The genuine tryal at large of Mary Blandy, spinster, for poisoning her late father Francis Blandy : at the Assizes held at Oxford, for the county of Oxford, on Tuesday the third of March, 1752.

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The Genuine

TRYAL

At LARGE of

MARY BLANDY, Spinster,

For Poiſoning her late FATHER

FRANCIS BLANDY, *Gent.*

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

AT THE

ASSIZES held at *OXFORD*,

FOR THE

COUNTY of *OXFORD*,

On *TUESDAY* the Third of *MARCH*, 1752,

Before the Honourable Mr. Baron *LEGGE*,

AND

The Honourable Mr. Baron *SMYTHE*.

LONDON Printed: And Sold by W. JACKSON, in the *High-Street*, OXFORD, and the Bookſellers there: And ſold in *London* by R. WALKER, in the *Little Old-Bailey*, and by all the Bookſellers and Pamphletſellers. 1752.

(Price Six-pence.)

The TRIAL at large of *Mary Blandy*, Spinster, at *Oxford* Assizes, on *Tuesday* the 3d of *March*, 1752, for poisoning her Father, *Francis Blandy*, Gent. Town-Clerk of *Henley* upon *Thames*, *Oxfordshire*.

Oxford, *March* 5, 1752.

ON *Saturday* the 29th of last Month, in the Evening, the Hon. Mr. Baron *Legge*, and the Hon. Mr. Baron *Smythe* came here, and immediately repaired to the Council-Room, and open'd their Commission for holding the Assizes for this County, when they adjourned to the Divinity School, (which was made convenient for that Purpose) to *Monday* Morning 9 o'Clock.

On *Sunday* their Lordships went to St. *Mary*'s Church, where an excellent Sermon was preached by the Rev. Mr. *Barton*, of *New College*, from the following Words, *Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour.*

Monday the second of *March*, the Court being sat, a learned and excellent Charge was given to the Grand Jury; among other Offences, they were directed to enquire after that of Murder; of this Crime the several Species were enumerated. Speaking of that Sort called Poison, his Lordship observed, that as it was the most dangerous, so it was the most detested of all others; that it was generally contrived and executed in so secret a Manner, that in some Cases, it would, humanly speaking, be impossible to find it out, did not the Finger of God evidently point it out to us; that formerly this Crime had been made High Treason, by express Statute, and the Punishment was to be boiled to Death. This Punishment was thought too severe, and was therefore repealed in the Reign of *Edward* VI. That the Murder of a Husband by a Wife, or a Master or Mistress by a Servant, is called Pettit-Treason, and has particular Punishment; but that the Murder of a Parent by a Child, called Parricide, had no other Punishment than common Murder *; that the ancient

* "The *Romans* made no Law against these execrable Persons, as supposing none would be "so wicked as to commit such Crimes, till *L. Ostius*, about 500 Years after the Death of "*Numa*, killed his Father; upon which they ordered 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 continue 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 "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."

Nations had not provided any particular Punishment, as thinking Mankind could not be guilty of so horrid a Crime as destroying, that Being, which under God was the Author of their Being.

The Grand Jury having that Day found a Bill against *Mary Blandy*, Spinster, for the Murder of her Father *Francis Blandy*, late of *Henley upon Thames*, the Court appointed the Trial to come on the next Morning.

Tuesday, *March* 3, the Court being sat, about Eight o'Clock in the Morning, the Prisoner was set to the Bar.

Mary Blandy, of the Town of *Henley upon Thames*, Spinster, was indicted, for that she, not having the Fear of God before her Eyes, but being moved and seduced by the Instigation of the Devil, on the Tenth Day of *November*, in the Twenty-fourth Year of his Majesty's Reign, and at divers Times since, *to wit.* on the fifth Day of *August*, in the 25th Year of his Majesty's Reign, with Force and Arms in the Parish of *Henley upon Thames*, in this County, upon the Body of *Francis Blandy*, Gent. her Father, did make an Assault, and in her Malace aforethought, did kill and murder, by putting into some Water-gruel, a certain Powder called Arsnic, and afterwards giving to him the said *Francis Blandy*, a Potion thereof, knowing it to be so mixed with the Powder aforesaid, and afterwards, *to wit.* on *Tuesday* the 6th Day of the same Month, in the same Year, did give to him the said *Francis*, a second Potion of the said Water-gruel, so mixed with the Powder aforesaid, and so administred by her the said *Mary*, he the said *Francis* was poisoned, and of which Poison, he, the said *Francis* languished till the fourteenth Day of the said Month of *August*, and then died; against the Peace of our Sovereign Lord the King, his Crown and Dignity.

She was a second Time indicted on the Coroner's Inquest.

The Council for the Crown were the Hon. Mr. *Bathurst*; Mr. Serjeant *Hayward*; Mr. *Naires*, Town-Clerk of *Oxford*; Mr. *Hayes*; Mr. *Ambler*, and the Hon. Mr. *Barrington*: And for the Prisoner, Mr. *Ford*, Mr. *Moreton*, and Mr. *Aston*.

The Council for the Crown having opened the Indictment, proceeded to inform the Court and Jury, that this Prosecution was carried on by the Order, and at the Expence of his Majesty (who is ever watchful to preserve the Lives, Liberties and Properties of his Subjects) against the Prisoner at the Bar, for one of the most atrocious Crimes, the cruel, inhuman, and deliberate Murder of her own Father: That the Prisoner at the Bar, *Mary Blandy*, was the Daughter, and only Child of Mr. *Francis Blandy*, an eminent Attorney at Law, at *Henley upon Thames*, a Gentlewoman both by her Birth and Education; that as she was the only, so she was the beloved Child of her Father, who had spared no Expence in giving her a genteel as well as a virtuous Education; that her Father, indeed, had used this pious Fraud, (if he might be allowed that Expression) in saying that her Fortune would be 10,000*l.* to the End he supposed, that his Daughter might be married suitable to such a Fortune. That about six Years ago, one Capt. *William Henry Cranston* came to *Henley* a recruiting, and there hearing that Miss *Blandy* was a 10,000*l.* Fortune, and having a Mind to marry this Fortune, notwithstanding he had a Wife and Children alive, contrived to get acquainted with this Family; how well he succeeded, and how sadly for this Family, this unhappy Catastrophe has shewn. That Mr. *Blandy* having been informed, that Mr. *Cranston* was married, he desired

fired his Daughter to break off all Correſpondence with him; that inſtead of doing ſo, ſhe acquainted Mr. *Cranſton* with her Father's Command, who inſtead of clearing his Character to her Father's Satisfaction, contrives the Means, and perſwades the beloved, this tenderly-indulged Daughter, to be an Actor in her Father's Deſtruction.

That in the Month of *Auguſt*, 1750, Mr. *Cranſton* was at *Henley* upon a Viſit to the unhappy Priſoner at the Bar; then it is believed, this deep, this wicked Plot was contrived; for ſoon after the Capt. was gone, *viz*, about the 10th of *November*, we find this wicked Scheme beginning to be put in Execution. That about the 10th of *November* Mr. *Blandy* found himſelf much diſordered, after drinking ſome Tea, that he thought had an odd Taſte, and complain'd of a violent Heartburn, pricking and ſhooting Pains in his Stomach and Bowels, attended with vomiting and purging; that this happened ſeveral Times after, but it went off again, generally, in a few Days, but not without leaving ſuch Relicks behind, as helped to break his Conſtitution; that *Cranſton* finding his Work of Deſtruction did not go on faſt enough, ſends her a Letter in *July*, making Uſe of an allegorical Expreſſion, *not to ſpare the Powder, in Order to keep the Ruſt off the Pebbles.* That the Tea, the Liquor it had been before adminiſtered in, was too thin to admit of a larger Quantity at a Time; therefore Water Gruel, or ſome ſuch thick Liquor muſt be contrived, where a large Doſe might be given without the leaſt Suſpicion; and accordingly on the fifth of *Auguſt* laſt, you will find by the Witneſſes that will be produced, that the Priſoner did mix a large Quantity of this Powder in a Pan of Water Gruel, and gave ſome of it to her Father that Day, and more of it the next, which produc'd ſuch terrible Effects as to occaſion his Death on the 14th. That he would call the Phyſicians firſt, and they would prove, that what was adminiſtered to the Deceaſed was Poiſon, and the Cauſe of his Death.

Dr. *Addington* of *Reading*, and Dr. *Lewis* of *Oxford*, were then call'd and both ſworn; and Dr. *Addington* ſaid, That being on the 10th ſent for to Mr. *Blandy*, he thus made his Complaints: That he had a violent burning and pricking Pain in his Stomach, and had had a purging and vomiting, immediately after his drinking ſome Water-gruel; that the next Day he drank ſome more Gruel out of the ſame Pan, for a Quantity of the Gruel had been boil'd to ſtand in readineſs as uſual, and upon drinking it the ſecond Time, the Symptoms returned as before; Dr. *Addington* ſaid, that beſides the Complaints abovementioned, he had Hiccups, cold Sweats, great Anxieties, Prickings, all over his Body, upon the external, as well as the internal Parts, which he compared to the pricking of Needles; that he was ſometimes pretty eaſy, but that the Complaints ſuddenly returned; that he had bloody Stools, and that he imputed the whole to ſomething he had taken that was put into the Gruel: The following Day and *Monday* he grew worſe; his Tongue ſwell'd, his Throat was excoriated, his Lips were dry, and on them, and in his Noſtrils were puſtulous Eruptions; his Eyes bloodſhed, his Fundament abounded with corroding Ulcers, his Pulſe intermitted, his Breath was interrupted, his Complexion was of a yellowiſh Hue, he could drink but not ſwallow, not even a Tea-ſpoonful without the greateſt Difficulty. On *Tueſday* he grew worſe, and beſides thoſe Complaints had a Diſcharge of Matter from his Fundament, and hiccup'd like a Perſon bit by a mad Dog. *Wedneſday* he grew

grew delirious, ſunk gradually, and died about Two o'Clock in the Afternoon: Being aſked if he thought he was poiſoned, he anſwered, he really believed he was; for that the Symptoms whilſt living, were like thoſe who had taken Arſnic; and the Appearance after Death, like thoſe that were poiſon'd by Arſnic: The Back and thoſe Parts that he lay on, were livid; the Fat on the Belly was in a State of Fluidity; the Muſcles were pale and flaccid, the Caul yellow, and next to the Stomach and Inteſtines, of a brownifh Colour; the Heart was as if it was variegated with many purple Spots; no Water was found in the Pericardium; the Lungs appeared like Bladders, half diſtended with Air, and were blotch'd in many Places like Spots of Ink, as was likewiſe the Liver, and that Part of it that covered the Stomach was particularly dark; in the Gall Bladder was found a Stone; the Bile was very fluid, and of a dark yellow Colour, inclining to red; on the Kidnies appeared many livid Spots, the Stomach and Inteſtines, as far as open'd, were inflated, and contain'd nothing but ſlimy bloody Froth; their internal Coats were remarkably thin and flabby, and all the Rugæ or Wrinkles were obliterated, and the internal Coat of the Stomach near its upper Orifice, was greatly inflamed and looked red, and from theſe Appearances he was confirmed in his Opinion that he was poiſoned; beſides this, he had made ſeveral Experiments with the Powder taken out of the Gruel, which was delivered to him by Mr. *Norton* the Apothecary, as throwing it upon a hot Iron, boiling ten Grains in Water, and dividing the Decoction after filtring it, into five equal Parts; into one he had put Oil of Vitriol; into another Tartar; into the third Spirit of Sal Armoniac; the fourth Spirit of Salt; and into the fifth Spirits of Wine; that he had tryed it likewiſe with Syrop of Violets, and that he had the ſame Quantity of white Arſnic, which he bought in *Reading*, and made the like Experiments, and it anſwered exactly in every one of them, and therefore he believed it to be white Arſnic.

Dr. *Addington* further depoſed, that Mr. *Blandy* told him, that he ſuſpected he had taken Poiſon, and that he believed it came to his Daughter with the *Scotch* Pebbles, for he was always worſe after a Preſent of thoſe damned *Scotch* Pebbles were received, and beſides, that he remembered to have heard *Cranſton* talk very learnedly upon Poiſons; that when he, this Witneſs, aſked Mr. *Blandy* who he imagined gave him this Poiſon, he replied, with Tears in his Eyes, though with a forced Smile, *A poor Love-ſick Girl, but I forgive her.*

He was then aſked by the King's Council, if he was ſure that the Poiſon the Deceaſed had taken, was the Cauſe of his Death; Dr. *Addington* replied, he was ſure that it was.

Dr. *Lewis* having been ſworn at the ſame Time with Dr. *Addington*, and ſtood in Court cloſe by him, while he gave his Evidence, was aſked by the King's Council, if he was preſent at the opening of Mr. *Blandy*, and whether thoſe Obſervations that were made by Dr. *Addington* were true; he ſaid he was preſent, and that he made the ſame Obſervations himſelf, excepting the Spots on his Heart.

He was then aſked, what was his Opinion of the Cauſe of the Death of Mr. *Blandy*; his Anſwer was, by Poiſon abſolutely.

Benjamin Norton, Apothecary, at *Henly upon Thames*, depoſed, That he was called to Mr. *Blandy*, *Tueſday Auguſt* 6th. and found him complaining of a violent Pain in his Stomach and Bowels, attended with a violent Purging and Vomiting; that on the *Thurſday* Morning following *Suſannah Gunnell* ſent to him, and ſaid ſhe

ſhould

ſhould be glad to conſult about ſome Water-Gruel which ſhe had left with Mrs. *Mountney*, which was the Remainder of what Mr. *Blandy* her Maſter had eat part of; that he went and examin'd it, and being aſk'd by them, if he knew what it was that was in it, he anſwer'd them, he could not be very poſſitive; but let it be what it would, he was ſure it could not have any Buſineſs there; that he took it from the Gruel upon ſome white Paper, and left it with Mrs. *Mountney* to dry; that when it was dry, he burnt Part of it with a hot Poker, and ſaid it appear'd to him to be of the Arſnic Kind; and that another Part of it he had deliver'd to Dr. *Addington*; and the Remainder he produc'd in Court, ſeal'd up under the Seals of the Earl of *Macclesfield* and Lord *Cadagan*.

On his croſs Examination by the Priſoner's Council, he was aſked when he apprehended Mr. *Blandy* firſt to be in Danger, and he reply'd on *Saturday* the 10th of *Auguſt*.

Priſoner's Council. Did not Miſs *Blandy* inſiſt upon having your Opinion if a Phyſician was neceſſary; and what was your Anſwer?

Norton. She did; and I told her I thought it was; but that I would not have her ſend for one without her Father's Knowledge.

Priſ. Coun. Did ſhe ſend for one, and when?

Norton. Mr *Blandy* was aſked if Dr. *Addington* ſhould be ſent for, he replyed, ſtay till To-morrow, and if I am not better ſend for him. When Miſs was told this, ſhe ſaid, *that will not ſatisfy me, I will ſend for him immediately*; which ſhe did.

Priſ. Coun. During the Time of Mr. *Blandy*'s Illneſs, what was her Behaviour? and did ſhe not do every Thing that an affectionate Child could do towards her Father's Recovery?

Norton. She always behaved like a dutiful Daughter, as far as I ever knew; and ſeemed to do every Thing in her Power towards her Father's Recovery.

King's Coun. Did ſhe tell you that ſhe had put any Thing into her Father's Gruel, and that ſhe fear'd it might in ſome Meaſure occaſion his Death?

Norton. She never did.

King's Coun. What do you think was the Cauſe of Mr. *Blandy*'s Death?

Norton. That he was poiſon'd.

Mary Mountney being ſworn, ſaid, That on the 8th of *Auguſt* laſt, *Suſannah Gunnell* came to her Houſe, and brought a Pan with ſome Gruel in it, and deſired this Witneſs to look at it, for ſhe feared there was ſomething in it that ſhould not be; that upon this Witneſs's looking at it, ſhe was of the ſame Opinion; that *Gunnell* left the Pan with the Gruel in it with her, deſiring this Witneſs to ſhew it to Mr. *Norton* the Apothecary, and deſire his Opinion of it; that this Witneſs did ſhew it to Mr. *Norton*, who inſpected it, and ſaid, *that whatever it was, it had no Buſineſs there*; that Mr. *Norton* deſired ſome white Paper, which ſhe gave him; that then Mr. *Norton* took the Sedement at the Bottom, put it on the Paper, and gave it to this Witneſs to keep till it was dry; that then this Witneſs locked it up, till the 11th of the ſame Month, and then deliver'd it to Mr. *Norton*.

Croſs-Examined.

Priſ. Coun. Are you ſure that the Powder you deliver'd to Mr. *Norton* was the ſame you receiv'd from *Suſannah Gunnell*?

Mountney. Yes, becauſe it was never out of my Cuſtody from the Time I receiv'd it from *Gunnell*, to the Time I delivered it to Mr. *Norton*.

Priſ. Coun. Could no other Perſon have Acceſs to the Place where you kept this Powder in that Time?

Mountney. No one could get at it, for I lockt it up, and kept the Key in my Pocket.

Susannah Gunnell, the Chamber-maid, being call'd and sworn, said, That on *Monday* the 5th of *August* last her Master was not very well, and desired to have some Water-gruel before he laid down; that Miss *Blandy*, the Prisoner at the Bar, carried him about half a Pint, which he drank, and was immediately sick, and call'd for a Bason to be brought up to his Room; and that she, this Witness, carry'd up a clean one: Being ask'd if he had made Use of it, she answered Yes, and discharg'd into it about half a Pint; that he complain'd of violent Pains in his Stomach and Bowels; that next Morning he sent for Mr. *Norton*, who gave him something, and he was easier; that in the Afternoon *Robert Harman* brought Orders from his Master to have a little Water-gruel warm'd instantly; that she warm'd it accordingly, and the Prisoner carried it to her Father; that he drank that also, and was immediately affected in the same Manner as before, but more violently; that on *Wednesday* Morning her Master took Physick, and Miss told her, her Father would want Water-gruel; and on this Witness's saying she would leave her Ironing and make some, Miss *Blandy* reply'd, *there's no Occasion for that, the Gruel in the Pan will serve*; that thinking that too stale, and having tasted it the Day before, and imagining it tasted ill, she went and tasted it a second Time, when, upon lifting the Pan to her Mouth, she observ'd a white Settling at the Bottom; and that upon seeing it so white, she felt it between her Finger and Thumb, and found it gritty; that she then went into the Kitchen to *Betty Binfield*, the Cook-maid, and desired she would look at it, for the Oatmeal was very white; that *Betty* said Oatmeal, why 'tis as white as Flour; yes, answered this Witness, but it feels more gritty than any we ever had; that this Witness then took it to the Door, when it appear'd still more white; whereupon she immediately recollected that she had been told that Poison was white and gritty; and it then came into her Mind, that her Master's Disorder was occasioned by Poison? and she immediately took the Pan to Mrs. *Mountney*, told her what she suspected, and desired her to shew it to Mr. *Norton* the Apothecary: Being ask'd who she believed put that white Stuff into the Gruel, she said the Prisoner: Being asked why she suspected her, reply'd, that the *Monday* before, when the Gruel was made, Miss *Blandy* was some Time in the Pantry stirring it, and then coming into the Kitchen, she said, I have been stirring the Gruel, and eating some of the Oatmeal out of it, for I have taken a great Fancy to it, and believe I shall often eat it out of my Father's Gruel.--- That on *Friday* the 9th, she told Mr. *Stevens*, her Master's Brother-in-law, what she suspected, and desired him to acquaint her Master, who said, that he could not bear to do it; that she continued very uneasy, and on *Saturday* Morning the 10th came to a Resolution to acquaint her Master herself, which she accordingly did, and begg'd he would let his Daughter see him as little as possible; that he accordingly forbid her from coming into his Chamber; and then said, *Oh! that damn'd Villain* Cranston, *that has eat of the best, and drank of the best that my House afforded, to serve me thus, and to ruin my poor love-sick Girl.*--- That on *Monday*, at Miss's Request, her Father consented to see her; that she, this Witness, was present when Miss came into the Chamber, and fell down upon her Knees, and said, *Oh! Sir, forgive me, send me where you will, and I'll never see or hear from, or write to* Cranston

more; so you do but forgive me I shall be happy. To which Mr. Blandy reply'd, *I do forgive thee, but thou shoulst'st have remembred I am your Father, but for that Villain* Cranston, *if thou had'st loved me, thou would'st curse him and the Ground he walks upon.* Upon this Miss said, *Oh Sir! your Kindness to me strikes Daggers to my Soul*; Sir, *I must down on my Knees and pray that you will not curse me*; he reply'd, *I curse thee! no Child I bless thee, and hope God will bless thee, and I pray thou may'st live to repent and amend.——Leave me least thou shouldst say something to thy Prejudice; go to thy Uncle* Stevens, *he will take Care of thee; alass, poor Man, I am sorry for him.* Miss then declared she was innocent of his Illness, when this Witness reply'd, she was afraid she was not quite innocent; and that some of the Powder was in such Hands as would appear against her.

King's Council. Did you never hear any Stories about Musick or Apparitions in the House

Gunnell. Yes, I have heard Miss *Blandy* say she had heard Musick in the House, and that the Captain had seen an Apparition.

King's Council. Did you ever hear your Mistress say how long her Father would live?

Gunnell. I have heard Miss say, that those Tokens were Signs of Death in the Family, and that she or her Father would quickly die; but she believ'd it was for her Father, for Mr. *Cranston* had been with an old Woman in *Scotland* who had told the Captain he could not live till *October.*

King's Council. Pray did you ever hear the Prisoner speak disrespectfully of her Father.

Gunnell. Yes, once when Mr. *Blandy* had been angry with her about Captain *Cranston*, she said, *he was an old Rascal, and a Villain, but she should be quit of the Encumbrance shortly, aud then she would go and live in Scotland with Lady* Cranston.

Cross Examination.

Pris. Coun. Did not Miss *Blandy* behave with the due Respect that might be expected from a Daughter during her Father's Illness? and was she not willing for him to have Advice and Assistance?

Gunnell. She behav'd differently at different Times; at sometimes with great Respect, and at others call'd him Names.

Pris. Coun. But pray, I would ask you upon your Oath whether the Prisoner was or was not, a dutiful Daughter, save at such Times as Words in the Family might arise?

Gunnell. She appeared to be so, except at such Times as my Master had been chiding her about Mr. *Cranston.*

King's Council. Pray did not you drink a Dish of Tea that disordered you.

Gunnell. I poured out a Dish of Tea that was in the Pot, and drank it, I thought it tasted a little oddly and I thought somebody had been taking Salts out of the Dish, and had not rinced it afterwards. A little after I had drank it, I found myself very much disordered with vomitting and purging, and a great Drought, but I grew better in a Day or two, nor had I any suspicion that there had been any Poison in the Cup.

King's Council Do you recollect that one *Emmet* a Washer-woman had been ill with drinking any Tea or Water Gruel; and tell the Court how it was.

Gunnell. Ann Emmet sometime before my Master's last Illness, (the Time she could not recollect) had drank a Dish of Tea that was poured out for her Master, who had left it; that soon afterwards *Emmet* was taken very ill with a violent Vomiting and Purging, and Griping and great Thirst; that Miss being informed

of

of her Illness, and that she wanted something to drink, would not send her any small Beer, but sent her a large Quantity of weak Broth and White Wine Whey. That *Wednesday* the 7th of *August* Mrs. *Emmet* eat some of the Water Gruel that was left by her Master the Day before, and was immediately taken with Vomiting and Purging, and went to the Necessary-House, and was not able to return in near two Hours; that this Witness gave *Emmet* some Surfeit Water, and what she, this Witness, thought would do her good; that *Emmet* remained ill a long Time, nor is she recovred yet: That this Witness went and acquainted the Prisoner with poor *Ann Emmet's* Illness, who said, *I am glad I was not up at that time, for it would grieve me to see the poor Creature in Pain.*

King's Coun. Did you ever see Miss *Blandy* burn any Papers and when

Gunnell. On the *Saturday* my Master had forbid Miss coming to his Chamber, in the Afternoon, she brought a great many Papers in her Apron down into the Kitchen, and put them on the Fire, then thrust them into it with a Stick, and said *Now, thank God I am pretty easy*, and then went out of the Kitchen; that this Witness and *Elizabeth Binfield* were in the Kitchen at the same Time; that they observing something to burn blue; it was raked out and found to be a Paper of Powder that was not quite consumed, that there was this Inscription on the Paper, *Powder to cl an Pebbles*, and that this Paper she, this Witness delivered to Dr. *Addington* Being shewn a Paper with the above Inscription on it, partly burnt, she said she believed that Paper to be the same the Prisoner put in the Fire and that she took out.

Being asked by the King's Council, if she did not recollect her Master to mention any thing to her about Letters, at the Time when she expressed her Fears to him concerning his being poisoned, by his Daughter, she said yes, her Master directed her that when she went into her Mistress's dressing Room, if she found any Letters that came from *Cranston* to take them and bring them to him. That this Witness told her Master that she desired to be excused that Command, for tho' it might be right in him as her Father to take her Letters, it could not be so in this Witness, being only a Servant.

Elizabeth Binfield, the Cook-Maid, depos'd, That on *Monday* the 5th of *August* last, a Pan of Water-gruel was made for her Master, the Deceased Mr. *Blandy*; that Miss *Blandy*, the Prisoner at the Bar, came into the Kitchen, and said, *Betty, I have been stirring your Water-gruel, and eating some of the Oatmeal, and believe I shall often eat some out of my Father's Gruel.* That that Evening her Master had some of the Gruel, and was taken very ill after it; that the next Day Mr. *Norton* the Apothecary was sent for, and that toward the Evening her Master was better; but the next Day he drank some more Gruel, and was worse than before, with vomiting and purging, and complain'd that he had a Ball of Fire in his Guts. That the next Day, *Wednesday*, *Susan Gunnell* brought a Pan with some Gruel in it into the Kitchen, and said, *Betty, did you ever see any Oatmeal so white?* that this Witness reply'd, Oatmeal! 'tis more like Flour; that *Susan* said, I never saw any so gritty in my Life; that then *Susan* took the Pan to Mrs. *Mountney's*. That the *Friday* after, her Master and Miss were in the Kitchen, her Master said to this Witness, *Betty*, what Day of the Month is this? which being informed of, he replied, about this Time of the Year Queen *Anne* was poisoned. I remember, continued he, that a long while ago, being in Company at the *Red-Lion*, they gave us some damn'd Stuff that poison'd us all, one died presently after, another is dead since, and now I fear 'tis my Fate to be poisoned at last. That Miss seemed much surprized, but with a forced Smile, said, *I remember it very well, Papa, 'tis twenty Years ago*, and went away immediately.

King's Council. Do you remember your Master to say, what Wine it was, they were poisoned with, and how it came to poison them?

Binfield. My Master said it was Bottoms of Wine that had been refined; and that they used Arsnick to refine it.

This Witness was asked, if she ever heard the Prisoner use any indecent Expressions against her Father, and what they were? replied, many Times; sometimes she damned him for an old Rascal; at other Times, she said he was an old Rogue, and that one Time particularly, she heard the Prisoner say, *Who would not send an old Father to Hell for Ten Thousand Pounds?*

Being asked by the King's Council, if the Prisoner was not in a great Passion when she expressed herself in that Manner? Replied no; she

ſhe was inas good a Humour as ever ſhe was in her Life, talking with this Witneſs about young Women that were kept out of their Fortunes by Fathers and Guardians.

King's Council. Did you ever hear the Priſoner ſay any Thing about Muſick that was heard in the Houſe, or about any Apparitions?

Binfield. Miſs *Blandy* ſaid, that ſhe had many Times heard Muſick in the Houſe, and that Capt. *Cranſton* had ſeen her Father's Apparition in *Scotland.*

King's Council. Did you ever hear the Priſoner ſay when her Father would die?

Binfield. Miſs *Blandy* ſaid, that the Muſic foretold the Death of ſome of their Family, and ſhe believed it muſt be either her Father or herſelf; that indeed ſhe believed it was her Father, for Capt. *Cranſton* had been told by a cunning Woman, whoſe Name was *Morgan*, that lived either in *London* or *Scotland*, that my Maſter would die before *October* next.

King's Coun. Did you ever hear your Miſtreſs ſay, what ſhe would do with herſelf whenever her Father ſhould die?

Binfield. The Priſoner ſaid, if ſhe out-lived her Father, ſhe would leave this Place where ſhe was ſurrounded with Enemies, and go to *Scotland*, and live with Lady *Cranſton.*

King's Coun. When your Maſter was dead, had you not ſome particular Converſation with the Priſoner? Recollect yourſelf, and tell my Lords and the Jury what it was.

Binfield. After my Maſter was dead, the Priſoner ſaid to me, if you will go with me, your Fortune will be made. I aſked her what ſhe wanted me to do; who replied, only to go and hire a Poſt-Chaiſe to go to *London*; I will give you fifteen Guineas now, and ten more when we come to *London.* I was ſhocked at the Propoſal, and ſo I told her, and abſolutely refuſed her Requeſt. On this ſhe put on a forced Laugh, and ſaid, I was only joaking with you.

King's Coun. Do you know any Thing of *Suſan Gunnell*, the laſt Witneſs, being at any Time ill, and what was the Cauſe of it?

Binfield. *Suſan Gunnell* had been very ill ſome little Time before my Maſter's laſt Illneſs. I told the Priſoner of it, who ſaid, *Sure* Suſan *has not been eating any of my Father's Water-gruel, for I have been told that Oatmeal is not good for me, and I am ſure it is not for her; tell her if ſhe eats my Father's Water-gruel it will do for her.*

Croſs-Examined.

Priſ. Coun. You have given ſome extraordinary Account of ſome paſſionate Expreſſions of Miſs *Blandy*; I aſk you upon your Oath, have you not heard her ſpeak very affectionately of her Father, and pray for his Life.

Binfield. Sometimes indeed ſhe has ſpoke reſpectfully, and expreſs'd a Deſire of his long Life, but at other Times ſhe has damn'd him, and wiſhed him at Hell; juſt as ſhe was in Humour, ſhe would ſpeak well or ill of him.

Priſ. Coun. Have you never expreſſed any particular Ill towards the unhappy Priſoner at the Bar.

Binfield. No, I never did.

Priſ. Coun. Have you not ſaid, when ſpeaking of her, that you hoped the black Bitch would mount a Ladder, and ſwing; and that you would do all in your Power to cauſe it, or Words to that Effect?

Binfield. I never did, nor had I any ill Will to her; what I have ſworn, is for the Sake of Juſtice, and nothing but the Truth.

Alice Emmet was next call'd, who depos'd, That ſhe had been with Miſs *Blandy* in the Hay Harveſt, to tell her, that her Mother, *Ann Emmet* was very ill, and extremely thirſty; and Miſs *Blandy* gave her ſome White Wine Whey, and weak Broth for her Mother, and ſaid, ſhe was ſorry ſhe was ill.

This Witneſs was aſk'd, if ſhe had told Miſs *Blandy* what her Mother's Illneſs was, ſhe ſaid No; for that ſhe did not know, only that her Mother was very thirſty.

Mr. *Littleton*, Mr. *Blandy*'s Clerk, being next call'd and ſworn, ſaid, That he had been out of *Henley* to viſit his Father in *Warwickſhire*, and on his Return on *Saturday* Morning the 10th of *Auguſt* laſt, he breakfaſted with his Maſter, the Deceaſed, and the Priſoner, and found his Maſter much diſordered; that Miſs poured out a Diſh of Tea for her Father, which he diſliked, and ſaid to her, *There is too much black Powder in it*; upon which ſhe ſeemed confuſed, and ſeemed to have a Tremor on her, and went out of the Room; that the Deceaſed then took the Cup with the Tea, and poured it into the Cat's Baſon, that ſtood in the Window, and went away, and would eat no more Breakfaſt; that then Miſs came into the Room to this Witneſs, and aſk'd him what her Father had ſaid, and he told her, that her Father had thrown the Tea into the Cat's Baſon;

 and

and that he had left the Room, ſeemingly diſpleaſed, and would not eat any more Breakfaſt, but that he had ſaid nothing. The next Day he, this Witneſs, went to Church, but Miſs did not; and when he came Home, Miſs aſked him to take a Walk with her and her Father in the Garden. As they went into the Garden, ſhe put a Letter into his Hand, and deſired him to direct it as uſual to Capt. *Cranſton*, and put it into the Poſt; but he hearing that his Maſter was poiſoned, and Miſs ſuſpected, he broke the Letter open, read it, and then carried it to his Maſter, who ſaid, *Ah! my poor love-ſick Girl; but what will not a Woman do for a Man that ſhe loves!*

Then the Letter was produced and ſworn to, by Mr. *Littleton*, and read as follows.

DEAR WILLY,

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

I am ever your's.

Coun. for the Crown. Mr. *Littleton*, pray do you know, if that is the Hand-Writing of the Priſoner? He replied he could not be certain, as ſhe could write much better; but he was very ſure it was the very Letter ſhe had delivered to him, and that it was ſealed with three Wafers; one in the Middle, and one at each End.

Robert Harman was next called, and ſworn.

Coun. for the Crown. Mr. *Harman*, Did your young Miſtreſs at the Bar ask you to go away with her, after your Maſter was dead?

Harman. Yes; Miſs *Blandy* aſked me if I had got any other Maſter, and I ſaid no; and then ſhe aſked me if I would live along with her, and I alſo ſaid no; that then ſhe aſked me if I would go away along with her, if I would, it ſhould be worth 500*l.* to me. I then aſked her where we were to go, and ſhe ſaid to *London*; I aſked her then if we were to go to the North from thence, and ſhe replied, No, perhaps to the Weſt; and I aſking again if we were to go by Sea or Land, ſhe ſaid perhaps by Sea and Land too.

Richard Fiſher was next called and ſworn, who ſaid he was on the Coroner's Inqueſt, and on hearing that Miſs *Blandy* was gone to the *Angel*, he went after her; that he ſpoke with her there, and ask'd her if ſhe would not return home with him; ſhe anſwer'd yes, but ſhe was afraid of being inſulted by the Mob, and begg'd he would protect her; that upon this he got a cloſe Poſt Chaiſe and brought her home; that upon her coming to her Father's Houſe, and talking of the Affair, ſhe ask'd him what could be done for her; that he anſwer'd if ſhe could produce any Thing that would fix it upon *Cranſton*, poſſibly ſhe might be ſav'd; that upon this, in ſome Agony, ſhe anſwer'd, *I'm afraid I have deſtroy'd that which would have hanged that Villain; but here take this Key, ſearch my Drawers, and ſee if you can find any Papers that will be of ſervice*; that there being a Gentlewoman there who better knew the Houſe than himſelf, he declin'd going, and deſir'd her to ſearch; that ſhe did accordingly, but could find nothing of Conſequence.

Priſ. Coun. Do you Mr. *Fiſher* believe that the Priſoner had any Intention to go off, from what appeared to you, and if ſhe was not very ready to come back with you from the *Angel*.

Fiſher. She was very ready to come back, and deſired me to protect her from the Mob, and it did not appear to me ſhe had any Deſign to make an Eſcape.

Mrs. *Lane* being called and ſworn, ſaid, that ſhe went into the *Angel* to her Huſband, who was there, and Miſs *Blandy* was with him; that ſhe heard her Huſband ſay to the Priſoner, when ſhe firſt went in, *If you are innocent, you will be acquitted, and if you are guilty, you will be puniſhed according to Law*; that upon this, Miſs *Blandy* ſtamped upon the Floor, in a ſeeming Agony, and ſaid, *Oh that damned Villain* Cranſton! *my Honour to him has been my Ruin.* Then turning about, after a ſhort Pauſe, ſaid, *But why do I blame him? I am more to blame; it was I adminiſtered it, and knew the Conſequence.*

Here the Priſoner's Council aſked this Witneſs if ſhe was ſure, on her Oath, that Miſs *Blandy* ſaid *know* the Conſequence, or *knew* the Conſequence, as there was a great Difference in the Expreſſion, by the different Meaning of the two Words.

Mrs. *Lane.* It being ſo long ago, and not expecting to be called upon to ſwear it, I cannot take upon me to ſay which.

Mr. *Lane* was then called and ſworn, who ſaid he was at the *Angel*, with Miſs *Blandy*, and talking with her concerning her Father's Death, ſhe aſked him what he thought would be

be done to her; that he made her for Anſwer, *that ſhe would be ſent to* Oxford-Caſtle, *and be tryed at the Aſſizes, and if ſhe was innocent, ſhe would be acquitted, and if ſhe was guilty, ſhe would be puniſhed according to Law*; that Miſs then ſtamped on the Floor, and ſaid, *Oh that damned Villain* Cranſton! *my Honour to him has been my Ruin:—But why do I blame him? I am more to blame*; that the Town Serjeant coming in juſt at that Juncture took off his Attention to what ſhe ſaid more.

Here the Council for the Crown, tho' they had many more Witneſſes to call, reſted their Proof againſt the Priſoner, and ſhe was thereupon called to make her Defence.

Priſoner. My Lords, in my unhappy Situation, if I ſhould expreſs myſelf in any Terms that may be thought improper, I hope I ſhall be forgiven; for it will not be, I aſſure your Lordſhips, with any Deſign to offend. My Lords, ſome Time before my Father's Death, I unhappily contracted an Acquaintance with Capt. *Cranſton.* This gave Offence to ſome particular Perſons, that wiſhed not well to the Repoſe of our Family; theſe Perſons having firſt prepoſſeſſed my Father, they were continually filling his Head with idle Stories, to my Prejudice; and, unhappily for me, they ſo far ſucceeded that from one of the moſt indulgent Parents, he grew very peeviſh and diſtruſtful. I am extreamly paſſionate, which I muſt own as a Fault, and when I have found my Father, without Cauſe, angry with me, about Capt. *Cranſton*, I might let fall an unguarded Expreſſion, but never to wiſh any Injury to his Perſon, much leſs to deſire his Death; but, on the contrary, I did all that was in my Power for his Recovery, while I was permitted to be at Liberty to attend him in his laſt Illneſs, as the Witneſſes againſt me have not denied. My Lords, the firſt Steps my Enemies took againſt me in my Father's Illneſs was to perſuade him to forbid me his Preſence; then having him entirely to themſelves, I was ordered to be cloſe confined to my Chamber, my Buckles and my Garters were taken from me, nor was I permitted to have a Knife to cut my Victuals, inſinuating that I might be wicked enough to deſtroy myſelf. Thus confined, my Lords, and guarded by Men, I was not permitted to have a Woman to attend me, to do any Offices for me proper to be done by thoſe of my own Sex. My Father being dangerouſly ill, myſelf confined to my Chamber, accuſed of being the Cauſe of that Illneſs, and not permitted to ſee my Farher to juſtify myſelf, or ſee that he had proper Care taken of him, judge, my Lords, how great muſt be my Diſtreſs! I was almoſt diſtracted.

When my Father was dead, my Guard left me, and I was at Liberty to go where I would. The next Day after my Father's Death, I was told, his Body was to be opened, and being ill with Confinement in my Room, and not being able to bear the Shock of being in the Houſe, during that Operation, I took a Walk over *Henley* Bridge to take the Air, but in my Way I was inſulted, a Mob raiſed about me, ſo that I was obliged to go into the *Angel*, a Publick Houſe, on the other Side the Bridge, for Shelter. When Mr. *Fiſher* came to me, I deſired his Protection, and to go Home with him, which I did. When I was ſent to *Oxford* Caſtle, my Lords, the Malice of my Enemies could not reſt here, the numberleſs Calumnies that have been invented, and induſtriouſly reported abroad, do abundantly ſhew; and particularly a Pamphlet was publiſhed, with the Affidavits taken before the Coroner, and all the aggravating Circumſtances of this melancholy Affair, calculated to inflame the Minds of the Publick, and thereby prepoſſeſs them againſt me. It has been ſaid, that I am a wretched Drunkard, a prophane Swearer, that I never went to Chapel, contemned all holy Ordinances, and in ſhort gave myſelf up to all Kinds of Immorality. Quite the reverſe of this, my Lords, is my true Character. I am rather abſtemious than otherwiſe in Drinking; prophane or immoral Diſcourſe is my Averſion; and for my Attendance on religious Duties, the Rev. Mr. *Swinton*, the Chaplain of the Priſon, can teſtify that I never neglected Chapel, when my Health would permit me; for I was very ill in Goal, and when ſo, Mr. *Swinton* conſtantly attended me in my Room. But this not being enough againſt me, it was confidently aſſerted, that I attempted an Eſcape; this occaſioned Orders to have an Iron put on my Leg, which Report the late High Sheriff was convinced was malicious; he therefore in Perſon came and ordered it to be taken off, and promiſed I ſhould not be ſo affronted again. I did not enjoy this Eaſe long, the Sheriff came again, and, with much Reluctance, ordered another heavier Iron to be put on

on my Leg; he named a noble Lord, at whose Instance, he said it was done. I told him I calmly submitted to whatever should be done to me, for I always made it my Rule to obey those that were set over me.

I will not deny, my Lords, that I did put some Powder into my Father's Water-gruel; no, my Lords, I will not attempt to save my Life at the Expence of Truth; and I here solemnly protest, as I shall answer it at the great Tribunal, and God knows how soon, that I had no evil Intent in putting the Powder in his Water-gruel; nor did I know it had a poisonous Quality: It was put in to procure his Love, and not his Death.

Then she desired the following Witnesses might be call'd in her Defence.

Ann James being sworn, said, That she frequently went as a Chairwoman to work at the deceased Mr. *Blandy*'s; and being there one Day, she heard *Elizabeth Binfield* say, *Damn the black Bitch*, meaning the Prisoner at the Bar, *I hope I shall see her walk up a Lader and swing*.

Being asked by the King's Council when and where it was, and who were present when the Words were spoken, she said *Mary Banks* and one *Deane*; and that they were said in the Kitchen of the late Mr. *Blandy*'s House, in *Henley*, but she could not recollect the Day; but it was after Miss *Blandy* was sent to *Oxford* Castle.

Here *Elizabeth Binfield* was call'd again by the King's Council, and confronted with this Evidence, who deny'd that she had ever said any such Words, or had any ill Will against Miss *Blandy*.

Mary Banks was next call'd and sworn, who said, That she heard *Elizabeth Binfield*, the Cook Maid, say, *I hope the black Bitch will walk up a Ladder and swing*.

Being asked by the King's Council when, and where the Words where spoke, she said in Mr. *Blandy*'s House at *Henley*, and on the Day his Body was open'd.

Here it was observed, that there was a material Difference in the Evidence of these two Witnesses, the one swearing positively to the Day the Body was open'd, and the other that the Words were said after Miss *Blandy* was in *Oxford* Castle, which was not till after her Father's Remains were buried.

Edward Hearne was next call'd and sworn, who said, that he had lived with the Deceased formerly, but was now Clerk of *Henley* Parish; that he frequently went to Mr. *Blandy*'s House, perhaps four or five Times a Week; that he always observ'd a cordial Duty from Miss to her Father; and that he never saw any Mark of Undutifulness or Misbehaviour towards her Father.

This Witness being cross-examined by the King's Council, was ask'd, if he had not frequently been to the Prisoner in *Oxford* Castle; and whether one Time a Gentleman who came there to see her, did not tell her that Mr. *Cranston* was taken, and what she said upon that.

Hearne. I have been at *Oxford* Castle several Times to see the Prisoner; and that one Day indeed, a Gentleman did come in, and told Miss that he heard *Cranston* was taken; when she replyed, *I am glad the Villain is taken, that he may receive the Punishment he deserves as well as me*.

The Prisoner's Council then ask'd this Witness, if in the whole Conversation at that Time, he did not understand the Prisoner to mean only the Punishment of being imprisoned there; and whether she did not at that Time persist in her Innocence, as to the Crime she stood charged with; when the Witness said, that he did understand it only as the Punishment of being confined, and that she always insisted on her Innocence.

Thomas Cawley being sworn, said, That he frequently visited at Mr. *Blandy*'s, as Mr. *Blandy* and his Daughter did his Family; and that he always observed a dutiful and affectionate Carriage from Miss to her Father.

Thomas Staverton was next sworn, who said, That he had a House next Door to the Deceased, that was repairing, and therefore he, as being acquainted in Mr. *Blandy*'s Family, used frequently to call there, and that he always observed Miss to shew the greatest Mark of Duty and Affection to her Father.

He further said, that about four Months before the Death of Mr. *Blandy*, Miss was visiting at his House, when she said, that her Father she believed would not marry again, let what advantagious Offers soever be made to him, till such Time as he had settled her in the World: And that he had observed for some Time past, his old Friend the Deceased, had shrunk very much; and that he had often thought and said, that he did not think his old Friend Mr. *Blandy* would live long.

Mrs.

Mrs. *Davis*, Landlady of the Angel, was then call'd and ſworn, who ſaid, that ſhe ſeeing Miſs *Blandy* going over the Bridge, with a Mob after her, asked her where ſhe was going, when ſhe made her for Anſwer, that her Father was going to be opened, and that ſhe could not ſtand the Shock, ſo was taking a Walk in the Air; that this Witneſs then asked her to go into her Houſe to ſhelter herſelf from the Inſults of the Mob, which Miſs accordingly did.

She was then ask'd particularly, if ſhe thought ſhe was endeavouring to get off, and ſhe ſaid no, ſhe did not, nor was it apparent to her in any wiſe to think ſo.

Robert Stoke was then call'd and ſworn, who ſaid, he being the Town Serjeant, was order'd to go over the Bridge to the *Angel*, to ſtop Miſs *Blandy*, the Priſoner; that when he ſpoke to her, ſhe ſeemed very willing to return, and was glad of any Protection to keep her from the Inſolence of the Mob.

He was particularly asked by the Priſoner's Council, if he thought the Priſoner had an Intention to go off, he ſaid no, not to his thinking, for it did not in the leaſt appear ſo to him.

The Priſoner having gone through her Defence, the King's Council in the Reply obſerved, that the Priſoner had given no Evidence in Contradiction of the Facts eſtabliſhed by the Witneſſes for the Crown: That indeed *Ann James* and *Mary Banks* had ſworn to an Expreſſion of *Elizabeth Binfield*, which, if true, ſerved to ſhew ſome ill Will in *Binfield* towards the Priſoner; but that there was ſo material a Contradiction to each other, that he thought they deſerved no Manner of Credit. That the other Witneſſes produced by the Priſoner, ſerved only to prove, that Mr. *Blandy* was a very fond, affectionate, and indulgent Parent, therefore there could be no Pretence for giving him Powders, or any Thing elſe, to promote in him an Affection for his Daughter. That it had come out in the Examination of *Hearne*, one of the Priſoner's own Witneſſes, that once when he was in the Caſtle to viſit her, upon hearing that *Cranſton* was taken, ſhe broke out into Expreſſions that amounted, he thought, to a full Confeſſion of Guilt. That however the Priſoner's Council might endeavour to explain it away, he was ſure no Man in his Reaſon could underſtand theſe Words otherwiſe than a Confeſſion, *I am glad the Villain is taken, that he may receive the Puniſhment he deſerves, as well as I.* That if the Jury believed the Priſoner to be innocent, they would take Care to acquit her; but if on the other Hand, they believed her to be guilty, they would take Care to acquit their own Conſciences.

The Priſoner deſired Leave to ſpeak in Anſwer to what the King's Council had ſaid, which being granted, ſhe ſaid, the Gentleman was miſtaken in thinking the Powders were given to her Father to procure his Affection to her, for that they were given to procure her Father's Love to Mr. *Cranſton*.

The Judge ſummed up the Evidence in a clear and impartial Manner to the Jury, and they without going out of Court, brought in their Verdict, Guilty, **Death**.

After Sentence of Death was pronounced upon her, ſhe in a very ſolemn and affecting Manner, prayed the Court, that ſhe might have as much Time as could be allowed her, to prepare for her great and immortal State. The Court told her, ſhe ſhould have a convenient Time allowed her; but exhorted her, in the mean Time, to loſe not a Moment, but inceſſantly implore the Mercy of that Being, to whom alone Mercy belongs.