morning we were betimes upon the ground. We examined the appearance of the fair, and could easily observe there were plenty more of our own profession. We remained the whole day without being able to do any thing. Towards evening I spied a farmer plank a rum lay of screaves in his keek cloy, and I determined to have them if possible. I soon after saw him mount his prad, and watching the way he went, I immediately got my prad, and followed him, accompanied by Edgy mounted behind me, and a snib, named Smith, on foot. On getting up with the farmer, we found that other two had joined him. Smith objected to make an attack; Edgy joined him, and endeavoured to prevail upon me to give up the enterprize; and, seizing the bridle, turned my prad round several times. All would not do, I determined to follow out my attempt, and they seeing that their entreaties were in



vain, returned, calling me an obstinate fool. Having parted with these cowards, I followed up my prey, and I soon observed my man stop to water his horse at a small burn; I got along side of him, and very unceremoniously plunged into his keek cloy, and brought the blunt with me, and, before he had time to challenge me, I hit him a very smart blow over the head with the butt end of my whip, which set him off at full gallop, and I at no less. I soon overtook the trembling cowards who forsook me, and flashing the screaves in their face, rode past them. I pushed on to Dundee, where I arrived in about an hour and a half; next day I returned to Perth, and, to my surprise, I found Edgy there before me.

I afterwards learned, that the person's name on whom I committed this highway robbery was Andrew Allan, but I cannot be positive. I got twenty-eight screaves in this enterprize. I have also heard, that two men were pulled in the neighbourhood accused of this robbery,



and lodged in Forfar jail; but they are truly innocent of it.

I returned my prad, and paid the hire; settled my account with Mr Taylor, and told him I was going out of town; but I remained in the house of one Robertson in the Water-gate four days. During this time I got forty-five screaves at one adventure at the market. I forked it from the suck in the usual way. The bulkies were pulling the snibs like fishermen with a net. Among the rest I saw my old friend, who was so young as allow me to give him the double, on pretence of going for my great-coat. He pulled a snib from my very side.

Next morning Edgy and I took the coach for Glasgow, and arrived there in the evening. We put up at the house of Robert Lemons, in the High Street, where we remained four days. We were very quiet, and did nothing.

We made up our minds to go to Ireland. We sent our Peters on board the Rob Roy steam-boat, and Edgy embarked at the Broomielaw; but I started in



the night, and wandered along the Clyde the length of Erskine Ferry, where I waited the steam-boat. I had not been long on board, when I saw a gentleman named ———, who was a debtor in Edinburgh jail when I was there. I do not think he saw me, for there were a great many passengers, and I kept in the bow of the boat keeping a good look out. I also gave one of the sailors two shillings for the use of his crib, where I concealed myself occasionally.

On one occasion, when I was sitting in the fore-cabin, a gentleman came below, looked at the whole passengers closely, and then fixed his eyes on me. He soon after went on shore at Lamlash. I suspected something bad, and was all prepared to leap overboard. The night was dark, and I thought that this would be the best mode of escape.

After remaining off Lamlash a considerable time, the boat got under way, leaving the gentleman behind, whom I afterwards heard was Provost Fergus of Kirkaldy. They tell me, he wrote about



me to Dumfries. It was well for me I did not know his suspicions at the time, for he went on shore in black night, and I could too easily have put him under the wave.

Some accident having happened to the engine, we put into Campbelltown, where we remained two days, budging the whole time, and arrived at Belfast about the 30th of November. Edgy and I made a ramble over the whole voil for two days, during which we were never sober.

Edgy was well known in Belfast, and was pulled for some old offence. Being left by myself, I went to attend Lisburne market, and commenced my first operations upon Irish ground. I had not been long in the market till I could observe how freely the Irish boys dashed about their blunt, although they are the worst in the world at parting with it upon my terms; for when a snib is caught in the attempt, they practise his own profession upon him. They strip him of all his blunt, and even clothes, and batter his brains like a pigeon-house door, and



trouble themselves no farther about him. But for all this, Paddyland is the land for pickpockets; lots of money, oceans of drink, and knocking down pell-mell even on;—then is the time to work away at the business. England is too much hunted, and there is no money in Scotland.

My first attempt was upon a pig-drover. I observed him have a lay of quids in his keek, and, going along side of him, I priced a pig; he said, “Three pound ten, and not a ha’penny less.” I offered him L.2, 10s., and at the same time forked the blunt; he refused my offer, and I left him nine screaves the worse of our encounter.

I returned to Belfast in the evening, by the coach from Dublin, and remained there to attend the market, which was to be held in three days. I had got acquainted with a corporal of a recruiting party; I met him at the market, and he asked me to a noggin with him. We went into a budging kain in North Street and were put into a room where a lushy cove lay upon the sofa. I shook him, and



asked him to get up; doing this, my forks entered his keek cloy, and brought with them a small parcel of screaves; but the man of war did not observe this part of my performance. We drank our budge and came off: I found myself five quids the better of it. I went back to the market, where I got two thirty bob screaves, a half dross quid, a six bob bit, three jumpers, and a kid's eye, all in one skin, which I forked out of a keek cloy. I next linked a skin with half a dozen six bob bits, and a three jumper bit, which concluded that day's work.

Next morning I took the coach for Drummore, and attended the market there. I snibbed a lil from a conish cove's suck, but I only found some letters in it. I threw it away; and I afterwards heard, that there was a one hundred pound screave inclosed in one of the letters, the lil having been found, and returned to its owner.

I returned to Belfast, where I remained a week principally engaged in card playing; but I found the boys were very



expert, and the first day or two I lost about nine screaves. I soon, however, got into their way of playing; and a dancing teacher, named Robert Kain, and I, used to make very well out at the flats.

I attended the next market at Drummore, accompanied by John Mullen and John R——, two Belfast snibs; but the day being very wet, we could do nothing till towards evening. Mullen and I accosted a horse-dealer, pretending to buy a prad. I priced it, and Mullen kept him in gammon as to its age, while I undubbed two tuigs and a bengy, and got the lil to the mouth of the suck, when he up with his whip, and struck me. I returned the blow with my whip, Mullen joined, a terrible milvadering took place, and the prad cove finding himself worsted, made off.—Mullen was pulled a few minutes afterwards upon suspicion, for another affair of his own.

When I first arrived at Belfast from Scotland, I saw Robert Platt, who had been confined in Dumfries jail while I was there. He happened to be attending



Drummore market that day, and was pulled for thieving; and, with the view of getting his liberty, gave information, that he had seen Haggart, the murderer, from Scotland, at the market that day. The bulkies, dazzled with the expectation of the reward for taking me, pulled every one they had the smallest suspicion of; and, while I was sitting in a public-house, several bulkies came in, and pulled two lads who were sitting next box to me. Little did I dream what they were after. In a few minutes after this I saw Platt peep in at the room door, and instantly four bulkies sprang upon me, and dragged me before a magistrate.

The first question was, "What is your name?"

I answered, in high Tipperara, "Why, sure, and its John M'Colgan."

One of the bulkies said, "Och! we're mistaken."

The magistrate continued, "Where are you from?"

"Why, sure, plase your honour, I am from Armagh."



“What place there?”

“Why, sure, the town.”

“What part of the town?”

“Right opposite the market-house.”

He then cross-examined me; and handing me the Dublin paper, called the *Hue and Cry*, pointing to a paragraph with a description of my person, and an offer of reward for me, asked, if that was not my name?

I said, I had told my name; if he was not pleased with it he might let it alone.

He then informed me, I must be detained.

I answered, that I had no objection to be detained, if I knew what it was for.

He said, it was on account of the paragraph he had shewn me.

“Sure, sir,” said I, “that’s a Scotchman. I never was in Scotland in my life; but if you detain me, it will be at your own expence.”

He then ordered three yeomen to sit up with me all night, along with the bulkies, in the Court-room; and retired, after having witnessed a strict search of



my person. Nothing was got upon me but a 30s. note, and some silver.

I now thought that all was over with me, and determined to make a desperate struggle to gain my liberty, or perish in the attempt. I plied the yeomen and bulkies with plenty of budge, and they were very civil to me. About eleven o'clock at night, I prevailed upon them to allow an acquaintance to bring me some supper. When the young woman came, I asked leave to speak to her for a minute behind the boxes in the court, where there was a large window: They granted me my request; and taking a Harlequin leap, I bolted right through the window, and lighted upon the street, without being either cut by the glass or hurt by the fall. I crossed the street to an opposite entry, and immediately saw the whole of my keepers below the window staring at each other, not knowing what to do. At last, one of them said, "By jappers, we were tould he was the boy." Another said, "Arra, he's the broth of a boy, but we'll follow him yet." They all went off, and



I took the road for Belfast, and soon got there, having run fifteen Irish miles in two hours and a quarter. I kept close next day, and the following morning I took the coach for Newry, passing through Drummore on my way.

I arrived in Newry about mid-day, and the same evening I eased a cove of five screaves from his benjy cloy. I remained there two days, and proceeded to Dundalk by the coach; from there to Armagh, where I remained about a week, and spent Christmas-day. During my stay at Armagh, I got seventeen screaves by one adventure, which I took in the usual manner one evening in the street, from a keek-cloy.

I returned to Dundalk on the 30th of December, and remained a few days, but did nothing. I then started for Drogheda, stopt a night there, and next day went to Dublin, being the 5th of January 1821. I remained in Dublin about two weeks, putting up at Flannigan's in Mary's Lane, a respectable house. I got nothing of any consequence. I might have snib'd



plenty of scouts, but I did not know a single flash cove in the whole city.

I went down to the Pigeon-House, where I paid L.3, 10s. for a passage to America. But, ill-luck betide me! I changed my mind, and lost my passage rather than cross the Atlantic. Soon after, I met a snib named O'Brien, with whom I had got acquainted in Dublin at a gambling-house in Mary's Lane, kept by Reilly. We agreed to go in company; and, after taking a budge, we parted for an hour, and I went to take a walk upon the quay. I saw a lay of coves looking at some horses coming out of a vessel that had arrived from England. I looked on also, and observed a cove examining the prads, and wanting to buy one. He was a *real karacter*. He was drest in a short gray duffle coat, with the tails half torn off; a pair of knee keeks, the same colour; a straw tile on his head; a straw-rope round his waist, one round each knee, and one round each putter; and a sprig of the mother of the sloe in his fam.—His whole dress was not worth



a jumper. To my surprise, I heard him offer eighteen quids for a prad ; and I began to think what part about this fabric the blunt should be. He was bustling about, which gave me a good opportunity to sound him ; but I could find no appearance either in the keeks or the suck. At last, passing behind him, I touched a greasy twig cloy, which hung behind unprotected by the frail duffle, which had given way to the rough hand of time. It felt hard, and without difficulty I sprung a skin, which I emptied into my cloy and flung away. I had the ill-luck to be born left-handed, and with thieves' fingers ; for my forks are equally long, and they never failed me. I soon after met O'Brien, and told him I would give him a gauge off a few jumpers I had got. On putting my fam into my cloy to pay our budge, to my surprise I pulled out some dross quids. I did not tell O'Brien of it ; but, upon getting out of the house, we heard the down, and I was informed by the people on the streets, that a person had got his pocket pickt of ninety-five guineas



in gold. I had then a good guess that I must have been the depredator. O'Brien said, that's a good stake, whoever has got it. I said nothing, and we returned to Dublin in a jaunting-car. We remained in Dublin about ten days, and one evening got fifty-four screaves at the theatre-door. O'Brien felt the swell in the suck when he was walking down Dame Street, and we followed the cove till he got to the theatre. O'Brien acted the part of a bulkie, and seized him by the collar, and I immediately snib'd the lil from his suck. O'Brien asked his pardon, and said he was not the person he thought, and came off. We went to our lodgings and staid within doors all night, and for some time after. In the course of two or three days, we got newly tuiged, and, in company with two blones, we hired a jaunting car, and a boy to drive us, and took a tour through the counties of Farmanach, Caven, and Derry. We were a full month on our excursion, during which we spent upwards of L.190.

I may mention a curious adventure



which happened to me in the town of Derry. I went to attend a cock-fight—and when in the pit, I saw a cove taking bets with every one, two to one. He appeared to gain every bet he took, and was quite uplifted with success. Getting alongside of him, and thinking I was unobserved, I eased him first of his lil, next of his skin, and lastly of his scout. On moving round the pit, a gentleman accosted me, and said, “You are the Switcher! Some take all, but you leave nothing.”—I answered, “If I had left him a halfpenny, he would have gained all the money in the pit in the twinkling of a bed-post.”—He replied, “I believe it is true, for he has got all mine,—or at least you have it now.” I immediately left the pit, and heard no more about it. I got L.26 in all by this affair. O’Brien witnessed the whole conversation, and I never got another name from him after but the Switcher.

During our excursion, we were obliged to hire a fresh prad at a small village in the county of Caven, and we drove a tan-



dem for part of our journey, and returned to Dublin in the same style.

About ten days afterwards I started for King's County on foot, by myself, my blunt being much reduced, and left my clothes in Dublin. I went to Mullingar, a famous cattle-market, where I remained about a week, and attended the market one day, and had a very curious adventure. I had not been long on the ground, when I observed a deeker keeping a close look-out after me. I was looking on at a wheel-of-fortune table, and, thinking the deeker did not see me, I attempted to fork the cloy of a conish cove, who was also looking on. I was behind him, and, leaning on his shoulder with one fam, I brought out the blunt with the other, and walked away; but hardly got ten paces, when up came the cove and the deeker. The cove accosted me with, "You have pickt my pocket, sir." I denied it, and said he was extremely welcome to search me if he pleased. I was searched, and he acknowledged that I had none of his money; at the



same time a bulkie coming up, he asked what was the matter. The cove said, "This lad has pickt my pocket." The bulkie asked if he had any proof of it. Touching the deeker on the shoulder, he replied, "This lad saw him do it." On which the bulkie said, I rather think it must have been himself or his associates. Having explained that I had been searched, and nothing of his found upon me, and having asserted my innocence in strong terms, they instantly collared the deeker, and searched him from top to toe. Without giving him time to put on his clothes, they gave him a terrible milvadering, in which I and the bulkie assisted.

After this affray, I asked the bulkie to go and take a noggin with me, at which he did not hesitate. Whidding over our budge, the bulkie and I got very gracious. He told me he knew that I had the blunt; and he only wanted to give the deeker a milvadering, as he was a complete geach and squeal. The bulkie and I kept budging all night, and I gave him two screaves, and cleared scores. I



got about thirteen screaves by this adventure ;—it was plankt in the palm of my fam during the search.

I started next morning for Tullamore on foot, and arrived at night. A fair was held the following day, at which I attended, and very soon forked seven screaves from a keek cloy. Towards afternoon, I observed a pig-drover put a lay of screaves into his keek cloy. I priced a pig, and, of course, we could not agree ; but during our discourse I forked the blunt, and I went off, and planked the whole of that day's snibing into the neck of my tuig. About an hour afterwards, while walking through the market-place, I got a bat on the ear with a shillelah, which brought me to the ground. Getting up, and looking round me, I asked who had done it. The pig-drover, flourishing his sprig, said, " By jappers, it was me, my boy ; you have taken my *munny* from me."—" By jappers, you're a liar ; but here's at you ;" and at the same time I levelled him in return. I let him up, and he became quieter when he found whom he had to



deal with. I asked him again for what he struck me. He then charged me with the theft in presence of a number of people. I asked him if he would know his own notes: he said he would; upon which I turned out the whole of my blunt into a gentleman's hand, and desired him to look at it there, and see if he could find any of his amongst it. He looked, and said there was not. I then insisted upon being searched; the gentleman said he would not allow me to be searched there, as I had the appearance of a gentleman, and proposed going to a house. We went accordingly, and nothing was found upon me. I then insisted on taking the pig drover before a magistrate, and put him in charge of two bulkies, the gentleman going arm in arm with me, to bear witness before the magistrate how ill I had been used. The judge heard the case: he said that the pig drover was liable to punishment, but recommended me to withdraw my complaint, as it was evident my ill usage had arisen from mistake; that he knew him to be an honest



man, and he had been a great loser already. I assured the judge that it was not money I wanted; I only wished to shew the man his error, and prove my own honesty. I left it to the gentleman to say what I should do, as he had seen the whole affair. He recommended me to accept of an apology, which I did, after giving the man of pigs a severe reprimand. An apology was made,—I declared myself satisfied,—bowed to the judge, and retired.

I started next morning for Dublin with two gentlemen who had been putting up at the same house with me, and, hiring a jaunting car, we got there next day, having stopt a night on the road.

I remained three days in Dublin, when I met with O'Brien and the blones, and spent a riotous time of it. I then took the coach for Dundalk, and arrived in the afternoon, and remained there two days. The day after my arrival being the first Sunday before St Patrick's day, I went, in company with another lad, a small distance from town, where I was told I



would see the sprig handled with life at a public house, which was a great resort of the lovers of shamrock and whisky. The sport seemed pleasant enough, until I was challenged by one of the boys. I told him I had not come for the purpose of flourishing my sprig; upon which the leader of the ring told me, he never saw an Irish boy he could call his countryman who would refuse it. The landlord backing me, hearkened that he was no great shakes at the sprig. This was all blarney to me. I was too old for him, and, besides, I had never handled a sprig in my life; but, rather than be thought a coward, I at once challenged him to box me a round. He accepted the challenge, and we stript. We had several hard rounds, at which he went to the ground every time. I was only down once. I battered him round the whole ring till he gave in. His brother, a much stouter fellow, leapt into the ring, and challenged me. I was ready for him, although a little exhausted. The master of the ring would not allow it, but said that he had



given a challenge himself, and would take him up; and, on his refusing, he was kicked out of the ring.

I had a drinking match with the boys, which was harder upon me than the fight, every one insisting upon drinking a glass with me. A match was made between myself and another boy, the master of the ring backing me, as I was a namesake of his own. I returned, however, to Dundalk next morning, but never made my appearance to fight the match.

I started for Newry in the afternoon of Monday, and got there in the evening, where I remained a few days, during which St Patrick's day was celebrated.

In the evening of that day I went to a gambling-house, accompanied by a blone, where there were a number of coves playing flats, some of whom we knew. We took a fam, and came off gainers of about three screaves. I had observed a cove with a good swell in his suck. When I saw him begin to move off, I left the house, and, on his coming out at the door, I eased him of the lil. On examining it, it



only contained two quids. He went some distance before he missed it, and returned to the house, and challenged one of the coves he had been playing with. The fellow denied it, but he was pulled, and I came off, unsuspected, with my blone.

I left Newry next day on foot by myself, with the intention of going to Belfast, to take shipping for France. I got the length of Castle William, where, unfortunately for myself, I heard of a fair to be held next day at Clough, about six or eight miles distance. I resolved to attend, and practice my profession for the last time in the British dominions. It was the last time indeed. I accordingly repaired to the ground, and had not been long there, when I observed a pig drover planking a lay of screaves in his keek cloy. I priced one of his pigs, but, as usual, we could not make a bargain; but, having got an opportunity, I forked the blunt, and left him, and had just got time to plank the screaves in the neck of my tuig, and return to the ground, when I was seized by the drover, and two of his companions. I was charged



with the theft, and of course denied the charge. Having been strictly searched, none of his money was found upon me ; but he persisted in the accusation, and said he would take his oath that I was the person who had taken it. I was taken before a magistrate, and underwent an examination. I was asked my name, and where I was from ? I answered, " Daniel O'Brien ; I come from Armagh."

" Did you take this man's money ?"

" Troth, if I had taken it, I wouldn't have told you ; but sure I know nothing about it."

He told me I was a very insolent fellow. I answered, that there were two of us ; if he was not an insolent fellow, he would not ask any person such a question. The drover made oath that I had taken his money, and I was committed to Downpatrick quoad, to stand trial at the next Assizes.

Whenever I entered Downpatrick jail, the jailor accosted me with, " Och ! how are you, Arthur ?"



“ Sure,” said I, “ pretty well ; how are you yourself ? ”

“ How long is it since you were here before, Arthur ? ”

“ Sure your books will tell better than I can.”

I was taken to the back jail, and he said, “ Och ! boy, I’ll put you into your old room, where you was before ; it’s the best room in the jail.”

I humoured the mistake, and took it all very well. I soon found my fellow prisoners a rum set of boys. To describe their dress would be impossible. The most of them, had they attempted to undress, would have been puzzled to find the way into their duds again ; few had either a mill tuig, toper, or crabs. These highflyers had all their fancy blones, and I was not long till I was equal with them. There was one above me to whom I used to whid ; there was a hole in the roof of my cell through which I handed her plenty of focus, budge, and, in short, part of every thing. One day, after provisions had been served out, (for we got three



days' pick at a time,) the boys and I agreed to block up the passage which led to our apartments, and break through to the blones. They began to block up the door with forms and tables ; but I not approving of that way, began with a spade to lift the flags of the floor, and they all in a moment joined me. We built up the door so completely, that they were unable to get at us ; we then broke through to the blones, and secured their door in the same manner, and kept the premises for two days. During this time we gave way to every wickedness ; and of all the scenes of my short and evil life, none ever came up to the jail of Downpatrick.

After we had spent two days in the most riotous manner with the women up stairs, we were secured. I was seized and locked closely up in a cell, and kept in confinement till the day before my trial.

A prison is the blackest and wickedest place in the world. Many a poor boy is brought to the gallows at last, because his first offence is punished by imprison-



ment. This teaches him evil ways, whereas if he had been well flogged and sent home to his parents, he might have turned out a good man. I cannot say that my bad habits were learned in jail, but I am sure they were confirmed there.

While I was in jail, I sent for the pig drover, and made the matter up with him, by returning his blunt, and two screaves additional to sweeten him, and he promising to say nothing against me on my patter.

On the 29th of March I was put to the bar, and the indictment being read over, I said I was not guilty, and demanded a copy of my stammer, but it was refused me. The drover and another man were brought against me in evidence. The drover kept his word, and swore he did not now know whether I was the boy or not who took the money. The other witness was sure that I was the person that was taken up for it. This closed the evidence, and, while the Judge was addressing the Jury, the jailor prompt-



ed me to speak for myself. I immediately rose, and asked liberty to speak a word for myself. The Judge replied, "Surely."

I then addressed the Jury nearly as follows:—"Gentlemen, I hope you will look well into this case, and not return a thoughtless verdict, which would involve an innocent man, by ruining his character, and depriving him of his liberty. Gentlemen, I acknowledge that I have been perfectly proved to be the person who was apprehended at Clough, on suspicion of picking this man's pocket; but you see clearly that none of his property was found upon me, and more than that, the man himself has sworn in your presence that he is not certain whether I was the person or not; taking this simple statement into your deliberate consideration, I feel perfectly confident of receiving a verdict of acquittal from you."

The Judge then asked me, "Don't you come from Armagh, sir? and have you not a father and a brother?"

I answered that I had both.



“ All of your own profession—pick-pockets ?” replied the Judge.

I said he was perfectly mistaken, for neither they nor I were ever guilty of such a thing. I was right as to them, but I will leave the world to judge with what truth I spoke of myself. The Judge, in an angry tone, said, “ Will you hold up your face and tell me that, sir ? was you not tried before me ten days ago at Dundalk, and about four years ago at Carrickfergus ? I know you well, and all your family.”

I declared that I never was before a Court in my life till then, and sure enough I never was before him.

He then addressed the Jury ; he said that it did not signify whether they were clear of my being guilty of the present crime, for he could assure them that I was an old offender, and at all events to return a verdict of guilty of felony at large. I sprung up, and declared I was getting no justice, and said there was no proof of my being a felon ; and added, “ How can



I be brought in as a felon, when not a single witness had made oath to it?"

The Judge, in a violent rage, said, that he would make oath if necessary; and the Jury in a moment returned a verdict of "Guilty of felony at large." I was then sentenced to lag for seven stretch; but the Judge at the same time telling me, that if I would produce my father, and shew to him that he had mistaken me, he would change the sentence to twelve months' imprisonment. I told him I would rather go abroad than let my friends know any thing about the matter; that he was sending me among pickpockets, where I would likely learn the art myself, and the first man's pocket I would pick on my return would be his.

I have been twice tried for my life in Scotland. The first time I got more than justice, for I was acquitted. The second time I got justice, for I was convicted. But in Ireland I got no justice at all; for at Downpatrick there was none to speak *for* me but the Judge, and he spoke *against* me.



I was removed to the jail, and that same afternoon, Mr Blackart (I think that was his name,) the clergyman and magistrate of Drummore, who had formerly examined me, came into the press-yard where I was walking among a number of other prisoners. He distinguished me in a minute, and asked me if ever I was in Drummore? I said, "twenty times." He then asked if I recollected him, or of bribing a constable, and breaking away. I said I had never seen him before, or been in custody in Drummore in my life. He then asked if ever I took the name of John M'Colgan? I answered, I never did, and did not know what he meant. He then told the dub cove, if he did not clap the darbies on me, I would be off in half an hour. The jailor said, he knew well enough that my name was O'Brien, and he certainly was mistaken; but Mr Blackart was too sure of me, to listen to the dub cove. I was immediately loaded with nippers and darbies, and remained in that state three days, when I was re-



moved to Kilmainham jail, and was three days upon the road. When I arrived there, I was put amongst a great number of convicts of every description ; I was but a few days there, when I thought of effecting my escape, and began digging the back wall, with the assistance of a number of others, having first secured the entrance-door to our apartment. But some of the prisoners, who did not care about joining us, gave information, and, being the first man who made my appearance through the hole, I got a bat from the outside with a shillela, the mark of which is still very visible, and disfigures my right eyebrow. The boys rushed after me ; but having still a high wall to get over, we were all secured by a party of soldiers, and locked up in our cells.

A few hours after this, I called out of my cell window to two very beautiful young women, accused of the murder of a young lady, in Dublin. They were sisters, and their name was Bridget.



I felt much for their situation, and shivered when I looked at them, as my own hands had been redded with the blood of man. I gave them such serious advice as a poor guilty wretch could. They were afterwards condemned and executed.

While in close conversation with these unfortunate girls, my cell door opened, and the dub cove found fault with me for interfering with them, and told me to be silent. I said to him, I would not be silent for him, as I was doing nothing improper; for I was much interested in these poor creatures, whose situation was so like my own. He ordered me down from the window; I refused, and said that if he came near me, I would batter him like a pigeon-house door. He went away, but in a few minutes returned, and ordered me down stairs to my room. On going out at the cell door I was seized by two men, and a pair of nippers were clapped on my hands, and a horrible thing called a mouth-joke put upon my head. It came down with iron bars both before



and behind my head; the front bar having a thick iron tongue which entered my mouth. In this situation I was put back to my cell. In the course of an hour the turnkey came to me, and said, "You'll hold your tongue now, when you can't speak." I could give him no answer. He then took the joke off my head, and repeated the question; I said, "I will for a while:" and on his going out of my cell, I resumed my seat in the window, and remained there the rest of the day, singing the most profane songs I could think of. Even the fear of the iron helmet of Kilmainham could not keep me quiet. But there was something waiting me far worse; and, if I had known it, it would have brought down my heart, strong and wicked as it was.

Next morning the whole prisoners, consisting of some hundreds, were taken down to a yard, and ranked up in companies of twenty each. In a few minutes John Richardson made his appearance, accompanied by the two jailors and a turnkey; and a black sight he was to me.



John began his inspection, and went over the whole of us; then making a second look-through, he stopped at me, held out his hand, and said, "Do you ken me, Davie?"

I turned to the jailor, and, in a masterpiece of Irish brogue, said, "What does the man say?"

"Don't you know him?" was the answer.

I replied, "Troth, and by my soul, I know nothing at all about him."

But John persisted that he knew me, and I was conveyed to the condemned yard; the jailor telling me, if I was a Scotchman he was greatly mistaken, for I had the brogue as well as ere a boy in Ireland,—but time would try all.

I was nearly two days in the condemned yard, during which I had two visits from John Richardson; but I stoutly denied that I had ever seen him.

In this yard there was an insane man, confined for having skinned a horse alive. He was one of the oddest characters I ever saw in my life. When the turnkey



used to come with our victuals, he began to rave, and continued so till he devoured his meat like a raven, and kept always crying for “Cabbage and tea!—Cabbage and tea!—Bacon and tea!—Bacon and tea!” and such like. He would at other times chace me through the yard; and although this was a horrible situation I was placed in, yet I was in no danger, for he was well secured by a strait jacket. Sometimes he appeared to be very sensible; and, after cutting some extravagant capers in presence of the turnkey, he would fall into a dead silence, and not speak a word for hours.

On the evening of the second day, I was taken to the head Police-office, and heavily loaded with irons. An iron belt was fixed round my waist, with my wrists pinioned to each side of it; a chain passed from the front of the belt and joined the centre of a chain, each end of which was padlocked round my ankles, and a chain passed from each wrist to each ankle. In this dreadful state of torture and confinement, I was conducted by John



Richardson, and an Irish officer of the name of Robison, to Dumfries. We were three days and two nights upon the road, and all the time I never had my hand to my mouth, and was fed like a sucking turkey in bedlam, and treated like a helpless infant. As to the officers who conveyed me, never could man behave better to his own son than they both did to me. I had known John Richardson before, and had long been acquainted with his humane disposition, which was tried and proved on this occasion. We travelled a good way on the road before I would acknowledge that ever I had seen John; but I saw that it was of no use to keep up my pretended ignorance any longer. Indeed, from the time I was placed in the condemned cells of Kilmainham, I had only done so out of obstinacy.

On our approach towards Dumfries, which was in the dark, there were many thousands of people on the road, many of them with torches in their hands, waiting my arrival; and when I got to the jail-



door, it was scarcely possible to get me out of the coach for the multitude—all crowding for a sight of Haggart the Murderer. Some seemed sorry, and some terrified for me; but there was not one of them all so sorry or so terrified as I was. I plunged through them, rattling my chains, and making a great shew of courage, but my heart was shaking at the thought of poor Morrin. As I went up the narrow stair to the cells, I had to pass the very spot where I struck him; and, oh! it was like fire under my feet.

I was locked up in my old cell, and the greater part of the Irish irons were taken off me. I was kept at Dumfries about three weeks, during which I was twice examined before the Sheriff; but they could not get what they call a *declaration* out of me, for I knew that would be used against me, so I thought it as well to keep my tongue within my teeth; and this I would advise every man who is accused of a crime to do, whether he is innocent or guilty. But when the examination was over, I offered to tell the



whole of my story to them *privately*, and I did tell a good deal of it.

From Dumfries I was conveyed to this jail, and placed once more under the charge of Captain Sibbald, the kindest and the best jailor in the world. My word may be taken for this, as I have had some experience. I was soon after indicted to stand my trial before the High Court of Justiciary, for the murder of Thomas Morrin.

In about a fortnight, the day of my trial came. I had been carried the evening before from the Calton Jail to the Lock-up-house in the old town, and I was taken into the Court about ten o'clock on the morning of the 11th of June. Many witnesses were examined against me, and some of them did not speak the truth; but I say nothing against them, for perhaps they were only mistaken. I was fully as wicked as they made me. There was *one witness*, who should have said that he knew of our plan, and that our only object was liberty, not to murder poor Thomas Morrin. But this would



have made no difference, for it was the pleasure of God Almighty that I should come to an end.

All that man could do was done for me at my trial, and I had good hopes till the Judge began to speak; but then my spirits fell, for his speaking was sore against me. I did not altogether despair when I saw the Jury talking together—but oh! when they said *Guilty*, my very heart broke; but I was even then too proud to shew my feelings, and I almost bit my lip through in hiding them. When the Judge was passing the awful sentence, I turned dizzy, and gasped for breath. They say I looked careless, but they could not see *within* me. I did not know what had happened, or where I was—I thought of every thing in a minute—I thought of my father—I thought of my mother, who died of a broken heart—I thought of escape, and very near made a plunge over the heads of the crowd—then I could have cried out. When the sentence was over, I gathered my thoughts, and my heart was as hard as ever; for I said, “Well!



the man that is born to be hanged, will not be drowned!" This was very wicked, but I could not help it, for I had no command of my thoughts or words.

After being brought back to the Calton jail, the wickedness of my heart was still great, and I had so little thought of my awful situation, that I made the following lines, just to shew that my spirit could not be conquered:—

Able and willing, you will me find,  
Though bound in chains, still free in mind;  
For with these things I'll ne'er be grieved,  
Although of freedom I'm bereaved.

In this vain world there is no rest,  
And life is but a span at best;  
The rich, the poor, the old, the young,  
Shall all lie low before it's long.

I am a rogue, I don't deny,  
But never lived by treachery;  
And to rob a poor man, I disown,  
But them that are of high renown.

Now, for the crime that I'm condemn'd,  
The same I never did intend;  
Only my liberty to take,  
As I thought my life did lie at stake.



My life, by perjury, was sworn away,  
 I'll say that to my dying day.  
 Oh, treacherous S——, you did me betray,  
 For all I wanted was liberty.

No malice in my heart is found,  
 To any man above the ground.  
 Now, all good people, that speak of me,  
 You may say I died for my liberty.

Although in chains you see me fast,  
 No frown upon my friends you'll cast,  
 For my relations were not to blame,  
 And I brought my parents to grief and shame.

Now, all you rambles, in mourning go,  
 For the Prince of Rambles is lying low ;  
 And all you maidens, who love the game,  
 Put on your mourning veils again.

And all you powers of music chaunt,  
 To the memory of my dying rant—  
 A song of melancholy sing,  
 Till you make the very rafters ring.

Farewell relations, and friends also,  
 The time is nigh that I must go ;  
 As for foes, I have but one,  
 But to the same I've done no wrong.

But these wild and wicked thoughts  
 soon left me. Every body was very kind



to me. How this happens, I cannot tell, for from my infancy my hand has been against every man, and I never saw a human being without trying to do them a harm. This kindness is an awful lesson to me now, but it has done my heart good, for it is the sorest punishment I have met with yet in this world. I have been visited by several clergymen. They have prayed much with me and for me. I told them I had no words to pray, but they taught me, made me read my Bible, and gave me hopes of mercy in Heaven—at least such hopes as a poor miserable wretch like me can have, for my sins stick close to me.

I have tried to tell my story as I thought and felt when it all happened, not as I feel *now*, for I wanted to shew my awful wickedness, as a warning to others. I have no thought now but *death*, and it is coming so near, that I must forget this world, and think only of the next. I have told all I remember of my life truly. I hope the tale will shew my old comrades, if they ever see it, that their wicked ways



will bring them to untimely ends ; and I leave it to my poor old father, as all that he will ever get from his unfortunate son,

DAVID HAGGART.

IRON ROOM, EDINBURGH JAIL,  
*14th July, 1821.*



*NOTE written by DAVID HAGGART, on  
the day before his Execution.*

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I HAVE left the management of this narrative to Mr George Robertson, W.S.; and whatever sum may be got from its circulation amongst the public, as it is my desire that it should be sent to the public, shall be used as follows:—I leave it for the good of my younger brothers and sister, for their better instruction in education; and for the good of my father, who is left to lament the loss of his son. I also allow a small donation for the good of the school in the jail, which has been of late set on foot by some worthy Christians, and which I hope they will reap the benefit of, both in soul and body. I also give a guinea each to James Waldie and Peter Bunkle, the two turnkeys who



have waited upon me, for their uniform kindness.

I return my grateful thanks to the worthy Clergymen of this city, for their attention to me, and for their christian advices. I gratefully thank the Magistrates of Edinburgh, especially Mr Child, above all the rest of the honourable gentlemen, he having paid the greatest attention and fatherly love to me that could possibly be shewn to a son. I return my thanks to the worthy governor of the jail, for his kindness to me, not only on this, but on former occasions. To conclude,—I die in peace with all men on earth, and, I hope, in peace with my God, through the atoning blood of Christ Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

DAVID HAGGART.

CONDEMNED CELL,  
EDINBURGH LOCK-UP-HOUSE,  
*17th July, 1821.*



## NOTE.

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EARLY on the morning of his execution, David Haggart joined earnestly in devotional exercise with his ministerial attendant. After the Chaplain of the Jail had given a prayer, one of the officers of justice appeared, and requested all the persons present to retire, as he had something to communicate to the unhappy prisoner. Haggart immediately exclaimed, in a hurried tone, "Oh! I suppose it is the executioner." His firmness for a moment abandoned him, and he walked rapidly across the cell, with his arms folded, and with dark and deep despair strongly painted on his countenance. He speedily, however, regained his com-



posure; and when the executioner did appear, at once allowed his arms to be bound. He was then removed to a hall in the lower part of the Lock-up-house, where he was received by two of the clergymen of Edinburgh, and the magistrates. After prayers, the procession proceeded to the scaffold. The conduct of the unfortunate youth there was in the highest degree becoming. While the beneficial influence of religion was apparent in his whole demeanour, his natural firmness of character never for a moment forsook him. He kneeled down, and uttered an earnest prayer; and, after addressing a few words of deep and anxious exhortation to the great multitude by whom he was surrounded, he met his fate with the same intrepidity which distinguished all the actions of his short, but guilty and eventful life.

G. R.



## APPENDIX.

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### NOTE.

ON 29th May, 1821, I visited David Haggart in Jail, in presence of Mr J. R. Sibbald, and Mr James Law, junior. After some conversation, he allowed me to examine the developement of his head. The character indicated by it was different from the opinions I had been previously led to form, by reading in the newspapers the details of his delinquencies. The conversation was quite general, and did not lead to a knowledge of his dispositions. Being before trial, he was extremely guarded in his remarks, and we were equally delicate in not pressing him to make disclosures. On going over his head, I mentioned to him the feelings and powers which it indicated, but he made no remarks as to the correctness or incorrect-



ness of the observations. On telling him that he had a greater developement of the organs of benevolence and justice than I had anticipated, his countenance softened, and he almost shed a tear. On concluding, he gave a look full of subdued emotion, yet of confident sagacity ; and, alluding to the possibility of discovering character from the form of the head, said, " Well, that is *one thing* I did not know before." After his condemnation, when it was to be expected that his mind would be subdued to sincerity by the certain prospect of death, I sent him a sketch of the character which his cerebral organization indicated, and requested him to add his remarks. The sketch was written on one side of the paper, and his observations were added on the other. The observations are holograph, and were composed by himself without assistance. His own language is preserved, the only corrections made being in spelling, and, in a few instances, in grammar.

G. C.



*SKETCH of the Natural Character of  
DAVID HAGGART, as indicated by his  
Cerebral Organization.*

THE following character of David Haggart is drawn from the developement of his head. It is submitted to him for his own observations as to its correctness. The motive of doing so is not to indulge an idle curiosity, but to throw light upon the natural dispositions which particularly lead a young man into a sporting line of life, for the purpose of devising effectual means to reclaim young offenders at the outset of their career, by placing them in circumstances calculated to cultivate the good, and restrain the evil tendencies of their natural dispositions.

The present communication is entirely confidential, and will not be abused. David Haggart is, therefore, requested to be open, and completely candid in his remarks.

The greatest errors have arisen from a great self-esteem, a large combativeness, a



prodigious firmness, a great secretiveness, and a defective love of approbation. No others of the faculties appear to possess an undue degree of energy or deficiency.

In popular language, the natural character is inferred to be as follows:—

1. In your earlier years of boyhood, you would often fight because you were insulted, or supposed yourself to be so. You would maintain the battle with desperate obstinacy, and generally prevail, not from hatred of your antagonist, but because you could not endure the humiliation of being beaten. If your opponent yielded, you would not beat him for the sake of revenge, or to punish him for his insults?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*Since the first of my recollection, I never was much given to quarrelling, excepting when I was insulted; but if it did come to a fight, I seldom left the field till covered with wounds; and when I had the good fortune to be victorious, I cannot say that*



*I had any anxiety to beat my antagonist merely because I knew I could do it ; but if I was beaten, I was always ready to try it again.*

2. At home you would be excessively self-willed and obstinate, very little regardful of what your parents or others thought of you, and rarely submissive to command, except when it pleased yourself to obey. In short, you would very seldom do any thing to which you were not inclined, merely because you were required by others to do it ?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*Neither have you mistaken me in this point ; for, at home or abroad, I never, or at least seldom, would do any thing that was required of me ; but if I did obey, I had always some way of my own that no man could drive me from with blows, but might have done it with fair speech. Never could I endure to be ordered, even by*



*my superiors. When I was ordered, I took but little notice of it, as I thought my own way the best.*

3. You would have a great deal of cunning when a boy, and could think one thing and pretend another, or do a thing and appear to know nothing about it, very dexterously?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*As to this point, I never thought that I had enough of cunning in my own eyes; for those of the sporting life found me out to be of that life before they knew my name; although, after I entered the list, I found others of them that were opener in their minds than I was; yet I thought myself deficient, in my own sight, in many of the points that I wished to be perfect in.*

4. When you became a young man, you would feel yourself superior in intel-



lectual power, or cleverness, and discrimination, to your associates—you would be their head or leader in sports and in mischief. When at school, you would learn with great facility, but feel a great aversion to the discipline or to the submission required of the scholars?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*I need not describe my cleverness when I became a young man, as that is well known to the public already, and to the mortification of those who were my adversaries. The head or leader I could not always obtain, although I wished it.*

5. As you advanced in life, you would feel your determinateness of character increase. If you resolved on doing any thing, you were determined to carry it through, good or bad, because you could not brook the idea that David Haggart had failed in his purpose?



*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*As I advanced in life, I no doubt, like others, felt the increase of strength and determinateness of mind ; and whatever my mind thought of doing, my hands were able to carry through.*

6. You would all your life feel a peculiar facility in concealing your real motives, in completely commanding your feelings when inclined to do so, and appearing impenetrable to the eyes of others ?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*As to this point, there were few that ever knew any of my secrets ; even the best of them could hardly sound my depths ; for I knew that if I could not keep my own mind, another would not do it. No man could ever say that he saw my countenance grieved,*



*although I was in the greatest trouble of mind that a man possibly could be in.*

7. When you took to the sporting life, you would feel a pleasure in doing a clever trick ; and this pleasure, and the desire to live without working, or obeying others, would be your great motives, and not the mere love of money, or even the desire of applause from your associates ?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*As to this point, viz. the pleasure I felt in the sporting life : Doing a clever trick is no doubt a pleasure to every one that follows that life, as well as to me. To work and be a slave to mankind, I never could think of. Money was never my object to make myself rich ; but the love of dress and company was my motive, not the love of the sporting feats. The applause that I might have got, had I been desiring applause, was kept from me by my determined way*



*of keeping my mind within my own breast, as I always did.*

8. You would often be perfectly conscious, that your own mind upbraided or accused you for your conduct : Did you ever try to appease your conscience, by believing that the rest of mankind were doing exactly the same thing as you, namely, over-reaching each other for the gratification of selfishness, but only in a more covert or formal style of proceeding?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*There is no doubt that my conscience upbraided me in this point, but I thought that I was no worse than others who had been before and would come after me. I knew that mankind were over-reaching each other, but thought they would never over-reach me in their formal style of proceeding.*



9. You would never be cruel or brutal ; and you would never inflict serious suffering upon any individual, without bitterly regretting it ?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*Cruel to my inferiors I never was ; but I rejoiced to pull the lofty down, to make them on a fair level with their brethren in the world. Whatever I did, I never looked back to my former crimes with regret, as I never thought that was of any use.*

10. You would not be the slave of the sexual passion, nor greatly given to drink ? I mean, you could resist both of these tendencies without a great effort, when you wished to do so ?

*Remarks by D. HAGGART.*

*You have mistaken me in this point of sexual passion ; for it was my greatest failing, that I had a great inclination to*



*the fair sex ;—not, however, of those called Prostitutes ; for I never could bear the thought of a whore, although I was the means of leading away and betraying the innocence of young women, and then leaving them to the freedom of their own will. I believe that I was the master of that art more than any other that I followed.*

*A little spirits were always necessary, although I could abstain from them at pleasure, according as it suited the company I was in. When in drink I was very quiet, and would think twice before I spoke once.*

Your nature is, in many respects, so different from your actions and situation, that you are a hypocrite in the opposite sense to those who are usually styled such. You affect to speak lightly of your sporting adventures, and to feel less ; but you positively feel a great deal more internally than you pretend to do. You feel that there is a war within yourself—two principles in your own mind—one



telling you, that this course of life was not for you, and that you might have made a figure in another path ; another trying to stifle these reflections, and to persuade you that you have done nothing amiss.

The former feelings arise from your sentiment of justice, which is not remarkably defective ; from your sentiment of benevolence, which is great ; and from your intellectual powers, which are also great : the latter, from your great self-esteem and firmness,—the great moral diseases, when ill-directed, of your mind.

If you are conscious that I have penetrated into your real character, be candid, and speak freely of yourself. Where I have really mistaken you, either for good or bad, be equally sincere, and correct me.

G. C.



*Remarks by* DAVID HAGGART.

SIR,

I have corrected you in every point in which my conscience told me that my character was not the same as you had described.

(Signed) DAVID HAGGART.

*Edinburgh Jail,*  
18th June, 1821.



## GLOSSARY.

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- brush p 56*
- B.**
- Beek, a magistrate.  
Benjy, a vest.  
Bit, money; blunt.  
Blink, light.  
Blone, a girl.  
Blunt, money; bit.  
Bobs, shillings.  
Budge, drink.  
Budge kain, a public-house.  
Bulkie, a constable, or policeman.  
*bulkie kain p 52*
- C.**
- Chats, seals.  
Chatterry, cotton, or linen goods.  
Chive, a knife.  
Cloy, a pocket.  
Conish cove, a gentleman.  
Coored, whipped.  
Coreing, picking up small articles in shops.  
*clay-hub p 55*
- Cove, a man.  
Crabs, shoes.  
Crib, a mean house, also a bed.  
Cuddie, a jack-ass.
- D.** *darken p 61*
- Darbies, irons for the legs.  
Darky, darkening.  
Deeker, a thief kept in pay by a constable.  
Dot, a ribbon.  
Dot-drag, watch-ribbon.  
Down, alarm; rose the down, gave the alarm.  
Drag, chain.  
Dross, gold.  
Dub, a key. ; *to button p 90*  
Dub-cove, a turnkey.  
Dumbie, a pocket-book; lil.  
*deeds after p 133*
- F.**
- Fam, a hand.  
Feeders, spoons.
- H** *downie of ale p 50*



Fence, to sell, or dispose of.  
 Fiddlestick, a spring saw.  
 Flash kain, a house for receiving stolen goods.  
 Flats, cards.  
 Focus, light for a pipe.  
 Forks, fore and middle fingers.

*fokelen = fobles p 40*

## G.

Gaff, a fair.  
 Gammon, to take up a person's attention while your neighbour is picking his pocket. *p 51*

Gauge, a dram.

Geach, a thief. *To steal p 73*

Gloach, a man; cove.

Grawler, a beggar.

## H.

Hoys, shop-lifting.

## J.

Jaun, to discover.

Jiger, a door.

Jumper, a tenpenny-piece.

## K.

Kain, a house.

Kid's eye, a fivepenny-piece.

Keeks, breeches.

Kipping, playing the truant.

## L.

Lag, transportation.

*linen boys (? hankers) p*

*louted (? stopped) p 90*

Lay, a bunch, or quantity.

Lil, a pocket-book; dumbie.

Link, to turn out a pocket.

Lip, abuse.

Luke, nothing.

Lush, drink.

Lushy, drunk.

## M.

Mill tuig, a shirt.

Mang, to boast; to talk of.

Milvad, a blow.

Milvadering, boxing.

Much toper feeker, an umbrella-maker.

## N.

Nibs, yourself.

Nippers, handcuffs.

## O.

Oglers, eyes.

## P.

Pall, companion; associate.

Patter, a trial.

Peter, a trunk.

Plank, to conceal.

Pluck, courage.

Pop, a pistol.

Prad, a horse.

Prad-cove, a horse-dealer.

Prig, a pickpocket; snib.

Pulled, taken; caught. *p 46*

Punsh outsides, to go out of doors.

*no planing p 54 (= Prad)*



Q.

Quid, a guinea.  
Quoad, a prison.

R.

Regulars, share.  
Routers-putters, cow-feet.  
Rousting ronnies, raising  
potatoes.

*rousted = roused p.66*

S.

Scout, a watch ; tatler.  
Screave, a bank-note,  
Shirry, to run.  
Six bob-bit, a six shilling-  
piece.  
Skin, a purse,  
Slangs, shows.  
Sleek wipes, silk handker-  
chiefs.  
Smash, silver coin.  
Snib, a pickpocket ; prig.  
Snitch, to tell a secret ; to  
squeal.  
Spree, a frolic.  
Spunk, life.  
Squeal, a tell-tale, or in-  
former.  
Stamp drawers, stockings.  
Stammer, indictment.  
Steamer, a tobacco-pipe.  
Stretch, year.

*(chain?) p.28*

*blind getting shag = money running short p.39  
played a nithe stick = did good stroke of business p.102  
no great shakes p.129*

Stretcher, a web ; also a  
string.

Suck, breast-pocket.

Swawp, to barter.

Swag cove, a packman.

Sweeten a grawler, satisfy a  
beggar. *p.62*

T.

Tanner, sixpence.

Tannie, halfpenny.

Tatler, a watch, or scout.

Thaan, cloth,

Tile, a hat ; toper.

Toper, a hat ; tile.

Toping cove, a hangman.

Tuig, a coat, also clothes.

U.

Upper-tuig, upper-coat.

*undoubtedly = undoubtful p.28.74*

V.

Voil, a town,

W.

Wedge, silver.

Whack, share ; whack't the  
smash, divided the silver.

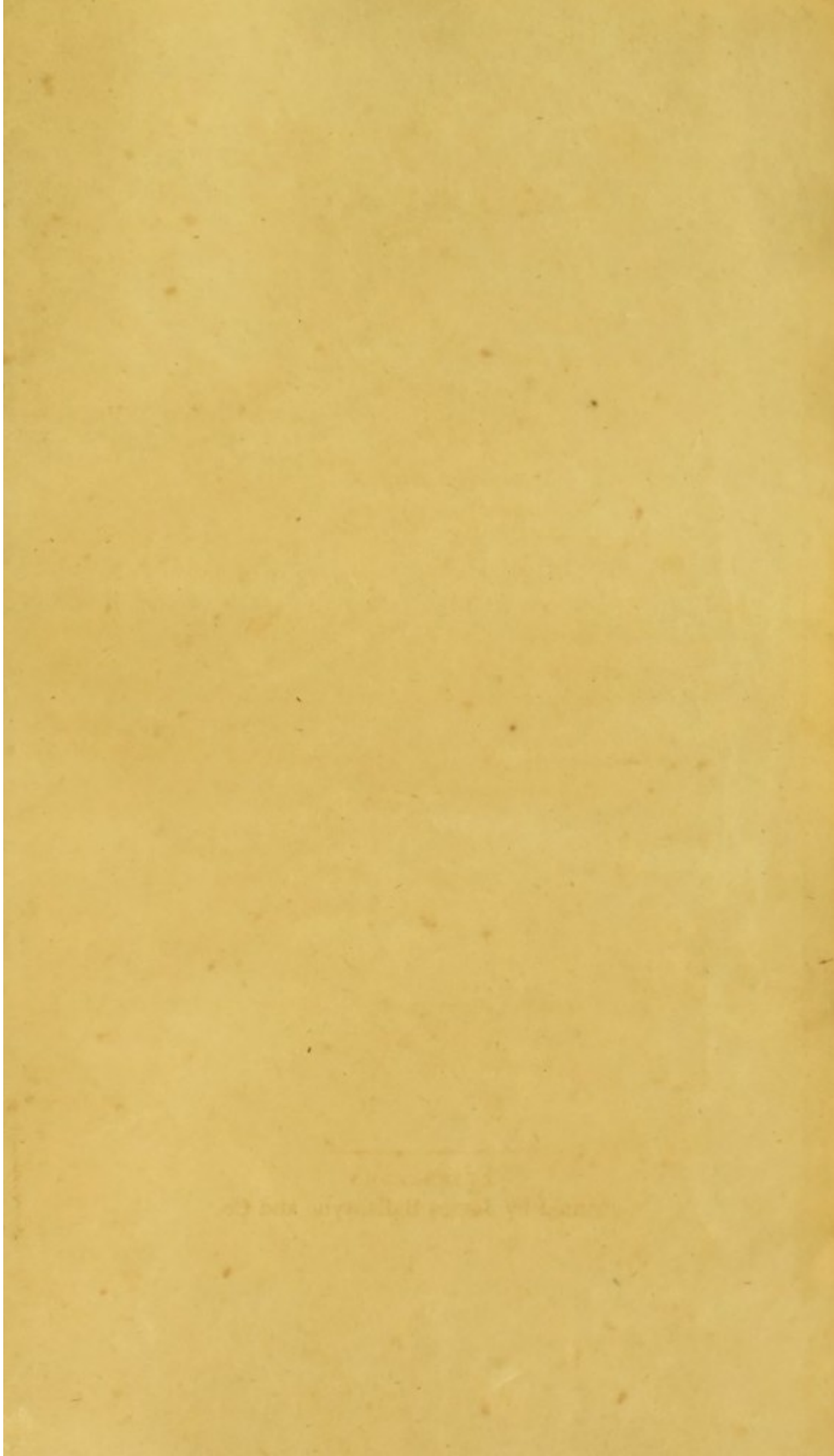
Whidding, talking slang.

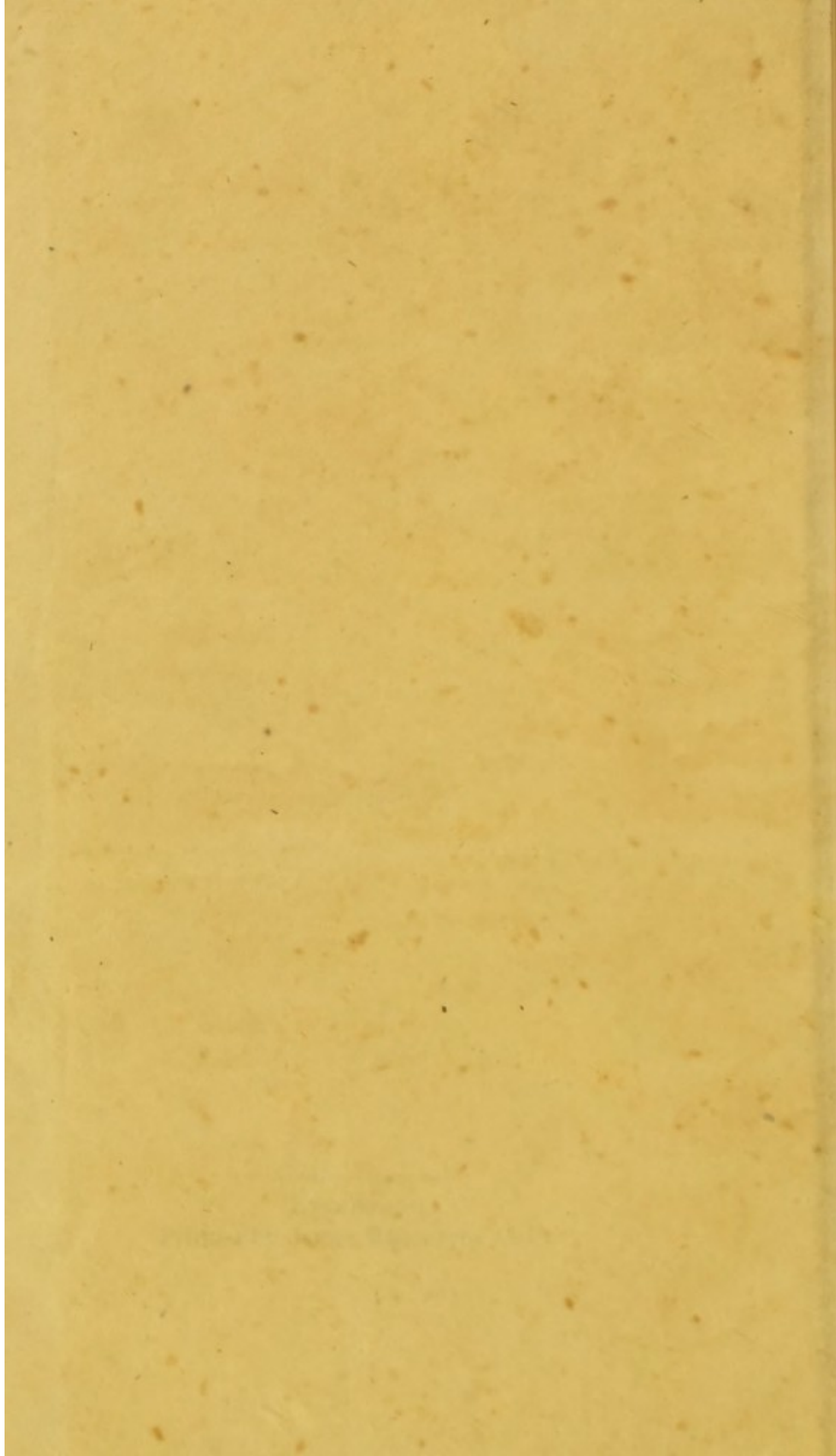
Y.

Yelpers, wild beasts.

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page]*









Weyburn - transferred	2/14	LP 0
July Cook	just	LP
John Johnston		LP 40
Michael Gurdan transferred		LP 3
George Bayne transferred		LP 4
Wm Patterson transferred		LP 4
Tom Hall		LP 4

BH 24 i

