

A genuine account of the most horrid parricide committed by Mary Blandy, spinster, upon the body of her father Francis Blandy ... : Together with the copy of a letter she had wrote to Mr. C-n ... and her confession before the magistrate. Also a copy of her commitment to Oxford Gaol ... / Published by some of the friends and relations of the family.

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MIS MARY BLANDY,

*In Oxford Castle Goal, charged with the Cruel Murder of her Father,
M^R FRANCIS BLANDY, late of Henley upon Thames in Oxfordshire,
by Putting Poison into his Water Gruel, 1751.*

A G E N U I N E
A C C O U N T

Of the most Horrid

P A R R I C I D E

Committed by

MARY BLANDY, Spinster,

Upon the Body of her FATHER

Mr. FRANCIS BLANDY, *Gent.*

Town-Clerk of *Henley upon Thames, Oxfordshire.*

C O N T A I N I N G

The several Incidents that happened from the Time she received the poisonous Powder from her Lover, the Hon. William-Henry C——n, to the 5th of *August*, when she first administer'd some of it to her Father in Water-Gruel; and from that Time to the 14th of the same Month, when he expir'd in the greatest Agonies. With Copies of the Affidavits taken before the Mayor and Coroner, &c.

T O G E T H E R

With the Copy of a Letter she had wrote to Mr. C——n, which was intercepted by Mr. *Littleton* a few Days before Mr. *Blandy's* Death, which was read to him; and her Confession before the Magistrate.

A L S O

A Copy of her Commitment to *Oxford Gaol*, and her Behaviour to the present Time.

Published by some of the Friends and Relations of the Family, in order to prevent the Publick from being any longer imposed on with fictitious Stories.

O X F O R D :

Printed for and sold by C. GODDARD, in the *High Street*: And sold in *London* by R. WALKER, in the *Little Old Bailey*, and by all the Booksellers and Pamphlet-sellers. 1751.

(Price Six-pence.)

A. G. L. L. L.

A. C. C. U. N.

XX

Of the most Hon.

P. A. R. R. I. C. I. D.

Continued by

M. A. R. R. I. C. I. D.

from the Body of her Father

M. A. R. R. I. C. I. D.

Town-Clerk of Haverly upon 1st Nov. 1894

C. O. W. T. A. T. G.

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The Rev. Incidents that happened from the time the received the

How to have it over, the Hon. William Deane, to the

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There on the left of the Hon. William Deane, when he expired in the year

which some of the Advertisers have before the Hon. and General

T. O. C. A. T. R.

With a copy of a Letter the had sent to the Hon. William Deane

in London a few Days before the Hon. William Deane was sent to

the Commission before the Hon. William Deane

A. G. L. L. L.

A Copy of her Commission to General Deane, with a copy of the

Published by some of the Friends and Relations of the Family in order to put

Public from being

O. X. F. O. R. D.

A Genuine ACCOUNT of that most inhuman Murder committed by Miss *Mary Blandy*, upon the Body of her Father, Mr. *Francis Blandy*, late Town-Clerk of *Henley upon Thames*.

THE Death of the late Mr. *Francis Blandy*, occasioned by Poison administered to him, as it is too strongly suspected, by his only Daughter, is an Affair of such an uncommon Nature, that the Curiosity of the Publick has been greatly raised, but not yet satisfied with any Account that has been hitherto published of this horrid Parricide. Many false Stories have been propagated, and even Pamphlets published, pretending to give an Account of this strange Transaction, with scarce a Word of Truth to support their Credibility. It seems therefore highly necessary to set the People right in their Notions of this Matter; in order to which we shall relate nothing but what is grounded upon incontestible Facts, and the Testimonies of Persons of indisputable Characters. And we hope it will not be supposed that we publish this Narrative with any View to prejudice Miss *Mary Blandy* in the Eye of the Publick, or to influence those Gentlemen who are to sit upon her Life at her Tryal, whose Verdict no doubt will be govern'd by nothing but the Truth as it shall appear to them upon the clearest Evidence.

However, as the Crime in itself is so very notorious, and seldom happens, I hope it will not be thought improper to insert here a few Lines concerning the Punishment for a Crime of the like Nature in the Times of the *Romans* and *Ægyptians*, which we here quote from good Authority.

“ The *Romans* made no Law against
 “ these execrable Persons, as supposing
 “ none would be so wicked as to com-
 “ mit such Crimes, till *L. Ostius*, about
 “ 500 Years after the Death of *Numa*,
 “ killed his Father; upon which they or-
 “ dered, that so flagitious a Malefactor,
 “ should, upon his being apprehended,
 “ have Wooden Shoes put on him, and
 “ so haled to Goal, where he was to con-
 “ tinue one Year, during which Time his
 “ Feet were not to touch the common
 “ Parent of Mankind, the Earth; after
 “ that he was scourged, and then tied up
 “ in a Leather Sack, together with a Dog,
 “ an Ape, a Cock, and a Viper, and so
 “ thrown into the next Water that was
 “ deep enough to drown him; and farther,
 “ if a Child was ungracious enough, as
 “ but to strike his Parents, he was to have
 “ his Hands cut off. The old *Egyptians*
 “ used

“ used to run sharp Reeds into every Part
 “ of the Bodies of *Parricides*, and after
 “ having thus wounded almost every Part,
 “ threw them upon a Heap of Thorns,
 “ and set Fire to them.

This premised, let us proceed to our Narrative. Mr. *Francis Blandy* was an eminent Attorney at Law, and Town-Clerk, of *Henley upon Thames* in *Oxfordshire*; a Gentleman of the strictest Honour, a most tender Husband, an indulgent Father, and a sincere Friend. His Wife's Maiden Name was *Mary Stevens*, who died about two Years ago, and left him a Daughter, his only Child, who is now in the thirty-second Year of her Age; a young Woman of an unblemished Character, till she had the Misfortune to be acquainted with a certain *Scots* Gentleman, an Officer in the Army, who, it is feared, had got so much the Ascendant over her, that his Directions were her Law in perpetrating the heinous Deed she now stands charged with.

As to the Character of this *Scots* Officer, it stands thus: He was actually married to another Gentlewoman in *Scotland* before he became acquainted with Miss *Blandy*; but designing to get that Marriage, which he called a Concubinage, dissolved, he went to Law with his Wife, but Sentence was twice given against him in the Court of Session in *Scotland*. This was no Secret, for the Trial was printed and published, and the Fact incontestible; so that Miss *Blandy* had no Pretence to entertain Mr. C——n as a Lover, since she could have no Hopes or Expectations of becoming his lawful Wife, at least while his then Wife was living; yet she publicly kept Company with him at her Father's House, where he was entertained as a Friend; and there is Reason to believe, as will appear by her own Confession, that he was the first Instigator and Contriver of this detestible Murder, and that he furnished the Means, and employ-

ed the Hand of the Daughter to destroy the Life of her Father.

But before we proceed farther in this Story, it may not be amiss to give the Reader some Idea of Miss *Blandy's* Person: She is of a middle Size, well-shaped, of a brown Complexion, with black Eyes, full of Fire; and tho' not a Beauty, is very agreeable, especially when she speaks; and her Conversation is full of Wit and good Sense. For a more perfect Description we must refer the Reader to the Print prefixed to this Pamphlet.

It may, perhaps, be asked, what Inducement this young Gentlewoman could have to be guilty of so horrible a Crime? The only probable Answer that can be given is, that she might then be at Liberty to go and live with Mr. C——n, and by thus making herself Mistress of her Father's Fortune, she might be enabled to support them both, as supposing she should then be in Possession of 10 or 12,000*l.* (though since Mr. *Blandy's* Decease, it has been found that he was not worth 4000*l.*) and this Probability will appear in the following Pages beyond all Doubt.

The execrable Scheme of sending the old Gentleman to his long Home, being laid, Miss *Blandy* received a small Parcel from Mr C——n, containing some *Scots* Pebbles, to make her a Pair of Ear-rings, with Powder to clean them; which Powder since appears to be rank Poyson; a Part of which she put into her Father's Water-Gruel, &c.

To all Appearance this Scheme had been a good while in concerting; for some Time before this execrable Deed was compleated, Mr. *Blandy* falling ill, was advised to send for a Physician, which his Daughter, with great Reluctance agreed to. It has likewise been discovered, that the *Scots* Gentleman, who was then in the House, having come to pay a Visit, gave two Doses of the *Scots* Powder to the old Gentleman

Gentleman in his Peas ; since which Time the Deceased often complained of an internal Pain in his Bowels, a sore Throat, and a Stench in his Nose.

On Monday the 5th of last *August*, the wicked Project began to be put in Execution, by Miss *Blandy*, by mixing some of this Powder with her Father's Water-Gruel, which he took a great Part of without any Suspicion; and one Mrs. *Hemmet*, a poor Washerwoman, who chaired in the House, having tasted that which her Master had left, fell sick, and was carried home in a Chair, and continued dangerously ill for a long time, that her Life was despaired of; but she is now able to walk abroad, though it is thought she never will recover so as to be quite well again.

Mr. *Littleton*, Clerk to the Deceased, was then on a Visit to his Friends, otherwise he might have shared the same Fate.

Miss *Blandy* putting some of the Powder into her Father's Gruel on *Monday* the 5th of *August*, and the Day following, the Servants began to have a violent Suspicion of the Tragedy that their Mistress was acting with her Father, which they grounded upon the following Circumstances, viz. Miss *Blandy* coming into the Kitchen, put a Spoon into the Gruel left by her Father, and drew it out full of a white Sediment that was at the Bottom: *Look there* (said she) *the Oatmeal looks very white*. She stirred it with her Finger, and put it again in the Gruel.

The two Maid-Servants being thus strengthened in their Suspicions, they could not be easy, but went to Mrs. *Mountney*, an Acquaintance in the Family, and told her what Grounds they had to suspect Miss *Blandy* of poisoning her Father. Mr. *Norton* the Apothecary was sent for, who examining the Gruel and Powder which the Maids had brought with them, could not tell what it was: *But let it be what it will*, said he, *sure that Stuff has no Business there*.

The Maids thinking the Matter of too much Concern to let it rest here, (for they were fully persuaded their Master's Life was in Danger) told him plainly, that they thought his Daughter had poisoned him, (this was on *Friday*) and they found the old Gentleman had the same Suspicion; for coming down Stairs into the Kitchen, and sitting down among his Servants, his Daughter being there, he asked *Elizabeth Binsfield* the Cook-Maid, What Day of the Month it was? She could not tell, but going to the Clock, came back and told him. *Well*, said he, *about this Time of the Year Queen Anne was poisoned*. *I remember*, continued he, *that along while ago, being in Company at the Red Lion, they gave us some d—n'd Stuff to drink, which poisoned us all; one died, and I was very sick with it*. Then looking sternly on his Daughter, *I am afraid*, said he, *that it will be my Lot to be poisoned*. At these Words Miss *Blandy* appeared in very great Confusion, and answered, with a forced Smile, *Papa, it is twenty Years ago since that happened, I remember it very well*. Upon which she went away immediately.

Mr. *Blandy* was then so very bad, that he kept his Chamber from that Day, Miss going to him from Time to Time; but the Servants being afraid she would put something more in his Victuals, desired him to forbid her his Room, which he did; and which she took very ill, and said, "What have I done that I am forbidden the Presence of my Father? *Betty*, said she, to the Cook Maid, "go to Papa, present my Duty to him, and tell him, "I want to see him." Mr. *Blandy* sent for Answer, that he would not see her: But some Time afterwards, altering his Mind, he sent Word by *Susannah Gunning*, the Chambermaid, for her to come up. Then she sitting on the Feet of his Bed, he spoke to her thus: *My dear Girl, I forgive thee with all my Heart, but will hang C——n*

if I can;—Be gone: Which were all the Words he said, and turned from her.

However, the Dose Mr. *Blandy* had received inwardly in the Water-Gruel on the *Monday*, had so worked upon him, that he was not able to sit up; and the same Morning about Eleven o'Clock, the old Gentleman took to his Room, which he never came out of to the Time of his Death.

Before I proceed any farther in this Account, I think it proper to inform the Reader, that on *Sunday* the 4th of *August*, being the Day before the old Gentleman received the poisonous Potion in his Water-Gruel, which was the Occasion of his Death, that his Daughter went to *Henley Church* with him, and there received the Sacrament.

On *Sunday* Morning the 11th of *August*, the Cook-Maid, *Elizabeth Binfield*, came down and said to Mr. *Littleton*, and her Fellow-Servants, *My Master has no fair Play for his Life, I am now certain his Daughter has poisoned him.* Miss being taxed with this by Mr. *Littleton*, seemed greatly affronted at it; but afterwards recollecting herself, she said to the Servants, *That the young Gentleman* (meaning Mr. *Littleton*) *acted like a Man of Honour in shewing so much Concern for his Master.*

On *Monday* the 12th of *August*, Miss *Blandy* was confined to her Room, by Order of her Father, and two Men were appointed to watch her. Every thing she might have made Use of to make away with herself (had she been so minded) was taken from her; even her Garters, though she earnestly requested they might be return'd, for fear of her catching Cold.

Dr. *Lewis*, of *Oxford*, being called to consult with Dr. *Addington*, came in the Evening, and found Mr. *Blandy* in a dreadful Condition: The Pains he suffered were so exquisite, that his Bowels, he said, seemed as if they were set on Fire in his Body, and that he had a Fire-Ball in his

Stomach. In this lamentable Condition he remained till the *Wednesday* following, *August* the 14th, taking very often Cordials, and other Medicines, to cool him; but to no Purpose; so that he departed this Life between One and Two in the Afternoon of the same Day.

Now a Letter that Miss expected from the *Scots* Officer arrived, and was intercepted; the Contents of which are a Secret, for particular Reasons. Dr. *Addington* carried it to Miss's Room, and read it to her. However, we can assure the Public, that it contains Matter enough to confirm the general Belief, that he was the principal Actor with Miss *Blandy*, in this dismal Tragedy; there being in the Letter this Expression, — *Above all, don't spare the Powder, in order to keep the Pebbles clean.*

As soon as Mr. *Blandy* was dead, one of the two Men appointed for Miss's Keepers, told her abruptly, *Your Father is dead*; at which Words she fainted away, but soon recovered her Spirits. Mr. *Norton* the Apothecary going presently after into her Room, acquainted her more politely with the Death of her Father. To which she only answered, *I know it, Sir.*

Mr. *Blandy* made no Will, and therefore his Daughter became sole Heiress and Executrix of all he was worth at his Decease, and now she supposed herself Mistress of a Fortune of 10 or 12,000*l.*

Miss having now effectually executed her unnatural Scheme, began to consult her own Safety; to which Purpose she brought down a large Parcel of Letters into the Kitchen, and threw them into the Fire, together with a Paper of Powder, which the Servants, who were present, observed burnt bluish. She then took the Poker, and poked the Letters into the Fire, till they were all burnt, and then said, *Now I am pretty easy.* Yet the very Paper wherein the Powder was put, being (after she was gone) drawn out of the Fire, they

they still could read upon it, *Powder for cleaning Scotch Pebbles.*

Before we proceed any farther in this Tragedy, it may not be improper to insert here the several Affidavits of Mr. Norton, the Apothecary; *Susannah Gunnell*, the Chamber Maid; *Elizabeth Binfield*, the Cook Maid; and the two Men Servants, made the Day after Mr. *Blandy's* Death, as they particularly relate to what we have already mentioned.

SUSANNAH GUNNELL, Servant to *Francis Blandy*, Gent. deceas'd, upon her Oath faith, that some Time last Week, she this Examinant, gave to the said *Francis Blandy* some Water-Gruel, and faith, that she observed that there was some Settlement at the Bottom of the Pan, wherein the said Water-Gruel was; and faith, that the same was white and gritty, and settled at the Bottom of the Pan; and faith, that she this Deponent, delivered the said Pan, with the Gruel and Powder settled at the Bottom thereof to Mr. *Benjamin Norton*, who was Apothecary to the said *Francis Blandy*.

Taken on Oath, the 15th Day of August, 1751, before me

The Mark of the \dagger said *Susannah Gunnell.*

RICHARD MILES.

ROBERT HARMAN, Servant to *Francis Blandy*, Gent. deceas'd, upon his Oath faith, that Miss *Mary Blandy*, told this Examinant, that it was Love-Powder which she put into her Father's Gruel, on Monday the 5th Day of August Inst. but that she was Innocent of the Consequence of it.

Taken on Oath, the 15th Day of August, 1751, before me

ROB. HARMAN.

RICHARD MILES.

BENJAMIN, NORTON of *Henley upon Thames*, in the County of *Oxon*, Apothecary, upon his Oath faith, that on Tuesday the 6th Day of August Instant, he this Examinant was sent for to Mr. *Francis Blandy*, deceased, who then complained of a violent Pain in his Stomach and Bowels, attended with a violent Vomiting and Purging; and faith, that on the Thursday Morning following, *Susannah Gunnell*, Servant to the said Mr. *Blandy*, sent to this Examinant, to ask his Opinion concerning some Powder she had found in some Water-Gruel, Part of which her Master had drank; that he took out of the said Gruel the said Powder, and that he has examined the same, and suspects the same to be Poison; and imagines the Powder which was given to the said *Francis Blandy*, might be the Occasion of his Death, for that this Examinant believes he was poisoned.

Taken on Oath the

15th Day of

August, 1751, before me

RICHARD MILES.

ELIZABETH BINFIELD, late Servant to Mr. *Francis Blandy*, deceased, upon her Oath faith, that about two Months ago she heard Miss *Mary Blandy* his Daughter say, *Who would grudge to send an old Father to Hell for 10,000 l.* and faith, that she hath heard her often wish her Father dead and at Hell; and that he would die next *October*: And faith, that the said *Mary Blandy* a few Days since declared to this Examinant, that on Monday the 5th Day of August Instant, she the said *Mary Blandy* put some Powder, which she called Love-Powder, into some Water-Gruel, which was given to and eat by her said Father: And further faith, that on the said Monday her said Master drank some of the said Water-Gruel, and faith, that the said *Mary Blandy* declared

to this Examinant, that her said Father had told her he had a Ball of Fire in his Stomach, and that he should not be well till the same was out; and saith, that on the next Day being *Tuesday*, her said Master continued very ill, and in the Evening he drank some more of the said Water-Gruel, and was immediately afterwards taken very ill, and reached violently, and went to Bed: On the *Wednesday*, he the said *Francis Blandy* took Physick, and about Two of the Clock the same Day, the said *Mary Blandy* would have had her said Father taken the Remainder of the said Water-Gruel, but the other Servant would not let him take it, and was going to throw it away, when she espied at the Bottom of the Bason some white Stuff, and called to this Examinant to look at it, which she did, and the same was very white and gritty; and saith, that she heard the said *Mary Blandy*, declare to Doctor *Addington*, that she never attempted to give her said Father any Powder but once before, and that she then put it into his Tea, which he did not drink, as it would not mix well.

Taken on Oath ELIZ. BINFIELD.
the 15th Day
of Aug. 1751,
before me RICHARD MILES,
Mayor and Coroner.

Town of *Henley upon Thames* in the County of *Oxford*. To Wit. *The Deposition and Examination of Edward Herne, taken on Oath the 15th Day of August 1751, before Richard Miles, Gent. Mayor and Coroner of the said Town of Henley upon Thames.*

THE said Examinant on his Oath saith, that he was a Servant or Writer to *Francis Blandy*, Gentleman, deceased; and saith, that during the Time of the Ill-

ness of the said *Francis Blandy*, he this Examinant, heard *Mary Blandy*, the Daughter of the said *Francis Blandy*, deceased, declare, that she had received some Powders, with some Pebbles from Captain C——, which she said were Love-Powders; and farther saith, that she told him when she received the same from the said Captain C——, that he desired that she would administer the same to her Father.

Taken on Oath EDW. HERNE.
the 15th Day
of Aug. 1751,
before me RICHARD MILES.
Mayor and Coroner.

Before we insert any more of the Affidavits made before the Mayor and Coroner of *Henley*, the Day after his Death, we think it proper to give some further Account of Miss, and her Behaviour on finding her Father was dead.

Soon after Mr. *Blandy* was dead, her Uncle, a Reverend Divine, sent to Miss the Keys which her Father had delivered to him during his Illness, as being her own, and therefore he had no farther Business with them. Her two Keepers, whom her Father had ordered to take Care of her, were dismissed, having no more Power to watch her; and from the Time of her Father's Death till the next Day at Noon, she had full Liberty of making her Escape, and indeed she made several Attempts for that Purpose, as will be shewn hereafter.

What we have hitherto related, appears by the Testimonies of the Servants: But there being some other Incidents which happened in the Course of this melancholy Affair, we shall give a true Account of whatever has come to our certain Knowledge, though for that Purpose we shall be obliged to go a little back again in Point of Time.

Miss Blandy expecting a Letter from Mr. C——n, which did not come to the Time, gave the following to Mr. Littleton, desiring him to direct it to Capt. C——n in Scotland, as he always used to do, and put it himself into the Post-Box. It was sealed up with three Wafers, and being intercepted and carried to Mr. Blandy, he desired Mr. Littleton to read it before him. It was as follows :

Dear WILLY,

“ MY Father is so bad, that I have
 “ only Time to tell you, that if
 “ you don’t hear from me soon again,
 “ don’t be frightened : I am better myself ;
 “ and least any Accident should happen
 “ to your Letters, take Care what you
 “ write. My sincere Compliments.

“ I am ever yours.”

She did not subscribe her Name to this Letter ; and it was very ill wrote, tho’ she writes a good Hand. Mr. Littleton asking the Deceased, whether he should send this Letter, was answered, *No, keep it by all Means.*

But now to return, the Cook-maid asking her the Night her Father died, whom she would have to set up with her ? Miss answered, *The Night is my own, and I will have whom I please.* About Eight o’Clock that Night, Miss called for Supper ; but the Servants not carrying it up so soon as she expected, she d---n’d them, and behaved very confidently, and in such a Manner, that they were frightened, and could hardly be prevailed upon to go to her. It seems Dr. Addington had given them a Caution not to put too much Confidence in their Mistress, since she might think it her Interest to poison them all.

Mr. Littleton, observing this strange Behaviour in Miss, so unbecoming a Gentlewoman in her Circumstances, was

at a Loss what to do ; but lighting on two of his Friends, he desired them to go with him to the House, and bear him Company, and by the Way, meeting with one Mr. Esdell, a Gentleman of the Town, ask’d him likewise to go with them, not to be Keepers of Miss Blandy, as has been falsely reported, but on the Contrary, to see her make her Escape or Exit, as they called it, and expected ; for which Purpose they walk’d some Time before the Door ; but Mr. Littleton, who resolv’d to have nothing to reproach himself with afterwards, behav’d thro’ the whole with great Prudence, and understanding that Miss had offered 500l. to Robert Harman, her Servant Man, to carry her off, though he had the Honesty to refuse it, thought it highly necessary to take the Advice of a Gentleman eminent in the Law, who liv’d in the Town, who told him, that he (Mr. Littleton) and the other Gentlemen who were with him, had no Business in Miss Blandy’s House, but by her Consent, and that no Warrant being issued out against her, no Harm could happen to the Man was he to accept of the 500l. she offered him. Upon this Answer, they all went to the Catherine-Wheel, where meeting with the Mayor and Corporation, who had already sent for a Constable, he ordered them in the King’s Name to keep the Peace in the House, untill the said Constable came ; which was accordingly complied with by the said Gentlemen. The Constable came, and in about a Quarter of an Hour went away again, saying in his Justification, that Miss Blandy not being personally consign’d to his Custody, he had no Business there.

Miss was now once more Mistress of herself, but not knowing how soon her Liberty might again be restrained, after her Attempt to bring her Man into her Measures had failed, she applied to the Cook-maid, Elizabeth Binfield, the next Day,

Day, and calling her up Stairs, offered her Twenty Guineas to hire a Post-Chaise at the *Red Lion* or the *Bell*; and told her farther, that if she was willing to follow her into the West of *England*, she would take care of her Fortune. But the Maid, who is a much more material Witness against her than what she had sworn before the Mayor and Coroner, refused this Offer with the same Firmness the Man had done.

In short, Miss *Blandy* finding none of her Servants willing to assist her Flight, desired the Cook, as a last Favour, to go to Bed with her; which she likewise refused, alledging, as a Reason, the Horror her Master's Death had thrown her into, and who then lay dead in the House, and the Suspicions she had, that she Miss *Blandy* had poisoned him, were so great, that was she to go to Bed with her, she should take no Rest all Night long; and therefore begg'd she would dismiss her, and let her go to her own Bed, having not taken a Wink of Sleep for three Days and three Nights together. Upon which Miss *Blandy* complained bitterly of her Servants, and of the People of *Henley*; saying, "That some malicious Person gave out at her Mother's Death, that she had not had fair Play for her Life, though every body knew what Disorder she died of, which was an Inflammation in her Bowels †, and now her Father was dead, there were other Reports, as if she had poisoned him also." But before she dismissed the Maid, she told her, in a joking Manner, "Was it not a Madness in me to propose to go out at this Time of Night? Where could I go? Indeed any one could hardly help laughing at such a Thought." By this may be seen, that though Miss was deprived of Counsel and Advice, yet she was not destitute of Prudence. But be

that as it will, 'tis surprising, that having form'd a Resolution to make her Escape, when other Methods failed, it never came into her Head to order the Man to saddle one of the Horses (there being two in the Stable) and to ride away upon it, which seem'd the only Method likely to succeed, if she could afterwards have found Means to secure herself. There was nobody in the House that was willing to oppose her Escape at that Time, nor in the Town one in Readiness to follow her. However it was, Miss went to Bed about One o'Clock.

On *Thursday* Morning about Ten of the Clock, Miss having about 1000 *l.* in Cash and Bank Notes upon her, dress'd in a black Sack, with a Bonnet on her Head, came down Stairs, went through the Kitchen, where the Servants were at Breakfast, passed by them without speaking a Word, opened the Street-door, and walk'd out as far as *Henley* Church-yard, without being known; but then being taken Notice of first by some Children, who were then in the Street, she was soon followed by a Croud of People over the Bridge, where some of them imagined she design'd to throw herself into the River, but soon perceived she had a greater Regard to her own Life, than to throw it away so foolishly at last; finding herself surrounded on all Sides by the Mob, fearing she should be insulted, she took Refuge in the *Angel* Alehouse, which is in *Berkshire*, being over the Bridge, where she immediately call'd for a Pint of Wine and a Toast.

The Corporation of *Henley* being informed of what had happened, sent their Serjeant and Mace-bearer to stop her going any further; and some Time after Mr. *Fisher*, one of the Aldermen, went himself, and asking her why she went away? her Answer was, "That having been confined for several Days together to her Room, she only wanted to take
the

† It is confidently said, That the same *Scotch* Officer was at Mr. *Blandy's* when Mrs. *Blandy* died of Convulsions in her Bowels.

“ the Air.” From the *Angel* she was brought back again to her House in a Post-Chaise provided for that Purpose, though it was not above a Half a Quarter of a Mile; but it was done in order to preserve her from the Resentment of the Populace. In the Afternoon of the same Day, the Coroner’s Inquest sat on the Body of the Deceased.

Before we proceed any farther, we shall now insert the Affidavits of Dr. Addington and Dr. Lewis, the Physicians that attended Mr. Blandy; as likewise that of Mr. Nicholas, a Surgeon of Henley, who opened the Body.

*Town of Henley upon } To wit. DEPOSITI-
Thames, in the Coun- }
ty of Oxford. } ONS of WITNESSES
and EXAMINATI-*

ONS taken on Oath the 15th Day of August 1751, before Richard Miles, Gent. Mayor and Coroner of the said Town; and also before the Jury impannelled to inquire into the Cause of the Death of Francis Blandy, Gent. now lying dead.

ANthony Addington of Reading, in the County of Berkshire, Doctor of Physick, maketh Oath and saith, That Mary Blandy, Daughter of Francis Blandy, Gent. deceased, acknowledged to this Deponent, that she received of the Hon. William Henry C——n, a Powder which was called a Powder to clean the Stones or Pebbles, which were sent to her at the same Time as a Present: and that Monday the 5th Instant she mix’d Part of the said Powder in a Mefs of Water-Gruel; but said, that she did not know that it was Poison, till she had found the Effects of it on her Father; for that the said Mr. C—— had assured her, that if she gave her Father now and then of the said Powder in Gruel, or any other thin Liquor, it would make him kind to her: And that the said Mr. C—— assured her, that it was innocent, and that he frequently took of it

himself; and that this Deponent received from Mr. Benjamin Norton, who was Apothecary to the said Francis Blandy, some small Potion of a Powder, which Mr. Norton said was found at the Bottom of the above-mentiond Mefs of Gruel given to the said Francis Blandy on the 5th Instant, and that this Deponent, after Examination of the said Powder, suspects the same to be Poison.

Taken on Oath, the 15th Day of

August, 1751, before me A. ADDINGTON,
RICHARD MILES.

WILLIAM LEWIS, of the University of Oxford, Doctor of Physick, maketh Oath and saith, that Mary Blandy, Daughter of Francis Blandy, Gent. deceased, acknowledged to this Deponent, that she had frequently given to her said Father, the Powder which she had received from the Hon. William Henry C——n called the Powder to clean the Stones or Pebbles, which she had received from him, but that she did not know that the said Powder was Poison, but that it was intended to make her Father kind to her.

Taken on Oath, the 15th Day of

August, 1751, before me W. LEWIS,
RICHARD MILES.

EDWARD NICHOLAS of Henley upon Thames, in the County of Oxon, Surgeon, upon his Oath saith, that he has examined the Body of Francis Blandy, Gent. deceased, and saith, that he found that the Fat on the Abdomen was near a State of Fluidity, and that the Muscles and Membranes were extremely pale; and that the Omentum, was preternaturally yellow, and that Part which covered the Stomach was brownish; that the external Part of the Stomach was extremely discoloured with lived Spots; the internal Part was extremely inflamed, and covered almost entirely with extravasated Blood; the Intestines were very pale and flabby,

and in those Parts especially which were near the Stomach, there was much extravasated Blood; the Liver was likewise sphacelated, in those Parts particularly which were contiguous to the Stomach; the Bile was of a very deep yellow; in the Gall Bladder was found a Stone about the Size of a large Filbert; the Lungs were covered in every Point with Black Spots; the Kidneys, Spleen and Heart were likewise greatly spotted; there was found no Water in the Pericardium; in short, he never found or beheld a Body in which the Viscera were so universally inflamed and mortified.

Taken on Oath, the 15th Day of

August, 1751, before me EDW. NICHOLAS.
RICHARD MILES.

The Deposition and Examination of A. Addington and William Lewis, Doctors of Physick, taken on their respective Oaths, the 15th Day of August 1751, before me
RICHARD MILES,
Mayor and Coroner.

THE Fat on the Abdomen was observed to be near a State of Fluidity.

The Muscles and Membranes were extremely pale.

The Omentum was preternaturally yellow, and that Part which covered the Stomach was brownish.

The external Part of the Stomach was extremely discoloured with livid Spots; the internal Part was extremely inflamed, and covered almost intirely with extravasated Blood.

The Intestines were very pale and flabby, and in those Parts especially, which were near the Stomach, there was much extravasated Blood.

The Liver was likewise sphacelated, in those Parts particularly which were contiguous to the Stomach.

The Bile was of a very deep yellow;

in the Gall Bladder we found a Stone about the Size of a large Filbert.

The Lungs were covered in every Point with black Spots.

The Kidneys, Spleen and Heart were likewise greatly spotted; there was found no Water in the Pericardium.

In short, we never beheld a Body in which the Viscera were so universally inflamed and mortified.

It is our real Opinion, that the Cause of Mr. Blandy's Death was Poison.

A. ADDINGTON. W. LEWIS.

A Jury being summoned by Richard Miles, Gent. Mayor and Coroner, to sit on the Body of the Deceased Mr. Blandy, which consisted of Men of good Reputation and Credit within the Corporation of Henley, on the Evidence contained in the Affidavits before-mentioned, brought in their Verdict, That Mr. Francis Blandy was poisoned, as will appear more properly by the following Inquisition,

Town of Henley upon Thames, in the County of Oxford. } To Wit. *An Inquisition indented, taken at the House of John Gale, within the Town of Henley upon Thames aforesaid, the 15th Day of August, in the 25th Year of the Reign of King George the Second, and in the Year of our Lord 1751.*

BEfore Richard Miles, Gentleman, Mayor and Coroner of the said Town, upon View of the Body of Francis Blandy, Gentleman, deceased, now lying dead, upon the Oaths of James Fisher, William Toovey, Benjamin Sarney, Peter Sarney, William Norman, Richard Beach, L. Nicholas, Thomas Mason, Tho. Staverton, John Blackman, J. Skinner, James Lambden, and Richard Fisher, good and lawful Men of the said Town, who having been sworn and charged to enquire for our Sovereign Lord the King, when, where, and by what Means, and after what Fashion the

the said Francis Blandy came by his Death, upon their Oaths say, that the said Francis Blandy was poisoned; and that they have a strong Suspicion, from the Depositions of the Witneses, that Mary Blandy, Daughter of the said Francis Blandy, did poison and murder her said Father Francis Blandy, against the Peace of our said Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity. In Witness of which Act and Things, as well the Coroner aforesaid, as the Jurors aforesaid, have to this Inquisition set their Hands and Seals, the Day and Year first above-written.

*This Inquisition was
taken the 15th Day
of August 1751,
before me
R. MILES Mayor
and Coroner*

James Fisher.
William Toovey.
Benjamin Sarney.
Peter Sarney,
William Norman,
Richard Beach,
L. Nicholas,
Thomas Mason,
Tho. Staverton,
John Blackman,
J. Skinner,
James Lambden,
Richard Fisher.

Soon afterwards, Mr. *Richard Miles*, Mayor and Coroner of *Henley*, and Justice of the Peace for the said Town, went into Miss *Blandy's* Room to examine her. He ask'd her how she came by the Powder which she gave her Father? she answer'd, " That Capt. C—n had sent her that Powder, with some *Scotch* Pebbles, and had told her it was Love-powder; that the last Time he (C—n) was in the House, he put some of the same Powder into her Father's Peas when he was at Dinner; that he told her it would not affect him; and that during that Time she was looking out of the Parlour Window, so that she did not see him put in the Powder, but was told by him so afterwards; that since that Time she had administer'd

" some of the same Powder to her Father in his Gruel; but did not imagine it would prove fatal to him; but on the contrary, would make him love her the better."

On *Friday* the 16th a Warrant of Commitment was, upon these several Depositions, made out against Miss *Blandy*, and two Constables were placed upon her Person until she should be carried to *Oxford Goal* the next Day.

The same Night the Remains of the Deceased Mr. Blandy were buried in the Parish Church of *Henley*, but none of his Relations were present at his Funeral. Mr. Norton, Mr. Littleton, and Robert Harman his Footman, were the only Mourners.

When Miss found she was committed to *Oxford Goal*, she desired not to go till next Morning, that she might have Time to look up her Cloaths, &c. to carry with her, which was comply'd with.

Then she desired one Mrs. Dean, a Woman who had formerly been a Servant in the Family, to go and be with her in the Goal, which the Woman agreed to, and is still with her there.

Miss before she went, was very desirous of carrying her Tea-chest with her, as the Cannisters were all most full of fine Hyson, which she said would save her some Money; and which Tea-Chest she has now in the Goal.

On Saturday Morning about Four o'Clock she set out very privately in a Landau and Four, attended by only two Constables, and Mrs. Dean, in the Coach, and arrived at *Oxford Castle* about Eleven o'Clock without being suspected, so that there was no Mob of People.

As soon as she arrived in the Goal, the first Question she asked was, if she was to be fettered; and being answered, No, so long as she behaved well; she replied, *I have wore them all this Morning in my Mind in the Coach.*

The following is a true Copy of her Commitment.

Town of Henley upon Thames, in the County of Oxford. } *To wit.* To the Constables of the said Town, and to each and every of them, and also to the Keeper of his Majesty's Goal, in and for the said County of Oxford.

WHEREAS Mary Blandy, of Henley upon Thames, aforesaid, Spinster, stands charged upon Oath before me, with a violent Suspicion of poisoning and murdering Francis Blandy, Gentleman, her late Father, deceased: These are in his Majesty's Name to require and command the said Constables, that you, some or one of you, do forthwith convey the said Mary Blandy to his Majesty's said Goal in and for the said County, and deliver her to the Keeper thereof: Hereby also requiring you the said Keeper to receive into the said Goal the Body of the said Mary Blandy, and her there safely to keep untill she shall be from thence discharged by due Course of Law, and hereof fail not at your Perils. Given under my Hand and Seal this 16th Day of August, 1751.



RICHARD MILES, Mayor and Coroner.

We shall now leave Miss in Oxford Gaol, and give the Reader some more Particulars concerning the Servants, which though omitted in its proper Place, we think them of too much Consequence to be pass'd over in silence.

Eliz. Binfield, the Cook-maid, has declared, since she made the Affidavit before related, that her young Mistress had frequently talk'd with her concerning her Father, and had said, behind his Back, besides what she had before sworn, that he was an old Rascal, old Rogue, and such other infamous Names; that on Miss's telling her that her Father would be dead

before October next, she ask'd her how she knew it; when Miss reply'd, that Captain C——n had wrote her Word, that he had been to a Conjuror in Scotland, who had told him, that some of the Family would die before October.

Sufannah Gunnell, the Chamber-maid, was also poison'd by these same Love-powders, but not as has been reported, by tasting the Water Gruel; it was by drinking a Dish of Tea out of the Cup without wrenching it, which Miss had designed for her Father, when she found the Powders would not mix well with it, and which Miss had thrown out of the Window.

This poor Girl was extremely ill for a long Time, and though she is now recovered, and goes abroad, she is wore down to a Skelliton.

At the Time of her making the Affidavit before the Mayor and Coroner, as is before inserted, she being so very ill, could hardly say any thing at that Time; but since her Recovery, has declared, and is ready to testify the same at the Assizes, on the Trial, that Miss had cautioned her not to taste the Water Gruel that she carried to her Master, lest it might do her harm; which carries a great Probability, that she must know the Powders she administer'd to her Father were of a poisonous Quality.

Mr. Norton, the Apothecary, has, since he gave his Testimony before the Mayor and Coroner, try'd the Powders by some chemical Preparations, and now finds them to be Poison, and will testify the same on the Trial.

As for the Report that has been current, that Miss Blandy was privately married to Mr. C——n, there was some Foundation, as Miss had privately told the Maid Servants so; but she absolutely denies any such Marriage.

The Servant Man, Robert Harman, though he did not say in his Affidavit, that Miss Blandy had made Overtures to him

to assist her in her Escape, has declared since, that she offered him 500*l.* if he would go along with her to France ; and which Offer was made to him by her after his Master, Mr. Blandy, was dead.

All the Servants are bound over in Recognizances to appear at the next Assizes to be held for the County of Oxford, in order to give their Testimonies on the Trial of Miss Blandy for the Murder of her said Father.

A Gentleman of Oxford, who is a Justice of the Peace, and was particularly acquainted with Mr. Blandy and his Family, going one Day into the Gaol to see Miss, informed her, that her Uncle, and other Friends, who had the Care of her Affairs, found, that her Father was not near so rich as was imagined in his Lifetime ; for that all they could make out, did not amount to 4000*l.* On her hearing this, she seem'd more confused than she has ever appeared to be since her Confinement, and said, “ I am very sorry to hear “ so.” How far that may sting her Conscience, is best known to herself ; but it is probable to imagine, that had she certainly known that he had been worth no more than he really was, she might not have put her damnable Project in Execution ; nor her wicked pretended Lover have solicited her to do it.

Her Behaviour in Gaol from the first has been very serene and calm ; but she did not appear so deeply and sincerely affected as could be expected for one in her Circumstances, she always drinking Tea twice a Day, sometimes walking in the Keeper's

Garden with a Guard, and playing at Cards in the Evening ; refusing to be seen by any Persons, except her own particular Friends, who first sent in their Names, and them but very few.

In a few Days after she was carried into Goal, she was informed that a Warrant was issued and gone down in the North to apprehend her Lover Mr. C——n, whereupon she said, “ I pray God they may “ take the Villain, that he may suffer, for “ it is all owing to his Request and Ad- “ vice.” And on her hearing that he was gone off before the Warrant got down, she shewed a great Concern.

Upon a Remonstrance being made by several Noblemen and Gentlemen of the County of Oxford, that she was indulg'd with too much Liberty in the Goal, so that they apprehended an Escape might be form'd for her, to be made therefrom, a Letter was sent by his Grace the Duke of Newcastle to the Sheriff, requiring him to take more particular Care of her, as she stood charged with a Crime of so wicked a Nature, and black a Dye ; whereupon, on Friday the 25th of October, she was fettered for better securing her.

When the Duke's Letter was read to her, she seem'd very composed, and did not in the least appear to be any ways shock'd ; but her Behaviour has since been quite different to what it was, and she has attended Divine Service in the Chaple several Times, which she had not done before.

ADVERTISEMENT.

This Day was published,
Number II. Of

MILTON'S Paradise Lost.

A POEM: In Twelve Books, with Notes Etymological, Critical, Classical, and Explanatory. Collected from Dr. Bentley, Dr. Pearce, the present Bishop of Bangor; Richardson and son; Adair, Patterson; Newton, and other Authors; intended as a Key to this Divine POEM; wherein Persons unacquainted with the Learned Languages, and Polite Literature, will be introduced into a familiar Acquaintance with the various Beauties and Excellencies of this Master-Piece of Heroic Poetry. Dedicated to the KING, by JOHN MARCHANT, Gent, Author of the Exposition of the Old and New Testament, &c.

CONDITIONS.

I. THAT this Work will be printed in Twelves, on an Elziver Letter, and fine Paper, and be contained in Sixteen Numbers, at Three pence each, stitched in blue Covers, the whole to make two neat Pocket Volumes.

II. The First Number was published on Wednesday the 30th of October 1751; and will continue every Wednesday till the Whole is compleated.

III. That a compleat Set of Cuts curiously engraved by some of the best Hands, will be delivered in the Publication, gratis, which will be a great Ornament to this Work.

IV. That in order to encourage People to be Subscribers to this cheap and valuable Work, whatever the same shall make over the Sixteen Numbers, (each of them to contain 48 Pages, besides Cuts) the Overplus shall be given gratis.

V. That no Money is required or expected but on the Delivery of the Numbers.

All Persons on giving Notice to my Printer and Publisher R. WALKER, in the Little Old Bailey, London; or to any of the Venders of News-Papers, or of Books and Pamphlets, may be assured of being regularly serv'd with the Numbers as they are published at their own Houses, or where they shall appoint.

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Of whom may be had the First Number.

To the PUBLICK.

PARADISE LOST is a Work so well known to the Learned World, and its Reputation so firmly established, that little need be said to recommend it to such as have the least Taste for polite Literature. It is a Fund of universal Learning and Knowledge, such as it concerns us, as Men, to be more especially acquainted with. It leads us into Heaven, and presents us with the most astonishing Scenes, acted there before this World or Man had a Being. It carries us down to the infernal Regions, the horrible Mansion of the Fallen Angels, and let us into the Council of their Chiefs, when they had that grand Point in Debate, the Seduction of Man. It describes Satan's Expedition to the Upper World and acquaints us with the subtle and delusive Means he practised to work the Fall of Man; with many other Surprising Events that afford the most agreeable Entertainment to a judicious Reader.

Yet it must be acknowledged that an unlearned Reader can take but little Pleasure in the Perusal of this Divine and Instructive POEM, for want of understanding a great Number of Words and Phrases which are derived from the Learned Languages; and very often loses the Beauty of a Sentiment, because he knows little or nothing of the Pagan Mythology to which the Author frequently recurs.

To remove these Difficulties, and render this noble POEM, which is an Honour to our Country, as plain and intelligible, to every Capacity, as any other Book, is my Design in this Work; wherein every Difficulty will be cleared up; the Names of Places, Persons, and Things explained; and the Reader instructed to form a true Judgment of the Language, Sentiment, and Diction of this inimitable Author.

Thus every Man, who has but a common Understanding, shall be enabled to gather the Flowers of Paradise, and regale his Mind with the Fragrance of this delightful Garden.

J. MARCHANT.