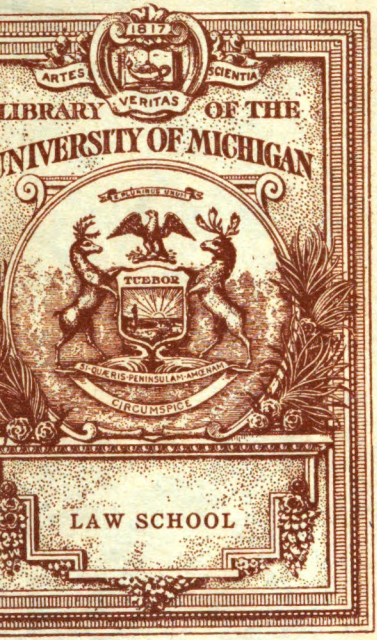

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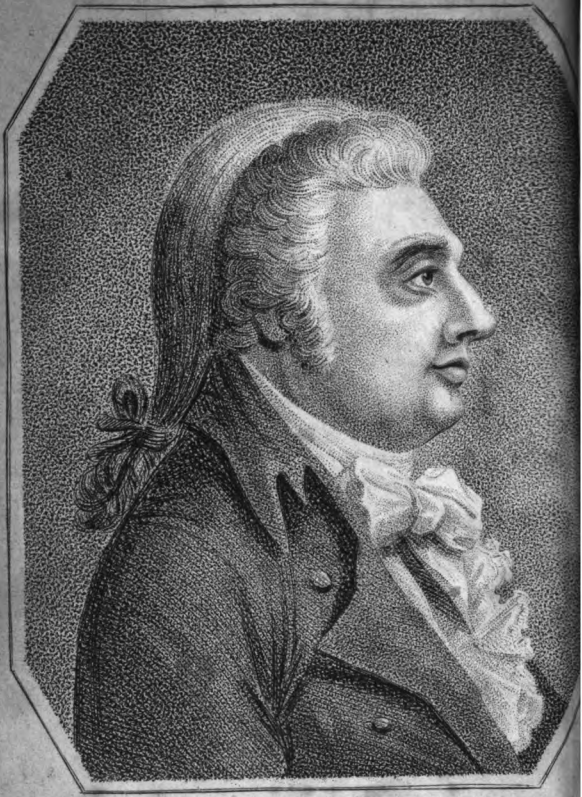

JOHN HATFIELD.

Pub: Jan. 1810. by Nuttall. Fisher & Dixon, Liverpool.

THE CRIMINAL RECORDER;

OR,

Biographical Sketches

OF

Notorious Public Characters;

INCLUDING

Murderers,	Incendiaries,	Highwaymen,	Housebreakers,
Traitors,	Defrauders,	Footpads,	Coiners,
Pirates,	Rioters,	Pickpockets,	Receivers,
Mutineers,	Sharpers,	Swindlers,	Extortioners,

AND OTHER NOTED PERSONS

WHO HAVE SUFFERED THE SENTENCE OF THE LAW FOR

CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

Embracing a Variety of

CURIOUS AND SINGULAR CASES, ANECDOTES, &c.

WITH OCCASIONAL NOTES:

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

AN ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS PUNISHMENTS INFLICTED ON THOSE WHO TRANSGRESS THE LAWS OF THEIR COUNTRY,

With a Description of the Crimes by which those Punishments are incurred, &c. alphabetically arranged under appropriate Heads, and illustrated with Portraits, and other Engravings.

BY A STUDENT OF THE INNER TEMPLE.

VOLUME THE FIRST.

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1811.

PREFACE.

THE following authentic accounts of remarkable Culprits are respectfully submitted to the Public with the view of being *doubly* serviceable; First, by being a warning to youth; who, seriously considering the fatal end of vice, as almost every page in this work records, may early imbibe a due abhorrence of its deformity and learn by times to shun its dangerous path. We are told that a young man was happily reclaimed by the representation of the play of "George Barnwell," it is not therefore improbable but the *scenes* of depravity which these volumes disclose may have an equal impression.—Secondly, by being a useful book of reference, with respect to extraordinary cases: consequently, it is presumed, the CRIMINAL RECORDER will not be unworthy the library of all classes. We have had, it is true, many voluminous works of this nature: but they have been one and all, tedious details of every malefactor, and consequently repetitions of the same cases; calculated more to *disgust*, than either interest

interest or instruct the reader. The following, however, is a collection of the most extraordinary Characters in the UNITED KINGDOM who have suffered Death, Transportation, &c. for their various offences; including others which have been attended with remarkable verdicts, &c. Some who have endured a limited confinement have, we acknowledge, been purposely omitted; in hopes that they are now no longer offenders, but useful members of society. The embellishments which accompany several of our narratives have been taken from *original* likenesses, and we trust, will be a further recommendation of our work.

As an interesting Appendix to this Work, an account of the various Punishments inflicted on those who transgress the laws of the Country; viz. the Rack, Knout, Cage, Guillotine, &c. as well as a description of their Crimes by which these Punishments are incurred, &c. &c. are given in the last volume, under appropriate heads, alphabetically arranged from the best authorities, including some original observations; which improvement is further illustrated by suitable Plates descriptive of those modes of Punishment, &c. used by those who make depredations on Society, by which the unwary may guard against them.

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BIOGRAPHICAL

SKETCHES,

&c. &c.

ALEXANDER, MOSES, (FORGERY,) was a native of the city of Glasgow, in North Britain. He was scarcely arrived to manhood when he travelled to London; and for several years he carried a pack about the country, retailing different sorts of goods, but linen was the principal article in which he dealt. He was naturally of an industrious disposition; and his industry procured him success. He made overtures of marriage to a young woman, who had two uncles possessed of considerable property; and knowing that they intended to give her a marriage-portion, and to make her their heir, he gained credit for a large assortment of linen-drapery goods, and opened a warehouse on Fish-street-hill; accordingly the young woman's relations, believing him to be in flourishing circumstances, gave their consent to the marriage, which was in a short time solemnized; soon afterwards he connected himself in partnership with a linen-draper in Holborn, named Nicol, who was a man of unblemished integrity, but encumbered with a numerous family, which occasioned some pecuniary embarrassments. This man being perfectly conversant in the whole-

sale branch of the linen trade, it was agreed that he should travel to Manchester, Glasgow, and other places, for the purpose of purchasing goods. Alexander kept the circumstances of his partnership a profound secret from his wife's relations; but one of her uncles happened to be in Alexander's counting house, when a bill was brought for acceptance, payable by Alexander and Nicol. Hereupon the gentleman upbraided the former for concealing from him so material a circumstance as that of his being connected in partnership; the other declared, that no partnership subsisted; that Nicol was no more than his servant, and had inserted his own name in the draft either through mistake or villainy. On Nicol's return to London in about two months, Alexander denied his having a right to part of the business; and said he would submit the decision of the case to the court of chancery. Though articles of co-partnership had been regularly executed, Nicol, on account of his embarrassed circumstances, declined entering into an expensive suit of law; and about eight months after this difference, which took place in the summer of 1765, Alexander having quitted his house on Fish-street-hill, and opened a warehouse in Tooley-street, Southwark, failed to the amount of about sixty thousand pounds: hereupon it was publicly known, that he was the principal of a great number of retail shops established in different parts of the town, under a variety of names; and it was considered as an extraordinary circumstance, that, with a capital so very inadequate to the extensive trade into which he had launched, he should be able to support his credit for so long a period: but the public surprize abated when it was discovered, that he had chiefly depended on the circulation of notes of hand and bills of exchange.

After some time he engaged again in business, and a second failure took place; though for a sum greatly inferior to the claims of his former creditors. Having now no expectation of assistance from his wife's relations, he contrived means for establishing himself again in business, which he was better enabled to carry on by means of notes of hand being frequently lent him by a man named Brown. This Brown was in France towards the end of the year 1768; and about that time he became connected with one Aked, of Leeds, in Yorkshire, whose notes he passed for the support of his drooping credit, in the manner that he had formerly negociated those of Brown. Having borrowed eighty pounds on a note of Aked's, endorsed in the name of Brown, for ninety-eight pounds, six shillings, and it not being paid when due, he gave Mr. Fryar, who had advanced the money, another note, as a collateral security, assuring him that in a few days the notes should be redeemed. At length Fryar accused Alexander of forgery: and he was committed to Newgate. He was acquitted on indictments found against him for two other offences of a similar nature; but though several witnesses swore the writing was not the prisoner's, he was convicted of forging the indorsement on the bill for ninety-eight pounds, six shillings. Brown would have proved the most material witness; and, had he been in England, the prisoner would, perhaps, have derived great advantage from his evidence. His behaviour, while in Newgate, was suitable to his unhappy circumstances; but he entertained strong hopes of being considered as an object of the royal mercy. Indeed from a variety of circumstances great numbers of people believed him to be innocent of the fact; and very powerful interest was made for pre-

serving his life. On the morning appointed for his execution he was respited for a week; and before the expiration of that time (it being represented that messengers were gone to France in search of Brown) he was respited for a week longer. Brown's affidavit was brought from France, expressing that he wrote the indorsement that Alexander had been charged with forging. The affidavit being carried to his Majesty at Richmond, he was pleased to refer the matter to Lord Weymouth; but his lordship's interference could not be obtained, he being then at his country-seat. The sheriffs attended at Newgate the next morning, in order to conduct the prisoner to the place of execution. He informed them that his friends were gone to Richmond, to make a second application to the king; and they consented to defer their melancholy office till the issue of the intercession should be known. No further respite being obtained, the prisoner was taken from Newgate about half past twelve o'clock, attended by a dissenting minister, with whom he prayed in an earnest and devout manner. At the place of execution his behaviour was decent and composed; and he persisted in the declaration of his innocence till the last moment of his life. He suffered about half past two in the afternoon of the 9th of August, 1769.

ALPRESS, JOSEPH. See GUYANT, JOHN.

ANDREWS, JOHN, (FORGERY) was a native of Essex, and for some time grazier, having sent a number of cattle to Smithfield market; after which he sailed to the East-Indies, where he acquired a sufficient sum to enable him to deal in seamen's tickets, on his return to England. This business, sufficiently oppressive to the poor sailors, he carried to the height of extortion, and frequently obtained of

of them fifty per cent. on advancing money on their tickets. After thus lending money for some time, he ventured on the dangerous practice of forging the wills of seamen, in order to defraud the widows, and met with a narrow escape at Maidstone, on a charge of publishing a forged letter of attorney. He employed some women of his acquaintance in London, to whom he used to give small gratuities, to personate the widows of seamen, and by their perjuries he frequently acquired considerable sums of money. Quarrelling at last with a woman named Elizabeth Nicholls, with whom he was thus connected, blows ensued, and the woman determined to be revenged, but disguised her sentiments, till she had an opportunity of injuring him in the most essential manner. He applied to her on a particular occasion to personate the widow of a seaman to whom thirty pounds were due, and to swear that she had a will in her favor. The woman, with a view first to make an advantage of Andrews, and then to betray him, did as she was directed, and signed her name to a forged will in Doctors Commons, in consequence of which Andrews received thirty pounds at the Navy Office, and became possessed of the seaman's ticket for fourteen pounds. This ticket he offered for sale to a man who kept an alehouse in Oxford-road; but the latter refused to buy it, unless the woman would sign the receipt for it, which she readily did, expecting Andrews would give her a good part of the money thus illegally obtained; but on his refusal to give her more than half a guinea, she determined on immediate revenge. To carry her scheme into effectual execution, she went to another woman with whom Andrews was connected; and both of them having given information against him, he was taken into custody, and lodged in Newgate. As it

was presumed that his offences had been numerous the following scheme was adopted to find full evidence of his guilt. The lord mayor commissioned a person, who had formerly known him, to go to Newgate, and hint to him that a warrant would be issued to search his lodgings. Andrews having papers which he thought of great consequence to conceal, desired his supposed friend to pack them in a basket, and leave them with an acquaintance in the Minories. Hereupon the prisoner gave the man his keys, who went, packed up the goods, and carried them as directed. This was done to discover, if possible, whether Andrews had any accomplices; that, if he had, his guilt might be the more clearly ascertained, by procuring stronger evidence against him. When the papers were deposited in the Minories the lord-mayor issued a search-warrant; in consequence of which his officers found sixty-four forged wills and powers of attorney; but no proof arose that he had any accomplices, except the women whom he had employed as his agents. One of these women, however, deposed that she had received above five hundred pounds for him, by swearing to forged wills, but that half a guinea for each perjury was all the compensation she received. Andrews, who was in possession of a considerable sum of money when he was committed to Newgate, had no idea that sufficient evidence could be adduced of his guilt; but when he was brought to trial, the testimony of the two women was so positive against him, that the jury did not hesitate to convict him, and sentence of death passed of course. His behaviour after conviction was remarkably morose, reserved, and untractable. He absolutely rejected the good offices of the ordinary of Newgate, which at first caused a suspicion that he was a Roman Catholic;

lic; but as he was not visited by any priest, this suspicion wore off, and his rejection was attributed to the obstinacy and gloom of his own mind He refused to acknowledge the justice of the sentence by which he was condemned; alledging, in excuse for his conduct, that having lost large sums of money by some seamen, he was justified in endeavouring to make others pay the deficiency. He seemed agitated in the highest degree when put into the cart on the morning of execution. His whole frame was convulsed; and when at the fatal tree, despair seemed to have taken possession of his soul. He said a short prayer, but did not address the surrounding multitude. He suffered at Tyburn, March 23, 1752.

ANGIER, HUMPHRY, (ROBBER,) was a native of Ireland, born near Dublin; but his parents removing to Cork, put him apprentice to a cooper in that city. He had not been long in this station before his master desired to get rid of him, on account of his untoward disposition. Thus discharged, he lived the life of a vagabond for two years, and his father apprehending that he would come to a fatal end, brought him to England in the eighteenth year of his age. Still, however, he continued his dissipated course of life, till having got considerably in debt, he enlisted for a soldier, to avoid being lodged in prison. As this happened in the year 1715, he was sent to Scotland to oppose the rebels; but robbing a farmer in that country, he was punished by receiving five hundred lashes, in consequence of the sentence of a Court Martial. The rebellion ended, Angier came to London, and obtained his discharge. Here he became acquainted with William Duce (see DUCE) whose sister he married at an alehouse in the verge of the Fleet.

After

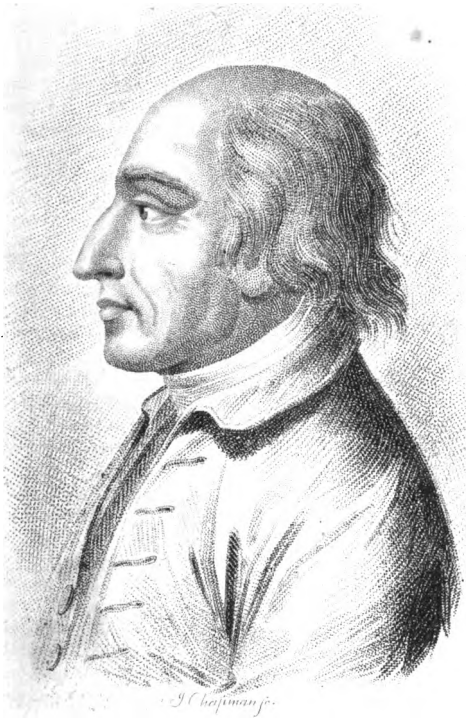
After this heenlisted a second time, and the regiment being ordered to Vigo, he took his wife with him. The greater part of the Spaniards having abandoned the place, Angier obtained a considerable sum by plunder. On his return to England he became acquainted with Butler's associates, and was concerned with them in several of their lawless depredations, but refused to have any share in acts of barbarity. Angier now kept a house of ill fame, which was resorted to by the other thieves; and one night after they had been out on one of their exploits, Meads told the following horrid tale: "We have been out, and the best fun of all was, an engagement with a smock-faced shoemaker, whom we met on the Kentish-road. We asked him how far he was going, and he said, he was just married, and going home to see his relations. After a little more discourse, we persuaded him to turn rather out of the road to look for a bird's nest, which as soon as he had done, we bound and gagged him, after which we robbed him, and were going away; but I being in a merry humour, and wanting to have a little diversion, turned about with my pistol, and shot him through the head." Bad as Angier was in other respects, he was shocked at this story, told his companions that there was no courage in cruelty, and from that time refused to drink with any of them. After this he kept a house of ill fame near Charing Cross, letting lodgings to thieves, and receiving stolen goods. While in this way of life he went to see an execution at Tyburn, and did not return till four o'clock the next morning; when, during his absence an affair happened, which was attended with troublesome consequences. A Dutch woman meeting with a gentleman in the street, conducted him to Angier's house,

house, where he drank so freely that he fell asleep, and the woman robbing him of his watch and money, made her escape. The gentleman awaking when Angier returned, charged him with the robbery, in consequence of which he was committed to prison, but was afterwards discharged, the grand jury not finding the bill against him. Soon after his wife was indicted for robbing a gentleman of his watch and a guinea, but was fortunate enough to be acquitted for want of evidence. The following accident happened about the same time: A woman named Turner had drank so much at Angier's house that he conducted her up to bed; but while he was in the room with her, his wife entered in a rage, and demanding of her how she could presume to keep company with her husband, attacked and beat the woman. William Duce being in the house, went up to interfere; but the disturbance was by this time so great, that it was necessary to send for a constable. The o cer no sooner arrived, than Mrs. Turner charged Angier and his wife with robbing her; on which they were taken into custody, and committed; but when they were brought to trial, they were acquitted, as there was no proof of any robbery, to the satisfaction of the jury. Dyer, who was evidence against Duce and Butler, lived at this time with Angier as a waiter; and the master and the man used occasionally to commit footpad robberies together; for which they were several times apprehended, and tried at the Old Bailey; but acquitted, as the prosecutors could not swear to their persons. Angier's character now grew so notorious, that no person of any reputation would be seen in his house; and the expences attending his repeated prosecutions were so great, that he was compelled to decline business. After this, he kept

kept a gin-shop in Short's-gardens, Drury-lane; and this house was frequented by company of the same kind as those he had formerly entertained, particularly parson Lindsey. Lindsey having prevailed on a gentleman to go to this house, made him drunk, and then robbed him of several valuable articles; but procuring himself to be admitted an evidence, charged Angier and his wife with the robbery: they had again the good fortune to escape, the character of Lindsey being at this time so infamous, that the court and jury paid no regard to any thing he said. Soon after, however, Mrs. Angier was transported for picking a gentleman's pocket, and her husband was convicted on two capital indictments; the one for robbing Mr. Lewin, the city marshal, near Hornsey, of ten guineas and some silver, and the other for robbing a waggoner, near Knightsbridge. On both these trials, Dyer, who was concerned in the robberies, was admitted an evidence against Angier. After conviction, he was visited by numbers of persons, whose pockets had been picked of valuable articles, in the hope of getting some intelligence of the property they had lost; but he said, "he was never guilty of such mean practices as picking of pockets, and all his associates were above it, except one Hugh Kelly, who was transported for robbing a woman of a shroud, which she was carrying home to cover her deceased husband." He suffered at Tyburn, September 9, 1723.

ANSEL, JAMES. See WALTHAM BLACKS, THE.

ARAM, EUGENE, (MURDERER,) a man of considerable erudition, which he acquired under great disadvantages, and who was also remarkable for his unhappy fate, and the singular circumstances that



EUGENE ARAM

that occasioned and attended it, was born at Ramsgill, a little village, in Netherdale, Yorkshire, in the year 1704. He was descended from an ancient family, but his father was in no higher station than that of a gardener, though of great merit in that occupation. He was removed, when very young, together with his mother, to Skelson, near Newby; and, when he was five or six years old, his father making a little purchase, in Bondgate, near Rippon, his family went thither. He was there sent to school, where he learned to read the New Testament in English, which was all he was ever taught, except that, some considerable time after, he was under the tuition of the Rev. M. Alcock, of Burnsal, for about a month. When he was about thirteen or fourteen years of age, he went to his father in Newby, and attended him in the family there, till the death of Sir Edward Blackett. It was in the house of this gentleman, to whom his father was gardener, that his propensity for literature first appeared. He was, indeed, always of a solitary disposition, and uncommonly fond of retirement and books; and here he enjoyed all the advantages of leisure and privacy. He applied himself at first chiefly to mathematical studies, in which he made a considerable proficiency. At about sixteen years of age, he was sent to London to the house of Mr. Christopher Blackett, whom he served for some time in the capacity of book keeper. After continuing here a year, or more, he was taken with the small pox, and suffered severely under that distemper. He afterwards returned into Yorkshire, in consequence of an invitation from his father, and there continued to prosecute his studies, but found in polite literature much greater charms than in the mathematics; which occasioned him now chiefly to apply himself

to

to poetry, history, and antiquities. After this he was invited to Netherdale, where he engaged in a school, and married. But his marriage proved an unhappy connection; for to the misconduct of his wife he afterwards attributed the misfortunes that befel him. In the mean while, having perceived his deficiency in the learned languages, he applied himself to the grammatical study of the Latin and Greek tongues; after which he read, with great avidity and diligence, all the Latin classics, historians and poets. He then went through the Greek Testament; and lastly, ventured upon Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Herodotus, and Thucidides, together with all the Greek tragedians. In 1734, William Norton, Esq. a gentleman who had a friendship for him, invited him to Knaresborough. Here he acquired the knowledge of the Hebrew, and read the Pentateuch in that language. In 1744, he returned to London, and served the Rev. Mr. Painblanc, as usher in Latin and writing, in Piccadilly; and, with this gentleman's assistance, he acquired the knowledge of the French language. He was afterwards employed as an usher and tutor in several different parts of England; during which time he became acquainted wish heraldry and botany. He also ventured upon Chaldee and Arabic, the former of which he found easy from its near connection with the Hebrew. He then investigated the Celtic, as far as possible, in all its dialects: and having begun to form collections, and make comparisons between the Celtic, the English, the Latin, the Greek, and the Hebrew, and found a great affinity between them, he resolved to proceed through all these languages, and to form a comparative Lexicon. But, in the midst of these learned labours and enquiries, it appears, that Aram committed a crime, which could

could not naturally have been expected from a man of so studious a turn, and which is the more extraordinary, as the inducement that led him to it is said to have been only gain, though he himself afterwards assigned a different motive. On the 8th of February, 1744-5, he murdered Daniel Clark, a shoemaker, in conjunction with whom and another person, he seems before to have been concerned in some fraudulent practices. The murder, however, was concealed near fourteen years, and then was discovered by a skeleton being accidentally found, which was supposed to be that of Clark. This was a mistake; but it led to a discovery of the whole transaction, which is thus related:—A labourer was employed to dig for stone to supply a lime-kiln, at a place called Thistle-hill, near Knaresborough, and having dug about two feet deep, he found the bones of a human body, and the bones being still joined to each other by the ligatures of the joints, the body appeared to have been buried double. This accident immediately became the subject of general curiosity and enquiry. Some hints had been formerly thrown out by Aram's wife, that Clark was murdered; and it was well remembered, that his disappearance was very sudden. This occasioned Aram's wife to be sent for, as was also the Coroner, and an inquisition was entered into; it being believed, that the skeleton found was that of Daniel Clark. Mrs. Aram declared, that she believed, Clark had been murdered by her husband and Richard Houseman. The latter, when he was brought before the Coroner, appeared to be in great confusion, trembling, changing colour, and faultering in his speech during the examination. The Coroner desired him to take up one of the bones, probably to observe what further effect that might

produce; and Houseman, accordingly taking up one of the bones, said, "This is no more Dan. Clark's bone than it is mine." These words were pronounced in such a manner as convinced those present, that they proceeded not from Houseman's supposition that Clark was alive, but from his certain knowledge where the bones really lay. Accordingly, after some evasions, he said that Clark was murdered by Eugene Aram, and that the body was buried in St. Robert's cave, near Knaresborough. He added further, that Clark's head lay to the right, in the turn, at the entrance of the cave; and a skeleton was accordingly found there exactly in the posture he described. In consequence of this, Aram was apprehended at Lynn, in Norfolk, being at that time usher of a school there. He was brought from thence to York castle, and on the 3d of August, 1759, was tried at the county assizes for the murder. He was found guilty on the testimony of Richard Houseman, who, being arraigned, and acquitted, became an evidence against Aram, whose testimony was corroborated by that of Aram's wife, and other circumstantial evidence. The facts seems to have been, that Houseman and Aram together murdered Clark, and jointly dragged his body into the cave, where it was found in the posture described by Houseman. It was supposed that Aram got all the money Clark had received for his wife's fortune, amounting to above 160l. The defence which he read in Court on this occasion, which is exceedingly curious, and at once an evidence of his taste and erudition, though not of his innocence, is as follows:

"My Lord,

"I know not whether it is of right, or through some indulgence of your lordship, that I am allowed

lowed the liberty at this bar, and at this time, to attempt a defence; incapable and uninstructed, as I am to speak. Since, while I see so many eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a concourse, fixed with attention, and filled with I know not what expectancy, I labour not with guilt, my lord, but with perplexity. For never having seen a court but this, being wholly unacquainted with law, the customs of the bar, and all judiciary proceedings, I fear I shall be so little capable of speaking with propriety in this place, that it exceeds my hope, if I shall be able to speak at all. I have heard, my lord, the indictment read, wherein I find myself charged with the highest crime; with an enormity I am altogether incapable of; a fact, to the commission of which there goes far more insensibility of heart, more profligacy of morals, than ever fell to my lot. And nothing possible could have admitted a presumption of this nature, but a depravity, not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I stand indicted at your lordship's bar, and have heard what is called evidence adduced in support of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your lordship's patience, and beg the hearing of this respectable audience, while I, single and unskilful, destitute of friends, and unassisted by counsel, say something, perhaps, like argument, in my defence. I shall consume but little of your lordship's time; what I have to say will be short, and this brevity, probably, will be the best part of it: however, it is offered with all possible regard, and the greatest submission to your lordship's consideration, and that of this honourable court.—First, my lord, the whole tenor of my conduct in life contradicts every particular of this indictment. Yet I had never said this, did not my present circumstances extort it from me, and seem

to make it necessary. Permit me, here, my lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge upon me any immorality, of which prejudice was not the author. No, my lord, I concerted no schemes of fraud, projected no violence, injured no man's person or property. My days were honestly laborious, my nights intensely studious. And, I humbly conceive, my notice of this, especially at this time, will not be thought impertinent, or unseasonable; but, at least, deserving some attention; because, my lord, that any person, after a temperate use of life, a series of thinking and acting regularly, and without one single deviation from sobriety, should plunge into the very depth of profligacy, precipitately and at once, is altogether improbable and unprecedented, and absolutely inconsistent with the course of things. Mankind is never corrupted at once; villainy is always progressive, and declines from right, step after step, till every regard of probity is lost, and every sense of all moral obligations totally perishes. Again, my lord, a suspicion of this kind, which nothing but malevolence could entertain, and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very situation at that time, with respect to health: for, but a little space before, I had been confined to my bed, and suffered under a very long and severe disorder, and was not able, for half a year together, so much as to walk. The distemper left me, indeed, yet slowly and in part, but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to crutches; and was so far from being well about the time I am charged with this fact, that I never to this day perfectly recovered. Could then a person in this condition take any thing into his head so unlikely, so extravagant? I, past the vigour of my age, feeble and valetudinary, with no induce-

inducement to engage, no ability to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a fact; without interest, without power, without motive, without means. Besides, it must needs occur to every one, that an action of this atrocious nature is never heard of, but when its springs are laid open, it appears that it was to support some indolence, or supply some luxury, to satisfy some avarice, or oblige some malice; to prevent some real, or some imaginary want: yet I lay not under the influence of any one of these. Surely, my lord, I may, consistent with both truth and modesty, affirm thus much; and none, who have any veracity, and knew me, will ever question this. In the second place, the disappearance of Clark is suggested as an argument of his being dead: but the uncertainty of such an inference from that, and the fallibility of all conclusions of such sort from such a circumstance, are too obvious and too notorious, to require instances: yet, superseding many, permit me to produce a very recent one, and that afforded by this castle. In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all the vigilance of this place, in open day-light, and double-ironed, made his escape; and, notwithstanding an immediate inquiry set on foot, the strictest search and all advertisement, was never seen or heard of since. If then Thompson got off unseen, through all these difficulties, how very easy it was for Clark, when none of them opposed him? But what would be thought of a prosecution commenced against any one seen last with Thompson? Permit me next, my lord, to observe a little upon the bones which have been discovered. It is said, which perhaps is saying very far, that these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible indeed it may: but is there any certain known criterion, which incontestibly distin-

guishes the sex in human bones? Let it be considered, my lord, whether the ascertaining of this point ought not to precede any attempt to identify them. The place of their depositum too claims much more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it: for, of all places in the world. none could have mentioned any one, wherein there was greater certainty of finding human bones, than a hermitage; except he should point out a church yard: hermitages, in time past, being not only places of religious retirement, but of burial too. And it has scarce or never been heard of, but that every cell now known, contains, or contained, these relics of humanity; some mutilated, and some entire. I do not inform, but give me leave to remind your lordship, that here sat solitary sanctity, and here the hermit or the anchoress, hoped that repose for their bones, when dead, they here enjoyed when living. All this while, my lord, I am sensible this is known to your lordship, and many in this court, better than I. But it seems necessary to my case, that others, who have not at all, perhaps, adverted to things of this nature, and may have concern in my trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my lord, to produce a few of many evidences, that these cells were used as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a few, in which human bones have been found, as it happened in this in question; lest, to some, that accident might seem extraordinary, and consequently, occasion prejudice.—1. The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon, St. Dubritius, were discovered buried in his cell at Guy's Cliff, near Warwick, as appears from the authority of Sir William Dugdale. 2. The bones, thought to be those of the anchoress Rosia, were but lately discovered in a cell at Royston, intire, fair, and undecayed, though they

they must have lain interred for several centuries, as is proved by Dr. Stukely. 3. But our own country, nay, almost this neighbourhood, supplies another instance: for in January 1747, were found by Mr. Stovin, accompanied by a reverend gentleman, the bones, in part, of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm, near Hatfield. They were believed to be those of William of Lindholm,[1] a hermit, who had long made this cave his habitation. 4. In February 1744, part of Wooburn abbey being pulled down, a large portion of a corpse appeared, even with the flesh on, and which bore cutting with a knife; though it is certain this had lain above two hundred years, and how much longer is doubtful; for this abbey was founded in 1145, and dissolved 1538 or 9. What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an accident to the bones in question? Further, my lord, it is not yet out of living memory, that at a little distance from Knaresborough, in a field, part of the manor of the worthy and patriotic baronet, who does that borough the honour to represent it in parliament, were found, in digging for gravel, not one human skeleton only, but five or six, deposited side by side, with each an urn placed at his head, as your lordship knows was usual in ancient interments. About the same time, and in another field, almost close to this borough, was discovered also, in searching for gravel, another human skeleton; but the piety of the same worthy gentleman ordered both the pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the dead. Is the invention of these bones forgotten, then, or industriously concealed, that the discovery of those in question may appear the more singular and extraordinary? Whereas, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it. My lord, almost every place

place conceals such remains. In fields, in hills, in highway sides, in commons, lie frequent and unsuspected bones. And our present allotments for rest for the departed are but of some centuries. Another particular seems to claim not a little of your lordship's notice, and that of the gentlemen of the jury; which is, that perhaps no example occurs of more than one skeleton being found in one cell; and in the cell in question was found but one; agreeable, in this, to the peculiarity of every other known cell in Britain. Not the invention of one skeleton, then, but of two, would have appeared suspicious and uncommon. But then, my lord, to attempt to identify these, when even to identify living men has sometimes proved so difficult, as in the case of Perkin Warbeck and Lambert Symnel at home, and of Don Sebastian abroad, will be looked upon perhaps as an attempt to determine what is indeterminable. And I hope too it will not pass unconsidered here, where gentlemen believe with caution, think with reason, and decide with humanity, what interest the endeavour to do this is calculated to serve, in assigning the proper personality to those bones, whose particular appropriation can only appear to eternal Omniscience. Permit me, my lord, also very humbly to remonstrate, that, as human bones appear to have been the inseparable adjuncts of every cell, even any person's naming such a place at random, as containing them, in this case, shews him rather unfortunate than conscious prescient, and that these attendants on every hermitage only accidentally concurred with this conjecture. A mere casual coincidence of words and things. But it seems another skeleton has been discovered by some labourers, which was full as confidently averred to be Clark's as this. My lord, must some of the living;

ing, if it promotes some interest, be made answerable for all the bones that earth has concealed, and chance exposed? And might not a place where bones lay be mentioned by a person by chance, as well as found by a labourer by chance? Or is it more criminal accidentally to name where bones lie, than accidentally to find where they lie? Here too is a human skull produced, which is fractured; but was this the cause, or was it the consequence of death; was it owing to violence, or was it the effect of natural decay? If it was violence, was that violence before or after death? My lord, in May 1732, the remains of William, lord archbishop of this province, were taken up, by permission, in this cathedral, and the bones of the skull were found broken; yet certainly he died by no violence offered to him alive, that could occasion that fracture there. Let it be considered, my lord, that, upon the dissolution of religious houses, and the commencement of the reformation, the ravages of those times both affected the living and the dead. In search after imaginary treasures, coffins were broken up, graves and vaults dug open, monuments ransacked, and shrines demolished; your lordship knows that the violations proceeded so far, as to occasion parliamentary authority to restrain them; and it did, about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. I entreat your lordship suffer not the violences, the depredations, and the iniquities of those times to be imputed to this. Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant that Knaresborough had a castle; which, though now a ruin, was once considerable both for its strength and garrison. All know it was vigorously besieged by the arms of the parliament; at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, fights, pursuits, many fell in all the places around it; and where they fell

fell were buried; for every place, my lord, is burial earth in war; and many, questionless, of these rest yet unknown, whose bones futurity shall discover. I hope, with all imaginable submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this indictment; and that it will be far from the wisdom, the learning, and the integrity of this place, to impute to the living what zeal in its fury may have done; what nature may have taken off, and piety interred; or what war alone may have destroyed, alone deposited. As to the circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe, but that all circumstances whatsoever are precarious, and have been but too frequently found lamentably fallible; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost degree of probability; yet are they but probability still. Why need I name to your lordship the two Harrisons recorded in Dr. Howel, who both suffered upon circumstances, because of the sudden disappearance of their lodger, who was in credit, had contracted debts, borrowed money, and went off unseen, and returned again a great many years after their execution? Why name the intricate affair of Jaques du Moulin, under King Charles II. related by a gentleman who was counsel for the crown? And why the unhappy Coleman, who suffered innocently, though convicted upon positive evidence, and whose children perished for want, because the world uncharitably believed the father guilty? Why mention the perjury of Smith, incautiously admitted king's evidence; who, to screen himself, equally accused Faircloth and Loveday of the murder of Dun; the first of whom, in 1749, was executed at Winchester; and Loveday was about to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been proved perjured, to the satisfaction of the court,

court, by the surgeon of the Gosport hospital? Now, my lord, having endeavored to shew that the whole of this process is altogether repugnant to every part of my life; that it is inconsistent with my condition of health about that time; that no rational inference can be drawn, that a person is dead who suddenly disappears: that hermitages were the constant repositories of the bones of a recluse: that the proofs of this are well authenticated; that the revolutions in religion, or the fortune of war, have mangled, or buried, the dead; the conclusion remains, perhaps, no less reasonably than impatiently wished for. I, at last, after a year's confinement, equal to either fortune, put myself upon the candour, the justice, and the humanity of your lordship, and upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the jury."

After his conviction, he confessed the justice of his sentence to two clergymen, who were directed to attend him in York castle, to whom he acknowledged that he murdered Clark. Being asked by one of them, what was his motive for committing that action, he answered, that he "suspected Clark of having an unlawful commerce with his wife; that he was persuaded at the time when he committed the murder, he did right; but that since he thought it wrong." In hopes of eluding the course of justice, he made an attempt upon his own life, by cutting his arm in two places with a razor, which he had concealed for that purpose. On a table, in his cell, was found the following paper, containing his reasons for the above attempt:—"What am I better than my fathers? To die is natural and necessary. Perfectly sensible of this, I fear no more to die than I did to be born. But the manner of it is something which should, in my opinion, be decent and

and manly. I think I have regarded both these points. Certainly nobody has a better right to dispose of a man's life than himself: and he, not others, should determine how. As for any indignities offered to my body, or silly reflections on my faith and morals, they are (as they always were) things indifferent to me, I think, though contrary to the common way of thinking, I wrong no man by this, and hope it is not offensive to that eternal Being that formed me and the world; and, as by this I injure no man, no man can be reasonably offended. I solicitously recommend myself to that eternal and almighty Being, the God of nature, if I have done amiss. But perhaps I have not; and I hope this thing will never be imputed to me. Though I am now stained by malevolence, and suffer by prejudice, I hope to rise fair and unblemished. My life was not polluted, my morals irreproachable, and my opinions orthodox. I slept round till three o'clock, awaked, and then writ these lines:

Come pleasing rest, eternal slumbers fall,
Seal mine, that once must seal the eyes of all;
Calm and composed my soul her journey takes,
No guilt that troubles, and no heart that aches;
Adieu! thou sun, all bright like her arise,
Adieu! fair friends, and all that's good and wise."

These lines, found with the foregoing, were supposed to have been written by Aram just before he cut himself with the razor. By proper applications he was brought to himself, and, though weak, was conducted to the place of execution; where, being asked if he had any thing to say, he replied in the negative. He was immediately after executed, August 16, 1759, and his body being conveyed to Knares-

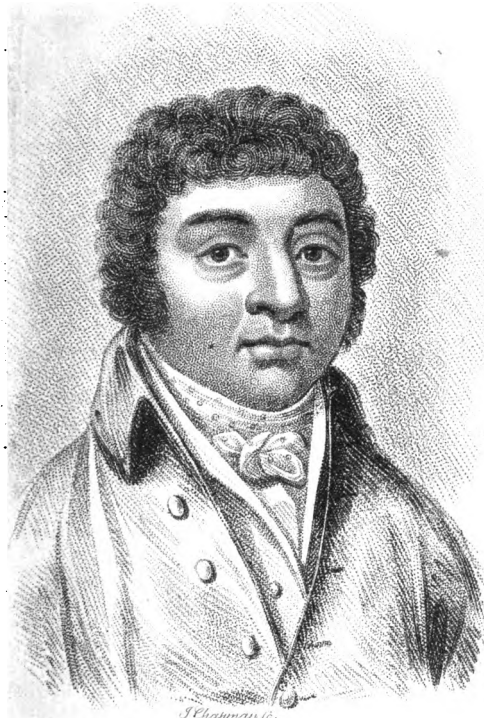
Knaresborough forest, he was there hung in chains, pursuant to his sentence.

ARNOLD, QUILT. See WILD, J. and DICKENSON, E.

ATHOE, THOMAS, Sen. ATHOE, THOMAS, Jun. (MURDERERS.) The elder Athoe was a native of Carew in Pembrokeshire, where he rented above a hundred pounds per annum, and had lived in such a respectable way, that in the year 1721, he was chosen mayor of Tenby, and his son a bailiff of the same corporation; though they did not live in this place, but at Mannerbeer, two miles distant from it. George Merchant, (of whose murder they were convicted,) and his brother Thomas, were nephews, by the mother's side, to the elder Athoe, their father having married his sister. On the 22d of November, 1722, a fair was held at Tenby, where the Athoes went to sell cattle, and there met with George Merchant and his brother Thomas. A quarrel arose between the younger Athoe and George Merchant on an old grudge, respecting their right to part of an estate; when a battle ensued, in which George had the advantage, and beat young Athoe. The elder Athoe taking the advice of an attorney on what had passed, would have persuaded him to bring an action; to which he replied, "No, no, we won't take the law, but we'll pay them in their own coin." Late in the evening, after the fair was ended, the Merchants left the town; but the Athoes going to the inn, enquired of the ostler which way they went. He gave them the best information in his power, on which they immediately mounted and followed them. The brother's stopped on the road, at a place called Holloway's water, to let their horses drink. In the mean time they heard the footsteps of other horses

judgment, and the prisoners were remanded to the King's Bench prison. Between this and the time of their execution they were visited by Mr. Dyche, the chaplain of the prison, and by several other divines. They continued to flatter themselves with the hope of life, till the warrant came down for their execution; and endeavoured to extenuate their crime by a variety of frivolous pretences respecting disputes between them and the deceased. On the 28th of June they received the sacrament with great devotion, and did the same again on the morning of their execution. Their behaviour at the place of death is thus recorded by the minister who attended them. "On Friday the 5th of July, 1723, about eleven o'clock in the morning, they were conveyed in a cart to the place of execution. When they came to the fatal tree, they behaved themselves in a very decent manner, embracing each other with the utmost tenderness and affection; and indeed the son's hiding his face, bedewed with tears in his father's bosom, was, notwithstanding the barbarous action they had committed, a very moving spectacle. They begged of all good people to take warning by their ignominious death; and were turned off, crying, Lord have mercy upon us! Christ have mercy upon us! The bodies were brought from the place of execution in two hearses, to the Falcon-inn, in Southwark, in order to be buried in St. George's churchyard." They suffered at a place called St. Thomas's Watering, a little below Kent-street, in Surry, the father being fifty-eight years old, and the son within one day of twenty-four, at the time of their deaths.

AVERSHAW, LEWIS JEREMIAH, (MURDERER,) a most depraved character, who had long been the pest of society, and whose unparalleled audacity



JERRY AVERSHAW

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dacity did not terminate but with his life. On July 30, 1795, he was tried before Mr. Baron Perryn, at Croydon. He was convicted on two indictments: one for having, at the Three Brewers, public-house, Southwark, feloniously shot at and murdered D. Price, an officer belonging to the police-office, held at Union hall, in the Borough. The other for having, at the same time and place, fired a pistol at Bernard Turner, another officer attached to the office at Union hall, with an intent to murder him. Mr. Garrow, the leading counsel for the prosecution, opened his case to the court and jury, by stating, that the prisoner at the bar, being a person of ill fame, had been suspected of having perpetrated a number of felonies. The magistrates of the Police-office in the borough of Southwark, having received information against the prisoner, sent, as was their duty, an order for his apprehension. To execute the warrant, the deceased Price, and another officer, went to the Three Brewers, a public-house, where they understood he then was drinking, in company with some other persons. At the entrance of a parlour in the house, the prisoner appeared in a posture of intending to resist. Holding a loaded pistol in each of his hands, he, with threats and imprecations, desired the officers to stand off, as he would otherwise fire at them. The officers, without being intimidated by those menaces, attempted to rush in and seize him, on which the prisoner discharged both the pistols at the same instant of time, lodging the contents of one in the body of David Price, and with the other wounded Turner very severely in the head. Price, after languishing a few hours, died of the wound. Mr. Garrow was very pathetic and animated in his description of the several circumstances composing the shocking act of barbarity. To prove it;

it, he would call four witnesses, whose evidence he said, would be but too clear to establish the prisoner's guilt. The Jury would be enabled to judge from the facts to be submitted to them, and would undoubtedly decide on the issue joined between the crowd and the prisoner at the bar. The learned counsel accordingly called Turner, the landlord of the house, a surgeon, and a fourth witness; but as the substance of their evidence is comprised in Mr. G.'s opening of the indictment, it would be superfluous to repeat it. Turner said positively, he saw the prisoner discharge the pistols, from one of which he himself received his wound, and the contents of the other were lodged in the body of Price, who died very shortly after. The surgeon proved that the death was the consequence of the wound. Mr. Knowles and Mr. Best were counsel for the prisoner, but the weight of evidence against him was too strong to be combated by any exertions. Mr. Baron Perryn summed up the evidence, on every essential point of which his lordship made several apposite, pointed, and accurate observations. The counsel for the prisoner, he remarked to the jury, had principally rested his defence on the circumstance of several other persons being present when the pistols were discharged, by some of which they contended the death-wound might possibly have been inflicted. But with respect to that part of the transaction, it would be proper for the jury to observe, that the witness Turner, had sworn positively to his having seen the prisoner in the act of discharging the contents of the pistol. The jury, after a consultation of about three minutes, pronounced the verdict of—*guilty*. Through a flaw in the indictment for this murder, an objection was taken by counsel. This was argued nearly two hours, when Mr. Baron Perryn

ryn intimating a wish to take the opinion of the twelve judges of England, the counsel for the prosecution, waving the point for the present, insisted on the prisoners's being tried on the second indictment for feloniously shooting at Barnaby Windsor, which the learned counsel said, would occupy no great portion of time, as it could be sufficiently supported by the testimony of a single witness. He was accordingly tried and found guilty on a second capital indictment. The prisoner, who, contrary to general expectation, had in a great measure hitherto refrained from his usual taciturnity, began with unparalleled insolence of expression and gesture, to ask his lordship if he "was to be murdered by the evidence of one witness!" several times repeating the question, till the jury returned him—*guilty*. When Mr. Baron Perryn put on the judicial cap, the prisoner, unconscious and regardless of his dreadful situation, at the same time put on his hat, observing the judge with contemptuous looks, while he was passing the sentence. When the constables were removing him from the dock to a coach, he continued to vent torrents of abuse against the judge and jury, whom he charged with, as he stiled it, his murder. As his desperate disposition was well known, he was to prevent resistance, hand-cuffed, and his thighs and arms also bound strongly together, in which situation he was conveyed back to prison. So cailous was this ruffian to every degree of feeling, that on his way to be tried, as he was passing near the usual place of execution on Kennington Common, he put his head out of the coach window, and, with all the *sang froid* imaginable, asked some of those who guarded him, if they did not think he would be *twisted* on that pretty spot by Saturday; After receiving sentence of death, he was conducted back to prison,

prison, where, having got some black cherries, he amused himself with painting on the white walls of the room in which he was confined, various sketches of robberies which he had committed; one representing him running up to the horses' heads of a post-chaise, presenting a pistol at the driver, and the words, "D—n your eyes stop," issuing out of his mouth; another where he was firing into the chaise; a third, where the parties had quitted the carriage, and several others, in which he was described in the act of taking the money from the passengers, being fired at, where his companion was shot dead, &c.—At the place of execution he appeared entirely unconcerned, had a flower in his mouth, his bosom was thrown open, and he kept up an incessant conversation with the persons who rode beside the cart; frequently laughing and nodding to others of his acquaintance whom he perceived in the crowd, which was immense. He suffered Aug. 3, 1795, at Kennington Common, with John Little, who having had an employment at the laboratory of the palace at Kew, became acquainted with Mr. Macevoy and and Mrs. King, persons of very advanced years, who had been many years resident at Kew. Supposing they had some property at home, he watched an opportunity and murdered them both.

AYLIFFE, JOHN, (FORGERY,) was the son of an upper servant with Gerrard Smith, esq. a gentleman of large fortune near Tockenham in Wiltshire. After young Ayliffe had been instructed in the first rudiments of learning, he was sent to the celebrated academy at Harrow on the Hill. where he became a good proficient in Latin and Greek. On his quitting the academy, he acted in the capacity of usher to a boarding-school at Lineham in Wiltshire, where, unknown to his parents, he

he married the daughter of a clergyman, who had a fortune of 500*l.* On receipt of this money, he became so extravagant, that he spent the whole in the course of two years: when, being in circumstances of distress, a widow lady, named Horner, took him into her service as house-steward, In a short time he was appointed land steward to another lady, who recommended him as a man of abilities to the Hon. Mr. Fox, (afterwards Lord Holland) who gave him the place of one of the commissaries of musters in the war office, by which he acquired the right of adding the title of esquire to his name. The profits of Ayliffe's new office was so considerable, that he was induced to purchase an elegant house in Dorsetshire, which he furnished in a style far too expensive for his rank of life. In other instances, he gave proof of a strange extravagance of disposition; for he ran in debt with a number of people, though his income was sufficient to have satisfied the wishes of any reasonable man. At length when his creditors became urgent, he had recourse, for a present supply to some irregular and very dangerous practices; among others, he forged a presentation to the valuable rectory of Brinkworth in Wiltshire, which he sold to a young clergyman for a considerable sum. This living being in Mr. Fox's gift, he forged his hand-writing, and that of two subscribing witnesses, with admirable dexterity; but, soon after his affairs becoming desperate, a discovery was made of the fraud. Hereupon the clergyman took to his bed, and literally died in consequence of that oppression of spirits which is commonly called a broken heart; for the purchase of the presentation had ruined his circumstances. After his death, the following short note was found in his drawer, directed to "John Ayliffe SATAN, Esq.

"Sir

"Sir,—I am surprized you can write to me, after you have robbed and most barbarously murdered me. O Brinkworth!"

Ayliffe being arrested for debts to the amount of eleven hundred pounds, took refuge in the Fleet-prison, where he forged a deed of gift from Mrs. Horner for four hundred and twenty pounds a year, and three thousand pounds in money. On this deed he raised considerable sums, by a series of artifice and management that is almost without example. For this forgery he was brought to trial at the Old-Bailey, and capitally convicted; but, in the interval, he was continually representing Mr. Fox as the concealed author of his ruin, to prevent his making discovery of some irregular transactions which he alledged were carried on in the war-office. He still continued to charge his benefactor with unjustifiable proceedings, in the very moment when he was soliciting his interest to save his life; for, after conviction, he wrote him the following letter.

"Honoured Sir,—The faults I have been guilty of shock my very soul, and particularly those towards you; for which I heartily ask pardon both of God and you. The sentence pronounced upon me fills me with horror, such as was never felt by mortal. What can I say? O my good God! that I could think of any thing to induce you to have mercy upon me; or to prevail upon you, good sir, to intercede for my life. I would do any thing, either at home or abroad. For god's sake, good sir, have compassion on your unhappy and unfortunate servant,

JOHN AYLIFFE."

It is also said, that Mr Fox supported this man during the whole time of his confinement in Newgate,

gate, allowing every thing that his unhappy situation could require. He was in the utmost agonies during the greater part of the night previous to his execution; but slept about two hours towards the approach of morning. His agitation of mind had brought on a fever, which producing an intolerable thirst, he endeavoured to allay it by drinking large and repeated draughts of water. On his way to the place of execution these emotions seemed to have subsided; and at the fatal tree he behaved with decency and composure. Some persons present called out "a reprieve!" but he paid no regard to what was said; and his hopes, respecting this life, appeared now to have vanished. He suffered at Tyburn on the 7th of Nov. 1759. His body was put into a hearse, and conveyed into Hertfordshire for interment, agreeable to his own request. After his execution a very extraordinary pamphlet was published, called "The Case of John Ayliffe, esq." which contained a great variety of original papers, and was thought, we know not with what justice, to bear very hard on the character of the late lord Holland. It was bought up by his lordship's friends and agents.

B.

BAKER, WILLIAM, (FORGERY,) was born in Cannon, where his father kept a baker's shop, and received his education at Merchant Taylor's School. At a proper age he was apprenticed to a grocer in a considerable way, and behaved with so much diligence and fidelity, that soon after the time of his apprenticeship had expired, his master admitted him an equal partner in trade. Having carried on the grocery for about seven years, he declined

declined that business, and connected himself in partnership with Mr. Carter, a sugar-baker; and by this new undertaking flattered himself in the expectation of speedily acquiring a fortune. About the period of his commencing sugar-baker, he married one of his cousins, who was daughter of a clergyman in Northamptonshire; and with her received a handsome fortune. For several years he fulfilled all his engagements with the greatest punctuality, and was supposed to be possessed of considerable property. He attended the sales of the East-India company's goods, frequently purchased very large quantities of teas, and had extensive dealings in other articles. He often sustained considerable loss by the sale of his goods: and his circumstances, at length, became so embarrassed, that he was under apprehension that a commission of bankruptcy would issue against him. He flattered himself, however, that, if he could support his credit for a short time, matters would take a more favourable turn, and his circumstances be retrieved. His anxiety to avoid a bankruptcy, induced him to forge an East India warrant for goods to the amount of nine hundred and twenty-two pounds. But it must be remarked, that the forgery was not committed with any intention to defraud, but merely to raise a supply for present exigencies. He was in expectation of speedy remittances, on the receipt of which he intended to take up the counterfeit warrant. Having passed it into the hands of Mr. Holland, who sent it to the India-house, where the forgery was detected, he was in consequence apprehended. Being put on his trial at the Old Bailey, several gentlemen of reputation appeared in his behalf, and spoke to his character in the most favourable terms; but both the forgery and the uttering the counterfeit warrant having been proved

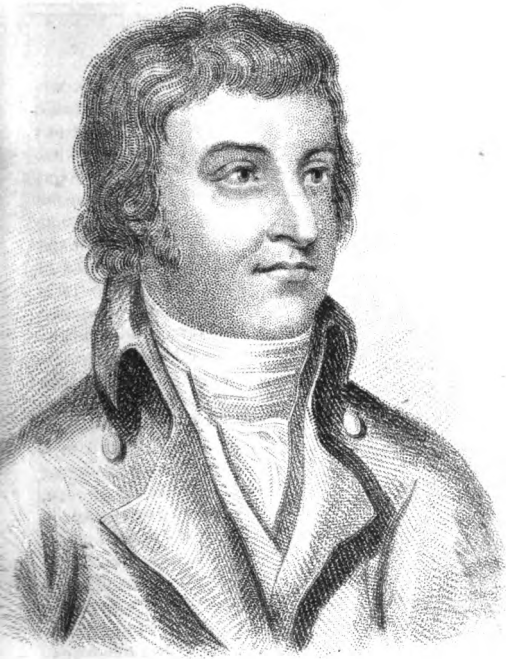
proved against him by indisputable testimony, and strongly corroborating circumstances, he of course was condemned to suffer death. His behaviour, while under sentence of death, was perfectly consistent with his unfortunate situation. Being conveyed to Tyburn in a mourning coach, he appeared to be in a composed state of mind, and entirely resigned to his fate. He suffered Dec. 31, 1750.

BAKER, ——. See UDALL, WM.

BALFOUR, ALEX. (MURDERER,) was born in the year 1687, at the seat of his father, Lord Burleigh, near Kinross. He was first sent for education to a village called Orwell, near the place of his birth, and thence to the University of St. Andrew's where he pursued his studies with a diligence and success that greatly distinguished him. His father, Lord Burleigh, had intended to have sent him into the army in Flanders, under the command of the Duke of Marlborough, in which he had rational expectation of his rising to preferment, as he was related to the Duke of Argyle and the Earl of Stair, who were majors-general in the army; but this scheme unhappily did not take place. Mr. Balfour, going to his father's house during the vacation at the university, became enamoured of Miss Anne Robertson, who officiated as teacher to his sisters. This young lady was possessed of considerable talents, improved by a fine education; but Lord Burleigh being apprized of the connection between her and his son, she was discharged, and the young gentleman sent to make the tour of France and Italy. Before he went abroad, he sent the young lady a letter, informing her, that, if she married before his return, he would murder her husband. Notwithstanding this threat, which she might presume had its origin in ungovernable passion, she married Mr.

Syme, a schoolmaster, at Innerkeithing, in the county of Fife. When Balfour returned from his travels, his first business was to enquire for Miss Robertson; and learning that she was married, he proceeded immediately to Innerkeithing, when he saw Mrs. Syme sitting at her window, nursing the first child of her marriage. Recollecting his former threatenings, she now screamed with terror, and called to her husband to consult his safety. Mr. Syme, unconscious of offence, paid no regard to what she said: but, in the interim, Balfour entered the school-room, and finding the husband, shot him through the heart. The confusion consequent on this scene favoured his escape: but he was taken into custody, within a few days, at a public-house, in a village four miles from Edinburgh; and, being brought to trial, was sentenced to die, but ordered to be beheaded by the *maiden*, (a machine resembling the *guillotine* of France,) in respect to the nobility of his family. He was to have suffered on Monday the 7th of May, 1708, and the scaffold was actually erected for the purpose; but on the preceding day, his sister went to visit him, and being very much like him in face and stature, they changed clothes, and he made his escape from the prison. His friends having provided horses for him, and a servant, at the West gate of Edinburgh, they rode to a distant village, where he changed his clothes again, and afterwards left the kingdom. Lord Burleigh, the father, died in the reign of Queen Anne; but had first obtained a pardon for his son, who succeeded to the family title and honours, and who lived forty-four years after his escape, having died, in 1752, a sincere penitent for the murder he had committed.

BARRINGTON, GEORGE, (PICK-POCKET) whose real name was Waldron, was born about the year



Etched by J. Chapman

GEORGE BARRINGTON.

year 1755, at Maymooth a village in the county of Kildare, Ireland: his father, Henry Waldron, was a working silversmith; and his mother, whose maiden name was Naith, was a mantua-maker, and occasionally a midwife. His parents, though not affluent, had him instructed in reading and writing at an early age; afterwards, through the bounty of a medical gentleman in the neighbourhood, he was taught common arithmetic, the elements of geography, and the English grammar. When sixteen years of age he was noticed and patronized by a dignitary in the church of Ireland, who placed him at a free grammar-school, and intended him for the university; however, he forfeited this gentleman's favour by his ill conduct at school, having, in a quarrel, stabbed one of his school-fellows with a penknife. For this vindictive act he was well flogged; in consequence of which he ran away from school, 1771, having previously found means to steal ten or twelve guineas from his master, and a gold repeating watch from his master's sister. He walked all night till he arrived at an obscure inn at Drogheda, where he happened to meet and become acquainted with a company of strolling players, whose manager was one John Price, an abandoned character; who, having been convicted of a fraud in London, was an involuntary exile in Ireland, until the expiration of the term for which he was sentenced to be transported. He now engaged our fugitive, who, in consequence, adopted the name of *Barrington*, as one of his performers, and who, it seems, became the hero of his company. While performing the character of Jaffier, in "Venice Preserved," he made a conquest of the tender Belvidera, (Miss Egerton) and to the credit of Barrington it must be acknowledged, that he took no mean advantage of her pas-

sion, but returned it with perfect sincerity. The company being now reduced by the expenses of travelling, &c. to extreme indigence, Price, the manager, prevailed upon Barrington to undertake the profession of a pickpocket, which business he commenced in the summer of the year 1771, having then renounced the stage. He soon after lost his faithful Miss Egerton, who was drowned in the eighteenth year of her age, in crossing the river Boyne, through the culpable negligence of a ferryman. He then commenced what is called a *gentleman pickpocket*, by affecting the airs and importance of a man of fashion; but was so much alarmed at the detection and conviction of his preceptor Price, (who was sentenced to transportation for seven years,) that he hastened to Dublin, where he practised his pilfering art during dark evenings. At one of the races in the co. of Carlow, he was detected picking the pocket of Lord B. but on restoring the property this nobleman declined any prosecution, and Barrington accordingly left Ireland, and for the first time appeared in England in 1773. On his first visit to Ranelagh with a party, he left his friends and picked the pockets of the Duke of L. and Sir W. of a considerable sum; and also took from a lady a watch, with all which he got off undiscovered and rejoined his friends. In 1775 he visited the most celebrated watering places, particularly Brighton, and being supposed a gentleman, of fortune and family, was noticed by persons of the first distinction. On his return to London he formed a connection with one Lowe, and became a more daring pickpocket. He went to court on the queen's birth day, as a clergyman, and not only picked several pockets, but found means to deprive a nobleman of his diamond order, and retired from the palace without suspicion. It is

is said that this booty was disposed of to a Dutch jew. Count Orlow, the Russian minister, being in one of the boxes of Drury-lane playhouse, was robbed of a gold snuff-box set with diamonds, estimated to be worth an immense sum; and one of the count's attendants suspecting Barrington, seized him, and found the snuff-box in his possession. He was examined by Sir John Fielding; but the count, being in a foreign country, was influenced by motives of delicacy to decline a prosecution. Being soon after in the house of Lords, when an appeal of an interesting nature was to come on, a Mr. G. recognized his person, and applying to the deputy usher of the black rod, he was disgracefully turned out. He now threatened Mr. G. with revenge, upon which a warrant was granted to bind him over to keep the peace; and as he could find no surety he was obliged to go to Tothillfields bridewell, where he remained some time. On being released he returned to his old profession, and was, about three months afterwards, detected in picking the pocket of a low woman at Drury-lane theatre, for which, being indicted and convicted at the Old Bailey, he was sentenced to three years hard labour on the Thames, and in the spring of 1777, was put on board the hulks, Woolwich; but after sustaining something less than a twelvemonth's punishment, he was again set at liberty, in consequence of his good behaviour, through the interference of Messrs. Erskine and Duncan Campbell, the superintendants of the convicts. A few days after his release he went to St. Sepulchre's church, when Dr. Mylne was to preach a sermon for the benefit of the society for the recovery of persons apparently drowned. William Payne, a constable, saw him put his hand into a lady's pocket in the south aisle, and presently after followed him out of

the church, and took him into custody near the end of Cock-lane, upon Snow hill. Having taken the prisoner to St. Sepulchre's watch-house, and found a gold watch, and some other articles, in his possession, Payne returned to the church, and spoke to the lady whom he had seen the prisoner attempt to rob; she informed him that she had lost nothing, for, expecting the church to be much crowded, she had taken the precaution of emptying her pockets before she left her house. Upon Payne's return to the watch-house, a gentleman advised that the prisoner might be more strictly searched. He was desired to take off his hat, and, raising his left arm, he cautiously removed his hat from his head, when a metal watch dropped upon the floor. He was now obliged to pull off the greatest part of his cloaths. He wore three pair of breeches, in one of the pockets of which was found a purse, containing thirteen guineas, and a bank note for 10l. made payable to himself. In consequence of an advertisement inserted the next day in the newspapers, Mrs. Ironmonger came to Payne's house, and described the watch she had lost; and it proved to be that which had been concealed in Barrington's hair, and dropped on the floor when he took off his hat. She attended the examination of the prisoner, and having sworn that the watch produced by Payne was her property, was bound over to prosecute. Upon his trial, Barrington made a long, an artful, and a plausible defence. He said that, upon leaving the church he perceived the watch mentioned in the indictment lying upon the ground, and took it up, intending to advertise it the next day; that he was followed to Snow-hill by Payne and another constable, who apprehended him, and had, in all probability, seen him take up the watch. "I reflected (said he) that how

how innocently soever I might have obtained the article in question, yet it might cause some censure; and no man would wonder, considering the unhappy predicament I stood in,* that I should conceal it as much as possible." The jury having pronounced the prisoner guilty, he addressed the court, earnestly supplicating that he might be permitted to enter into his Majesty's service, and promising to discharge his trust with fidelity and attention; or, if he could not be indulged in that request, he wished that his sentence might be banishment for life from his Majesty's dominions. The court informed him, that, by an application to the throne, he might obtain a mitigation of his sentence, if his case was attended by such circumstances of extenuation as would justify him in humbly petitioning to be considered as an object of the royal favor. He requested that the money and bank-note might be returned. Hereupon the court observed, that, in consequence of his conviction, the property found on him when he was apprehended became vested in the hands of the sheriffs of the city of London, who had discretionary power either to comply with, or reject, his request. He was again sentenced to labour on the Thames for the space of five years, on Tuesday the 5th of April, 1778. About the middle of this year, he was accordingly removed to the hulks at Woolwich, where having attracted the notice of a gentleman, who exerted his influence in his favour, he again procured his release, on condition of his leaving England: to this Barrington gladly consented, and was generously supplied with money by this gentleman. He now went to Dublin, where he was short-

* Alluding to his former conviction.

ly

ly apprehended for picking the pocket of an Irish nobleman of his gold watch and money, at the theatre, but was acquitted for want of evidence. Here, however, was his first display of elocution; for, having received a serious admonition from the judge, he addressed the court with considerable animation, and enlarged, with great ingenuity, upon what he termed the force of prejudice, insinuating that calumny had followed him from England to Ireland. On his acquittal, however, he deemed it most prudent to leave Dublin: he therefore visited Edinburgh, where being suspected he was obliged to decamp. He now returned to London, and braving danger, frequented the theatres, opera house, pantheon, &c. but was at length taken into custody. Having been acquitted for want of evidence for the charge brought against him, he was unexpectedly detained for having returned to England in violation of the condition on which his Majesty was pleased to grant him a remission of his punishment, and was accordingly confined in Newgate during the remainder of the time that he was originally to have served on the river Thames. On the expiration of his captivity, he returned to his former practices, but with greater caution. He was at length apprehended for picking the pocket of Mr. Le Mesurier, at Drury-lane play-house, but effected his escape from the constable; and while the lawyers were outlawing him, and the constables endeavouring to take him, he evaded detection by travelling in various disguises and characters through the northern counties of the kingdom: he visited the great towns as a quack doctor, clergyman, rider, &c. but was at last apprehended, in Newcastle upon-Tyne, and removed to London by a writ of Habeas Corpus. He now employed counsel, and had the outlawry against

against him reversed; was then tried for stealing Mr. Le Mesurier's purse, and acquitted in consequence of the absence of a material witness. Being once more enlarged, he had the presumption to visit Dublin again, where having been soon suspected, he with difficulty escaped to England; but shortly after his arrival, was taken into custody for picking the pocket of Henry Hare Townsend, esq. For this he was tried at the Old Bailey, Sept. 1, 1798, and found guilty, notwithstanding he made an ingenious defence. On Wednesday, Sept. 22, the Recorder pronounced the sentence of transportation on him for seven years, when Barrington addressed the court in words to the following effect:

"My lord,—I have a great deal to say in extenuation for the cause for which I now stand convicted at this bar; but upon consideration, I will not arrest the attention of the honourable court too long. Among the extraordinary vicissitudes incident to human nature, it is the peculiar and unfortunate lot of some devoted persons, to have their best wishes and their most earnest endeavours, to deserve the good opinion of the most respectable part of society, entirely frustrated. Whatever they can say, or whatever they may do, every word and its meaning, every action and its motive, is represented in an unfavourable light, and is distorted from the real intention of the speaker or the actor. That this has been my unhappy fate does not seem to stand in need of any confirmation. Every effort to deserve well of mankind, that my heart bore witness to its rectitude, has been by such measures as those, and consequently has been rendered abortive. Many of the circumstances of my life I can, without

out any violation of truth, declare to have, therefore, happened absolutely in spite of myself. The world, my lord, has given me credit for abilities, indeed, much greater than I possess, and therefore much more than I deserved, but I have never found any kind hand to foster these abilities. I might ask where was the generous and powerful hand that was ever stretched forth, to rescue George Barrington from infamy? In an age like this, which, in several respects, is so justly famed for liberal sentiments, it was my severe lot, that no noble-minded gentleman stepped forward, and said to me; 'Barrington, you are possessed of talents which may be useful to society. I feel for your situation; and as long as you act the part of a good citizen, I will be your protector: you will then have time and opportunity to rescue yourself from the obloquy of your former conduct.' Alas, my lord, George Barrington had never the supreme felicity of having such comfort administered to his wounded spirit. As matters have unfortunately turned out, the die is cast——and as it is, I bend resigned to my fate, without one murmur or complaint." Having thus concluded his neat address, rendered more forcible by his pathetic manner, he left the bar with a respectful bow, and thus withdrew from public life in Europe, to act a *new part* in the NEW WORLD. On his arrival at Port Jackson, he was introduced to the governor, and appointed superintendant of the convicts resident at Paramatta. His conduct, during his exile, has been such as to compensate for all the past. According to recent accounts he has been deranged in his mind; and it has been also reported, that he is dead. While in London he cohabited with a woman, who went by his name, and who, since

since his transportation, has been apprehended for several thefts, as if desirous of following him to Botany Bay.

BARTON, J. See DICKENSON, E.

BEDDINGFIELD, ANNE, (MURDERER,) was the wife of John Beddingfield, who was the son of respectable parents, at Sternfield in Suffolk, and to whom she was married at seventeen years of age, when he was about twenty-four: the young couple were placed in a good farm, which was carefully attended by the husband, who bore the character of a man of industry and integrity. They had two children, and lived apparently happy for some time. Richard Ringe, a youth of nineteen, was engaged in the service of Mr. Beddingfield; nor had he been long in the house before his mistress became so enamoured of him, that her husband was the object of her contempt. Her behaviour to Ringe was such that he could not long doubt of her favourable inclinations; nor had he virtue to resist the temptation: and they were so incautious in their amours, that four of the servants were occasional witnesses of their criminal intercourse. At length Mrs. Beddingfield, having formed the horrid design of destroying her husband, communicated her intention to Ringe, who hesitating at the dreadful proposal, she promised that he should share her fortune as the reward of the deed. Mr. Beddingfield happening to be indisposed, it was recommended to him to take a vomit; but the water which the servant-maid brought him to drink proving too hot, Ringe was directed to bring some cold water to mix with it; and he took this opportunity of putting arsenic into the water; but Beddingfield, observing a white sediment in the bason, would not drink, though no suspicion of the liquor being

being poisoned had occurred to him. On the failure of this they determined on another scheme of dispatching the unfortunate object of their vengeance. Mr. Beddingfield having been selling some cattle to another farmer, they had drank a sociable glass together, but not to such a degree as to occasion intoxication. When Mr. Beddingfield came home, he found that his wife was in bed with one of the maid servants; on which he desired her to come to his chamber, but this she refused, and mutual recriminations passed between them. It had been determined by Ringe to commit the murder on that night, while his master was asleep; accordingly when his master was in bed, he quitted his own room, passed through that in which his mistress slept, and went to the bed-chamber of his master. Observing that Mr. Beddingfield was asleep, he threw a cord round his neck to strangle him; but, being hurt by the weight of Ringe lying across him, he struggled so that they both fell off the bed together. However, the horrid deed of murder was soon perpetrated. Mrs. Beddingfield, being asleep in the next room, awoke at the noise, and in her fright awakened the servant. At that instant Ringe entered the room, and said, "I have done for him;" to which the wife answered, "Then I am easy." The girl was greatly alarmed; but cried out, "master," supposing Mr. Beddingfield was present; for there was no light in the room: but Mrs. Beddingfield commanded her to be silent. Ringe asked the mistress if any one was acquainted with what had passed besides her and the maid; on which the girl asked, "How came you here, Richard?" The villain, terrified by his guilt, replied, "I was forced to it." He then went to his own room, and lay down; and the mistress and maid getting up, the latter

but was charged not to utter a syllable of what had passed. Mrs. Beddingfield now directed the girl to call Ringe, who seemed offended at being disturbed; but, when he had struck a light, his mistress told him to go into his master's room, for she was afraid that he was indisposed. Ringe obeyed; but, on his return said, with an air of surprise, that his master was dead. By this time another maid-servant got up, and the girls, going to their master's room, found the deceased lying on his face, and observed that part of his shirt collar was torn off, and that his neck was black and swelled. A messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. Beddingfield's parents, who proposed to send for a surgeon: but the wife said, it was unnecessary to send for a doctor, as her husband was already dead. On the following day the coroner's jury took an inquisition into the cause of his death; but so superficial was the inquiry, that it lasted only a few minutes, and their determination was, that he died a natural death. The guilty commerce between the murderers became now more evident than before; yet so fickle was Mrs. Beddingfield's disposition, that in a few weeks she began to despise the man whom she had excited to the murder of her husband. The servant-maid was resolved to discover the fact, but postponed her resolution till she had received the wages for her quarter's service. When her mistress had paid her, she went to her parents, and discovered all she knew of the matter: on which a warrant was issued for apprehending the murderers. As they had an idea of what was going forward, they attempted to bribe the girl's mother to secrecy, who rejected their offers: on which Mrs. Beddingfield made her escape, but was apprehended at the end of two days. Ringe, however, seemed to disdain to

consult his own safety, and remained in the house: after he was committed to prison, he confessed that he had deemed himself a dead man from the time of his perpetrating the murder. At the Lent assizes in 1763, the prisoners were brought to trial, when the surgeon and coroner were examined as to what fell within their knowledge. The former confessed that he saw evident marks of violence on the body; and being asked how he could depose before the coroner, that Mr. Beddingfield had died a natural death, he replied, that he did not think much about it!!! Several unguarded expressions of Mrs. Beddingfield having been sworn to by the witnesses, particularly that she had said, "She knew somebody would soon die,"—"That she should want mourning ear-rings very soon," &c. and the prisoners having nothing to alledge in extenuation of their crime, they were both capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction, as well as before, Ringe freely confessed his guilt; but expressed the utmost anxiety at the thought of being dissected. Mrs. Beddingfield refused to make any confession till the day before her death. They were placed in one siedge on the morning of execution, and conveyed to a place near Ipswich, called Rushmore, where Ringe made a pathetic address to the surrounding multitude, advising young people to be warned by his fate, and to avoid the delusions of wicked women. After the fervent exercise of devotion he was turned off; while the body of Mrs. Beddingfield, who had been first strangled at a stake, was burned to ashes, agreeable to the then practice respecting women who were convicted of the murder of their husbands. They suffered April 8, 1763.

BELLAMY, EDWARD, (HOUSE-BREAKER,) was a native of London, and served his time to a taylor

taylor; but his apprenticeship was no sooner expired, than he associated with some women of ill fame, and became a thief to support their extravagance. His commencement in this art was with a number of young pickpockets, and he soon became an adept in the profession. From this business they advanced a step further. They used to go, three or four in company, to the shops of silversmiths in the evening, and while one of them cheapened some article of small value, his companions used to secrete something of greater. It was likewise a practice with them to walk the streets at night, and forcing up the windows of shops with a chissel, run off with any property that lay within their reach. This was commonly done so suddenly that the thieves got off with the effects before the shop-keepers were prepared to follow them. Bellamy played his part with so much dexterity, that he was looked upon as leader of the gang: after three years practice at this infamous business, he forged a note, (forgery being not then a capital offence,) by which he defrauded a linen-draper of money to a considerable amount. Being taken into custody for this, he was lodged in Newgate; but discharged without being brought to trial, his friends having found means to accommodate the matter with the injured party. In a short time after he left Newgate, he made connections with Jonathan Wild, and by a frequent attendance at his office, dived so far into the mysteries of his profession, and was so convinced of the great profit that attended it, that he formed an idea of engaging in the same business on his own account. At this time Wild used frequently to borrow money of a Mr. Wildgoose, who kept an inn at Smithfield: and Bel-

lamy wishing to become acquainted with a man whom he thought he could make subservient to his interest, applied to Jonathan to recommend him to Wildgoose; but this the famous thief-taker absolutely refused; on which Bellamy determined to take his revenge on Wild. Having often gone with messages and notes from Jonathan to Wildgoose, and being well-acquainted with the hand-writing of the former, he forged a draught on the latter for ten guineas, which Wildgoose paid without hesitation; as soon as Bellamy had got the money he omitted to pay his usual visits at Wild's office. A few days after this, Wild went to his acquaintance to borrow some money, when Wildgoose told him he had paid his draught for the above-mentioned sum, and producing the note, Jonathan could not be certain that it was not his own hand-writing, otherwise than by recollecting that he had never given such a draught. Wildgoose was unacquainted with Bellamy's name; but, by the description of his person, Jonathan soon found who had committed the forgery; on which he ordered his myrmidons to be careful to apprehend the offender. Bellamy having been taken in a lodging in White-friars, Jonathan's men sent word to their master that they had him in custody, and begged he would come and give orders how they should dispose of him: but, in the interim Bellamy, who expected no mercy from the old thief-taker, seizes the advantage of the casual absence of his attendance from the room, fixed a rope to the bar of the window, and let himself into the street, though the room was three stories high. He now entertained thoughts of accommodating the affair with Wild, imagining he should be treated with the utmost severity if he should be re-apprehended: but before he had proceeded in this negotiation,

Wild's

Wild's men seized him at a gin-shop in Chancery-lane, and sent to their master for instructions how to act. To this message Jonathan returned an answer that they might give him his liberty, on the condition that he should come to the office, and adjust the business with himself. Hereupon Bellamy was discharged: knowing how dangerous it would be to affront Wild, he went the following morning to a public house in the Old Bailey, where he sent for Jonathan to breakfast with him: and the latter sending for Wildgoose, Bellamy gave him a note for the money received, and no farther steps were taken in the affair. As soon as this business was adjusted, Bellamy renewed his former plan of making depredations on the public, and committed an immense number of robberies. During one of his rambles, near the Royal Exchange, he fell into company with a kidnapper, who obtained an infamous subsistence by enticing distressed young people to go abroad, under pretence that they would be there well provided for. Bellamy thinking this fellow a proper subject to employ his genius, pretended that he was out of employment, and ambitious of visiting America. The kidnapper represented America as the country where industry and merit could not fail of success, even to the attainment of an ample fortune; he assured him he had helped many young people to places, who were out of employment, who afterwards became so rich as to keep their carriages. He declared himself no mean, time serving wretch, who took money for these things; all his view was to be of service to the distressed.—In this instance the kidnapper intended to gull the thief, and the thief to take in the kidnapper. Bellamy having lived some time at the expence of his new acquaintance, the day at length arrived when his indentures

were to be signed, as the ship in which he was to embark was on the point of sailing. There were other young fellows who were to be bound; and when they came to the magistrate's, the kidnapper recollected that he had left some papers behind him; and desired Bellamy to go back for them. He did as directed; and told the man's wife that her husband wanted two guineas to pay the expence of indenturing the people who were with him. The woman readily delivered the money, with which Bellamy decamped, and the kidnapper saw no more of him. The robberies committed by Bellamy and his gang were innumerable, and attended with various success. One time they broke the sash of a silversmith's shop in Russel court, Drury-lane, when a person who lay under the compter, fired a blunderbuss at them, which obliged them to decamp without their booty. This attempt failing, they went to the house of another silversmith, which they broke open, and finding the servant-maid sitting up for her master, they terrified her into silence, and carried off effects to a large amount. Not long after this robbery they broke open the shop of a grocer near Shoreditch, in the expectation of finding cash to a great amount: but the proprietor having previously secured it, they got only about ten pounds of tea, and the loose money in the till. Their next attempt was at the house of a hosier in Widegate-alley, from whose shop they carried off some goods of value, which they sold to the Jews on the following day. Bellamy and some of his fraternity made an attempt to break open the shop of a linen-draper, in Bishopsgate-street, on a Sunday evening; when a woman who had watched their motions, knocked at the door just as they had effected an entrance: which obliged them to decamp with the utmost precipitation

cipitation. On the same night they attempted to break into a toy shop, in Swithin's-alley, Cornhill; and had wrenched the bars from the windows when the shutters suddenly falling, the family were alarmed, and their scheme frustrated. Notwithstanding this, as soon as the neighbourhood was quiet, they went back to the same alley, and broke open the house of a shoemaker, whence they stole a great quantity of shoes, and plate to a large amount, which they disposed of to Jews on the following day. Having another night broken open the shop of a barber in George-yard, Lombard-street, where they found very little that they thought worth their notice, they carried off all the wigs; but not being able to sell them to any advantage, they took them to the King's Bench, and gave them away to the debtors. Soon afterwards they broke into a shoemaker's shop in Eastcheap, and stole a number of shoes, which they packed up in a bag; but a watchman observing them, they dropped their ill-gotten prize, knocked him down, and effected their escape. From the shop of a silversmith in Bride-lane they carried off plate to the amount of fifty pounds; and from the house of a haberdasher in Bishopsgate street, a load of various articles, the whole of which they disposed of to Jews. On another occasion, they broke open a tea-shop near Gray's Inn-lane; having removed the shutters, by cutting away part of them with chissels, they were going to lift up the sash, when a person from within hearing them, cried out, thieves! on which they ran off without their booty. Having broken into a tea-warehouse near Aldgate, they had packed up a valuable parcel of goods, when the maid servant came down stairs, undressed, and without a candle. She went into the yard, and soon returned, without knowing that they were

were in the house; but when she came into the shop, Bellamy seized her, and obliged her to lie on the floor, while they went off with their booty. The same night they broke open the shop of a mercer in Bishopsgate street, whence they carried off goods to a large amount. The next robbery was at the house of a grocer in Thames-street; the watchman passing by as they were packing up their booty, Bellamy seized him, and obliged him to put out his candle, to prevent any alarm being given. Having kept him till they were ready to go off with their plunder, they took him to the side of the Thames, and threatened to throw him in, if he would not throw in his lanthorn and staff. The poor man was obliged to comply with their injunctions. Soon after this they stole a large sum of money and a quantity of goods from the house of a grocer, which they broke open in Aldersgate street. A neighbour saw this robbery from his window, but was too much frightened to take any measures for the detection of the villains. Their next exploit was at an old clothes-shop, kept by a woman in Shadwell, whence they carried off every valuable article. After this they robbed the shop of a hosier in Coleman-street, and took away goods to the amount of seventy pounds, which the thieves divided into shares, and sold them to their old acquaintance the Jews. They were disappointed in their next attempt, which was to break open the house of a linen-draper in Westminster: for some people coming up before they had compleated their operations, they were obliged to decamp with precipitation. The next evening, observing the door of a shop shut in St. Clement's church-yard, they made it fast with a cord on the out-side, and throwing up the sash, stole a very large number of silk handkerchiefs,

chiefs, while a woman in the shop made many fruitless attempts to open the door. They also stole a variety of plate, wearing-apparel and other effects, the same night, from two houses in Holborn. Soon after this they stole goods to the amount of twenty pounds, from a house which they broke open in Red Lion street: and breaking open another the same night in Fullwood's-rents, obtained about an equal booty. While thus preying upon the public they became acquainted with an old woman, who had opened an office near Leicester fields, for the reception of stolen goods, something on the plan of that of Jonathan Wild. To this woman Bellamy and his companions used to sell much of their ill-gotten effects; but she having, on one occasion, given a smaller price than they expected, Bellamy determined on a plan of revenge; in pursuance of which he went to her office with a small quantity of stolen plate; and while she was gone with it to a silversmith, he broke open her drawers, and carried off her cash to a large amount. His next adventures were the breaking a house in Petticoat-lane; and another in Grocer's-alley in the Poultry, at both of which places he made large prizes. Soon afterwards he stopped a man near Hounslditch, and robbed him of his money. He now became so notorious, that a reward of one hundred pounds was offered for the apprehending him; in consequence of which he was taken, near the seven Dials, the day after he had robbed a shop in Monmouth-street, and committed to Newgate. For this last offence he was tried, convicted, and received sentence of death. From the time of conviction till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he affected a chearfulness of behaviour, and said that he would be hanged in his shroud; but the certainty that he should suffer, and

and the sight of his coffin, excited more serious ideas in his mind: and he received the sacrament a few days before his death, with evident marks of repentance for the many crimes of which he had been guilty. He suffered at Tyburn, March 27, 1728.

BERGHEN, MICHAEL VAN, BERGHEN, CATHERINE VAN, (MURDERERS,) man and wife, and natives of Holland, who, having settled in England, kept a public house near East Smithfield, in 1700, where Gerrard Dromelius who was likewise tried, and found guilty of the murder of Mr. Oliver Norris, acted as their servant. Mr. Norris was a country gentleman, who lodged at an inn near Aldgate, and who went into the house of Van Berghen, about eight o'clock in the evening, and continued to drink there till about eleven. Finding himself rather intoxicated, he desired the maid-servant to call a coach to carry him home. As she was going to do so, her mistress whispered her, and bid her return in a little time, and say that a coach was not to be procured. These directions being observed, Norris, on the maid's return, resolved to go without a coach, and accordingly took his leave of the family; but he had not gone far before he discovered that he had been robbed of a purse containing a sum of money; whereupon he returned and charged Van Berghen and his wife with having been guilty of the robbery. This they positively denied, and threatened to turn him out of the house; but he refused to go, and resolutely went into a room where the cloth was laid for supper. At this time Dromelius entered the room, and treating Mr. Norris in a cavalier manner, the latter resented the insult, and at length a quarrel ensued. At this juncture, Van Berghen seized a poker, with which he fractured Mr. Norris's skull, and in the mean

mean time Dromelius stabbed him in different parts of the body; Mrs. Van Berghen being present during the perpetration of the horrid act. When Mr. Norris was dead, they stripped him of his coat, waistcoat, hat, wig, &c. and then Van Berghen and Dromelius carried the body, and threw it into a ditch which communicated with the Thames: and in the mean time Mrs. Van Berghen washed the blood of the deceased from the floor of the room. The clothes, which had been stripped from the deceased, were put up in a hamper, and committed to the care of Dromelius, who took a boat, and carried them over to Rotherhithe, where he employed the waterman to carry the hamper to lodgings which he had taken, and in which he proposed to remain until he could find a favourable opportunity of embarking for Holland. The next morning, at low water, the body of a gentleman was found, and several of the neighbours went to take a view of it, and endeavoured to try if they could trace any blood to the place where the murder might have been committed; but not succeeding in this, some of them, who were up at a very early hour, recollected that they had seen Van Berghen and Dromelius coming almost from the spot where the body was found; and remarked that a light had been carried backwards and forwards in Van Berghen's house. Upon this the house was searched; but no discovery was made, except that a little blood was found behind the door of a room, which appeared to have been lately mopped. Enquiry was made after Dromelius; but Van Berghen and his wife would give no other account than that he had left their service; on which they were taken into custody, with the servant-maid, who was the principal evidence against them. At this time the waterman who

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

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

BERRY, THOMAS. See DICKENSON, E.

BIG, JEPTHAH, (WRITER OF THREATENING LETTERS,) was a native of Spitalfields, who, having

having a brother who was coachman to a ge of fortune, conceived an idea of supplying extravagancies, by extorting money from ther's master. Calling on one Peter Salter, him to an obscure public house near the M where he developed his scheme, saying he mi tain an hundred guineas by sending a thre letter; but he was at a loss to think what ho money should be sent to: at length he fixe public-house, called the Shoulder of Mutton, lingsgate, whither he directed Salter to go an till a porter should bring a letter directed to Harrison, which letter Salter was to carry to B an alehouse on Fish-street-hill. Agreeable t direction Salter waited at the Shoulder of M till a porter brought a letter, and spoke to the lord and his son, who seemed surprised at rea the contents. Guilt is ever cowardly; and o them going out, Salter imagined it was to ca officer to apprehend him; on which he slipped of the house, and went to his companion on F street-hill. These associates in roguery takin walk to Moorfields, Big said he was undaunted this repulse; and that he would write such a let as would make the gentleman trembie; and he c not doubt of success. In consequence of an agre ment between the parties, another letter was ser ordering the gentleman to send an hundred guinea enclosed in a parcel, to the Black Boy in Gooc man's Fields, directed to John Harrison. Salte went daily, and drank at this house, where he ha hitherto been a stranger, in expectation of a answer, which he was to receive, guarding only against any artifice that might be used to apprehend him. While he was thus waiting, he read an advertisement in the newspaper, offering a reward for

for the extortioner. At this juncture a porter brought a letter which he gave to the landlord, who having read it, the potter said, "I have a parcel for one Mr. Harrison; do you know such a gentleman?" The landlord enquired if any person present answered to that name; but Salter was too much on his guard to do so; and drinking his beer without any sign of fear, he went to an alehouse near Aldgate, where he met his accomplice, and old him a scheme was laid to apprehend him. After some conference they adjourned to a public house near the residence of the gentleman to whom e threatening letters had been sent. Here Big it for his brother, who attended; but said, as he s obliged to go out with his master he could not with him. Big now observed that his brother complained of the peevish disposition of his ter, and asked if he did not intend to leave him. brother replied, that his master had been very ul for some days past; but added, "I have found out the reason; for some vile rogue has a threatening letter, and swears he will murder if a sum of money is not sent to a public house odman's Fields." When Big's brother was he told Salter he would send another letter, ver might be the consequence; but Salter ded him not to run the risk of a proceeding must be followed by certain ruin. A few ter this the porter, who had carried the letter n Salter at both the public houses, happened him, and suspecting that he might be the ner, delivered him to the custody of a peace on which he accused Big as the principal; s thereupon apprehended and committed to e, and Salter admitted evidence for the Big, being tried at the Old Bailey, was

convicted and received sentence of death; which sentence rather surprised him, as he had no idea that the offence was capital. He was thought to be a Roman Catholic, as he refused the attendance of the Ordinary while he lay in Newgate. He suffered at Tyburn, September 19, 1729.

BILLINGS, THOMAS. See HAYES, CATHERINE.

BLAKE, alias BLUESKIN, JOS. (HOUSE-BREAKER,) was a native of London, and was sent to school by his parents for the space of six years; but made little progress in learning, having a very early propensity to acts of dishonesty. While at school he formed an acquaintance with William Blewit, who afterwards entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, and became one of the most notorious villains of the age. No sooner had Blake left school, than he commenced pickpocket, and had been in all the prisons for various felonies before he was fifteen years of age. From this practice he turned street-robber, and joined with Oaky, Levee, and many other rogues, who acted under the directions of Wild. For some of the robberies they committed they were taken into custody, and Blake was admitted an evidence against his companions, who were convicted; in consequence of which he claimed his liberty, and part of the reward allowed by government; but he was informed by the court, that he had no right to either, because he was not a voluntary evidence; since, so far from having surrendered, he made an obstinate resistance, and was much wounded before he was taken; and therefore he must find security for his good behaviour, or be transported. Not being able to give the requisite security, he was lodged in Wood-street Compter, where he remained a considerable time, during which

which Jonathan Wild allowed him three shillings and sixpence a week. At length he prevailed on two gardeners to be his bail; but the court at the Old Bailey hesitating to take their security, they went before Sir John Fryer, who took their recognizance for Blake's good behaviour for seven years. He had no sooner obtained his liberty than he was concerned in several robberies with Jack Sheppard, and particularly that for which two brothers, Francis and Benjamin Brightwell, were tried, and honourably acquitted, though the prosecutor (John Pargiter) swore that they were the soldiers that robbed him: it was, however, satisfactorily proved, that Francis was on guard at the time, and Benjamin at home at his lodging. The foot pad robberies and burglaries committed by Blake and his associates were very numerous; but the fact for which Blake suffered was the robbery of Mr. Kneebone, as will appear by the following account. He was indicted at the Old Bailey sessions, in October 1724, for breaking and entering the dwelling-house of William Kneebone, stealing one hundred and eight yards of woollen cloth, value 36l. and other goods. The prosecutor having sworn that the bars of his cellar window were cut, and that the cellar-door, which had been bolted and padlocked, was broke open, he acquainted Jonathan Wild with what had happened, who went to Blake's lodgings, with two other persons; but Blake refusing to open the door, it was broke open by Quilt Arnold, one of Wild's men. On this he drew a penknife, and swore he would kill the first man that entered; in answer to which Arnold said, "Then I am the first man, and Mr. Wild is not far behind, and if you don't deliver your penknife immediately, I will chop your arm off." Hereupon the prisoner dropped

ped the knife; and Wild entering, he was taken into custody. As the parties were conveying him to Newgate, they came by the house of the prosecutor, on which Wild said to the prisoner, "There's the ken;" and the latter replied, "Say no more of that Mr. Wild, for I know I am a dead man; but what I fear is, that I shall afterwards be carried to Surgeon's hall, and anatomised;" to which Wild replied, "No, I'll take care to prevent that, for I'll give you a coffin." William Field, who was evidence on the trial, swore that the robbery was committed by Blake, Sheppard, and himself, and the jury brought in a verdict of guilty. As soon as the verdict was given, the prisoner addressed the court in the following terms: "On Wednesday morning last, Jonathan Wild said to Simon Jacobs,* I believe you will not bring 40l. this time: I wish Joe (meaning me) was in your case; I'll do my endeavour to bring you off as a single felon. And then turning to me, he said, 'I believe you must die—I'll send you a good book or two, and provide you a coffin, and you shall not be anatomised."—Wild was to have been an evidence against this malefactor; but going to visit him in the bail-dock, previous to his trial, Blake suddenly drew a clasped penknife, with which he cut Jonathan's throat, which prevented his giving evidence; but as the knife was blunt, the wound, though dangerous, did not prove mortal.—See WILD. While under sentence of death, he did not shew much concern for his calamitous situation. When asked if he was advised to commit the violence on Wild, he said,

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* Jacobs was then a prisoner, and afterwards transported.

"No;

"No; but that a sudden thought entered his mind, or he would have provided a knife, which would have cut off his head at once." He suffered in a state of intoxication, at Tyburn, Nov. 11, 1723—See SHEPPARD.

BLAKE, DANIEL, (MURDERER,) was the son of a butcher at Bunwell, in Norfolk, who brought him up to his own business. When about twenty years old, he became dissatisfied with his trade, and travelled to London with an intention of hiring himself as a gentleman's servant, and he had been but a short time in the metropolis when he was engaged in the service of Lord Dacre. Having contracted an acquaintance with some women of abandoned character, he resolved to support his consequent expenses by robbing his fellow-servants. He had been in the service of Lord Dacre about ten weeks, when he determined to carry his iniquitous plan into execution: and going into the room of Mr. Murcott, his lordship's butler, he repeatedly struck him with a poker, and then taking a knife from his pocket, cut his throat almost from ear to ear. Having taken twenty guineas from the breeches pocket of the deceased, he then returned to his bed. He rose about seven, and went to his usual business; in about an hour he was desired to call Mr. Murcott; on which he said he had already called him two or three times, but had not been able to make him answer. Lord Dacre's bell ringing about nine, the porter went into the chamber of the deceased, and repeatedly called him; he then approached the bed, and shook Mr. Murcott, and, finding him still silent and motionless, exclaimed, "God blees me! I believe he is dead!" he then turned down the bed-clothes, which the murderer had thrown over Mr. Murcott's face, and perceiving them bloody, he quitted the room

room in great terror, and communicated his discovery to the house keeper and lady Dacre's waiting-maid; who, going into the room, turned the clothes a little further down, and observed a knife, which they supposed to have fallen from the hand of the deceased; and attempting to move the body, the head inclined backwards, and gave the wound a most shocking appearance. Upon the rest of the servants being informed of Mr. Murcott's unhappy death, Blake shed tears in great abundance, wrung his hands, and appeared to be affected in so extravagant a degree, that he was urged to moderate his affliction, lest the nobleman and his lady should be alarmed. Mr. Murcott's death being communicated to Lord Dacre, he sent for Mr. Marsden, clerk to Sir John Fielding, and kept him in the house three days, with the view of discovering the perpetrator of the horrid fact. During the time that Blake had been in the service of Lord Dacre, he was known to be in very indigent circumstances: but on the day after the murder he was observed to discharge several small debts; and hence arose a suspicion of his guilt. All the servants in the family having been strictly examined in the presence of Lord Dacre, the porter declared that he firmly believed that the knife found in the bed belonged to Blake. When in custody, and conducted to Sir John Fielding's he voluntarily acknowledged himself guilty of the horrid fact, and was committed to Newgate in order to take his trial at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; his own confession being corroborated by very strong circumstantial evidence, he was found guilty, and sentenced to be executed. While he was under sentence of death, his behaviour was decent and penitential. He suffered at Tyburn on the 26th of February,

bruary, 1763; and his body was hung in chains on Hounslow Heath,

BLANDY, MARY, (PARRICIDE,) was the only daughter of Mr. Francis Blandy, an eminent attorney at Henley upon Thames, and town clerk of that place. She had been educated with the utmost tenderness, and every possible care was taken to impress on her mind sentiments of virtue and religion. Her person had nothing in it remarkably engaging; but she was of a sprightly and affable disposition, polite in manners, and engaging in conversation; and was uncommonly distinguished by her good sense. She had read the best authors in the English language, and had a memory remarkably retentive of the knowledge she had acquired. In a word, she excelled most of her sex in those accomplishments which are calculated to grace and dignify the female mind. As her father was reputed to be rich, a number of young gentlemen courted his acquaintance, with a view to obtain the heart of his daughter; but of all the visitors none were more agreeable, both to father and daughter, than the gentlemen of the army; and the former was never better pleased than when he had some of them at his table. At the age of twenty-six, Miss Blandy became acquainted with Capt. Wm. Henry Cranstoun, who was then about forty-six. He was the son of Lord Cranstoun, of an ancient Scotch family, which had made great alliances, by intermarriages with the nobility of Scotland. Being a younger brother, his uncle, Lord Mark Ker, procured him a commission in the army, which, with the interest of 1500l. was all he had for his support. This gentleman married a Miss Murray, in Scotland, in the year 1745, and received a handsome fortune with her: but he was defective in the great article of prudence.

dence. His wife was delivered of a son within a year after the marriage; and about this period he received orders to join his regiment in England, and was sent on a recruiting party to Henley, when he became acquainted with Miss Blandy. It may seem extraordinary, and is, perhaps, a proof of Cranstoun's art, that he could ingratiate himself into the affections of this lady, for his person was diminutive; he was marked with the small-pox, his face was in seams, and he squinted very much: but he possessed that faculty of small talk, which is too prevalent with many of the fair sex. Mr. Blandy, who was acquainted with Lord Mark Ker, was fond of being deemed a man of state, and so open to flattery, that it is not to be wondered at that a man of Cranstoun's artifice ingratiated himself into his favour, and obtained permission to pay his addresses to the daughter. Apprehending that Miss Blandy might discover that he had a wife in Scotland, he informed her that he was involved in a disagreeable law suit in that country, with a young lady who claimed him as a husband; and so sure was he of the interest he had obtained in Miss Blandy's affections, that he had the confidence to ask her if she loved him well enough to wait the issue of the affair. She told him, that if her father and mother approved of her staying for him, she had no objection. Cranstoun endeavoured to conduct this amour with all possible secrecy; notwithstanding which, it came to the knowledge of Lord Mark Ker, who wrote to Mr. Blandy, informing him the captain had a wife and children in Scotland, and conjuring him to preserve his daughter from ruin. Alarmed by this intelligence, Mr. Blandy informed his daughter of it; but she did not seem equally affected, as Cranstoun's former declaration had prepared her to expect some such

such news; and when the old gentleman taxed Cranstoun with it, he declared it was only an affair of gallantry, from which he should have no difficulty to free himself. Mrs. Blandy appears to have been under as great a degree of infatuation as her daughter; for she forbore all farther enquiry, on the captain's bare assurance that the report of his marriage was false. Cranstoun, however, could not be equally easy: he saw the necessity of devising some scheme to get his first marriage annulled, or of bidding adieu to all the gratifications he could promise himself by a second. After revolving various schemes in his mind, he at length wrote to his wife, requesting her to disown him for a husband; observing that, "having no other way of rising to preferment but in the army, he had but little ground to expect advancement there, while it was known he was incumbered with a wife and family; but could he once pass for a single man, he had not the least doubt of being quickly preferred; which would procure him a sufficiency to maintain her, as well as himself, in a genteeler manner than now he was able to do. All therefore (added he) I have to request of you, is, that you will transcribe the inclosed copy of a letter, wherein you disown me for a husband; put your maiden name to it, and send it by the post: all the use I shall make of it will be to procure my advancement, which will necessarily include your own benefit." Mrs. Cranstoun, ill as she had been treated by her husband, and little hope as she had of more generous usage, was, after repeated letters had passed, induced to give up her claim, and at length sent him the requested paper, signed Murray, which was her maiden name. The captain, now possessed of this letter, made some copies of it, which he sent to his wife's relations, and his own: the consequence

sequence of which was that they withdrew the assistance they had afforded the lady, which reduced her to an extremity she had never before experienced. Exclusive of this, he instituted a suit before the lords of session, for the dissolution of the marriage; but when Mrs. Cranstoun was heard, and the letters read, the artful contrivance was seen through, the marriage was confirmed, and Cranstoun was adjudged to pay the expenses of the trial. At the next sessions Capt. Cranstoun preferred a petition, desiring to be heard by counsel, on new evidence which it was pretended had arisen respecting Miss Murray. This petition, after some hesitation, was heard; but the issue was, that the marriage was again confirmed, and Cranstoun was obliged to allow his wife a separate maintenance. Still, however, he paid his addresses to Miss Blandy with the same fervency as before; which coming to the knowledge of Mrs. Cranstoun, she sent her the decree of the court of session, establishing the validity of the marriage. It is reasonable to suppose, that this would have convinced Miss Blandy of the erroneous path in which she was treading. On this occasion she consulted her mother; and Cranstoun having set out for Scotland, the old lady advised her to write to him, to know the truth of the affair. Absurd as this advice was, she wrote to him; but, soon after the receipt of her letter, he returned to Henley, when he had impudence enough to assert that the cause was not finally determined, but would be referred to the House of Lords. Mr. Blandy gave very little credit to this assertion; but his credulous wife assented at once to all he said, and treated him with as much tenderness as if he had been her own son. Mrs. Blandy and her daughter having come to London, the former wanted 40l. to discharge

charge a debt she had contracted unknown to her husband; and Cranstoun coming into the room while the mother and daughter were weeping over their distresses, he demanded the reason of their grief; of which being informed, he left them, and soon returning with the requisite sum, he threw it into the old lady's lap. Charmed by this apparent generosity, she burst into tears, and squeezed his hand fervently: on which he embraced her, and said, "Remember, it is a son; therefore do not make yourself uneasy; you do not lie under any obligation to me." Of this debt of forty pounds, ten pounds have been contracted by the ladies while in London, for expences in consequence of their pleasures; and the other thirty by expensive treats given to Cranstoun at Henley, during Mr. Blandy's absence. Soon after this Mrs. Blandy died; and Cranstoun complaining of his fear of being arrested for the forty pounds, the young lady borrowed that sum, which she gave him; and made him a present of her watch; so that he was a gainer by his former generosity. Mr. Blandy began now to evince his disapprobation of Captain Cranstoun's visits: but he contrived to have secret interviews with the daughter, to whom he complained of the father's ill treatment; insinuating that he had a method of conciliating his esteem; and that when he arrived in Scotland he would send her some powders proper for the purpose; on which, to prevent suspicion, he would write *powders to clean the Scotch pebbles.* It does not appear that the young lady had any idea that the powders he was to send her were of a poisonous nature. She seems rather to have been infatuated by her love; and this is the only excuse that can be made for her subsequent conduct, which appears otherwise totally inconsistent with that

that good sense for which she was celebrated. Cranstoun sent her the powders, according to promise; and Mr. Blandy being indisposed on the Sunday se'nnight before his death, Susan Gunnel, a maid servant, made him some water gruel, into which Miss Blandy conveyed some of the powder, and gave it to her father; and repeating this draught on the following day, he was tormented with the most violent pains in his bowels. When the old gentleman's disorder increased, and he was attended by a physician, his daughter came into his room, and falling on her knees to her father, said, "Banish me where you please; do with me what you please, so you do but forgive me; and as for Cranstoun, I will never see him, speak to him, or write to him, as long as I live, if you will but forgive me." In reply to this, the father said, 'I forgive thee, my dear, and I hope God will forgive; but thou shouldst have considered before thou attemptedst any thing against thy father, thou shouldst have considered I was thy *own* father.' Miss Blandy now acknowledged that she had put powder in his gruel, but that it was for an innocent purpose: on which the father, turning in his bed, said, "O such a villain! to come to my house, eat of the best, and drink of the best my house could afford; and in return take away my life, and ruin my daughter. O! my dear, you must hate that man." The young lady replied, "Sir every word you say is like a sword piercing to my heart; more severe than if you were angry: I must kneel, and beg you will not curse me." "I curse thee, my dear!" rejoined her father; "how couldst thou think I would curse thee? No, I bless thee, and hope God will bless thee and amend thy life. Do, my dear, go out of the room; say no more, lest thou shouldst say any thing to thy own prejudice.

Go

Go to thy uncle Stephens; and take him for thy friend: poor man! I am sorry for him." Mr. Blandy dying in consequence of his illness, it was suspected that his daughter had occasioned his death; whereupon she was taken into custody, and committed to the gaol at Oxford. She was tried on the 3d of March, 1752, before Mr. Baron Legge; and after many witnesses had been called to give evidence of her guilt, she was desired to make her defence, which she did in the following words:

"MY LORD,

"It is morally impossible for me to lay down the hardships I have received—I have been aspersed in my character. In the first place, it has been said I spoke ill of my father; that I have cursed him, and wished him at hell; which is extremely false. Sometimes little family affairs have happened, and he did not speak to me so kind as I could wish. I own I am passionate, my lord; and in those passions some hasty expressions might have dropped: but great care has been taken to recollect every word I have spoken at different times, and to apply them to such particular purpose as my enemies knew would do me the greatest injury. These are hardships, my lord, such as yourself must allow to be so. It was said, too, my lord, that I endeavoured to make my escape. Your lordship will judge from the difficulties I laboured under: I had lost my father;—I was accused of being his murderer; I was not permitted to go near him;—I was forsaken by my friends, affronted by the mob, and insulted by my servants. Although I begged to have the liberty to listen at the door where he died, I was not allowed it. My keys were taken from me; my shoe-buckles and garters too—to prevent me from making away with

 myself,

myself, as though I was the most abandoned creature. What could I do, my lord? I very believe I must have been out of my senses. When I heard my father was dead, I ran out of the house, and over the bridge, and had nothing on but an half sack and petticoats, without a hoop—my petticoats hanging about me;—the mob gathered about me. Was this a condition, my lord to make my escape in? A good woman beyond the bridge, seeing me in this distress, desired me to walk in, till the mob was dispersed: the town serjeant was there; I begged he would take me under his protection, to have me sent home: the woman said it was not proper, the mob was very great, and that I had better stay a little. When I came home, they said I used the constable ill. I was locked up for fifteen hours with only an old servant of the family to attend me. I was not allowed a maid for the common decencies of my sex. I was sent to gaol, and was in hopes there at least this usage would have ended; but was told, it was reported I was frequently drunk; that I attempted to make my escape; that I did not attend at chapel. A more abstemious woman, my lord, I believe, does not live. Upon the report of my making my escape, the gentleman who was high sheriff last year (not the present) came and told me, by order of the higher powers, he must put an iron on me. I submitted, as I always do, to the higher powers. Some time after he came again, and said he must put an heavier upon me; which I have worn, my lord, till I came hither. I asked the sheriff why I was so ironed? He said, he did it by the command of some noble peer, on his hearing that I intended making my escape. I told them I never had any such thought, and I would bear it with the other cruel usage I had received on my character. The Rev.

Mr.

Mr. Swinton, the worthy clergyman who attended me in prison, can testify I was regular at the chapel, whenever I was well; sometimes I really was not able to come out, and then he attended me in my room. They have likewise published papers and depositions, which ought not to have been published, in order to represent me as the most abandoned of my sex, and to prejudice the world against me. I submit myself to your lordship, and to the worthy jury.—I do assure your lordship, as I am to answer it at the great tribunal, where I must appear, I am as innocent as the child unborn of the death of my father. I would not endeavour to save my life, at the expense of truth. I really thought the powder an innocent, inoffensive thing; and I gave it to procure his love (meaning towards Cranstoun). It has been mentioned, I should say I was ruined. My lord, when a young woman loses her character, is not that her ruin? Why then should this expression be construed in so wide a sense? Is it not ruining my character to have such a thing laid to my charge? And whatever may be the event of this trial, I am ruined most effectually."

The trial lasted eleven hours, and then the judge summed up the evidence with the utmost candour, mentioning the scandalous behaviour of some people respecting the prisoner, in printing and publishing what they called depositions taken before the coroner, relating to the affair before them: to which he added, "I hope you have not seen them, but if you have, I must tell you, as you are men of sense and probity, that you must divest yourselves of every prejudice that can arise from thence, and attend merely to the evidence that has been now given." The jury found her guilty without going out of

court. After conviction, she behaved with the utmost decency and resignation. She was attended by the Rev. Mr. Swinton, from whose hands she received the sacrament on the day before her execution, declaring that she did not know there was any thing hurtful in the powders she had given her father.* The night before her death she spent in devotion; and at nine in the morning she left her apartment, dressed in a black bombazine, and having her arms bound with black ribbons. The clergyman attended her to the place of execution, to which she walked with the utmost solemnity of deportment; and, when there, acknowledged her fault in administering the powders to her father; but declared that, as she must soon appear before the most awful tribunal, she had no idea of doing injury, nor any suspicion that the powders were of a poisonous nature. Having ascended some steps of the ladder, she said, "Gentlemen, don't hang me high, for the sake of decency." Being desired to go something higher, she turned about, and expressed her apprehensions that she should fall. The rope being put round her neck, she pulled her handkerchief over her face, and was turned off on holding out a book of devotions which she had been reading. The crowd of spectators assembled on this occasion was immense; and, when she had hung the usual time, she was cut down, and the body being put into a hearse,

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* Had Miss Blandy not been a woman of mental endowments, this *weakness* might have been believed; yet we must acknowledge that the artifice of a libertine can impose upon the *most sensible* of the sex. What a pity that the deluder did not suffer instead of the deluded!—EDITOR.

was conveyed to Henley, and interred with her parents, at one o'clock on the following morning. She suffered at Oxford, on the 6th of April, 1752.

Cranstoun, the original contriver of this horrid murder, having heard of Miss Blandy's commitment to Oxford gaol, concealed himself some time in Scotland, and then escaped to Boulogne in France. Meeting there with Mrs. Ross, who was distantly related to his family, he acquainted her with his situation, and begged her protection: on which she advised him to change his name for her maiden name of Dunbar. Some officers in the French service, who were related to his wife, hearing of his concealment, vowed revenge if they should meet with him, for his cruelty to the unhappy woman; on which he fled to Paris, whence he went to Furness, a town in Flanders where Mrs. Ross had provided a lodging for his reception. He had not been long at Furness, when he was seized with a severe fit of illness, which brought him to a degree of reflection, to which he had been long a stranger. At length, he sent for a father belonging to an adjacent convent, and received absolution from his hands on declaring himself a convert to the Roman faith. He died on the 30th of November, 1752, and the fraternity of monks and friars looked on his conversion as an object of such importance, that solemn mass was sung on the occasion, and the body was followed to the grave, not only by the ecclesiastics, but by the magistrates of the town. His papers were sent to Scotland, to his brother, lord Cranstoun: his clothes were sold for the discharge of his debts; and his wife came into possession of the interest of his fortune (fifteen hundred pounds).

BLASTOCK.

BLASTOCK, EDWARD. See TOON, JOHN.

BLEWIT, WILLIAM. See DICKENSON, E.

BOLTON, JOHN, (MURDERER), was of a good family, and well educated. He served for some time in the army, and was distinguished by his gallant behaviour; but dismissed from the military line of life in consequence of the peace of 1763. While in the army, and on a recruiting party in Yorkshire, he became acquainted with a young lady, who possessing a moderate estate in her own right, he married her after he quitted the service, and turned farmer. By this marriage he had six children, some of whom were living at the time of his death; and in this station he continued happily for about ten years. Near his place of residence was the village of Acworth, in which was a house, where the poor of several parishes were maintained by contract. From this house, in the year 1768, he took as apprentices a boy named Emanuel Bowes, and a girl of ten years old, called Elizabeth Rainbow. The girl grew up in his service, and was remarkable for her beauty, a circumstance very unfortunate for herself, as it induced her master to seduce her; when he found that the girl was with child, he went to York and purchased a medicine in order to procure an abortion; which medicine having been administered to the young woman, she was thrown into violent convulsions, but the strength of her constitution effectually combatting the potion, she advanced in her pregnancy without any appearance of having received the least injury. Bolton, alarmed lest his intercourse with the girl should be known to his wife and family, formed the shocking resolution of murdering her who had fallen a victim to his seductive artifices: and on Sunday

day the 21st of August, 1774, Mrs. Bolton having taken one of her children on a visit to a lady who lived at two miles distance; and there being no persons in the house but Emanual Bowes, Elizabeth Rainbow, and a child of six years old, who was sick in bed, he considered this as the proper time for perpetrating the crime on which he had previously resolved. He therefore sent the boy to fetch a cow doctor, to look at a beast that was presumed to be disordered. The boy returned in about two hours, and finding the door fast, went to an adjoining field, and put a horse to grass; after which he knocked at the door, and his master letting him in, told him, that "Elizabeth Rainbow had run away, and left most of her clothes behind her." The boy was surprised at this intelligence, and some near neighbours said, that the girl had not left the house that day; and a woman, who had been to the house to pay for milk, declared, that she had given the money to Rainbow, on account of the absence of her mistress. Mrs. Bolton, returning at seven at night, observed, that her husband appeared to be very uneasy, and inquired into the cause of it; to which he only answered, that the girl had gone away, and left her clothes on a table in the dining-room. Whether Mrs. Bolton was, or was not, suspicious of her husband's criminal connection with the girl cannot be ascertained, but certain it is, that a violent quarrel ensued on this occasion. About ten days after this, the neighbours having suspected that murder had been committed, upon application to a magistrate, a warrant was granted for the apprehension of Bolton. The latter, having had some intimation of this proceeding, went to the justice, and told him, that the report intended to prejudice him was circulated with a malicious view to injure his

his character. On this the justice told Bolton to attend him in the afternoon, when the constable would be present; instead of which Bolton went home, and packing up some plate, set off for York; whither he was followed by the constable, who apprehended him, and carrying him before a justice of the peace, he was lodged in prison. On the trial, which came on at the ensuing assizes, it appeared, that when Bolton had sent the boy for the cow doctor, he took the girl into the cellar, and strangled her with a cord, which he drew round her neck, placing a fife within the cord so as to twist it to a proper tightness. On the succeeding Monday, he directed Emanuel Bowes to wheel several barrows filled with rubbish into the cellar; as it had been overflowed with water, which furnished him with a very plausible pretence for the concealment of his guilt, which he presumed would now remain undiscovered. At length the body of the deceased was found under the rubbish in the cellar; and the coroner's inquest, being summoned on the occasion, gave a verdict of wilful murder: on which Mr. Bolton was committed to the castle of York. The evidence on his trial was deemed so conclusive, that the jury did not hesitate to find him guilty; in consequence of which he received sentence of death. During his trial he behaved with uncommon effrontery; and when the judge had passed sentence on him, he turned to the court, and declared he was innocent. On the following day a clergyman went to him, with a charitable view, to prepare his mind to enable him to support himself with decency in the arduous trial he had to undergo, and to prepare for the awful event that was so soon to await him. —Still, however, he persisted that he was innocent of the alledged crime: and when the officers of justice

tice went the next morning to convey him to the place of execution, they found that, by hanging himself, (March 29, 1775,) he had prevented their design.

BRANCH, ELIZ.——BRANCH, MARY, (MURDERERS,) mother and daughter; the former was a native of Philips-Norton, in Somersetshire, and was distinguished from her childhood by the cruelty of her disposition, which increased with her encreasing years, and frequently discovered itself on various occasions. Her parents observing with regret this ferocity of temper, told her that she would never get a husband unless she changed her conduct. This seemed for a while to have some influence on her; and having been addressed by a gentleman-farmer, named Branch, a marriage took place; but the husband soon found what an unfortunate choice he had made; for his wife no sooner came into possession of her matrimonial power, than she began to exercise her tyranny on her servants, whom she treated with undeserving and unaccountable cruelty, frequently denying them the common necessaries of life, and sometimes turning them out of doors at night, in the midst of winter; however, their wages in these cases were sent them by Mr. Branch, who was as remarkable for his humanity and justice, as his wife for the opposite characteristics. Mary Branch, the daughter, was an exact resemblance of her mother in disposition. Mr. Branch dying, and leaving an estate of about three hundred pounds a year, he was no sooner buried than all the servants quitted the family, determined not to live with so tyrannical a mistress; and her character became so notorious, that she could obtain no servants but poor creatures who were put out by the parish, or casual vagrants who strolled the country; among

among these was Jane Buttersworth, a poor girl who had been placed with them by the parish officers; and for the wilful murder of whom, the mother and daughter were indicted at the assizes held at Taunton in Somersetshire, in March 1740. Ann Somers, the dairy-maid, deposed, that the deceased having been sent for some yeast, and staying longer than was necessary, excused herself to her old mistress on her return by telling a lie; on which the daughter struck her violently on the head with her fist, and pinched her ears. Then both of them threw her on the ground, and the daughter kneeled on her neck, while the mother whipped her with twigs till the blood ran on the ground, and the daughter taking off one of the girl's shoes, beat her with it in a cruel manner. The deceased cried for mercy, and, after some struggles, ran into the parlour, whither they followed her, and beat her with broomsticks till she fell down senseless, after which the daughter threw a pail of water on her, and used her with other circumstances of cruelty too gross to mention. Somers now went out to milk her cows, and on her return, at the expiration of half an hour, found her mistress sitting by the fire, and the girl lying dead on the floor: but she observed that a clean cap had been put on her head since she went out, and that the blood had ran through it. Saying she believed the girl was dead, the old mistress gave her abusive language: and the deceased being put to bed, Somers was ordered to lie with her; which she was obliged to comply with in the fear of being treated in a manner equally cruel. Somers was not suffered to go out on the following day: and at night the body was privately buried. This transaction, added to the character of the mistresses, having raised a suspicion in the neighbourhood, a warrant was issued

sued by the coroner to take up the body, and an inquest being made into the cause of the girl's death, Mr. Salmon, a surgeon, declared that she had received several wounds, almost any one of which would have proved mortal. The defence made by the prisoners on their trial was, that the prosecution was malicious; for that the deceased had been subject to fits, in one of which she fell down, and received the bruises which occasioned her death: but bringing no proofs in support of this allegation, the jury found them guilty, and they were sentenced to die. After conviction they entertained great hopes of a pardon; and presented a petition to the judge; but all the favour they could obtain was a respite for five weeks, in consideration that Mrs. Branch might have some temporal affairs to settle. The mother appeared for some time little concerned under her misfortunes; but the daughter lamented her unhappy fate, and begged the prayers of every one whom she saw. A sermon was preached to them on the night before their execution; which seemed to have a great effect on the mother, who now began seriously to reflect on her approaching exit; and both of them made due preparation for death. As the country people were violently enraged against them, they were conducted to the place of execution between three and four in the morning, attended only by the gaoler and about half a dozen people, lest they should have been torn in pieces. When they arrived at Ivelchester, in Somersetshire, the gallows had been previously cut down, on which a carpenter was sent for, who immediately put up another; and they were executed before six o'clock, to the disappointment of thousands, who had come from all parts of the country,

to witness the exit of two such unworthy characters. They suffered May 3, 1740.

BRANNING, RICHARD. See POULTER, JOHN.

BRETT, JOHN, (FORGERY,) was the son of a clergyman in the north of Ireland, and, having received an excellent education, obtained an ensign's commission in the forty-ninth regiment of foot, on the Irish establishment, when he was about twenty years of age. His disposition inclining him to feats of arms, he distinguished himself so greatly at the siege of Ticonderago, that he was advanced to be a lieutenant, and likewise made adjutant of a regiment. The regiment being ordered from America to Jamaica, was stationed there some years; and in this island he married a gentleman's daughter, with whom he received a considerable fortune, and by whom he had two children. The regiment remaining in a state of inactivity, he was at a loss how to dispose of his time, and thereupon took to a habit of gaming, which incurred the censure of his father-in-law, who blamed him for a conduct so inconsistent with the interest of his family. Domestic quarrels ensued, and Brett wished for an opportunity of returning to Europe. Deserters from the regiments in Great Britain, and sometimes persons who have been capitally convicted, were sent to serve in regiments in the West Indies; and the officers on duty there went in rotation to England, to examine such persons before they were sent over. It happened at this period, the officer appointed to sail to the port of London wished rather to remain in Jamaica; and Brett making application to go in his stead, his request was complied with; accordingly he sailed in a man of war, which landed him at Portsmouth.

Going

Going immediately to London, he associated with a set of gamblers, who soon stripped him of his own money, and likewise of some cash with which he was entrusted on behalf of the regiment to which he belonged. Thus distressed by his imprudence, he endeavoured to borrow money to make up his loss; but, failing in his applications, he determined on the commission of forgery; whereupon he wrote the following letter to Messrs Frazier, Wharton, and Mullison, merchants in London:

"GENTLEMEN,

"This goes by a St. Eustatia vessel, by one Mr. Richard Horton, a purser of a man of war, whose bills upon you, to the amount of one thousand guineas sterling, I must request the favor of you to honor, and you may depend that I shall soon send you proper remittances on that account. I have no more to add at present, but to desire you will be kind enough to comply with this, as it will not only be a service to him, but to myself likewise: and in so doing you will very much oblige

Your humble servant,

WALTER PRINGLE."

This letter was dated from the West Indies, but not written in Mr. Pringle's hand; a circumstance that gave some suspicion to the gentlemen to whom it was directed; who were surprised that the person in whose favor it was drawn did not deliver the letter himself, but sent it by the post. It was therefore resolved not to accept any bills in consequence of the letter. A few days afterwards they received the following bill:

"GENTLEMEN, MARCH 18, 1761.

"Twenty days after sight please to pay to Mr. William Huggins, or order, 50l. and charge the same to the account of William Pringle, Esq. of St Christopher's, Merchant, as per advice you will find by a letter of credit in my favour, by Walter Pringle.

RICHARD HORTON."

As it was known that no packet had arrived about that time from the West Indies, little doubt remained but that a forgery had been committed; wherefore the merchants determined to make the most cautious enquiry. On the Monday following a gentleman, named Huggins, called for the bill, on which Mr. Mullison asked him how he came by it. He acknowledged to have received it, in his shop, of a person who would call again. Hereupon a peace-officer was employed to attend at Mr. Huggins's house; and two days afterwards Brett came, and being carried before Sir John Fielding, he acknowledged the forgery, not only of the bill, but of the letter of credit: on which he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to trial, he pleaded "not guilty;" but when Mr. Mullison had sworn to the facts, he begged leave to retract his former plea, and having remarked, that he had been il-advised * by his attorney, said, "I will not give the court any trouble to prove the name Richard Horton not to be his hand-writing: I have nothing to

* He was not ill advised. Many who have acknowledged their guilt have been advised, even by the judge, to retract their confession. EDITOR.

say

say but to plead guilty." In consequence hereof he received sentence of death. After conviction he behaved in the most contrite and penitent manner. His father made all possible intercession to obtain the royal mercy for him, but in the mean time wrote to him, advising him to make proper preparation for that ignominious death which he had but too much reason to expect. Great interest was made to save him, but in vain. On the day of execution he was conveyed to Tyburn, with three other malefactors, one of whom was David Morgan, who had been convicted of robbing Mr. Dobbison on Finchley-common. When at the place of execution, a respite was brought for Morgan, just as the executioner was on the point of tying him up. This being received by the under sheriff, he went into the cart, saying, "Which is Morgan?" to which he answered, "My name is Morgan:" on which the under-sheriff said, "Loose him; take him away." Morgan, now turning to Brett, said, "My reprieve is come; fare you well:" and they took a most affectionate leave of each other, after which Brett earnestly continued his devotions to the last moment. Morgan's reprieve arose from the following circumstance. He had stopped the above mentioned Mr. Dobbison and Mr. Aukland in a chaise. Dobbison attempted to fire a blunderbuss at him, but it flashed in the pan. On this Dobbison begged his life, to which Morgan replied, "God forbid I should take away your life; you know what I want; I am in necessity." Mr. Aukland said, "All you can desire of a gentleman is to ask your pardon;" to which Morgan replied, "I do not desire even that." Brett suffered at Tyburn, on the 12th of June, 1761.

BRAIN, HERMAN JOHN, (INCENDIARY, &c.) was a native of Dully, a village in the bailiwick of Morge in the Canton of Berne in Switzerland, where he was born about the year 1683. He left Switzerland while very young, and went to Geneva, where he lived in the service of a gentleman above four years, and then made the tour of Italy with a person of fortune. On his arrival in England, he lived in several reputable families for the space of about three years, and last of all, for about two months, in that of Mr. Persuade, when being discharged, in about two days after he broke open, plundered, and burned his dwelling-house: for which he was brought to trial, on the 16th of October, 1707. It appeared in evidence, that the house was made fast about ten at night, when the family went to bed; that Mrs. Persuade had locked up her gold watch, etwee case, chain, seventeen guineas, &c. that waking about three in the morning she smelt a fire, on which she left her chamber, and found a lighted flambeaux in the passage, which had burnt the boards; then opening a parlour door the flames spread with such rapidity, that the family had only time to preserve their lives. A poor woman going by at the time, and seeing the smoke, knocked at the door to alarm the family, and at that instant saw a man come over the wall, (supposed to be Brain,) who said to her, "D—n you, are you drunk? What do you do here, knocking at people's doors at this time?" and immediately he went away. It likewise came out in evidence, that the prisoner had offered to sell the etwee-case to Messrs. Stevenson and Acton, goldsmiths, for eight pounds; but they stopped it on suspicion that it was stolen, and on enquiry, found to whom it belonged

longed. The prisoner afterwards returning to demand it, they took him into custody, and being carried before a magistrate, and searched, a dagger and two pistols were found on him. It appeared from the testimony of other evidence, that when the prisoner quitted the service of Mr. Persuade, he took a lodging in Soho, but was not at home on the night that the facts were committed; and at noon on the following day he quitted this lodging, and took another in Spitalfields, to which he conveyed a trunk, a box, and a bundle, which were found to contain part of Mr. Persuade's effects. It likewise appeared that he had sold a fowling piece and two pistols, which were stolen from Mr. Persuade. On his trial he denied every thing that was alledged against him; asserting, that he bought all the goods of a stranger; but as he adduced nothing like proof in support of this assertion, the jury found him guilty, without the least hesitation. While under sentence of death, he steadily denied being guilty of the offences of which he had been convicted, and reflected on the prosecutor, magistrates, witnesses, and jury; persisting in a declaration of his innocence to the last moment of his life; however, the circumstances against him were so unusually strong, that not the least credit could be given to his declaration. He made repeated attempts to escape out of Newgate, by unscrewing and filing off his irons; but being detected therein, he was properly secured till the time of his execution: and when asked by the ordinary of Newgate, how he could waste his precious time in such fruitless attempts, he answered, that "Life was sweet, and that any other man as well as himself would endeavour to save it if he could." He suffered in St. James's street, before Mr. Persuade's house, on the 24th of October, 1707, and

and was afterwards hung in chains near the gravel pits at Acton.

BRINSDEN, MATTHIAS, (MURDERER,) served his time to a Mr. Beech, a cloth drawer in Blackfriars, whose successor, Mr. Byfield, left the business to Brinsden, who married Byfield's widow. Having buried this wife, he married a second, by whom he had ten children, the eldest of whom were brought up to work at his business. In consequence of a severe fever, during which he was deprived of his senses, and tied down to his bed, his trade entirely failed: and on his recovery he carried newspapers, and did any other business he could to support his family. Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was sitting on a bed, suckling a young child, asked him what she should have for supper; to which he answered, "bread and cheese—Can't you eat that as well as the children?" She replied, "No, I want a bit of meat." "But," said he, "I have no money to buy any." In answer to which she said, "You know I have had but little to day:" and some farther words arising between them, he stabbed her under the left breast with a knife. The deed was no sooner perpetrated than one of the daughters snatched the infant from the mother's breast, and another cried out, "O Lord! father, you have killed my mother." The prisoner now sent for some basilicon and sugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his escape. A surgeon being sent for, found that the wound was mortal; and the poor woman died soon after he came, about half an hour after the wound was given. In the interim, the murderer had retreated to the house of Mr. King, a barber, at Shadwell, whence, on the following day, he sent a letter to one of his daughters, and another

to

to a woman of his acquaintance: and in consequence of these letters he was discovered, taken into custody, carried before a magistrate, and committed to take his trial for the murder. When on trial, he urged in his defence, that his wife was in some degree intoxicated, that she wanted to go out and drink with her companions, and that while he endeavoured to hinder her, she threw herself against the knife, and received an accidental wound. The evidence against him was, however, so clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received sentence of death. After conviction he became serious and resigned, and being visited by one of his daughters, who had given evidence against him, he took her in his arms, and said, "God forgive me, I have robbed you of you mother: be a good child, and rather die than steal: never be in a passion; but curb your anger, and honor your mistress: she will be as a father and mother to you. Farwell, my dear child: pray for your father, and think of him as favourably as you can." On his way to the place of execution, the same daughter was permitted to go into the cart, to take her last farewell of him; a scene that was greatly affecting to the spectators. In contradiction to some unfavorable reports, he desired the ordinary of Newgate to read a declaration he had written, just before he was launched into eternity, of which the following is an extract:

"I was born of kind parents, who gave me learning: I went apprentice to a fine-drawer. I had often jars, which might increase a natural waspishness in my temper. I fell in love with Hannah, my last wife, and after much difficulty won her, she having five suitors courting her at the same time. We had ten children, (half of them dead) and I believe we loved each other dearly; but often quarrelled

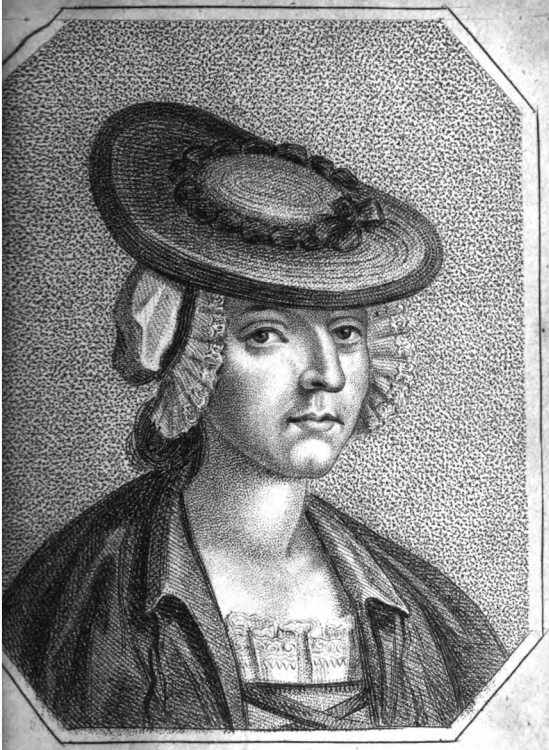
relled and fought. Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice against her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I designed only to make her obey me thoroughly, which, the scripture says, all wives should do. This I thought I had done, when I cut her scull on Monday, but she was the same again by Tuesday."

He suffered at Tyburn on the 24th of September, 1722.

BROUGHTON, THOS. See DESPARD, E. M.

BROWN, ——. See POULTER, J.

BROWNRIGG, ELIZABETH, (MURDERER,) having been a servant to a merchant in Goodman's Fields, became the wife of James Brownrigg, a plumber, who, after being seven years in Greenwich, came to London, and took a house in Flower-de-Luce Court, Fleet-street, where he carried on a considerable share of business, and had a little house at Islington, for an occasional retreat. This woman had been the mother of sixteen children, and having practised midwifery, was appointed, by the overseers of the poor of St. Dunstan's parish, to take care of the poor women who were taken in labour in the workhouse; which duty she performed to the satisfaction of her employers. Mary Mitchell, a poor girl of the precinct of White Friars, was put apprentice to Mrs Brownrigg in the year 1765; and about the same time; Mary Jones, one of the children of the Foundling-hospital, was likewise placed with her in the same capacity; and she had other apprentices. As Mrs. Brownrigg received pregnant women to lie in privately, these girls were taken with a view of saving the expence of women servants. At first, the poor orphans were treated with some degree of civility; but this was soon changed for the most savage barbarity. Having laid



MRS BROWNRIGG.

laid Mary Jones across two chairs in the kitchen, she whipped her with such wanton cruelty, that she was occasionally obliged to desist from mere weariness. This treatment was frequently repeated; and Mrs. Brownrigg used to throw water on her when she had done whipping her, and sometimes she would dip her head into a pail of water. The room appointed for the girl to sleep in adjoined to the passage leading to the street door, and as she had received many wounds on her head, shoulders, and various parts of her body, she determined not to bear such treatment any longer, if she could effect her escape. Observing that the key was left in the street door when the family went to bed, she opened the door cautiously one morning, and escaped into the street. Thus freed from her horrid confinement, she repeatedly enquired her way to the Foundling-hospital till she found it, and was admitted, after describing in what manner she had been treated, and shewing the bruises she had received. The child having been examined by a surgeon, who found her wounds to be of a most alarming nature, the governors of the hospital ordered Mr. Plumtree, their solicitor, to write to James Brownrigg, threatening a prosecution, if he did not give a proper reason for the severities exercised towards the child. No notice of this having been taken, and the governors of the hospital thinking it imprudent to indict at common law, the girl was discharged, in consequence of an application to the chamberlain of London. The other girl, Mary Mitchell, continued with her mistress for the space of a year, during which she was treated with equal cruelty, and she also resolved to quit her service. Having escaped out of the house, she was met in the street by the younger son of Brownrigg, who forced her to return home, where her sufferings were

were greatly aggravated on account of her elopement. In the interim, the overseers of the precinct of White Friars bound Mary Clifford to Brownrigg; nor was it long before she experienced similar cruelties to those inflicted on the other poor girls, and possibly still more severe. She was frequently tied up naked, and beaten with a hearth broom, a horse-whip, or a cane, till she was absolutely speechless. This poor girl having a natural infirmity, the mistress would not permit her to lie in a bed, but placed her on a mat, in a coal-hole that was remarkably cold; however, after some time, a sack and a quantity of straw formed her bed, instead of the mat. During her confinement in this wretched situation, she had nothing to subsist on but bread and water; and her covering during the night consisted only of her own clothes, so that she sometimes lay almost perished with cold. On a particular occasion, when she was almost starving through hunger, she broke open a cupboard in search of food, but found it empty; and on another occasion, she broke down some boards, in order to procure a draught of water. Though she was thus pressed for the humblest necessaries of life, Mrs. Brownrigg determined to punish her with rigour for the means she had taken to supply herself with them. On this, she caused the girl to strip to the skin, and, during the course of a whole day, while she remained naked, she repeatedly beat her with the but-end of a whip. In the coarse of this most inhuman treatment, a jack chain was fixed round her neck, the end of which was fastened to the yard door, and then it was pulled as tight as possible without strangling her. A day being passed in the practice of these savage barbarities, the girl was remanded to the coal-hole at night, her hands being tied behind her, and the chain still remaining

remaining about her neck. The husband having been obliged to find his wife's apprentices in wearing apparel, they were repeatedly stripped naked, and kept so for whole days, if their garments happened to be torn. The elder son had frequently the superintendance of these wretched girls; but this was sometimes committed to the apprentice, who declared, that she was totally naked one night when he went to tie her up. The two poor girls were frequently so beaten, that their heads and shoulders appeared as one general sore; and when a plaister was applied to their wounds, the skin used to peel away. Sometimes Mrs. Brownrigg, when resolved on uncommon severity, used to tie their hands with a cord, and draw them up to a water-pipe which ran across the cieling in the kitchen; but that giving way, she desired her husband to fix a hook in the beam, through which a cord was drawn, and their arms being extended, she used to horsewhip them till she was weary and till the blood followed at every stroke. The elder son having one day directed Mary Clifford to put up a half-tester bedstead, the poor girl was unable to do it; on which, he beat her till she could no longer support his severity; and, at another time, when the mother had been whipping her in the kitchen till she was absolutely tired, the son renewed the savage treatment. Mrs. Brownrigg would sometimes seize the poor girl by the cheeks, and forcing the skin down voilently with her fingers, caused the blood to gush from her eyes. Mary Clifford, unable to bear these repeated severities, complained of her hard treatment to a French lady who lodged in the house; and she having represented the impropriety of such behaviour to Mrs. Brownrigg, the inhuman monster flew at the girl, and cut her tongue in two places with a pair of scissars. On the

morning of the 13th of July, this barbarous woman went into the kitchen, and, after obliging Mary Clifford to strip to the skin, drew her up to the staple, and, though her body was an entire sore, from former bruises, yet this wretch renewed her cruelties with her accustomed severity. After whipping her till the blood streamed down her body, she let her down, and made her wash herself in a tub of cold water; Mary Mitchell, the other poor girl, being present during this transaction. While Clifford was washing herself, Mrs. Brownrigg struck her on the shoulders, already sore with former bruises, with the but-end of a whip; and she treated the child in this manner five times in the same day. The poor girl's wounds now began to shew evident signs of mortification: her mother-in-law, who had resided some time in the country, came, about this time, to town, and enquired after her, Being informed that she was placed at Brownrigg's, she went thither, but was refused admittance by Mr. Brownrigg, who even threatened to carry her before the lord mayor, if she came there to make farther disturbances. Hereupon, the morher-in-law was going away, when Mrs. Deacon, wife of Mr. Deacon, baker, at the adjoining house, called her in, and informed her, that she and her family had often heard moaning's and groans issue from Brownrigg's house, and that she suspected the apprentices were treated with unwarrantable severity. This good woman likewise promised to exert herself to ascertain the truth. At this juncture, Mr. Brownrigg, going to Hampstead on busines, bought a hog, which he sent home. The hog was put into a covered yard, having a sky-light, which it was thought necessary to remove, in order to give air to the animal. As soon as it was known that the sky-light was removed, Mr. Deacon ordered

ordered his servants to watch, in order, if possible, to discover the girls. Deacon's servant maid, looking from a window, saw one of the girls stooping down; on which she called her mistress, and she desired the attendance of some of the neighbours, who having been witnesses of the shocking scene, some men got upon the leads, and dropped bits of dirt, to induce the girl to speak to them; but she seemed wholly incapable. Hereupon, Mrs. Deacon sent to the girl's mother-in-law, who immediately called upon Mr. Grundy, one of the overseers of St. Dunstan's, and represented the case. Mr. Grundy and the rest of the overseers, with the women, went and demanded a sight of Mary Clifford; but Brownrigg, who had nick-named her Nan, told them that he knew no such person, but if they wanted to see Mary (meaning Mary Mitchell), they might, and accordingly produced her. Upon this, Mr. Deacon's servant declared that Mary Mitchell was not the girl they wanted. Mr. Grundy now sent for a constable, to search the house; but no discovery was then made. Mr. Brownrigg threatened highly; but Mr. Grundy, with the spirit that became the officer of a parish, took Mary Mitchell with him to the workhouse, where, on the taking off her leathern boddice, it stuck so fast to her wounds, that she shrieked with the pain; but, on being treated with great humanity, and told that she should not be sent back to Brownrigg's, she gave an account of the horrid treatment that she and Mary Clifford had sustained, and confessed that she had met the latter on the stairs just before they came to the house. Herepuon, Mr. Grundy and some others returned to the house, to make a stricter search; on which, Brownrigg sent for a lawyer, in order to intimidate them, and even threatened a prosecution,

unless they immediately quitted the premises. Unterrified by these threats, Mr. Grundy sent for a coach to carry Brownrigg to the compter; on which the latter promised to produce the girl in half an hour, if the coach was discharged. This being consented to, the girl was produced from a cupboard, under a beaufet in the dining-room, after a pair of shoes, which young Brownrigg had in his hand during the proposal, had been put upon her. It is not in language to describe the miserable appearance this poor girl made; almost her whole body was ulcerated. Being taken to the work-house, an apothecary was sent for, who pronounced her to be in danger. Brownrigg was conveyed to Wood street compter; but his wife and son made their escape, taking with them a gold watch and some money. Mr. Brownrigg was now carried before Mr. Alderman Crosby, who full committed him, and ordered the girls to be taken to St. Bartholomew's hospital, where Mary Clifford died, within a few days; and the coroner's inquest being summoned, found a verdict of Wilful Murder against James and Elizabeth Brownrigg, and John their son. In the mean time, Mrs. Brownrigg and her son shifted from place to place in London, bought clothes in Rag-fair to disguise themselves, and then went to Wandsworth, where they took lodgings in the house of Mr. Dunbar, who kept a chandler's shop. This chandler happened to read a newspaper on the 15th of August, saw an advertisement which so clearly described his lodgers, that he had no doubt but they were the murderers. On this, he went to London the next day, which was Sunday, and going to church, sent for Mr. Owen, the churchwarden, to attend him in the vestry, and gave him such a description of the parties, that Mr. Owen desired Mr.

Deacon

Deacon and Mr. Wingrave, a constable, to go to Wandsworth, and make the necessary enquiry. On their arrival at Dunbar's house, they found the wretched mother and son in a room by themselves, who evinced great agitation at this discovery. A coach being procured, they were conveyed to London, without any person in Wandsworth having knowledge of the affair, except Mr. and Mrs. Dunbar. At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, the father, mother and son were indicted; when Elizabeth Brownrigg, after a trial of eleven hours, was found guilty of murder, and ordered for execution; but the man and his son, being acquitted of the higher charge, * were detained, to take their trials for a misdemeanour, of which they were convicted, and imprisoned for six months. After sentence of death was passed on Mrs. Brownrigg, she was attended by a clergyman, to whom she confessed the enormity of her crime, and acknowleged the justice of the sentence by which she had been condemned. The parting between her and her husband and son, on the morning of her execution, was affecting beyond description. The son falling on his knees, she bent herself over him and embraced him: while the husband was kneeling on the other side. On her way to the fatal tree, the people expressed their abhorrence of her crime in terms which, though not proper at the moment, testified their detestation of

* It seems the child was looked upon as the apprentice of the wife, and not of the husband: *though the husband was obliged to find her apparel*; however, accessaries in murder are equally guilty, and it is strange that the man and his son should have been acquitted. EDITOR.

her cruelty. Before her exit, she joined in prayers with the ordinary of Newgate, whom she desired to declare to the multitude, that she confessed her guilt, and acknowledged the justice of her sentence. After execution, her body was put into a hackney-coach, conveyed to Surgeon's hall, dissected and anatomized; her skeleton is still in preservation. She suffered at Tyburn, on the 14th of September 1767.

BURK, WILLIAM, (ROBBER,) was born of poor parents, in St. Catherine's, near the Tower, and educated in the charity-school of that district. His temper was naturally bad, and the ill judged fondness of his mother made it still worse; for in all his demands, however unreasonable, he was indulged. This disposition made him think the discipline of the school severe; and, indeed, the master was obliged to be more strict with him than with the other boys. When eleven years of age, he was guilty of some faults that required severe chastisement; which having received, he ran away from school, and went to the water-side, enquiring for a station on board a ship. A man observing his inclination, took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the Salisbury man of war. The mother, as soon as she had learned her darling boy was gone, following him on board the ship, and endeavoured to prevail on him to return, but in vain; the youth was obstinately bent on a seafaring life. In about a fortnight the ship sailed for Jamaica, and during the voyage had an engagement with a Spanish galleon, which she took, after a bloody and obstinate fight, in which young Burk was wounded. After this, they met with another galleon, which they took, without the loss of a man: they shared each fifteen pounds prize-money, on these captures, but

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some of the principal officers got sufficient to make them easy for life. The ship was stationed for three years in the West Indies, during which Burk learnt the art of stealing every thing that he could secrete without detection. At Jaimaica there was a woman who had been transported from Newgate some years before, but having married a planter, who soon died, she was left in affluent circumstances, and took a tavern. Wanting a white servant, she prevailed on the captain to let Will attend her customers. The boy was placed with his new situation, and might have continued in it as long as he was on the island; but he could not refrain from defrauding his mistress. She, who had been herself a thief, soon detected him; hereupon, he fell upon his knees and begged pardon, which was granted, but he was ordered to depart from the house immediately. Alarmed by the danger from which he had escaped, he now formed a temporary resolution to live honestly in future, and with that view shipped himself for Maryland, where a merchant would have employed him, but the captain he sailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coast of Guinea, where he had a very narrow escape from being murdered by the natives, who killed several of his shipmates. On the return of the ship from Guinea to England, the weather was so bad, that they were five months on their voyage to the port of Bristol, during which they suffered innumerable hardships. Their provisions were so reduced, that they were almost famished, the allowance of each man, for a whole day, being not so much as he could eat at two mouthfuls; and at length they were obliged to fast five days successively. However, they reached the port in safety; and, notwithstanding the miseries they

they had endured, the captain resolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchased a number of slaves, they set sail for the West India islands; but during the voyage, the negroes concerted a scheme to make themselves masters of the ship, and would have probably carried it into execution, but that one of their associates betrayed them: in consequence of which, they were more strictly confined than they had hitherto been. Burk sailed from the West Indies to England, where he entered on board a man-of-war, and sailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel, to the north of Russia, where his sufferings, from the extremity of the cold and other circumstances, were so severe, that, on his return to England, he determined to abandon the life of a sailor. Being now quite out of all honest methods of getting his bread, he took to robbing passengers in and near Stepney, but he continued his depredations on the public only for a short time, being apprehended for his fourth attempt of this kind, and indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer on the highway; and again, on the same day, for robbing James Westwood; when he was found guilty on both indictments, and received sentence of death. It appeared on his trial that he carried a hedge-bill with him, to terrify the persons he stopped; and one old man hesitating to comply with his demands, he cut him so, that he fell to the ground. He suffered at Tyburn, April 8, 1723, in the twenty-second year of his age.

BUTTERWORTH, E. See DICKENSON, E.

BURRELL. ——. See COOPER, JAMES.

BURRIDGE, WILLIAM, (HORSE-STEALER,) was a native of Northamptonshire, and served his time

time with a carpenter; but being of a wild disposition, his friends determined on sending him to sea; accordingly they got him rated as a midshipman, and he sailed to the coast of Spain; but soon quitting the naval service, he returned to England, and commencing highwayman, committed many robberies on the road to Hampstead, on Finchley Common, and in the neighbourhood of Hammersmith. When he first began the practice of robbing, he formed a resolution to retire when he had acquired as much money as would support him: but this time never arrived; for finding his success by no means proportioned to his expectations, he became one of the gang under Jonathan Wild, of infamous memory; and was for a considerable time screened from justice by that celebrated master of thieves. Burridge being confined in New-prison for a capital offence, broke out of that gaol; and he was repeatedly an evidence at the Old Bailey, by which means his associates suffered the rigor of the law. At length, having offended Wild, the latter marked him down as one doomed to suffer at the next execution after the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; which was a common practice with Wild when he grew tired of his dependants, or thought they could be no longer serviceable to him. Alarmed by this circumstance, Burridge fled into Lincolnshire, where he stole a horse, and brought it to London, intending to sell it at Smithfield for present support: but the gentleman who had lost the horse, having sent a full description of it to London, Burridge was seen riding on it through the street, and watched to a livery stable. Some persons going to take him, he produced a brace of pistols, threatening destruction to any one who came near him; by which he got off; but being immediately pursued,

pursued he was apprehended in May-fair, and lodged in Newgate. On his trial, a man and a woman swore, that they saw him purchase the horse; but as there was a material difference in their stories, the court was of opinion that they had been hired to swear, and the judge gave directions for their being take into custody for the perjury. The jury did not hesitate to find Burridge guilty; and after sentence was passed, his behaviour was extremely devout, and he encouraged the devotion of others in like unhappy circumstances. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 22d of March 1722, in the 34th year of his age; having first warned the spectators to be obedient to their parents and masters, and to beware of the crime of debauching young women, which had first led him from the path of of duty, and finally terminated in his ruin.

BUSH, ——. See POULTER, J.

BUTLER, JAMES. See DUCE, WM. and WILD, JONATHAN.

BUTTERWORTH, WILLIAM, (MURDERER,) had lived by depredations upon the public, almost from his childhood, till at length he was capitally convicted of a burglary, at the assizes at Maidstone, but received a reprieve, on condition of serving on board the hulks for life. He had not, however, been on board the hulks more than seven day, when he and Francis Jennison, another convict, (who had been condemned, and reprieved in like manner) resolved to murder Mr. Groundwater, one of the persons deputed to look after them, and which they unfortunately effected. They were tried at the Hants assizes, in the beginning of August, 1794, before Mr. Justice Grosse and Mr. Baron Thomson. The circumstances of this murder were of the most brutal and atrocious nature. These

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hardened wretches, on being reprimanded my Mr. Groundwater, who threatened to report them for ill-behaviour, swore that they would rip his bowels out; and were heard by another of the convicts debating about the manner of perpetrating the murder. Accordingly, about six in the evening of the same day, they fell upon him with two iron shovels, with which they had been at work in spreading gravel, and with which they gave him three such wounds on the skull, that his brains fell out in the quantity of a double handful. They then struck down one of the shovels upon his neck, with intent to sever the head from the body, but, striking against the bone, it had not the intended effect. The rest of the convicts ran to the spot, and one of them caught hold of Butterworth, to prevent his mangling the body any more: but after a struggle, he disengaged himself, ran back to the unfortunate sufferer, and, catching up the spade again, gave him several cuts, saying, "There, d—n him, I have done him out and out." On being remonstrated with for his inhuman conduct, he replied, that "he was transported for life, and he would rather be hanged than suffer that sentence." It is a most extraordinary circumstances, established on the evidence of Mr, Hill, surgeon, who attended him, that Mr. Groundwater lived eighteen hours after he had received these grievous wounds, notwithstanding the brains had fallen out, and a prodigious effusion of blood had taken place. He never spoke after the second blow was given him, but the action of the pulse was strong, and respiration continued the whole of the eighteen hours Butterworth, though thus steeled in cruelty, was only nineteen years old; his wretched companion was twenty-five. The atrocious publicity of the

deed, and consequent clear evidence of their guilt, would not admit of their setting up any defence. The jury pronounced them guilty—they were sentenced to be executed in three days after, in Langston harbour, and their bodies to be afterwards hung in chains in Cumberland Fort. They were taken from gaol about four o'clock on the ensuing Monday morning, and reached Portsea about eleven. The spectators that crowded to see the execution were immence. Both the prisoners acknowledged, that they alone were the persons who committed the murder, exculpating all the other convicts from a participation in this horrid crime. Their behaviour was very penitent, and they seemed sensibly to feel the enormity of their offence. The execution took place about twelve o'clock, and their bodies were afterwards hung in chains, pursuant to sentence, near the spot where the murder was committed.

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CADDELL, GEORGE, (MURDERER,) was a native of the town of Broomsgrove, in Worcestershire, at which place he was articled to an apothecary, with whom he served his time, and then repaired to London, where he attended several of the hospitals, to give him an insight into the art of surgery. As soon as he became tolerably acquainted with the profession, he went to Worcester, and lived with Mr. Randall, a capital surgeon of that city; in this situation he was equally admired for the depth of his abilities, and the amiableness of his temper. Here he married the daughter of Mr. Randall, who died in the labour of her first child. After this melancholy event he went to reside at Litchfield,

field, and continued upwards of two years with Mr. Dean, a surgeon of that place. During his residence here, he courted Mr. Dean's daughter, to whom he would probably have been married, but for the commission of the following crime, which cost him his life. A young lady, named Elizabeth Price, who had been seduced by an officer in the army, lived near Mr. Caddell's place of residence; and, after her misfortune, supported herself by her skill in needle-work. Caddell becoming acquainted with her, a considerable degree of intimacy subsisted between them; and Miss Price, degraded as she was by the unfortunate step she had taken, still thought herself an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank of life. As pregnancy was shortly the consequence of their intimacy, she repeatedly urged him to marry her, but Mr. Caddell resisted her importunities for a considerable time: at last Miss Price heard of his paying his addresses to Miss Dean; she then became more importunate than ever, and threatened, in case of his non-compliance, to put an end to all his prospects with that young lady, by discovering every thing that had passed between them Hereupon Caddell formed the horrid resolution of murdering Miss Price, for he could neither bear the thought of forfeiting the esteem of a woman that he courted, nor of marrying her who had been as condescending to another as to himself. This dreadful scheme having entered his head, he called on Miss Price on a Saturday evening, and requested that she would walk in the fields with him on the afternoon of the following day, in order to adjust the plan of their intended marriage. Miss Price, thus deluded, met him at the time appointed, on the road leading towards Burton upon Trent, at the house known by the sign of the Nag's

Head. Having accompanied her supposed lover into the field, and walking about till towards evening, they then sat down under a hedge, where, after a little conversation, Caddell suddenly pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his escape, but not before he had waited till she was dead. However, in the distraction of his mind, he left behind the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his case of instruments. When he came home it was observed, that he appeared exceedingly confused; though the reason of the perturbation of his mind could not even be guessed at. But on the following morning Miss Price being found murdered in the field, great numbers of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the house where she lodged, who recollected that she had said, she was going to walk with Mr. Caddell; on which the instruments were examined, and known to have belonged to him: he was accordingly taken into custody, and committed to the gaol of Stafford; and being soon afterwards tried, was found guilty, condemned, and executed, at Stafford, on the 21st of July, 1700.

CAMERON, DR. ARCH. (TRAITOR,) was intended by his father for the profession of the law, and therefore sent to Glasgow, where he continued his studies some years; but, having an attachment to the practice of physic, he entered in the university of Edinburgh; whence he went to Paris; and then completed his studies at Leyden in Holland. Though well qualified to have made a respectable figure in any capital city, yet he chose to reside for life near his native place; and, having returned to the Highlands, he married, and settled in the small town of Lochaber, where, though his practise was small, his generous conduct rendered him the delight

light and the blessing of the neighbourhood. His wife bore him seven children, and was pregnant of the eighth at the unfortunate period of his death. While Dr. Cameron was living happy in the domestic way, the rebellion of 1745 broke out, and laid the foundation of the ruin of himself and his family. The pretender having landed, went to the house of Mr. M'Donald, who sent for the doctor's brother. The doctor went to his brother, to prevent him from entering into the pretender's measures from which nothing but ruin could ensue. Mr. Cameron's brother having previously promised to bring all his servants in aid of the pretender, the latter upbraided him with an intention of breaking his promise; which so affected the generous spirit of the highlander, that he immediately went and took leave of his wife, and gave orders for his vassals, to the number of near twelve hundred, to have recourse to arms. At this time, his estate did not exceed 700l. per annum; his being able, then, to arm such a number, is a proof of the poverty and the vassalage of the country. Having now sent for his brother, to attend him as a physician: the doctor urged every argument against so rash an undertaking; from which he even besought him on his knees to desist. The brother would not be denied, and the doctor at length agreed to attend him as a physician, though he abolutely refused to accept any commission in the rebel army. This unhappy gentleman was distinguished by his humanity, and gave the readiest assistance, by night or day, to any wounded men of the royal army, who were made prisoners by the rebels. His brother being wounded in the leg at the battle of Falkirk, he attended him with the kindest assiduity, till himself was likewise slightly wounded. Dr. Cameron exhibited repeated

instances of his humanity; but when the battle of Culloden gave a decisive stroke to the hopes of the rebels, he and his brother escaped to the western islands, whence they sailed to France, in a vessel belonging to that kingdom. The doctor was appointed physician to a French regiment, of which his brother obtained the command; but the latter dying at the end of two years, the doctor became physician to Ogilvie's regiment, then in Flanders. A subscription being set on foot, in England and Scotland, in the year 1750, for the relief of those persons who had been attainted, and escaped into foreign countries; the doctor came into England to receive the money for his unfortunate fellow-sufferers. At the end of two years another subscription was opened; when the doctor, whose pay was inadequate to the support of his numerous family, came once more to this country, and having written a number of urgent letters to his friends, it was rumoured that he was returned. Hereupon a detachment from Lord George Beauclerk's regiment was sent in search of him, and he was taken in the following manner:—Captain Graves, with thirty soldiers, going towards the place where it was presumed he was concealed, saw a little girl at the extremity of the village, who, on their approach, fled towards another village. She was pursued by a serjeant and two soldiers, who could only come near enough to observe her whispering to a boy, who seemed to have been placed for the purpose of conveying intelligence. Unable to overtake the boy, they presented their guns at him; on which he fell on his knees, and begged his life; which they promised, on condition that he would shew them the place where Dr. Cameron was concealed. Hereupon the boy pointed to the house where he was,

was, which the soldiers surrounded, and took him prisoner. Being sent to Edinburgh, he was thence conducted to London, and committed to the Tower. While in this confinement, he was denied the use of pen, ink, and paper, nor suffered to speak to his friends but when the warder was present. On his examination before the lords of the privy council, he denied that he was the same Dr. Cameron whose name had been mentioned in the act of attainder; which made it necessary to procure living evidence to prove his identity. Being brought to the bar of the Court of King's Bench on the 17th of May, he was arraigned on the act of attainder, when, declining to give the court any farther trouble, he acknowledged, that he was the same person who had been attainted: on which the lord chief justice Lee pronounced sentence in the following terms:—"You, Archibald Cameron, of Lochiel, in that part of Great Britain called Scotland, must be removed from thence to his Majesty's prison, the Tower of London, from whence you came, and on Thursday, the 7th of June next, your body to be drawn on a sledge to the place of execution; there to be hanged, but not till your are dead; your bowels to be taken out, your body quartered, your head cut off, and affixed at the King's disposal, and the Lord have mercy on your soul!" After his commitment to the Tower, he begged to see his wife, who was then at Lisle in Flanders; and, on her arrival, the meeting between them was inexpressibly affecting. The unhappy lady wept incessantly, an reflecting on the fate of her husband, herself, and numerous family. Coming to take her final leave of him on the morning of execution, she was so agitated by her contending passions, that she was attacked by repeated fits, and, a few days after the

the death of her unfortunate husband, she became totally deprived of her senses. The convict, being brought out of the Tower, was delivered to the sheriffs at ten in the morning; and being placed in a sledge, was drawn through the streets of London to Tyburn, amidst an immense number of spectators. He was dressed in a bag-wig, and wore a light-coloured coat, with a scarlet waistcoat and breeches. He bowed to several people in the windows, as he passed; and there was equal manliness and composure in his behaviour. The procession reached to the fatal tree a little before twelve, when Dr. Cameron begged that his body might be permitted to hang till it was dead; which request was granted. He looked round him in a manner that testified the calmness of his mind; and said to the clergyman who attended him, "This is a glorious day to me. It is my new birth day! There are more witnesses at this birth, than were at my first." The clergyman asked him how he found himself, he said, "Thank God, I am very well; only a little fatigued with my journey; but, blessed be God! I am come to the end of it." This unhappy man then declared, that he should die a member of the church of England, in the faith of which he had been educated. After the body had hung more than half a hour, it was cut down; and the remaining part of the sentence being carried into execution, the head and body were put into a coffin, and carried to an undertaker's, whence they were conveyed and interred in the chapel of the Savoy. The doctor suffered on the 7th of June, 1753, in the 46th year of his age.——He was the last who was executed on account of the rebellion; and of all who were concerned in it, perhaps, the least deserving of his calamitous fate.

CAMPBELL, MUNGO, (MURDERER,) was a descendant of the noble family of Argyle, and born at Ayr, in Scotland, in the year 1712. His father, who was a merchant of eminence, had been mayor of the town, and a justice of peace; but having no less than twenty-four children, and meeting with many losses in his commercial connexions, it was impossible for him to make any adequate provision for his family; so that, on his death, the relations took care of the children, and educated them in the liberal manner which is customary in Scotland. Mungo was protected by a uncle, who gave him a learned education; but this generous friend dying when the youth was about eighteen years of age, left him sixty pounds, and earnestly recommended him to the care of his other relations. The young man was a finished scholar; yet seemed averse to the making choice of any of the learned professions. His attachment appeared to be to the military life, in which line many of his ancestors had most gloriously distinguished themselves. He now entered himself as a cadet in the royal regiment of Scotch Greys, then commanded by his relation general Campbell, and served during two campaigns at his own expence, in the fond hope of milirary preferment. After the battle of Dettingen, at which he assisted, he had an opportunity of being appointed quarter-master, if he could have raised one hundred pounds; but this place was bestowed on another person, while Campbell was making fruitless application for the money. Thus disappointed of what he thought a reasonable expectation, he quitted the army, and went into Scotland, where he arrived at the juncture that the rebels had quitted Edinburgh, in 1745. Lord Loudon having then the command of the loyal Highlanders, who exerted so much bravery in the suppression

pression of the rebellion, and Mr. Campbell having the honor to be related to his lordship, he went and fought under him, with a bravery that did equal credit to his loyalty and courage. Not long after the decisive battel of Culloden, lord Louden procured his kinsman to be appointed an officer of the excise; and prevailed on the commissioners to station him in the shire of Ay, that he might have the happiness of residing near his friends and relations. In the discharge of this new duty, Mr. Campbell behaved with strict integrity to the crown, yet with so much civility, as to conciliate the affections of all those with whom he had any transactions. He married when he was somewhat advanced in life; and so unexceptionable was his whole conduct, that all the nobility and gentry in the neighbourhood, the earl of Eglington excepted, gave him permission to kill game on their estates. However, he was very moderate in the use of this indulgence, seldom shooting but with a view to gratify a friend with a present, hardly ever for his own emolument. He had a singular attachment to fishing; and a river in lord Eglington's estate affording the finest fish in that country, he would willingly have angled there; but his lordship having been as strict with regard to his fish as the game, Campbell, unwilling to offend him, gave away his fishing-tackle, which was excellent in its kind. He was likewise in possession of a fine pointer, which he sold; but would not part with his gun, which produced him the greatest pleasure of his life. Being in search of smugglers, and having his gun with him, he was crossing part of lord Eglington's estate, when a hare starting up, he shot her. His lordship hearing the report of the gun, and being informed that Campbell had fired it, he sent a servant to command him to come to the seat.

seat. Campbell obeyed, and was treated very unkindly by his lordship, who even descended to call him by names of contempt. The other apologized for his conduct, which he said arose from the sudden starting of the hare, aud declared that he had no design of giving offence. A man named Bartleymore was among the servants of lord Eglington, and was a favourite of his lordship; and this man dealt largely in contraband goods. Mr. Campbell, passing along the sea-shore, met Bartleymore with a cart, containing eighty gallons of rum, which he seized, as contraband; and the rum was condemned, but the cart restored, as being the property of lord Eglington. Bartleymore was now so incensed against Campbell, that he contrived many tales to his disadvantage, and at length engaged his lordship's passions so far, that he contrived a more unfavourable opinion of him than he had hitherto done; while Campbell, conscious that he had only discharged his duty, paid little or no attention to the reports of his lordship's enmity. About ten in the morning of the 24th of October, 1769, Campbell took his gun, and went out with another officer, with a view to detect smugglers. The former took with him a licence for shooting, which had been given him by Dr. Hunter; though they had no particular design of killing any game, except a woodcook, if they should see one. They now crossed a small part of lord Eglington's estate, in order to reach the seashore, where they intended to walk. When they arrived at this spot it was near noon; and lord Eglington came up in his coach, attended by Mr. Wilson, a carpenter, who was working for him, and followed by four servants on horseback. On approaching the coast, his lordship met Bartleymore, who told him that there were some poachers at

at a distance. Mr. Wilson would have endeavoured to draw off his lordship's notice from such a business; but Bartleymore saying that Campbell was among the poachers, lord Eglington quitted his coach, and mounting a led horse, rode to the spot, where he saw Campbell and the other officer, whose name was Brown. His lordship said, "Mr. Campbell, I did not expect to have found you so soon again on my grounds, after your promise, when you shot the hare." He then demanded Campbell's gun, which the latter declared he would not part with. Lord Eglington now rode towards him; while Campbell retreated, with his gun presented, desiring him to keep at a distance. Still, however, his lordship advanced, smiling, and said, "are you going to shoot me?" Campbell replied, "I will, if you do not keep off." Hereupon lord Eglington called to his servants to bring him a gun, which one of them took from the coach, and delivered to another, to carry to their master. In the interim, lord Eglington, leading his horse, approached Mr. Campbell, whose gun he demanded; but the latter would not deliver it. The peer then quitted his horse's bridle, and continued advancing, while Campbell still retired, though in an irregular direction, and pointed his gun towards his pursuer. At length, lord Eglington came so near him, that Campbell said, "I beg your pardon, my lord, but I will not deliver my gun to any man living; therefore keep off, or I will certainly shoot you." At this instant, Bartleymore, advancing, begged Campbell to deliver his gun to lord Eglington; but the latter answered, he would not, for "he had a right to carry a gun." His lordship did not dispute his *general* right, but said, that he could not have *any* to carry it on his estate, without his permission.

Campbell

Campbell again begged pardon, and still continued retreating, but with his gun in his hand, and preparing to fire in his own defence. While he was thus walking backwards, his heel struck against a stone, and he fell, when he was about the distance of three yards from the pursuer. Lord Eglington, observing him fall on his back, stepped forward, as if he would have passed by Campbell's feet, which the latter observing, rearing himself on his elbow, and lodged the contents of his piece in the left side of his lordship's body. At this critical juncture, the servant above-mentioned brought the gun from the coach, and Campbell would have wrested it from his hands, but that Bartleymore came up just at the very moment; and at this moment, lord Eglington, putting his hand to his wound, said, "I am killed!" A contest now en ued, during which Bartleymore repeatedly struck Campbell; which being observed by lord Eglington, he called out, "do not use him ill." Campbell being secured. was conducted to the wounded man, then lying on the ground, who said, "Mr. Campbell, I would not have shot you;" but Campbell made no answer. Lord Eglington's seat was about three miles from the place where this fatal accident happened; and his servants put him into the carriage, to convey him home. In the mean time, Campbell's hands were tied behind him, and he was conducted to the town of Saltcotes, the place of his former station as an exciseman. The persons who conducted him asked him several questions, the answers to which were afterwards, very ungenerously, adduced on his trial, as collateral evidence of his guilt. Among other things, he acknowledged, that he would rather part with his life than his gun; and that sooner than have it taken from him, he would shoot any peer of the

the realm. Lord Eglington dying, after languishing ten hours, Mr. Campbell was, on the following day, committed to the prison Ayr, and the next month removed to Edinburgh, in preparation for his trial before the court of of justiciary; previous to which, his case was discussed by council, and the following arguments were adduced in his favor. First, "That the gun went off by accident, and therefore it could be no more than casual homicide." Secondly, "That supposing it had been fired with an intention to kill, yet the act was altogether justifiable, because of the violent provocation he had received; and he was doing no more than defending his life and property." Thirdly, "It could not be murder, because it could not be supposed that Mr. Campbell had any malice against his lordship, and the action itself was too sudden to admit of deliberation." The council for the prosecution urged in answer, First, "That malice was implied in consequence of Campbell's presenting the gun to his lordship, and telling him, that unless he kept off, he would shoot him." Secondly, "That there was no provocation given by the earl besides words, and words shall not be construed a provocation in law." Thirdly, "The earl had a right to seize his gun, in virtue of several acts of parliament, which are the established laws of the land, to which every subject is obliged to be obedient." After repeated debates between the lawyers of Scotland, a day was at length appointed for the trial, which commenced on the 17th of February, 1770, before the high court of justiciary; and the jury having found Mr. Campbell guilty, he was sentenced to die. The Lord Justice Clerk, before he pronounced the solemn sentence, addressed himself to the convict, advising him to make the most devout

vout preparation for death, as all hopes of pardon would be precluded, from the nature of his offence. Through the whole course of the trial, the prisoner's behaviour was remarkable for calmness and serenity; and when it was ended, he bowed to the court with the utmost composure, but said not a single word in extenuation of his crime. On his return to the prison, he was visited by several of his friends, among whom he behaved with apparently decent cheerfulness. After they had drank several bottles of wine, they left him, and he retired to his apartment, begging the favour of another visit from them on the following day; but in the morning (Feb. 28, 1770), he was found dead, hanging to the end of a form which he had set upright, and fastened a silk handkerchief round his neck. From circumstances, it was supposed that he had committed this act of suicide soon after his friends had left him.

CARR, JOHN (FORGERY) was a native of the north of Ireland, who having had a genteel education, was put into business as a wine and brandy merchant, but through extravagance and company he failed. A man of fortune, who was one of his abandoned associates, invited him to pass part of the summer at his seat in the country; and setting out together, they stopped at Kilkenny, where some passengers quitted a coach, among whom was a young lady, whose elegant person and appearance impressed Carr with an idea that she was of rank, and inspired him with the first sentiments of love that he ever felt. Throwing himself from his horse, he handed her into the inn; and a proposal being made that the company should sup together, it was universally agreed to. While the supper was preparing, Carr applied himself to the coachman, to learn the history of the young lady; but all the in-

 formation

formation he could obtain was, that he had taken her up at Dublin, and that she was going to the Spa at Mallow. Anxious to become better acquainted with the lady, he prevailed on the company to repose themselves the next day at Kilkenny, and take a view of the duke of Ormond's seat, and the curiosities of the town. This proposal being acceded to, the evening was spent in the utmost harmony and good-humour; and the fair stranger even then conceived an idea of making a conquest of Mr. Carr, from whose appearance she judged that he was a man of distinction. In the morning, she dressed herself to great advantage, not forgetting the ornament of jewels, which she wore in abundance; so that when she entered the room, Carr was astonished at her appearance. She found the influence she had over him, and while the company was walking in the gallery of the duke of Ormond's palace, he seized this opportunity of speaking his sentiments. On his declaration of love, she affected displeasure; but soon assuming a more affable deportment, told him that she was an English woman of rank; that his person was not disagreeable to her, and that if he was a man of fortune, and the consent of her relations could be obtained, she should not be averse to listening to his addresses. She further said, that she was going to spend part of the summer at Mallow, where his company would be agreeable. Accordingly, he following her to that place, contrary to the advice of his friend, who had formed a very unfavourable opinion of the lady's character. Here he dissipated so much cash in company with this woman, that he was compelled to borrow of his friend, who remonstrated on the impropriety of the connexion; but Carr still kept her company, and, at the end of the season, returned with her to Dublin. The lovers

lovers now agreed to sail for England; and Carr sold some small estates, and borrowing all the money he possibly could, delivered the whole to his mistress. While preparations were making for the voyage, and Carr about procuring a passage for England, in his absence, the lady shipped all the effects on board a vessel bound for Amsterdam; and having dressed herself in man's apparel, she embarked and sailed, leaving Carr to regret his ill-judged credulity. On his return home, discovering how he had been robbed, he was at first half distracted with his loss; but on cooler reflexion thought it would be in vain to pursue the thief; on which he sold a few trifles that remained of his property, which producing about a hundred pounds, came to London, and soon spent the whole in dissipation and extravagance. Thus reduced, he enlisted as a foot-soldier, and served some years before he was discharged; after which he entered as a marine at Plymouth, whence he came to London, and opened a shop in hog-lane, St. Giles's. He now married a girl who he thought had money; but soon discovering her poverty, he abandoned her, and removed to Short's-gardens, where he entered into partnership with a cork-cutter. Having ingratiated himself into the esteem of his customers, he opened shop on his own account, and soon got all the business from his late partner. This, however, proved of little service to him; for getting into bad company, he frequented the gaming-tables, and became the dupe of sharpers. Having been entrusted by a gentleman with a draught on the bank for sixty pounds, he received the money, foolishly ventured, lost it at a gambling table, and then entered as a marine. There being something in his deportment superior to the vulgar, he was advanced to the rank

of serjeant, in which he behaved so well, that his officers treated him with singular regard. The vessel in which he sailed taking a merchant ship richly laden, and soon afterwards several smaller vessels, the prize-money amounted to a considerable sum; which gave Carr an idea that great advantage might be obtained by privateering. Hereupon, he procured a discharge; and entering on board a privateer, was made master at arms. In a few days, the privateer took two French ships, one of which they carried to Bristol, and the other into the harbour of Poole. Having refitted their ship, they sailed again; and in two days took a French privateer, and gave chace to three others, which they found to be English vessels belonging to Falmouth, which had been made prize of by a French privateer. These they retook, and carried them into Falmouth; in their passage to which place, they made prize of a valuable French ship, the amount of which contributed to enrich the crew. On their next trip, they saw a ship in full chace of them; on which they prepared for a vigorous defence; and the vessels fought above forty minutes yard-arm and yard-arm. Many hands were lost by the French, who at length attempted to sheer off, but were taken, after a chace of some leagues. The commander of the English privateer being desperately wounded in the engagement, died in a few days; on which, Carr courted his widow, and a marriage would have taken place, but that she was suddenly seized with a violent fever, of which she died, having bequeathed to him all she was possessed of. He now repaired to London, where he commenced smuggler; but his ill-gotten effects being seized on by the officers of the revenue, he took to the more dangerous practice of forging seamen's wills, and gained money for some time; being, however,

ever, apprehended, he was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, convicted, and sentenced to die. He was of the Romish pursuasion, and behaved with decent resignation to his fate, having suffered November 16, 1750.

CHANDLER, WILLIAM, (PERJURY,) was born near Devises in Wiltshire; where his father possessed an estate of 200l. a year. Having received a liberal education, he was articled to the clerk of the Goldsmith's Company; but not agreeing with his master, he went to live with an attorney in Clement's-Inn, with whom he completed his clerkship. In the interim, he married a servant girl in the family, but the marriage was kept a secret. Soon after the expiration of his clerkship, he told his father he had a prospect of marrying to great advantage; and about the same time represented to his master, that he had paid a visit to his uncle, a man of fortune in Suffolk, who had presented him with bank notes to a considerable amount; and produced some notes, to give an air of truth to his story. Hereupon the father put into his possession an estate worth about 400l.; and as he represented to his master that he was worth 500 in ready money, the master was prevailed on to lend him 500l. (on security of his estate) which he said he proposed to advance with some other money to Mrs. Strait of Salisbury, on an estate at Endford, which had been previously mortgaged to a gentleman named Poor, who wished to re-possess himself of the money he had lent. Thus prepared, he went to Mrs. Strait on the 17th of March, 1748, and promised to meet her at Endford on the 25th, to advance her the requisite sum. Having taken every previous step for the accomplishment of his plan, and being in possession of about 900l. he left

left London on the 24th of the month, and stopped at an inn at Harehatch, a few miles to the eastward of Reading. His own account of the matter was, that being stopped soon afterwards by three bargemen, they robbed him of all his property, bound him, and threw him into a pit, having first threatened his destruction if he made any opposition. He said that he continued in this condition three hours; but, notwithstanding his bondage, he got a considerable way up a hill, where he met with a shepherd named Avery, who cut the cords with which he was tied. After obtaining his liberty, Chandler enquired of the shepherd for the constable of the hundred; and being conducted to him, he described the persons who he said had robbed him, and gave notice, in the legal forms, that he should sue the county to indemnify him for his loss. He described the supposed robbers with so much exactness, that a person present recollected to have seen three such people; and the mayor of Reading, who was accidentally on the road, had a similar recollection of the bargemen, whom he met near Maidenhead thicket; consequently Chandler must have seen three such men, and seems desirous to have fixed the supposed guilt on them. He now went to the inn at Hare-hatch, where he told a similar tale; and having reposed himself for that night, returned to London the following day; and told his late master (whose name was Hill) what he pretended had happened. Mr. Hill gave him the numbers of some bank-notes which he had advanced, and begged he would go to the Bank and stop payment—instead of which he went to Cannon-street, and changed one of the notes to pay for a silver tankard he had purchased. This being done, he returned to Mr. Hill, and told him no business was transacted

acted at the Bank on that day; but said he had left his numbers of the notes with one of the clerks: it happened, however, he had given in a false list,—His next step was to advertise his supposed loss in the daily papers, offering a reward of 50l. for the restoration of the whole, or a proportionate one for any part of it. After this he inserted a full account of the presumed robbery in the London Gazette, with a description of the robbers: but he did not mention the note he had paid away when he bought the tankard. Mr. Hill attended him to a magistrate on the 12th of May, when he gave in the necessary information on oath, omitting only the number of the notes said to be lost. Preparations were now made for the trial, which came on at Abingdon, before a special jury, the 18th of July, and after a hearing of twelve hours, the jury retired for four more, and then gave a verdict in favor of the prosecutor; but the judge desiring them to leave part of this verdict to the decision of the Court of common Pleas, their opinion was not given on it till the following winter. Guilt is ever suspicious, Chandler, fearing that a presumption of his fraudulent practices would arise, told his master that he was going to live some time with an uncle in Suffolk, instead of which he went to an inn at Colchester, which was kept by his brother: but being necessitated to correspond with his master, he wrote to him to direct to the Crown at Audley, near Colchester. The term advancing, the master wrote repeatedly to him, urging him to come to London; but he evaded doing so, with such frivolous excuses, that a suspicion even then arose that his conduct in the prosecution could not be justified. In the interval, twelve of the bank-notes, which Chandler had sworn he was robbed of were

were brought to the Bank for payment; but this being refused, and enquiry made, it appeared that a Jew, named Barnard Solomons, had bought them at Amsterdam of a person who called himself John Smith; and that Bernard had sent them to London, to his agent, Nathan Solomons. Farther enquiry made it evident, that the supposed John Smith had quitted Holland, after a residence of only a few days, and then embarked in the packet with a Dutch merchant named Casson. This gentleman being found, gave a description of the presumed Smith, which so exactly corresponded with the person of Chandler, that little doubt remained of the identity of the offender; on which his master re-urged him to come to London, and confront Mr. Casson; but he steadily persisted in declining to make his appearance. In the interim, the point of law was solemnly argued before the judges of the Common Pleas, when their determination was to the following effect: "That as Chandler had not inserted the numbers of his notes in the Gazette, nor sworn to them when he made oath before the justice, the verdict must be set aside, and the plaintiff nonsuited, without the advantage of a new trial." About this time the false list of the numbers he had given in at the Bank happened to be found, the public opinion began to be very unfavourable to him; and those who had hitherto considered him as innocent, began to look on him in a light totally opposite. It was now thought adviseable to take him into custody; for which purpose, three gentlemen went to the Crown at Audley, near Colchester, and enquired for a place called Eaton, where it was said he lived. They were directed to two places named Eaton; but, after a tedious journey, without finding him, they went

went to the inn kept by his brother at Colchester, where Chandler happened to be at the time, but concealed himself in the house during the night they remained there. This search after him alarmed him so much, that he quitted Colchester, and went to Coventry, where he took an inn; but being fearful of an arrest from Mr. Winter, a gentleman who had lent him a sum of money, he sent a draught in Winter's favour for 150l. on Mr. Gauntlett, a linen-draper. The letter containing this draught being put into the post-office at Northampton, proved the means of discovering his residence at Coventry; in consequence of which he was taken into custody, and lodged in prison. In the year 1750, he was removed by a writ of habeas corpus from Coventry to Abingdon, and every preparation was made for his trial; but he traversed the indictment, and thereby put it off for that year. At the next assizes he was tried, convicted, and received sentence to be transported for seven years, after being set in the pillory on the day succeeding the conviction. On the following morning, however, the sheriff waited on the judge, to acquaint him that if the offender should be impillored, it would be impossible to protect him from the vengeance of the enraged populace, and therefore requested a mitigation of his sentence. In consequence of this reasonable request, that part of the sentence respecting his being put in the pillory was dispensed with, and the offender was transported, in consequence of judgment passed, on the 16th of July, 1751.

CHAPMAN, PETER, (BURGLAR,) a most depraved character, who was tried at the Old Bailey with John Hall, Joseph Jones, Sarah Boreham, and Elizabeth Jones, for breaking and entering the dwelling-

dwelling-house of Messrs. Tyler and Leacock, slop-sellers, in the Minories, and stealing therein various articles of clothes, linen, watches, plate, &c. to the amount of 210l. The women were indicted for being receivers. Joseph Jones pleaded Guilty. There was no evidence to affect Sarah Boreham; and the facts proved against the others were briefly these—the prisoner Hall, on the night in question, engaged a hackney coach, which he brought from Drury-lane Theatre, at eleven o'clock, and kept it in waiting near the place where the burglary was committed, till five the next morning. The driver of the coach, whose name was Salmon, swore that he received the prisoners, Hall and Chapman, together with several bundles, into a coach, and set them down at the house of a man named Bath, near Finsbury-square; that they took the bundles out, and carried them into this house. In consequence of information given by the coachman, who was afraid of being involved in the business, to the officers of a public office, a search was made in Bath's house, and most of the goods found there. There were also found several instruments like those used by house-breakers; and one of these, which was an iron crow, fitted the breaches that had been made in the door of the prosecutor's house on the night it was broke open. The evidence against the woman was, that of having been asked if she had received or pawned any things, and her denying that she had; but that, when she was searched, a duplicate was found upon her for some silk handkerchiefs she had pawned. The prosecutor could not swear to these handkerchiefs. Hall and Chapman were found Guilty. Elizabeth Jones and T. Boreham, Not Guilty. He and his confederates, Hall and J. Jones, suffered before the debtors door

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at Newgate, the 26th of February, 1800, with Joseph Samuel Abbot, aged only 18, who had been found guilty of forging a certain power of attorney, for the transfer of 450l. stock belonging to a benefit society. All behaved with becoming resignation, except Chapman, who displayed instances of the most abandoned depravity. On his being brought out to ascend the scaffold, he leaped up the steps that led to it, and then, instead of attending to the clergyman, nodded to the females that appeared in the windows opposite, laughed at them sometimes immoderately, kicked off his shoes, one to the right and the other to the left, amongst the crowd who came to witness his disgraceful end. In short, he did every thing he thought could prove his contempt of death.

CHARTERIS, FRANCIS, (DEBAUCHER,) was born at Amsfield, in Scotland, where he was heir to an estate which his ancestors had possessed above 400 years; and was related to some of the first families in the North, by intermarriages with the nobility. Having received a liberal education, he made choice of the profession of arms, and first served under the Duke of Marlborough as an ensign of foot, but was soon advanced to the rank of cornet of dragoons. Being a most expert gamester, and of a disposition uncommonly avaricious, he made his knowledge of gambling subservient to his love of money; and while the army was in winter quarters, he stripped many of the officers of all their property by his skill at cards and dice. He was, however, as knavish as dextrous, for when he had defrauded a brother officer of all his money, he would lend him a sum at the moderate interest of an hundred per cent. and take an assignment of his commission as a security for the payment of the debt.

debt. John, duke of Argyle, and the earl of Stair, were at this time young men in the army; and being determined that the inconsiderate officers should not be ruined by the artifices of Charteris, they applied to the earl of Orkney, who was also in the army, then quartered at Brussells, representing the destruction that must ensue to the young gentlemen in the military line, if Charteris was not stopped in his proceedings. The earl of Orkney, anxious for the credit of the army in general, and his countrymen in particular, represented the state of the case to the duke of Marlborough, who gave orders that Charteris should be put under arrest, and tried by a court-martial. This court was composed of an equal number of English and Scotch officers, that Charteris might have no reason to say he was treated with partiality. After a candid hearing of the case, the proofs of his villainy were so strong, that he was sentenced to return the money he had obtained by usurious interest; to be deprived of his commission, and to be drummed out of the regiment, his sword being first broken; which sentence was executed in its fullest extent. Thus disgraced, he quitted Brussels, and in the road between that place and Mecklin, threw his breeches into a ditch, and then buttoning his scarlet cloak below his knees, went into an inn to take up his lodgings for that night. It is usual in places where armies are quartered, for military officers to be treated with all possible respect; and this was the case with Charteris, who had every distinction shewn him that the house could afford, and, after an elegant supper, was left to his repose. Early in the morning he rang the bell violently, and the landlord coming terrified into his room, he swore furiously that he had been robbed of his breeches,

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containing a diamond ring, a gold watch, and money to a considerable amount; and having previously broken the window, he intimated that some person must have entered that way, and carried off his property, and he even insinuated that the landlord himself might have been the robber. It was in vain that the inn keeper solicited mercy in the most humiliating posture. Charteris threatened that he should be sent to Brussels, and suffer death, as an accessary to the felony. Terrified at the thought of approaching disgrace and danger, the landlord of the house sent for some friars of an adjacent convent, to whom he represented his calamitous situation: and they generously supplied him with a sum sufficient to reimburse Chatteris for the loss he pretended to have sustained.——This unprincipled and abandoned youth now proceeded to Holland, whence he embarked for Scotland; and had not been long in that kingdom before his servile submission, and his money, procured him another commission in a regiment of horse; and he was afterwards advanced to the rank of colonel. The duke of Queensbury was at this time commissioner to the parliament of Scotland, which was assembled at Edinburgh, to deliberate on the proposed union with England. Charteris having been envited to a party at cards with the duchess of Queensbury, he contrived that her grace should be placed in such a manner, near a large glass, that he could see all her cards; and he won three thousand pounds of her by this stratagem. In consequence of this imposition the incensed duke of Queensbury brought a bill into the house, to prohibit gaming for above a certain sum; and this bill passed into a law. Charteris still continued his depredations on the thoughtless, till he had acquired considerable sums, and

estates in Scotland; he then removed to London, which, as it was the seat of great dissipation, was a place better adapted to the exertion of his abilities. —Here he became a noted lender of money on mortgages, always receiving a large premium, by which at length he became so rich as to purchase several estates in England, particularly in the county of Lancaster. He was equally infamous for his amours, having in pay some women of abandoned character, who, going to inns where the waggons put up, used to prevail on the simple country girls to go to the colonel's house as servants; in consequence of which, their ruin soon followed, and they were turned out of doors, exposed to all the miseries consequent on poverty and a loss of reputation. His agents did not confine their operations to inns; but wherever they found a handsome girl they endeavoured to decoy her to the colonel's house; and amongst the rest, Ann Bond fell a prey to his artifices. This young woman had lived in London; but having quitted her service on account of illness, took lodgings at a private house, where she recovered her health, and was sitting at the door when a woman addressed her, saying, she could help her to a place in the family of colonel Harvey; for the character of Charteris was now so notorious, that his agents did not venture to make use of his real name. Bond being hired, the woman conducted her to the colonel's house, who gave her money to redeem some clothes, which she had pledged to support her in her illness, and would have bought other clothes for her, but she refused to accept them. He now offered her a purse of gold, an annuity for life, and a house, if she would comply with his wishes; but the virtuous girl resisted the temptation, declaring, that she would only discharge her duty

duty as a servant, and that her master might dismiss her, if her conduct did not please him. On the day following, she heard a gentleman asking for her master by the name of Charteris, which encreased her fears still more, as she was not unapprized of his general character: wherefore, she told the housekeeper that she must quit her service, as she was very ill. The house-keeper informing the colonel of this circumstance, he sent for the poor girl, and threatened that he would shoot her if she left his service. He likewise ordered the servants to keep the door fast, to prevent her making her escape, and when he spoke of her it was in the most contemptuous terms. On the following day he directed his clerk of the kitchen to send her into the parlour, and, on her attending him, he bid her stir the fire. While she was thus employed, he forcibly seized and committed violence on her, first stopping her mouth with his night-cap; and afterwards, on her saying that she would prosecute him, beating her with a horse-whip, and calling her by the most opprobrious names. On his opening the door the clerk of the kitchen appeared, to whom the colonel pretended that she had robbed him of thirty guineas, and directed him to turn her out of the house, which was accordingly done. Hereupon she went to a gentlewoman named Parsons, and informing her of what had happened, asked her advice how to proceed. Mrs. Parsons recommended her to exhibit articles against him for the assault, but when the matter came afterwards to be heard by the grand jury, they found it was not an attempt, but an actual commission of the fact; and a bill was found accordingly. When the colonel was committed to Newgate he was loaded with heavy fetters; but he soon purchased

chased a lighter pair, and paid for the use of a room in the prison, and for a man to attend him. He had been married to the daughter of Sir Alexander Swinton of Scotland, who bore him one daughter, who was married to the earl of Wemys; and the earl happening to be in London at the time of the above-mentioned transaction, procured a writ of Habeas Corpus, and the colonel was accordingly admitted to bail.* His trial came on at the Old Bailey, February 25, 1730, and every art was used to traduce the character of the prosecutrix, with a view to destroy the force of her evidence; but, happily, her character was so fair, and there was so little reason to think that she had any sinister view in the prosecution, that every artifice failed, and after a long trial, in which the facts were proved to the satisfaction of the jury, a verdict of guilty was given against the colonel, who received sentence to be executed in the accustomed manner. On this occasion Charteris was not a little obliged to his son-in-law, lord Wemys, who caused the lord president Forbes to come from Scotland, to plead the cause before the privy-council; and an estate of 500l. per ann. for life, was assigned to the president for this service. At length the king consented to grant the colonel a pardon, on his settling a handsome annuity on the prosecutrix. Soon after his conviction, a fine metzotinto print of him was published, representing him standing at the bar of the Old Bailey, with his thumbs tied; and under the print was the following inscription:

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* Bail for a capital offenc is not admissible.—Is it not a shame that power and interest should thus triumph over justice? EDITOR.

"'Blood!

" 'Blood !—must a colonel, with a lord's estate,
" Be thus obnoxious to a scoundrel's fate ?
" Brought to the bar, and sentenc'd from the bench,
" Only for ravishing a country wench ?—
" Shall men of honour meet no more respect ?
" Shall their diversions thus by laws be check'd ?
" Shall they be accountable to saucy juries,
" For this or t'other pleasure ?—hell and furies !
" What man thro' villainy would run a course,
" And ruin families without remorse,
" To heap up riches —if, when all is done,
" An ignominious death he cannot shun ?"

After the narrow escape, from a fate which he had so well deserved, he retired to Edinburgh, where he lived about two years, and then died in a miserable manner, a victim to his own irregular course of life. He was buried in the family-vault, in the church-yard of the Grey Friars of Edinburgh; but his vices had rendered him so detestable, that it was with some difficulty that he was put into the grave; for the mob almost tore the coffin in pieces, and committed a variety of irregularities, in honest contempt of such an abandoned character. The celebrated Dr. Arbuthnot gave a severe, but very just, character of Colonel Charteris, in the following satyrical epitaph:

HERE lieth the body of
COLONEL DON FRANCISCO;
Who, with an inflexible constancy,
And inimitable uniformity of life,
Persisted, in spite of age and infirmity,
In the practices of every human vice,
Excepting prodigality and hypocrisy;

His insatiable avarice
Exempting him from the first, and
His matchless impudence
From the latter.
Nor was he more singular in
That undeviating viciousness of life,
Than successful in accumulating wealth;
Having,
Without trust of public money, bribe,
Worth, service, trade, or profession,
Acquired, or rather created,
A ministerial estate.
Among the singularities of his life and fortune
Be it likewise commemorated,
That he was the only person in his time,
Who would cheat without the mask of honesty!
Who would retain his primæval meanness,
After being possessed of ten thousend pounds a year:
And who, having done, every day of his life,
Something worthy of a gibbet,
Was once condemned to one.
Think not, indigent reader,
His life useless to mankind:
PROVIDENCE
Favoured, or rather connived at,
His execrable designs,
That he might remain,
To this and future ages,
A conspicuous proof and example,
Of how small estimation
Exorbitant wealth is held in the sight of the
ALMIGHTY,
By his bestowing it on
The most unworthy
Of all the descendants of
Adam.

CLAX.

CLAXTON, WILLIAM. See Cox, Wm.

CLUFF, JAMES, (MURDERER,) was born in Clare-market, and lived as a waiter at several public-houses, in all of which he maintained an extraordinary character for dilligence, civility, and integrity. He at length lived as a servant with Mr. Payne, master of the Green Lattice in Holborn; during his residence here he fell in love with Mary Green, his fellow-servant; but she being courted by another man, constantly rejected his addresses, which frequently agitated his mind in the most violent degree. His rival having one day visited Mary, sat in the same box with her, and was received by her in an affectionate manner; this did not seem at first to be much regarded by Cluff, who was then engaged in attending the customers: but when the lover was gone, Mr. Payne perceiveing that something had discomposed his mind, asked him the reason of it, but could not prevail on him to tell the cause. While Mr. Payne and his wife were at dinner in the parlour, and the girl eating her's in one of the boxes, Mrs. Payne heard a noise as if two persons were struggling; and going into the tap-room, Cluff said, "Come hither madam." On this she advanced, and saw the prisoner holding the deceased by the shoulders, who was sitting on the floor, and speechless, while the blood streamed from her in large quantities. Mrs. Payne called out, "What have you been doing, James?" he said, "Nothing." He was asked if he had seen her hurt herself, He said, "No—but that he had seen her bring up a knife from the cellar, where she had been to draw some beer for her dinner." Mr. Payne now entered the tap-room, and then went into the cellar, to discover if there was any blood there; but finding none, he accused Cluff on suspicion

picion of having committed the murder; and instantly sent for a surgeon, When the surgeon arrived, he found that a knife had been stabbed into the upper part of the thigh, and entered the body of the girl, in such a manner, that she could not survive the stroke more than a minute. A bloody knife was found in the room; and Cluff was committed to Newgate for the murder. On his trial, the surgeon deposed that the knife fitted the wound that had been made, and that he believed the woman had not killed herself: but the jury acquitted the prisoner, deeming the evidence insufficient A discharge of the accused party would now have followed of course; but William Green, the brother and heir of the deceased, immediately lodged an appeal; in consequence of which Cluff was brought to trial at the next sessions but one, when his case was argued with the utmost ingenuity by the counsel for and against him; but this second jury found him guilty, aud he was sentenced to die. After conviction he exereised himself in every act of devotion; but solemnly declared his perfect innocence with respect to the murder. He was visited by his friends, who earnestly intreated him to make a sincere confession, especially as, in his case, it was not in the power of the king himself to grant him a pardon. In answer hereto he freely confessed all his other crimes; but, saying he would not rush into eternity with a lie in his mouth, again steadily denied the prepetration of the crime of which he had been convicted. The clergyman who attended him, urged hin to the confession of his guilt, and even refused to administer the sacrament to him on the morning of his execution, on any other terms than th se of acknowledging his crime; but nothing could shake his resolution: he still steadily persisted in

in his innocence. On his way to the place of execution, he desired to stop at the door of his late master, which being granted, he called for a pint of wine, and having drank a glass of it, addressed Mr. Payne in the following terms:—"Sir, you are not insensible that I am going to suffer an ignominious death, for a crime of which I declare I am not guilty; as I am to appear before my great Judge in a few minutes to answer for all my past sins. I hope you and my good mistress will pray for my poor soul. God bless you, and all your family." At the place of execution, he behaved in the most composed, devout, and resigned manner; and seemed to possess his mind in the consciousness of innocence. There was a great concourse of spectators to witness his fatal end, to whom he spoke in the following manner: "Good people, I am going to die for a fact I never committed. I wish all mankind well, and as I have prayed for my prosecutors, I hope my sins will be forgiven, through the merits of my ever-blessed Redeemer. I beg you to pray for my departing soul, and as to the fact I now die for, I wish I was as free from all other sins." He suffered at Tyburn, on the 25th of July, 1729, exhibiting no signs of fear to his last moment.—Is it not probable, the Editor of this work begs leave to ask the reader, that the girl, when she brought the knife up from the cellar, might have laid it carelessly down, in some aukward position, and afterwards sat upon it, *the wound being in the upper part of the thigh?* Certainly Cluff's clearing her from suicide, and not endeavouring to account for the wound, were presumptive proofs of his innocence.

COCK, GEORGE, (THIEF,) was born in the neighbourhood of Aldgate, and at a proper age apprenticed

prenticed to a peruke-maker in Spital fields; but he absconded before the time expressed in his indenture was expired, and his master judging him to be strongly disposed to disorderly and profligate courses, pursued no measures to induce his return. He then lived seven or eight years as errand-boy and porter to several tradesmen, none of whom had any reason to suspect that he purloined their property; but he was held by them in no esteem, on account of his being frequently intoxicated, and associating with people of dissolute principles. It is natural to suppose, that the abandoned company he kept increased his inclination to a life of idleness, and proved the cause of his pursuing felonious courses for procuring the means of subsistance. Having made pretensions of love to a maid-servant in the neighbourhood of May Fair, she invited him to her master's house: he was punctual to the appointment, and during his stay, treacherously stole a silver spoon of about twelve shillings value. Learning that a lady lived at Streatham whose son was abroad, he went to her house, and informed her, that he was lately arrived in England, and waited upon her by the desire of the young gentleman, to assure her of the continuance of his filial affection. He was invited to partake of the best provisions the house could afford, and entertained with great liberality, kindness, and respect. After he had sufficiently refreshed himself, and secreted a large silver spoon in his pocket, he departed, intending to direct his course towards the metropolis. The spoon being missed, two servants were dispatched in search of the thief; and overtaking him at about the distance of a mile from the house, they conducted him to a magistrate, who committed him to Bridewell, as a vagrant, the lady refusing to prosecute him for the felony.

felony. Having remained in a prison about three months, and been privately whipped, he was dismissed, after the justice by whom he was committed had pathetically represented to him the disgrace, danger, and iniquity, of seeking to obtain a livelihood by illegial practices. Upon gaining information that the father of a young gentleman of Bartholomew-lane was abroad, he went to the house, and pretended to the youth that he was preparing to embark for the country where his father resided; saying, that as he was acquainted with the old gentleman, he should be happy to deliver any message or letter, or execute any commission with which the son might think proper to charge him. His reception here was not less hospitable than that he experienced at Streatham: and he did not take leave till he had conveyed a silver cup into his pocket, with which he got off undiscovered. He sold the cup, and expended the money it produced in the most extravagant manner. After this, he went to the house of the captain of a trading vessel, in Ratcliff-highway, whom he knew was at sea, expecting that he should be able to amuse his wife by some plausible pretences, and obtain a booty before he left the house. He was informed that the captain's lady was not at home, but was invited into the house by her mother, who told him that she expected her daughter's return in a very short time. Being shewn into the kitchen, he asked the maid-servant for some table-beer, and while she was gone to draw it, he secreted a large silver tankard; upon the maid's bringing the beer, he drank heartily, and then, pretending that he had some business to transact, which would not permit him to stay any longer, took leave, promising to return the following day: he sold the tankard to a Jew. He enquired of a servant

vant maid in Spital-fields, whether there were not some woman in that neighbourhood whose husbands were in foreign parts. The girl said the husbands of two or three of her master's neighbours were abroad, and asked the name of the person he desired to find. He said he had forgot the name, but artfully added that he should remember it upon hearing it repeated; in consequence of which, she mentioned some names, and upon his saying that one of them was that of the party he wanted, the girl directed him to the house where the wife of his supposed friend resided. He told the woman that he was lately arrived in England, and, by her husband's particular desire, called to inform her of his being in perfect health when he embarked. He formed some trifling excuse for occasioning the woman to leave the apartment, and soon after her return he went away, taking with him a pint silver tankard and two silver table spoons. By the above and other villainies of a similar nature, he gained a maintenance for several years. At last, he went to two ladies in Soho-square, in one day, under the pretext of delivering messages from their husbands, who had been several years resident in foreign parts; and was received by them in the most kind and hospitable manner. He had been gone but a short time, when one of the ladies missed some silver spoons; in consequence of which, he was pursued, and taken before a magistrate; and during his examination, the other appeared, and, on oath, identified a silver tankard, found in the prisoner's possession. He was committed to Newgate, and, at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, condemned to suffer death. During his confinement in Newgate, he shewed not the least remorse for his past offences, nor employed any part of the short time he had to exist in making the necessary

necessary preparation for the awful change he was about to experience, but flattered himself in the expectation of being reprieved. However, after learning that he was ordered for execution, he, in some degree, corrected the irregularity of his behaviour; but still his conduct was by no means such as might have been expected from a man in his dreadful situation. He was almost wholly regardless of the devotional exercises at the place of execution; and refused to address the populace, though urged to it by the ordinary. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 13th of June, 1748.

CODLIN, WILLIAM, (SHIP-DESTROYER,) was a native of Scarborough, and allowed to be an excellent seaman in the north coast trade, in which he had long sailed, between Sunderland and London. He was captain of the brig Adventure, nominally bound to Gibraltar and Leghorn; for feloniously destroying which, with a view to defraud the underwriters, Messrs. Maryan, Ryder, Honeyman, and Nash, on the 8th of August, 1802. off Brighthelmston, by boring three holes in the larboard run, and other holes in the larboard quarter, he was indicted. Codlin and Read were charged, as officers of the ship, for committing the fact; and Macfarlane and Easterby, as owners, for procuring it to be committed. The trial came on at the sessions house, in the Old Bailey, Tuesday, Oct. 26-1802, before Sir William Scott, lord Ellenborough, and baron Thompson. It commenced at 9 o'clock in the morning, and did not conclude till 12 at night. So great was the desire of the public to witness the developement of this nafarious transaction, that the sessions house was filled before eight o'clock in the morning, and every avenue leading thereto blocked up. The first witness was T. Cooper, who said he was a seaman on board the adventure, originally

 before

before the mast; was shipped in the river, the vessel then lying below Limehouse. Codlin was captain and Douglas mate; the rest of the crew consisting of two boys, making in all five. Storrow was coming back and forward. There was a part of the cargo on board, the vessel sailed from Limehouse for Yarmouth, where she took in twenty-two hogsheads of tobacco, some linen, and fifteen tons of ballast. From thence they proceeded to Deal, having taken on board at Yarmouth an additional hand, named Walsh, a bricklayer's labourer. At Deal, Douglas, the mate, complained of the rheumatism, and left them. Storrow went away, and was succeeded by Read. They took in another hand, named Lacy. The captain said, as witness was bringing him off shore, that witness should take Douglas's birth; but witness said he was not capable, not knowing navigation. The captain said, as long as he pleased him, that was plenty; they did not sail from Deal as soon as they might. The captain said at one time, he waited for letters; and at another, he waited for a wind. It blew a little, but other ships sailed. At length, they sailed, five or six days before the vessel went down. The captain gave strict orders to keep the boat free: witness put in four oars, cutting two of them to the length: formerly they threw lumber into the boat; but the captain ordered that there should be none there, and that there should be plenty of tholes, or pins, for the oars. The captain said, they should not be in the ship forty eight hours longer: this was Friday. On Saturday, he said that night should be the last; it was impossible she could carry them through the bay; he did not think her trust-worthy for his life, and why should witness for him? The captain then sent witness down to mix grog for himself and Read, and

and some of the crew. Witness was afterwards walking the quarter-deck; the captain was at the helm, and called witness to relieve him. The captain went below; he came up in a quarter of an hour, and said to the witness, "go down, and you will find an augur on the cabin deck: take up the scuttle, and bore two or three holes in the run, as close down to the bottom as possible." The witness went down, and found the auger: it was a new one, brought by the captain from Deal, and was put into the handle of another auger: he bored three holes, close down in the run, with two augers and a spike gimblet, which he left in the holes. The witness came on deck, and told the captain he had bored the holes. The captain asked if the water was coming in? witness said, not much, for he had left the augers in the holes. The captain said they might remain till daylight. On Sunday morning, the cabin-boy was prevented from coming down by the captain; before that, he always came down, and got breakfast in the cabin. At day-break, witness pulled out the augers, and the water came in, but the captain did not think it came in, in sufficient quantity, and wished for the mall to enlarge the holes. The witness said, the crow-bar would do. The captain ordered him to bring the crow-bar, and make the holes larger: he did so; the captain was present all the time, and lent a hand to knock down the lockers, to make room. The crow-bar went through the bottom, and, the witness believed, so did the augers. Mr. Read was in bed, close by the holes: the distance might be about four yards. Mr. Read turned himself round several times while the witness was boring the holes: he never spoke, nor did witness speak to him, but he turned in the bed several times; the auger did not make much noise. When the holes were

were bored, the witness called Read, by the captain's order: he came on deck, but shortly after he went down, and went to bed again. The bed was on the larboard side of the cabin. Read could not see the augers, but he might hear the water run, as the cabin-boy heard it, and the witness heard it himself, a small hole being left open to keep the pumps at work. Read went to bed again, but he was on deck when the hole was beat with the crow-bar. Read was permitted to go down, but the boys were not. When the hole was beat through, the colours were hoisted; the boat was already out, and all hands in it, except the captain and witness. Witness packed up his things when he was told they could not be forty-eight hours in the vessel, but he mentioned the matter to nobody. He packed them in a bread-bag which he emptied on the deck. When the holes were boring, the captain ordered the men aloft, to take in sail; no one could possibly see or hear him, except witness, the captain, and Read. They left the vessel at eight o'clock. Several boats came off on the signal. The people in them said, they (captain Codlin and his people) had met with a sad misfortune: they answered yes. The boat asked if they wanted any assistance, and offered to tow them on shore. The captain said, she was his while she swam, and they had no business with her. The Swallow revenue cutter then came up, and took the brig in tow, fastening a hawse to the mast: the brig, which lay on her beam-ends before, immediately righted, and went down. Witness has no doubt that she went down in consequence of the holes. Read's trunk had come on board at Deal; it was sent back the next day; witness helped it into the boat: it was full of linen when it came, and was not locked; witness does not know what it contained when

when it went back. Captain Codlin and the whole crew went to the Ship tavern at Brighton. Read said to a lady who came to see him, that he had lost every thing belonging to him, and that he was ruined. Easterby and Macfarlane came to Brighton on Tuesday: they came to the Ship tavern. Easterby asked where the holes were, and of what size; there were some carpenter's tools on the floor, which had been brought from the vessel: Easterby asked if the holes were of the same size of the handle of the chissel that was among the tools; and being told they were, said, the witness should prepare the handle to plug the holes, in case the ship should come on shore, as she was then driving in. Macfarlane was in the room, but witness cannot say whether he could hear, as he spoke in a low voice. Easterby said Codlin was a d—d fool, he had made a stupid job of it; he should have done the business on the French coast, and then he might have made the shore of either country in the boat, in such fine weather. Macfarlane discoursed with them, but witness did not hear what he said. Easterby spoke loud enough for all the room to hear him. Macfarlane and Easterby ordered the captain and witness to go to London together, and to take private lodgings, in which they should keep close, or they would be under sentence of death. Macfarlane took seats in the coach for them, and paid their passage. Read wrote on a piece of paper where witness was to go in London, to Macfarlane's house. Witness received 9s. wages, and Macfarlane gave him a guinea: this was after he had described the size of the hole, he could not say whether the others were paid their wages. Witness came up with one of the bags, the captain being stopped by a gentleman (Mr. Douglas). The boy was put in his place

at five or six in the morning. Read went with witness to the coach offices; Macfarlane came after, and Easterby came with the boy, who was apprentice to Storrow. Only one pump had been worked for a length of time in the ship, the other was not in order: there was a gear for the other, but the captain did not want to find it. The captain sent the boy down for the great coat; the boy, on his return, said the water was running: the captain said it was no such thing, it was only the water in the run, and told the boy to go forward. He ordered witness to go down and see, but jogged him as he passed, and told him to say it was nothing. Witness, on coming up, said it was only the water in the run. Witness staid in London two nights, and then went to his mother, near Saxmundham, in Suffolk; having no money, and failing to get a ship, after several applications, he walked the whole way, which is 88 miles. When he arrived, his mother told him there had been people after him, about a ship; and there had been hand-bills, offering a reward. He immediately sent for the constable of the place, Mr. Askettle, and surrendered himself, to whom he told every thing, desiring him to take him to London. John Morris, George Kennedy, Lacy, and James Welch, corroborated Cooper's testimony. Storrow proved the intent of the voyage, that it was to defraud the underwriters. The insurances were also proved. Several witnesses gave Read and Macfarlane a good character. As it appeared that Read took no active part in the business, and one of the witnesses having intimated that he was deaf, and the learned judge observing that it was possible he could not hear the conspirators talking and the boring of the ship, &c. he was acquitted, and the rest found

Guilty

Guilty; but two points of law having been pointed out by Mr. Erskine, in favour of Easterby and Macfarlane, judgment was accordingly arrested, for the decision of the twelve judges. They all heard the verdict with much firmness—Read with the most composure; Easterby apparently with indifference, looking around him; Macfarlane's features shewed he was inwardly much affected, though he bore himself with firmness; Codlin stood behind. Sir William Scott desired that Codlin might be put to the bar, and the others removed. Sir William then pronounced sentence of death on Codlin, in the most solemn and impressive manner; telling him to employ the few days he had to live in repentance, and reconciling himself to God, for there was no hope of pardon in this world. Codlin then retired with a firm and undaunted deportment, taking a respectful leave of the court as he went out. On Friday preceding his execution, Mrs. Codlin left town for Windsor, with a petition to his Majesty, which, however, her husband had declared he did not conceive would be of any service; yet, in spite of this declaration, he was in the fullest expectation of a respite until near twelve at night, when all his hopes vanished, and the certainty of his fate burst upon his mind, and caused the greatest perturbation and anxious desire to see his wife. A person of the name of Dring, who sat up with him, and to whose kind and humane attentions he seemed truly sensible, used every means to tranquillize his mind; this effect was at length produced; and, on his wife being introduced to him, which, by the considerate humanity of Mr. Kirby, was done early in the morning (she having returned to Mr. Kirby's house between two and three o'clock), he was perfectly composed. Any description of their parting scene would

would be a mockery of real woe. After the trying conflict was over, the sacrament was administered by Dr. Ford to Mr. Codlin, in which ceremony his friend Dring also partook; the behaviour of the prisoner now assumed the manly and firm dignity of the assured christian. He freely communicated to Mr. Dring all the circumstances of his crime; but the particulars of the conversation, so far as they respect his accomplices, were, for obvious reasons, prudently omitted. At Brighton, he said, between five and six guineas were given him, and he was urged to go off, being assured that if he was taken he would be hung. On Saturday morning, November 27, 1802, this unfortunate man was brought out of the goal of Newgate to proceed to undergo the last extremity of his sentence at the Docks at Wapping. On leaving the prison to get into the mourning cart which was to convey him to the place of execution, he in the most gratefully pathetic manner returned his acknowledgements to Mr. Kirby, for his many kind attentions and indulgences to him since his condemnation. He was conducted from Newgate by Ludgate Hill and St. Paul's, into Cheapside. A number of peace officers on horseback were at the head of the melancholy procession. Some officers belonging to the Court of Admiralty, with the City Marshals, followed next. The Sheriffs were in a coach, as was also the ordinary of Newgate, the Rev. Dr. Ford. Codlin was in a cart, with a rope fastened round his neck and shoulders. He sat between the executioner and his assistant. He wore a blue coat, a white waistcoat, buff-coloured velvet breeches, and white stockings. He seemed a well-built figure, rising somewhat above the middle size, in the very prime of his strength; and, perhaps, about 35 or

36

36 years of age. As he passed down Cheapside, Cornhill, and Leadenhall-street, and onward through Aldgate, and Ratcliffe Highway, he continued to read the accustomed prayers with great devotion, in which he was joined by those who sat with him in the cart. His behaviour was in the most striking degree decent and manly. His looks wore a composure very different from that of the insensibility of intoxication, false hopes, or of brutish stupidity or indifference. There was in his countenance an expression of intelligence, firmness, and resignation, which shewed that he had in him during that awful hour, all the fortitude and feeling of a man. The obstructions by the different turnings in the way, and by the concourse of people filling every passage, did not seem to disturb the settled firmness of his mind. As the procession drew near to the scene of execution, the difficulties of the passage grew continually greater, so that it was hardly possible for the peace-officers to clear the way. At the entrance towards the dock, it became necessary that the criminal should be moved out of the cart, to walk to the scaffold, which was yet at some distance. He descended from the cart with the assistance of those who were beside him. After coming down, he stood as erect as the confinement of his arms and shoulders would allow. His looks still wore an air of unchanged firmness. He walked on with a steady step, and was even observed by some gentlemen to chuse the least dirty paths, so as to avoid bemiring his legs while he went on. He ascended the ladder to the scaffold without betraying any emotions of terror. On the scaffold he joined in prayers with the clergyman, who was there in attendance for two or three minutes. During this awful scene his deportment was remarkably serene.

He

He repeatedly declared that he forgave his associates. He confessed the justice of his sentence, and begged the Ordinary to accept his most grateful acknowledgements for his pious and friendly admonitions, by the assistance of which he died in peace with all mankind, and in the most implicit belief of the forgiveness of the Almighty. He shook the clergyman's hand in taking forewell, with somewhat of a convulsive grasp. A cap was put on his head—he drew it with his own hands over his eyes. The board, upon a signal from the sheriff, who sat in an opposite window, was soon after dropped from under his feet. In two or three minutes he appeared to expire without a struggle. His body, after hanging for the due length of time, was cut down, and carried away in a boat by his friends. An immense concourse of people attended his progress from the goal to the place of execution; it continually augmented while he proceeded. When he reached the scaffold, the whole neighbourhood to a considerable distance was filled with one throng; all the decks of the ships round the dock, and a multitude of boats on the river, were equally crowded with spectators. The solemnity of the occasion seemed to make a due impression on the mob.

COLEMAN, RICHARD, (SUPPOSED MURDERER), had received a decent education, and was clerk to a brewer. He had a wife and several children, who were reduced to accept the bounty of the parish, in consequence of his having been, though *innocent*, found guilty at the assizes held at Kingston in Surry, in March 1749, of the murder of Sarah Green, on the 23d of July preceding. Sarah Green having been with some acquaintance to a bean-feast in Kennington-lane, staid till a late hour, and, on her return towards Southwark,

Southwark, she met with three men, who had the appearance of brewers' servants, two of whom lay with her by force, and otherwise used her in so inhuman a manner as will bear no description. Such was the ill-treatment she had received, that it was two o'clock in the morning before she was able to reach her lodgings, and on the following day was so ill, that she informed several people how she had been treated; on which she was sent to St. Thomas's hospital. While in the hospital she declared that a clerk in the (then Berry's) brewhouse was one of the parties who had treated her in such an infamous manner; and it was supposed Coleman was the person to whom she alluded. Two days after the shocking transaction had happened, Coleman and one Daniel Trotman happened to call at the queen's-head alehouse in Bandy-leg walk, where the latter was perfectly sober, but the former in a state of intoxication. Having called for some rum and water, Coleman was stirring it with a spoon, when a stranger asked him what he had done with the pig; meaning a pig that had been lately stolen in the neighbourhood. Coleman, unconscious of guilt, and conceiving himself affronted by such an impertinent question, said "D—n the pig, what is it to me?" The other, who seems to have had an intention to ensnare him, asked if he knew Kennington-lane? Coleman answered that he did, and added, "what of that?" The other then asked him if he knew the woman that had been so cruelly treated in Kennington-lane? Coleman replied yes; and again said, "what of that?" The other man asked, "Were not you one of the parties concerned in that affair?" Coleman, who, as before observed, was intoxicated, and had no suspicion of design, replied, "If I had, you dog, what then?" and

threw at him the spoon with which he was stirring the liquor. A violent quarrel ensued; but at length Coleman went away with Trotman. On the following day, Coleman calling at the Queen's Head above-mentioned, the landlord informed him how imprudently he had acted the preceding day. Coleman, who had been too drunk to remember what passed, asked if he had offended any person; on which the landlord informed him of what had happened: but the other, still conscious of his innocence, paid no regard to what he said. On the 29th of August, Daniel Trotman and another man went before Mr. Clarke, a magistrate in the Borough, and charged Coleman on suspicion of having violently assaulted and cruelly treated Sarah Green, in the Parsonage walk, near Newington church, in Surry. The magistrate, who does not seem to have supposed that Coleman was guilty, sent to him, and hired a man to attend him to the hospital where the wounded woman lay; and a person pointing out Coleman, asked if he was one of the persons who had used her so cruelly. She said she believed he was: but as she declined to swear positively to his having any concern in the affair, Justice Clarke admitted him to bail. Sometime afterwards Coleman was again taken before the magistrate, when nothing positive being sworn against him, the justice would have absolutely discharged him: but Mr. Wynne, the master of the injured girl, requesting that he might once more be taken to see her, a time was fixed for that purpose, and the justice took Coleman's word for his appearance. The accused party came punctually to his time, bringing with him the landlord of an alehouse where Sarah Green had been on the night of the affair, with the three men who really injured her: this publican,

publican, and the other people, declared on oath that Coleman was not one of the parties. On the following day Justice Clarke went to the hospital to take the examination of the woman on oath. Having asked her if Coleman was one of the men who had injured her, she said she could not tell, as it was dark at the time; but Coleman being called in, an oath was administered to her, when she swore that he was one of the three men that abused her. Notwithstanding this oath, the justice, who thought the poor girl not in her right senses, and was convinced in his own mind of the innocence of Coleman, permitted him to depart on his promise of bringing bail the following day to answer the complaint at the next assizes for Surrey; and he brought his bail, and gave security accordingly. Sarah Green dying in the hospital, the coroner's jury sat to enquire into the cause of her death; and having found a verdict of wilful murder against Richard Coleman, and two persons then unknown, a warrant was issued to take Coleman into custody.—Though this man was conscious of his innocence, yet such were his terrors at the idea of going to prison on such a charge, that he absconded, and secreted himself at Pinner, near Harrow on the Hill. King George the Second being then at Hanover, a proclamation was issued by the Lords of the Regency, offering a reward of 50l. for the apprehension of the supposed offender; and to this the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, added a reward of 20l. Coleman read the advertisement for his apprehension in the Gazette, but was still so thoughtless as to conceal himself, though perhaps an immediate surrender would have been deemed the strongest testimony of his innocence; however, to assert his innocence, he caused the following advertisemen

tisement to be printed in the newspapers. "I Richard Coleman, seeing myself advertised in the Gazette, as absconding on account of the murder of Sarah Green, knowing myself no way culpable, do assert that I have not absconded from justice; but will willingly and readily appear at the next assizes, knowing that my innocence will acquit me." Strict search being made after him, he was apprehended at Pinner, on the 22d of November, and lodged in Newgate, whence he was removed to the new jail, Southwark, till the time of the assizes at Kingston in Surry; when his conviction arose principally from the evidence of Trotman, and the declaration of the dying woman. Some persons positively swore that he was in another place at the time the fact was committed; but their evidence was not credited by the jury. After conviction he behaved like one who was possessed of conscious innocence, and who had no fear of death for a crime which he had not committed. He was attended at the place of execution by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, to whom he delivered a paper, in which he declared, that he was altogether innocent of the crime alledged against him. He died with great resignation, lamenting only the distress in which he should leave a wife and two children. This unhappy victim to erroneous evidence, suffered the sentence of the law at Kennington common, on the 12th of April, 1749.

About two years after Coleman's death, it was discovered that James Welch, Thomas Jones, and John Nichols, were the persons who actually treated Sarah Green in that inhuman manner which occasioned her decease. These offenders had been acquainted from their childhood, and had kept the murder a secret, till it was discovered in the following manner. While Welch, and a young fellow, named

named James Bush, were walking on the road to Newington Butts, their conversation happened to turn on the subject of those who had been executed without being guilty; and Welch said, "among whom was Coleman. Nichols, Jones, and I, were the persons who committed the murder for which he was hanged." In the course of conversation, Welch owned that, having been at a public-house called Sot's-hole, they had drank plentifully, and on their return through Kennington-lane, met with a woman, with whom they went as far as the Parsonage walk, near the church-yard of Newington, where she was so horridly abused by Nichols and Jones, that Welch declined offering her any farther insult. Bush did not at that time appear to pay any particular attention to what he heard; but soon afterwards, as he was crossing London-bridge with his father, he addressed him as follows: "Father, I have been extremely ill; and as I am afraid I shall not live long, I should be glad to discover something that lies heavy on my mind." Accordingly they went to a public-house in the Borough, where Bush related this story to his father, which was scarce ended, when seeing Jones at the window, they called him in, and desired him to drink with them. He had not been long in company, when they told him they heard he was one of the murderers of Sarah Green, on whose account Coleman suffered death. Jones trembled and turned pale on hearing what they said; but soon assuming a degree of courage, said, "What does it signify? The man is hanged, and the woman dead, and nobody can hurt us;" to which he added, "We were connected with a woman, but who can tell that was the woman Coleman died for?" In consequence of this acknowledgement, Nichols, Jones, and Welch, were soon after-

wards apprehended; when all of them steadily denied their guilt; and the hear-say testimony of Bush being all that could be adduced against them, Nichols was admitted evidence for the crown; in consequence of which, all the particulars of the horrid murder were developed. The prisoners being brought to trial at the next assizes for the county of Surry, Nichols deposed, that himself, with Welch and Jones, having been drinking at the house called the Sot's-hole, on the night that the woman was used in such an inhuman manner, they quitted the house, in order to return home, when meeting a woman, they asked her if she would drink; which she declined, unless they would go to the king's-head, where she would treat them with a pot of beer. Hereupon they went, and drank both beer and geneva with her; and then all the parties going forward to the Parsonage-walk, the poor woman was treated in a manner too shocking to be described. It appeared that, at the time of the perpetration of the fact, the murderers wore white aprons; and that Jones and Welch called Nichols by the name of Coleman; circumstances that evidently led to the prior conviction of that unfortunate man; as it caused the dying girl to mistake their persons. On the whole state of the evidence there seemed to be no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, so that the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and sentence of death passed of course. After conviction they behayed with the utmost contrition, being attended by the Rev. Dr. Howard, rector of St. George's, Southwark, to whom they readily confessed their offences. They likewise signed a declaration, which they begged might be published, containing the fullest assertion of Coleman's innocence; and, exclusive of this acknowledgment,

knowledgment, Welch wrote to the brother of Coleman, confessing his guilt, and begging his prayers and forgiveness. Jones wrote to his sister, then living in the service of a genteel family at Richmond, requesting her to make interest in his favour: but the answer he received was, that his crime was of such a nature, that she could not ask a favour for him with any degree of propriety. She earnestly begged of him to prepare for death, and implore a pardon at that tribunal where alone it could be expected. They suffered at Kennington common, on the 6th of September, 1751.

COLLEDGE—See RAMSAY, J.

COLLEY, THOMAS, (MURDERER), was of low birth, without any education, and thus ignorant, became the dupe of prejudice and superstition in the following manner. On the 18th of April, 1751, a man named Nichols went to William Dell, the cryer of Hemel-Hempstead in Hertfordshire, and delivered to him a piece of paper, with fourpence, to cry the words which were written on the paper, a copy of which was as follows: "This is to give notice, that on Monday next, a man and a woman are to be ducked at Tring, in this county, for their wicked crimes." This notice was given at Winslow and Leighton-Buzzard, as well as at Hemel-Hempstead, on the respective market-days, and was heard by Mr. Barton, overseer of the parish of Tring, who being informed that the persons intended to be ducked were John Osborne, and Ruth his wife, and having no doubt of the good character of both the parties, he sent them to the workhouse, as a protection from the rage of the mob. On the day appointed for the practice of the infernal ceremony, an immense number, supposed to be no fewer than five thousand, assembled near the

the workhouse at Tring, vowing revenge against Osborne and his wife, as a wizard and a witch, and demanding that they should be delivered up to their fury; they likewise pulled down a wall belonging to the workhouse, and broke the windows and their frames. On the preceding evening, the master of the workhouse, suspecting some violence from what he heard of the disposition of the people, sent Osborne and his wife to the vestry room belonging to the church, as a place the most likely to secure them from insult. The mob would not give credit to the master of the workhouse that the parties were removed, but rushing into the house, searched it through, examining the closets, boxes, trunks, and *even the salt box*, in search of them. There being a hole in the ceiling which appeared to have been left by the plaisterers, Colley, who was one of the most active of the gang, cried out, "Let us search the ceiling." This being done by Charles Young, with as little success as before, they swore they would pull down the house, and set fire to the whole town of Tring, except Osborne and his wife were produced. The master of the workhouse, apprehensive that they would carry their threats into execution, informed them where the poor people were concealed, on which the whole mob, with Colley at their head, went to the church, and brought them off in triumph. This being done, the mob conducted them to a pond called Marlston-Mere, where the man and woman were separately tied up in a cloth: then a rope was bound round the body of the woman, under her arm-pits, and two men dragged her into the pond, and through it several times; Colley going into the pond, and, with a stick, turning her from side to side. Having ducked her repeatedly in this manner, they placed her by

by the side of the pond, and dragged the old man in, and ducked him: then he was put by, and the woman ducked again as before, Colley making the same use of his stick. With this cruelty the husband was treated twice over, and the wife three times; during the last of which the cloth in which she was wrapped came off, and she appeared quite naked. Not satisfied with this barbarity, Colley pushed his stick against her breast. The poor woman attempted to lay hold of it, but her strength being now exhausted, she expired on the spot. Colley then went round the pond, and collected money of the populace for the sport he had shewn them, in ducking the old witch, as he called her. The mob having been dispersed, the body was taken out of the pond, and examined by Mr. Foster, a surgeon, when the coroner's inquest being summoned on the occasion, Mr. Foster deposed, that "on examining the body of the deceased, he found no wound, either internal or external, except a little place that had the skin off on one of her breasts; and it was his opinion, that she was suffocated with water and mud." Hereupon Colley was taken into custody, and when his trial came on he made the following defence:—"I happened to be so unfortunate as to be at Marlston-green, among other people, out of curiosity, to see what the mob would do with John Osborne and wife; where, seeing that they used them very barbarously, I went into the pond as a friend, to save her if I could; for I knew both very well, and never had any occasion to fall out with them, but bore them good will. As for the money I collected by the pond-side, it was for the great pains I had taken in the pond to save both the man and the woman." However, upon the evidence of Mr. Foster, and that of several who witnessed

witnessed Colley's activity in the mob, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.—After conviction, he seemed to behold his guilt in its true light of enormity. On the day before his execution he received the sacrament, and then signed the following solemn declaration, which he requested might be dispersed through the several towns and villages in the county:

"Good People,

"I beseech you all to take warning by an unhappy man's suffering; that you be not deluded into so absurd and wicked a conceit, as to believe that there are any such beings upon earth as witches. It was that foolish and vain imagination, heightened and inflamed by the strength of liquor, which prompted me to be instrumental (with others as mad as myself) in the horrid and barbarous murder of Ruth Osborne, the supposed witch, for which I am now so deservedly to suffer death. I am fully convinced of my former error, and, with the sincerity of a dying man, declare that I do not believe there is such a thing in being as a witch; and pray God that none of you, through a contrary persuasion, may hereafter be induced to think that you have a right in any shape to persecute, much less endanger the life of a fellow creature. I beg of you all to pray to God to forgive me, and to wash clean my polluted soul in the blood of Jesus Christ, my Saviour and Redeemer.

"So exhorteth you all, the dying

"THOMAS COLLEY."

The day before his execution, he was removed from the gaol of Hertford, under the escort of a hundred men of the Oxford Blues, commanded by seven

seven officers; and being lodged in the gaol of St. Alban's, was put into a chaise at five o'clock the next morning, with the hangman, and reached the place of execution about eleven, where his wife and daughter came to take leave of him; and the minister of Tring assisted him in his last moments, when he exhibited all the marks of unfeigned penitence and devout contrition. He suffered August 24, 1751, and was afterwards hung in chains at a place called Gubblecut, near where the offence was committed.

COLLIER, WILLIAM. See RANN, JOHN.

COLLINGTON, JOHN, (INCENDIARY,) was the son of a rector at Pluckley, near Sandwich in Kent, and was qualified, by a liberal education, and great natural talents, to have made a very respectable figure in life; but his passions were so violent, and his revenge so implacable, that all who knew him beheld him with horror. He used to declare that he would be a sincere friend, but an inveterate foe; and even while at school created such dissentions among the other scholars, that he was held in universal contempt, and was discharged from more schools than one with marks of ignominy. At length his father apprenticed him to a grocer in Newgate street, London, but he behaved in such a manner as to become an object of terror to his fellow-servants, and rendered himself so truly disagreeable to his master, that he gave up his indentures, and discharged him. Having served the remainder of his apprenticeship with a grocer of Maidstone, he opened a shop at Rye in Sussex, where he lived some years; but he fomented such perpetual discord among his neighbours, as to occasion several law-suits; and scarce any one would deal with a man whom every one had reason to despise.

spise. From this place he went to Charing in Kent, where he likewise kept a shop a considerable time; but the same irascible conduct which had rendered him an object of contempt at Rye, made him equally obnoxious to the inhabitants of this place. He had not been long in business before he married a young lady, with whom he received a considerable fortune, and by whom he had ten children.—His conduct towards them was the most extravagant that can be imagined. Six children, who died, he buried in his own garden, nor would he permit any of them to be baptized. He frequently beat them in a barbarous manner; and when the mother interposed in their behalf, he used to confine her whole nights in a saw-pit. Being remarkably fond of sporting, his wife, when pregnant, requested he would procure her a partridge; in consequence of which he went out, and shot several: but when the birds were dressed, and ready for the table, one of the children happening to offend him, he corrected it in so severe a manner as to endanger its life; and the mother interposing for the preservation of the child, he was so enraged, that he cut the partridges in pieces, and threw them to the cats and dogs.—This instance of worse than savage ferocity so affected his wife, that she fell into fits and miscarried: but she had not been long recovered, when, on her interposing in behalf of one of the children, whom he was treating with severity, he threw her down stairs, and stamped on her breast, which gave rise to a cancer that occasioned her death. His father dying soon after this, he succeeded to a good estate at Throwleigh in Kent, to which place he removed; and took to the practice of exporting wool contrary to law, for which he was prosecuted in the court of exchequer, and convicted to pay a

fine

large penalty; but he avoided payment by having previously conveyed his estate to another, and then swearing he was not worth five pounds. Being passionately fond of hunting, he was frequently prosecuted for offending against the game laws, by which he was put to almost continual expense.——Notwithstanding the treatment his first wife had received from him, he soon married a second, by whom he had also six children. At length his offences against the laws made for the preservation of the game became so numerous, that the dowager countess of Rockingham built a cottage, in which she placed one of her servants, as a spy upon his conduct. Collington, incensed by this circumstance, tempted a poor countryman to set fire to the cottage; but the man had courage and honesty to resist the temptation. Hereupon he took one of his servants, named Luckhurst, to Feversham in Kent, at the time of the fair, and, on their way thither, told him he would give him half a guinea to fire the said cottage, which the man received and promised to comply. On the following day, when Luckhurst recollected the nature of the contract he had been making, his mind was so disturbed that he went to Collington, and offered back the money, declaring that he would have no share in the transaction. Collington was so enraged, that he threatened to destroy him, unless he kept the money and did as he had agreed; the consequence of which was, the man fired the cottage at midnight, by which it was reduced to the ground. This man was so neglectful of his children, that he would not buy them necessary apparel, so that they appeared like beggars; nor would he even pay for their learning to read. One of his sons, a boy twelve years of age, having offended him, he confined him in a saw-pit,

saw pit, where he must have been starved, but that he was occasionally supplied with food by the humanity of the servants: and for this conduct their brutal master turned them out of the house without paying what was due to them. This inhuman wretch then refused to maintain his son, so that the child absolutely begged his bread in the neighbourhood: but he had not wandered long in this manner, when Mr. Clarke, the churchwarden, received him into his house, and provided for him till the quarter-sessions, when he submitted the case to the consideration of the magistrates. These gentlemen, having reflected that Collington was in affluent circumstances, gave directions that the child should be properly provided for, and issued a warrant for seizing on part of the father's effects, to defray the charge. This warrant was executed by a constable whom Clarke attended—a circumstance which gave such offence to Collington, that he vowed revenge, and bade Clarke make his will. After this he hired five fellows to go to Mr. Clarke's house, and demand the child, on pretence that he belonged to a ship: but Mr. Clarke having the magistrate's order for his proceedings, said he was willing to answer for his conduct before any justice of the peace. No sooner had he thus expressed himself, than they beat him in the most violent degree, and threatened his instant destruction, unless he consented to accompany them. These threats had such an effect, that he mounted a horse behind one of them; but as they were riding along, he jumped off, and ran into the court-yard of a gentleman, whose gate happened to stand open, while the other parties fired at him—but he escaped unhurt. Here he remained till the following day, when he went to his own house, and thence to a

magistrate

magistrate, before whom he swore the peace against Collington; on which the magistrate granted a warrant for his apprehension, and refusing to give bail for his good behaviour, he was lodged in the gaol of Canterbury. During his confinement, he continually threatened vengeance against Clarke; and to execute his purpose, he sent for a labouring man named Stone, and the above-mentioned Luckhurst, and offered them a guinea each, on the condition of their setting fire to Mr. Clark's barn, in which a considerable quantity of corn was deposited. The villains agreeing to this bargain, fired the barn at midnight, and likewise a number of hay-ricks, all of which were destroyed. Mr. Clark, suspecting that Collington was the contriver of this horrid scheme, made application to a magistrate, who issued an order that the prisoner should be more closely confined, and that the gaol-keeper should take particular notice of his visitors. This precaution led to a discovery of the offenders: for Luckhurst coming to procure more money of Collington, he was taken into custody, and conducted before a justice of the peace, to whom he confessed the affair: and being admitted an evidence, Stone was soon taken up as one of the principals. At the following assizes held at Maidstone, Collington and Stone were brought to trial; when the former turned his back on the court, with an air of such indignation, that the judge declared he had never witnessed so much insolence and contempt. The prisoners having been convicted on the fullest evidence, were carried back to Canterbury, where the debtors commiserated their unhappy circumstances: but Collington made a jest of his situation, and swore he did not regard it, as he was certain of obtaining

taining the royal mercy. His wife coming to visit him, was so affected with grief as to be unable to speak to him for a considerable time; but he bade her not to give herself the least concern, as he was certain of getting a reprieve, and hoped to live to be revenged on his enemies, even if he should be transported. He frequently expressed himself in the most vindictive terms against his prosecutors; and appeared, in other respects, so destitute of all the feelings of humanity, that his conduct surprised every one who was witness to it. Thus he spent his time without preparing for the sentence he was to suffer, and still boasting to his visitors that the rank of life he held as a gentleman would secure him a pardon. Luckhurst, who had been evidence against him, having been apprehended for committing a robbery on the highway, Collington thought this a fair opportunity to solicit a reprieve; for which purpose he dispatched an express to the duke of Newcastle; but the answer he received was, that he must not expect any favour, for that the gentlemen of the county had exerted their influence that the law might be permitted to take its course. On being informed the warrant for his execution was arrived, his boasted courage left him for a short time; but recollecting himself, he enquired if Stone was included in the warrant; and being answered in the affirmative, said he lamented his situation more than his own; after this he soon recovered his spirits, and still flattered himself with the hope of being pardoned. The day preceding his execution, he was visited by his wife and several relations, who advised him to make a serious preparation for his approaching fate; and asked him where he would be buried. This question so enflamed him, that he

swore

swore he would not be hanged: but soon afterwards calling for a glass of wine, he drank it, saying, "Let us eat and drink, for to-morrow we die." On the following day, he was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning coach, and Stone in a cart: both of them being placed under the gallows, Collington prayed with the minister, but declined making any speech to the surrounding multitude. They suffered at Canterbury, on the 7th of August, 1749.

COOK, THOMAS, (MURDERER,) was the son of a butcher, a man of reputation, at Gloucester: when he was about fifteen years of age, his father put him apprentice to a barber-surgeon, in London, with whom he lived two years, and then running away, engaged himself in the service of ——— Needham, Esq. who was page of honour to King William the Third: but his mother writing to him, and intimating, in the vulgar phrase, that "a gentleman's service was no inheritance," he quitted his place, and going to Gloucester, engaged in the business of a butcher, being the profession of several of his ancestors. He followed this trade for some time, and served master of the company of butchers in his native city; after which he abandoned that business, and took an inn; but it does not appear that he was successful in it, since he soon afterwards turned grazier. Restless, however, in every station of life, he repaired to London, where he commenced prize-fighter, at May-fair. At this time, May-fair was a place greatly frequented by prize-fighters, thieves, and women of bad character. Here puppet-shews were exhibited, and it was the favourite resort of all the profligate and abandoned. At length the nuisance increased to such a degree, that Queen Ann issued her proclamation for the sup-

pression of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in consequence of which, the justices of the peace issued their warrant to the high constable, who summoned all the inferior constables to his assistance. When the constables came to suppress the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty soldiers and other persons, stood in defiance of the peace officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by whom some of the latter were wounded. Cooper, the constable, being the most active, Cook drew his sword and stabbed him in the belly, and he died of the wound at the expiration of four days. Hereupon Cook fled to Ireland, and (as it was deposed upon his trial) while he was in a public-house there, he swore in a profane manner, for which the landlord censured him, and told him there were persons in the house who would take him into custody for it: to which he answered, "Are there any of the informing dogs in Ireland?—We in London drive them; for at a fair called May-fair, there was a noise which I went out to see—six soldiers and myself—the constables played their parts with their staves, and I played mine; and when the man dropped, I wiped my sword, put it up, and went away." Cook having repeatedly talked in his boasting and insolent manner, was at length taken into custody, and sent to Chester, whence he was removed by a writ of Habeas Corpus to London: and being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted, and received sentence of death. After conviction he solemnly denied the crime for which he had been condemned, declaring, that he had no sword in his hand on the day the constable was killed, and was not in the company of those who killed him. Having received the sacrament on the 21st of July, 1703, he was taken from Newgate

to

to be carried to Tyburn, but when he was got to High-Holborn, opposite Bloomsbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Friday. On his return to Newgate he was visited by numbers of his acquaintance, who would have rejoiced with him on his narrow escape; but he declined all company, except that of those who would assist him in his devotions. On the Friday that he was to have been executed he received another respite till the 11th of August, when he underwent the severest rigour of the law with the greatest penitence and resignation.

COOK HENRY, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was the son of creditable parents in Houndsditch, who, having given him a decent education, apprenticed him to a leather-cutter: as soon as he had served his time, his father took the shop of a shoemaker, at Stratford, in Essex, in which he placed him. Having some knowledge of the shoe-making business, his onset was successful, and he married a young woman at Stratford, by whom he had three children. He now began to keep bad company, and neglect his shop, by which means he became involved, and was obliged not only to quit his house in apprehension of the bailiffs, but wholly to decline business: and having taken up goods in the name of his father, he was ashamed to make application to him for relief in his distress. Among his idle acquaintance was an apothecary, named Young, who was concerned with him in robbing gardens and fish-ponds, and in stealing poultry. The persons robbed offered a reward for apprehending the offenders; and Cook having been known to sell fowls at Leadenhall-market, a warrant was granted to take him into custody, but having notice of it, he concealed himself two months at the house of a rela-

relation at Grays, in Essex. Duringt his retreat it was determined not to execute the warrant; but Cook learning that a bailiff at Stratford had vowed to arrest him if he could be found, he sent the officers a letter, advising him to consult his own safety, for he would blow his brains out if he should meet him. This threat effectually intimidated the bailiff: and Cook having dissipated all his cash, went to Stratford, where he quarrelled with his wife, took away several articles of furniture, went to London, and sold them. He then lived at his relation's in Shoreditch, where he was treated with civility while his money lasted. Being now driven to extremity, he went to Moorfields, where he purchased a pair of pistols, and having procured powder and ball, went towards Newington, in his way to which he robbed a man of fifteen shillings, and returned to London. Thus embarked in the high road to destruction, he determined to continue his dangerous trade; and on the following day went to Finchley-Common, where he stopped a gentleman, the bridle of whose horse he seized, and ordered him to dismount on pain of death. The rider complying, was robbed both of his money and horse; but he offered the highwayman three guineas if he would send the horse to an inn at St. Albans, which he promised to do: however, finding that he had a valuable acquisition in the beast, he forgot his promise. He now crossed the country to Enfield-Chace, and going to a public house where he was known, said, that he wished to hide himself least he should be arrested. Having continued here two days, he proceeded to Tottenham, where he robbed a gentleman of about six pounds, and leaving his horse at an inn in Bishopsgate-street, went to his kinsman's in Shoreditch, where he was interroga-

ted

sed respecting his possessing so much money, but he would give no satisfactory answer. On the following day he went on to the St. Alban's road, and having robbed a stage coach of eight pounds, he went to Enfield-Chace, to the house he had frequented before; while here, he read an advertisement, in which his horse was so exactly described, that he determined to retreat, and accordingly hastened to Hadley-Common, near Barnet, where he robbed a gentleman, and exchanged horses with him. Soon after this he went on to an inn at Mims, where he saw a gentleman whom he had formerly robbed, and was so terrified at the sight of him, that he ran to the stable, took his horse, and galloped off with the utmost expedition. On the road between Mims and Barnet, he was met by eight men on horseback, one of whom challenged the horse he rode, saying, that a highwayman had stolen it from a gentleman of his acquaintance.—Cook replied, that he had bought the horse at the Bell at Edmonton, of which he could give convincing proofs; on which the whole company determined to attend him to that place: but when he came near Edmonton, he galloped up a lane, where he was followed by all the other parties; and finding himself in danger of being apprehended, he faced his pursuers, and presenting a pistol, swore he would fire, unless they retreated: some countrymen coming up at this juncture, he quitted his horse, and, favoured by the darkness of the night, took shelter in a wood. As soon as he ventured from his lurking place, he hastened to London, and going to the house of his relation in Shoreditch, was challenged with having committed robberies on the highway: but to all enquiries he returned unsatisfactory answers. Having spent all his cash, he

went

went again to Finchley-Common; but his late narrow escape made such an impression on his mind that he suffered several persons to pass unattacked; at length he robbed an old man of his horse and five pounds, after it was dark. He then met a gentleman, whom he obliged to change horses with him; but, in a few minutes afterwards, the gentleman was stopped by the owner of the stolen horse, who said a highwayman had just robbed him of it. Enraged at this, the gentleman swore the place was infested with thieves; however, he delivered the horse, and walked to London. Cook riding to his old place of resort near the Chase, remained there three days; but seeing the horse he had last stolen advertised, he rode off in fear of discovery, but had not proceeded far, before he was seized by the owner of the horse, and three other persons, who conducted him to Newgate. At the next Old Bailey sessions he was indicted for stealing this horse, but acquitted, because the owner would not swear to his person. Soon after his discharge, he returned to his former practices, but his affairs with his creditors having been by this time adjusted by his friends, he lived at Stratford with his wife, and committed his depredations chiefly on Epping Forest. Having acquired a booty of thirty pounds, he shewed it to a journeyman he kept, named Taylor, and asked him how he might employ it to the best advantage in buying leather: Taylor, guessing how it had been obtained, offered to go partners with his master in committing robberies on the highway, and the contract was instantly made. They now stopped a great number of coaches on the borders of the Forest; but acted with such an uncommon degree of caution, that they were for a long time unsuspected; but so great was the alarm spread by their

repeated

repeated outrages, that a Captain Mawley took a place in the basket of the Colchester coach to make discoveries: and Cook and Taylor coming up to demand the money of the passengers, Taylor was shot through the head: on which Cook ran to the captain, and robbed him of his cash, on threats of instant death. The carriage driving on, Cook began to search his deceased companion for his money, but some of the neighbours coming up, he retired behind a hedge, to listen to their conversation; and having found that some of them knew the deceased, and intimated that he had been accompanied by Cook, he crossed the fields to London. After spending three days in riot and dissipation, he went to his relation in Shoreditch, whom he requested to go to Stratford, to enquire the situation of affairs there. When his relation returned, he told him there were several warrants issued against him, and advised him to go to sea. Instead of following his counsel he bought a horse, and rode to Brentwood in Essex, where he heard much conversation of himself, being styled the *famous highwayman of Stratford.* On the next day he followed a coach from the inn where he had put up, and took about thirty pounds from the passengers. He now connected himself with a gang of desperate highwaymen in London, in conjunction with whom he stopped a coach near Bow, in which were some young gentleman from a boarding-school. A Mr. Cruikshanks riding up at this instant, one of the gang demanded his money, but as he hesitated to deliver it, another of them knocked him down, and killed him on the spot. After which the robbers went to a public-house near Hackney-marsh, and divided the spoils of the evening. He soon quitted this

this gang, and being oppressed in mind by contemplation on his crimes, and particularly on the murder of Mr. Cruikshanks, he went to St. Albans, where he assumed a new name, and worked as a journeyman shoemaker for about three weeks: but a highwayman having been pursued through the town, the terrors of his conscience were such, that he hastily left the shop, and ran across the country, towards Woburn in Bedfordshire. On his way, he robbed a farmer of fifty pounds and his horse, and bade him sue the county. The farmer soon raised the hue-and-cry, but Cook escaped for the present, and riding as far as Birmingham, took lodgings at a public-house, and disposed of his horse. He now assumed the name of Stevens: and the landlord of the house where he lodged telling him, that there was a shop to let, he took it, and entered into business as a shoemaker. He hired one Mrs. Barrett as his house-keeper, who at length became his more intimate companion; and accompanying him to horse-races, and other places of public diversion, his little money was soon dissipated. Thus situated, he told his house-keeper that he had an aunt in Herefordshire, who allowed him 100l. per annum, which he received in quarterly payments, and that he would go to her for his money. Under this pretence he left her, and went to Northampton, and from thence to Dunstable, near which place he robbed a farmer of his horse, and sixteen pounds, and then rode to Daventry. At this last place he met with a Manchester dealer, going home from London; and having spent the evening together, they travelled in company next day, and dined at Coventry. Cook having an intention of robbing his fellow-traveller, intimated that

that it would be proper to conceal their money, as they had a dangerous road to travel; and putting his own money in his boot, the other put a purse of gold into his side-pocket. As soon as they had reached a cross-road, Cook demanded his companion's money, on pain of immediate death; and having robbed him of thirty-five guineas, he returned immediately to Birmingham; when Mrs. Barrett imagined he had been supplied by his aunt. He now carried on trade as usual. But as soon as he was distressed for cash, he had recourse to the road, and recruited his pockets by robbing the stages. At length a London trader coming to Birmingham, asked him how long he had lived there, which so terrified him that he quitted the place, and travelled towards London, On his way, near Highgate, he robbed a gentleman, named Zachary, of his horse and money. On this horse he rode to Epping Forest the following day, and having robbed a gentleman, returned to London by the way of Stratford, at which place he spoke to a number of his old acquaintance, but was not imprudent enough to quit his horse. Going to a house he had frequented at Newington Green, he sent for his relation who lived near Shoreditch, who advised him to make his escape, or he would certainly be taken into custody. On this he went to Mims, and his relation visiting him, Cook begged he would sell five watches for him; but the other declined it, recommending him to dispose of them himself in London. On the following evening, when it was almost dark he rode towards town, and observing a chaise behind, permitted it to pass, and followed it to the descent of the hill towards Holloway. There were two gentlemen in the chaise, whose money Cook demanded; but, instead of complying, they drove

drove on the faster, on which he fired, and wounded one of them in the arm; but the report of the pistol bringing some people towards the spot, he gallopped off, and went to Mims, his old place of retreat. Coming to London next day, to sell his watches, he was seen in Cheapside by a woman who knew him, and followed him to Norton Falgate, where observing him go into a public house, she went and procured a constable, who took him into custody, and found on him five watches, and about nine pounds in money. On his examination before a magistrate, Mr. Zachary, whom he had robbed near Highgate, swearing to the identity of his person, he was committed to Newgate. He now formed a scheme to murder the keepers, and make his escape; but being detected, he was confined to the cells; and when brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, was capitally convicted. After sentence of death he for some time affected a gaiety of behaviour; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he was so struck with the idea of his approaching fate, that it occasioned convulsive fits, from which he never afterwards recovered. He suffered at Tyburn, Dec. 16, 1741.

COOKE, ARUNDEL, esq. (FELON,) who, with his accomplice, John Woodburne, was the first who suffered on what his called the Coventry Act, which took its rise from the following circumstance:—Sir John Coventry, in the reign of Charles the Second, having opposed the measures of the court in the House of Commons, in revenge some armed villains attacked him one night in Covent-garden, slit his nose, and cut off his lips. Shocked by so barbarous a deed, the members of both houses of parliament passed an act in a few days, by which it was ordained, that "Unlawfully cutting

ting out, or disabling the tongue, of malice aforethought, or by lying in wait, putting out an eye, slitting the nose or lip, or cutting off or disabling any limb or member of any person, with intent to maim or disfigure, shall be felony without benefit of clergy *." By this law it is likewise enacted, that "Accessaries shall be deemed principals."—Mr. Cooke was born at Bury St. Edmund's, in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune, and when he had given him an university education, he sent him to the temple to study the law, after which he was called to the bar, and acted as a counsellor. After some time he married a young lady, the sister of Mr. Crisp, who lived in the neighbourhood of his native place. Mr. Crisp being a gentleman of large property, but of a bad state of health, made his will in favour of Cooke, subject only to a jointure for his sister's use, which was likewise to become the property of the counsellor, in case the lady died before her husband. It was not long after Mr. Crisp had made his will, before he recovered his health in some degree; but he continued an infirm man, though he lived a number of years. This partial recovery gave great uneasiness to Cooke, who wishing to possess the estate, was anxious for the death of his brother-in-law, though, as he had art enough to conceal his sentiments, they appeared to live on tolerable terms. However, he at length grew so impatient, that he could not come into possession by the death of Mr.

* There is a similar act in Ireland, called "The Chalking Act," on which one Lamb, a butcher, was the first who suffered. EDITOR.

Crisp, that he resolved to remove him by murder? and for that purpose he engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had six children, to assist him in the execution of his diabolical plan; for which piece of service he promised to give him a hundred pounds. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable business; but reflections on his poverty, and the largeness of his family, tempted him to comply. On this it was agreed the murder should be perpetrated on Christmas evening; and as Mr. Crisp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the church-yard lay between one house and the other, Woodburne was to wait, concealed behind one of the tomb-stones, till Cooke gave him the signal of attack, which was to be a loud whistle. Crisp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law; but declining to stay to supper, he left the house about nine o'clock, and was almost immediately followed into the church yard by Cooke, who giving the agreed signal, Woodburne quitted his place of retreat, knocked down the unhappy man, and cut and maimed him in a terrible manner, in which he was abetted by the counsellor. Imagining they had dispatched him, Mr. Cooke, rewarded Woodburne with a few shillings, and instantly went home, but he had not been arrived more than a quarter of an hour, before Mr. C. knocked at the door, and entered covered with wounds, and almost dead through loss of blood. He was unable to speak, but by his looks seemed to accuse Cooke with the intended murder, and was then put to bed, and his wounds dressed by a surgeon. At the end of about a week he was so much mended, as to be removed to his own house. He had no doubt but Cooke was one of

of the persons who had assaulted him; but had resolved not to speak of the affair till future circumstances made it necessary for him to inform a court of justice of what had happened. The intended assassination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on suspicion; when making a discovery of the whole truth, Cooke was also taken into custody. They were brought to their trials at the next assizes, and both convicted. When they were called upon to receive sentence of death, Cooke desired to be heard; and the court complying with his request, he urged that "Judgment could not pass on the verdict, because the act of parliament simply mentions an *intention* to maim or deface, whereas he was firmly resolved to have committed murder." He quoted several law cases in favour of the arguments he had advanced, and hoped that judgment might be respited till the opinion of the twelve judges could be taken on the cause. The council for the crown opposed the arguments of Cooke—insisted that the crime came within the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would pass against the prisoners. Lord Chief Justice King, who presided on this occasion, declared he could not admit the force of Mr. Cook's plea, consistent with his own oath as a judge—" for (said he) it would establish a principle in the law, inconsistent with the first dictates of natural reason, as the greatest villain might, when convicted of a smaller offence, plead that the judgment must be arrested, because he intended to commit a greater. In the present instance (said he) judgment cannot be arrested, as the intention is naturally implied when the crime is actually committed." His lordship said that " Crisp was assassinated in the manner laid in the indictment—

it is therefore to be taken for granted, that the intention was to maim and deface; wherefore the court will proceed to give judgment;"—and accordingly sentence of death was passed on Cooke and his accomplice. After condemnation, the former employed his time principally in endeavours to procure a pardon, and when he found his expectations failed him, he grew reserved, and would not admit even the visits of his friends. On the contrary, Woodburne was all penitence and contrition—sincerely lamenting the crime he had been guilty of, and the miserable situation in which he left his poor children. A short time before the day of execution, Cooke wrote to the sheriff, requesting that he might be hanged in the night, to prevent his being exposed to the country people, who were expected from all the adjacent towns and villages; and, in consequence hereof, he was hanged at four o'clock in the morning, and Woodburne was executed in the afternoon of the same day. The latter behaved with every sign of penitence; but Cooke's conduct was very unfeeling, and he absolutely refused to confess his crime. He suffered at Bury St. Edmund's the 5th of April, 1722.

COOPER, JAMES, (MURDERER) was the son of a butcher at Lexden in Essex, who having wholly neglected his education, employed him in his own business at the early age of ten years. Having lived with his father till he was 22, he then married and opened a shop at Colchester, where he dealt largely as a butcher, and likewise became a cattle-jobber. At the end of thirteen years he found his losses so considerable, that he could no longer carry on business; and one of his creditors arresting him, he was thrown into the King's bench prison; but as his wife still carried on trade, he

he was enabled to purchase the rules. Soon after this the marshal of the King's bench dying he was obliged to pay for the rules a second time. He now sued for an allowance of the groats, according to the act, which were paid him for about a year, but being afterwards neglected, he got out of prison, and took a shop in the Mint, Southwark, where he carried on his business with some success, his wife maintaining the family in the country. At length he was arrested by another creditor, and waited two years for the benefit of an act of insolvency. On his going to Guildford, to take the benefit of the act, he found that the marshal had not inserted his name in the list with the names of the other prisoners; and having informed his creditor of this circumstance, the marshal was obliged to pay debt and costs; the debtor was discharged, and the marshal fined 100l. for his neglect. Having now obtained his liberty, and his wife dying about the same time, and leaving four children, he sent for them to London; and not long afterwards married a widow, who had an equal number of children.—He now got unfortunately acquainted with Duncalf and Burrell, the former a native of Ireland, and a notorious thief; the latter a soldier in the guards. These men advising him to commence robber, he fatally complied with their solicitations, and joined in their nocturnal depredations. Between Stockwell and Clapham they overtook two men, one of whom speaking of the probability of being attacked by footpads, drew a knife, and swore he would kill any man who should presume to molest them. The parties all drank together on the road, and then proceeded towards London, when Cooper threw down the man that was armed with a knife, and took it from him, and then robbed him and

his acquaintance of a watch, about 20s. and their handkerchiefs. Their next robbery was on Mr. James, a taylor, whom they stopped on the road to Dulwich, and took from him his watch and money. He gave an immediate alarm, which occasioned a pursuit; but the thieves affected an escape. Two of the three robbers wearing soldiers' clothes, Mr. James presumed that they were of the guards, and going to the parade in St. James's park, he fixed on two soldiers as the parties who had robbed him. These soldiers were accordingly sent to prison, brought to trial, and acquitted, as it was proved they had been at Dulwich about the time the robbery had been committed.—While Cooper and his party were on the *look out* near Bromley, Duncalf saw a gentleman riding along the road; and kneeling down, he seized the bridle, and obliged him to quit his horse, when the others robbed him of his watch and two gnineas and a half. Meeting afterwards with a man and woman on one horse, near Farnborough in Kent, they ordered them to dismount, robbed them of near 40s. and then permitted them to pursue their journey. Soon after they heard the noise of a number of people who were in pursuit of them; on which Cooper turned about, they passed him, but seized on Burrell, one of them exclaiming, "This is one of the rogues that just robbed my brother and sister!" On this Burrell fired a pistol into the air, to intimidate the pursuers, among whom were two soldiers, whom Duncalf and Cooper encountering at this instant, one of them was so dangerously wounded by his own sword, which Duncalf wrested from his hand, that he was sent as an invalid to Chelsea, where he finished his life. The brother of the parties robbed, and a countryman, kept

up the contest, till the former was thrown on the ground, when Burrell beat him so violently that he died on the spot. The robbers now pursued their way to London, where they arrived without further molestation. Duncalf being provided with a bag, now went with Cooper to a farm-house, and stole all the fowls that were at roost, saying, "the first man we meet must buy my chickens." They had not travelled far before they met with a man, whom they asked to buy the fowls.—He said he did not want any; but they seized his horse's bridle, knocked him down, and robbed him of above 12l. his hat and wig, watch and great coat. On one of their walks towards Camberwell, they met with a man of fortune named Ellish, whose servant was lighting him home from an assembly. Putting pistols to the gentleman's breast, his servant attempted to defend him; on which they knocked him down with a bludgeon; and the master still hesitating to deliver, they threw him on the ground, and robbed him of his watch, money, and other articles; then tying him and his servant back to back, threw them into a ditch, where they lay in a helpless state, till a casual passenger released them from their disagreeable situation. After plundering several others in a similar manner, Cooper was resolved to be revenged on Mrs. Pearson, of Hill-farm, Essex, who was the first that arrested him. Accordingly, he and his accomplices went to the place, and learning that she was on a visit, waited till her return at night, when they stopped her and her servant, and robbed them of eight guineas. On the following day Mrs. Pearson went to a magistrate, and charged a person named Loader with having committed this robbery; but it appeared that this man was a prisoner for debt at the time,

time, the charge necessarily fell to the ground.—Soon after, Cooper and his associates met a farmer named Jackson, in a lane near Croydon, who violently opposed them; on which they knocked him down, and dragging him into a field, robbed him of his watch and money, tied him to a tree, and turned his horse loose on a common. For this robbery two farriers, named Shelton and Kellet, were apprehended, and being tried at the next assizes for Surry, the latter was acquitted; but the former was convicted on the positive oath of the person robbed, and suffered death. The three accomplices being out on the road near Dulwich, met two gentlemen on horseback, one of whom got from them by the goodness of his horse, and the other attempted to do so, but was knocked down and robbed of his watch and money. In the interim, the party who had rode off (whose name was Saxby) fastened his horse to a gate, and came back to relieve his friend: but the robbers first knocked him down, and then shot him. Having stripped him of what money he had, they hastened towards London; but a suspicion arising, that Duncalf was concerned in this robbery and murder, he was taken into custody on the following day; and Cooper being taken up on his information, Burrell surrendered, and was admitted an evidence for the crown. Duncalf did not live to suffer the punishment he merited; for he had not been long in prison, before the flesh rotted from his bones, and he died a dreadful monument of the divine vengeance, though not before he had acknowledged several enormous crimes; particularly that a custom-house officer had suffered transportation, by his having taken a false oath. Cooper frequently expressed himself in terms of regret, that a villain so abandoned as Burrell should

should escape the hands of justice. In other respects his behaviour was very resigned, and becoming his unhappy situation. He acknowledged he had frequently deliberated with Burrell on the intended murder of Duncalf, lest he should become an evidence against them: but he now professed his happiness that this murder had not been added to the black catalogue of his crimes! When brought to trial he pleaded guilty, confessed all the circumstances of the murder, and after sentence was passed upon him, appeared to be a sincere penitent for the errors of his past life. He suffered at Kennington Common, August 26, 1750.

COWLAND, JOHN, (MURDERER,) was the son of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldsmith, but of a vicious irascible disposition. —He and some other *bon vivant* had followed Sir Andrew Slanning, bart. who had made a temporary acquaintance with an orange woman, while in the pit at Drury-lane play-house, and retired with her as soon as the play was ended. They had gone but a few yards before Mr. Cowland put his arm round the woman's neck; on which Sir Andrew desired he would desist, as she was his wife. Cowland, knowing Sir Andrew was married to a woman of honour, gave him the lie, and swords were drawn on both sides; but some gentlemen coming up at this juncture, no immediate ill consequence happened. They all now agreed to adjourn to the Rose tavern; and Capt. Wagget having there used his utmost endeavours to reconcile the offended parties, it appeared that his mediation was attended with success; but, as they were going up stairs to drink a glass of wine, Mr. Cowland drew his sword, and stabbed Sir Andrew in the belly, who finding himself wounded, cried out "murder!" One of Lord

Lord Warwick's servants, and two other persons who were in the house, ran up immediately, and disarmed Cowland of his sword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into custody. Cowland now desired to see Sir Andrew: which being granted, he jumped down the stairs, and endeavoured to make his escape; but, being pursued, he was easily retaken. Cowland was instantly conducted before a justice of peace, who committed him; and on Dec. the 5th, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey on three indictments—the first at the common law, the second on the statute of stabbing, and the third on the coroner's inquest for the murder. Every fact was fully proved on the trial; and, among other things, it was deposed, that the deceased had possessed an estate of 20,000l. a year, and his family became extinct by his death; and that he had been a gentleman of great good nature, and by no means disposed to animosity. On Cowland's being found guilty, sentence of death was passed on him; and though great interest was made to obtain a pardon, he was executed at Tyburn the 20th Dec. 1700.

COX, WILLIAM, (ROBBER,) was the son of a ribbon-weaver, who lived in Holywell-lane, near Shoreditch. His mother was esteemed honest and industrious, and was considered as the only person of the family deserving that character. At a very early time of life young Cox was initiated into the arts of thieving by his own father. One day as they were both passing through Grosvenor-street, the father observed a silver tankard in a window, and attempted to steal it; but being prevented by the iron rails of the area, he lifted the boy over them, ordering him to take the tankard, which he immediately handed to his father, and was then lifted again

again into the street. Soon after this the son commenced pickpocket, and in a short time he was reckoned the most expert of that fraternity. Being committed to Clerkenwell bridewell, he was reduced to a most miserable degree of poverty; but he no sooner obtained his liberty, than he procured decent apparel, and was from that time remarkably clean and neat in his appearance. He lived some years at the house of his uncle West, in Feather's-court, High-Holborn, who encouraged him to pursue those illegal courses which led to his destruction. He got unperceived into a grocer's, the corner of Long-lane, in Aldersgate-street, and stole a silver-hilted sword from a room on the first floor. Returning through the shop with his booty, he was asked some questions, on which he said he had been playing with master Billy, which he had informed himself was the name of the grocer's son, but on going out of the shop the sword struck against the steps, and he was taken into custody, brought to trial, and escaped conviction. Being provided with a tame sparrow, he let the bird fly into the window of a house in Hanover-street, and the door happening to be open, he went in, and concealed plate to a considerable amount. Hearing some person walking towards the room, he sought refuge in the area, where being perceived by an elderly gentlewoman, who was the only person in the house, he burst into tears, and saying his sparrow had flown into the window, begged he might be allowed to catch it. The old lady complied—and he soon found an opportunity of decamping with his booty. It was his common practice to play at marbles and other games with young gentlemen before the doors of their dwellings, and he seldom suffered an opportunity to escape of getting into and robbing the

houses.

houses. He had a very remarkable boyish appearance; and on a variety of occasions that circumstance greatly assisted him in the pursuit of his felonious designs. He became connected with a notorious thief, who called himself Capt. Davis; and by means of the most artful stratagems that could be suggested, these accomplices perpetrated a surprising number of robberies. Davis was at length apprehended, and sentenced to suffer death, but he was reprieved on condition of transportation. About the middle of the summer 1778, the apartments of Mr. Kendrick, in Oxford-street, were privately entered, a bureau opened, and three bank-notes, of 100l. each, and 130 guineas, and a silver watch, stolen thereout. Soon after Mr. Kendrick's robbery, Cox, and Wm. Claxton, another accomplice, went together to Reading in Berkshire, and there purchased three horses, for which Claxton paid with one of the notes stolen from Mr. Kendrick, receiving in part of change a 50l. bank note, which he afterwards changed at the Bank for notes of smaller value, two of which were found in the possession of West, Cox's uncle. On the first examination of these offenders at the Public-office in Bow-street, which was on Wednesday, August 11, West said he received the notes of his wife on the day preceding that of her decease, which was about the time of Mr. Kendrick's robbery; but on the following Wednesday he assured the magistrates that the notes had been in his possession three years. In contradiction to this, it was proved the notes had not been many days issued from the Bank. Mr. Knapp and Mr. White, of Reading, appeared, and the 50l. note, given in part of change of that of 100l. was regularly traced from the hands of Claxton to the Bank, where he had changed it for others of smaller value

ie. West was discharged, the receiving of notes, ch are the produce of other notes fraudulently ained; not coming under the description of the ; and Claxton was admitted an evidence against c, who was committed for trial at the ensuing ions at the Old Bailey. The evidence against c was wholly circumstantial; but it was of such a nature as to be almost as strong as positive of; and on this evidence he was convicted at sessions at the Old Bailey, in September, 1773. hile under sentence of death, he seemed not re- rkably shocked at the idea of the dreadful fate it awaited him; he was cheerful among his com- nions, yet he appeared not wholly regardless of : necessary preparations for eternity. He suf- ed at Tyburn the 27th of October, 1773. The her was in America, under sentence of transpor- ion, at the time of his son's execution.

COYLE, RICHARD. See RICHARDSON, J.

CROSSWELL, JOHN. See ISDWELL, J.

D

DAMAREE, DANIEL, (TRAITOR,) was wa- man to Queen Anne, whose whig ministers having en turned out of, or, in the modern phrase, hav- g resigned their places, the tory ministry succeed- l them, and encouraged a young divine, named enry Sacheverell, to inflame the passions of the ublic, by preaching against the settlement made the revolution, and inculcating all those doctrines which were then held as the favourite tenets of hat they called the high church party. Sacheve- ll was a man of abilities, and eminently possessed

of those kind of talents which are calculated to inspire such sentiments as the preacher wished to impress his auditors with. The doctor's discourses accordingly tended to instigate the people against the house of Hanover, and to insinuate the right of the pretender to the throne of these realms. This caused such a general commotion, that it became necessary to bring him to a trial in some way; and, contrary to all former practice respecting a man of his rank, he was tried before the house of peers, and was silenced for three years, upon conviction. But so excited were the passions of the populace in consequence of his insinuations, that they almost adored him as a prophet; and some of them were led to commit outrages which gave rise to several trials, particularly that of Daniel Damaree, who, on the 19th of April, 1710, was indicted for being concerned, with a multitude of men to the number of five hundred, armed with swords and clubs, to levy war against the queen. A gentleman deposed, that going through the temple, he saw some thousands of people, who had attended Dr. Sacheverell from Westminiter hall; that some of them said they would pull down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house that night; others differed as to the time of doing it, but all agreed on the act, and the meeting-house was demolished on the following night. Here it should be observed, that Dr. Burgess and Mr. Bradbury were two dissenting ministers, who had made themselves conspicuous by preaching in opposition to Sacheverell's doctrine. Captain Orril swore, that, on the 1st of March, hearing that the mob had pulled down Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, he resolved to go among them, to do what service he could to government by making discoveries. This witness going to Mr. Bradbury's meeting, found the

the people plundering it, who obliged him to pull off his hat. After this he went to Lincoln's Inn-Fields, where he saw a bonfire made of some of the materials of Dr. Burgess's meeting-houe, and saw the prisoner, who twirled his hat, and said,—"D—n it, I will lead you on—we will have all the meeting-houses down—high church and Sacheverell, huzza!" It was proved by another evidence, that the prisoner having headed part of the mob, some of them proposed to go to the meeting-house in Wild-street; but this was objected to by others, who recommended going to Drury-lane, saying, "that meeting house was worth ten of that in Wild-street." Joseph Collier swore, that he saw the prisoner carry a brass sconce from Dr. Burgess's meeting-house, and throw it into the fire in Lincoln's Inn Fields, huzzaing, and crying, "High church and Sacheverell." There was another evidence to prove the concern that the prisoner had in these illegal acts: and several persons appeared in his behalf, but as in their testimony they contradicted each other, the jury could not credit their evidence, but brought in a special verdict. Another of the rioters, (GEORGE PURCHASE, who was also waterman to the Queen,) was indicted for the same offence; the witnesses were chiefly the same, and their evidence almost similar: Captain Orril swore, that this prisoner ran resolutely with his sword in his hand, and made a full pass at the officer who commanded the guards, and if one of the guards had not given a spring and beat down the sword, he would have run the officer through the left flank; that the prisoner, however, retired a little lower, and the guards had by this time dispersed the mob, having knocked down forty or fifty of them in the action. This prisoner also produced some wit-

nesses, but as what they said did not contradict the testimony of the evidence against him, their depositions had no weight. The jury were satisfied with the proofs, but having a doubt respecting the points of law, they brought in a special verdict. The verdicts respecting Demaree and Purchase being left special, their cases were argued in the court of King's Bench in Westminster-hall the following term, before the Lord Chief Justice Parker, and the other judges, when, though every artifice in the law was made use of in their behalf, they were adjudged to be guilty; in consequence of which they received sentence of death, and suffered at Tyburn, on the 15th of June, 1710. Towards the close of the reign of Queen Anne, political disputes were carried to a very unusual height in this kingdom. The body of the people were divided into two great factions, known by the names of *High Church* and *Low Church*; but though the church was the word, religion was almost out of the question, and the principal object of dispute was of a political kind. The question was, whether the house of HANOVER, or the family of STUART, should sway the sceptre of these kingdoms; and so prevalent was the *cacoethes disputandi*, that tradesmen left their counters, and mechanics their tools, to enforce their opinions on this important question.

DARKING, ISAAC, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was born in East-Cheap, where his father carried on the business of a cork-cutter. While very young he gave pregnant proofs of his attachment to pleasure; and was esteemed by the young rakes, and even the ladies of the town, a youth of very superior qualifications. His love for women was remarkable; and this leading him into great expence, he had recourse to the highway to support his extravagance; in conse-

consequence of which he was apprehended, and being tried at Chelmsford, was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but, being then very young, the judge respited him till the following assizes, when he obtained a pardon, on the condition of transportation for fourteen years. Previous to his being transported, the prisioners had formed a design of murdering the keeper, turnkey, &c. in order to effect their escape; and Darking having obtained some knowledge of the secret, made a discovery of it, in consequence of which, his sentence of transportation was remitted, on the terms of his serving as a soldier in the plantations. Hereupon he was conducted to the Savoy-prison in London, whence he made several efforts to escape; but not succeeding, he at length sailed with many others, and was put on shore at Antigua; but the life of a soldier being highly disagreeable to him, he determined to quit the service, without permission, as soon as possible. He had not been long on the island before he ingratiated himself with the captain of a ship, to whom he promised a large reward, if he would land him in England. Hereupon the captain took him on board, and concealed him in the hold of the ship, so that, though diligent search was made after him, he escaped undiscovered. On his arrival in his native country, he renewed his depredations on the highway, and committed a variety of robberies in the western counties, and in the middle of the kingdom; but, apprehensive of the consequences that might ensue, he entered on board the Royal George man-of-war, in which he was rated as a midshipman. In the summer of the year 1760, the ship lay at Portsmouth; and Darking, getting leave of absence for some weeks, em-

ployed this interval in committing a variety of robberies. On the 22d of June, Darking met Lord Percival near Devizes, and presenting a pistol, demanding his money on pain of instant death. The highwayman had a crape over his face. Lord Percival gave him thirteen guineas, but, dissatisfied with that sum, he insisted on having more; on which his lordship was so provoked, that he forced the pistol from his hand, and, pulling him to the ground, leapt from the chaise to take him into custody. Darking now ran away, and Lord Percival pursued him. The highwayman turned about, presented another pistol, and demanded his purse, but his lordship declaring he had no more money, Darking mounted his horse and rode off, having first desired that Lord Percival would not appear against him if he should be tried. Being apprehended on the following day, he was committed to prison, and brought to trial at the next assizes, held at Salisbury, when he was acquitted, because Lord Percival would not swear positively to his person; yet the circumstances against him were remarkably strong, for the money found on him agreed with what Lord Percival had been robbed of, a pistol was in his possession, which appeared to match with that his lordship had lost, and a piece of crape had been found in his pocket. In consequence of questions asked on this trial, Darking said that he was born in the West Indies, and was quite a stranger to this country; that, on his way from Bath to Portsmouth, he had lost his road; that, on the approach of night, he went to a village to refresh himself; and that, when he was apprehended, it could be no wonder that a benighted traveller should appear confused. He owned that he had friends

friends in England, but they did not live near enough to do him any service on this occasion. He declared that he had purchased a pair of pistols, one of which he had lost on the road, and was probably picked up by the person who committed the robbery with which he was charged. He said, that the confusion he appeared in when taken, arose from his being accused of a crime of which he was innocent; and accounted for the crape found in his possession, by saying it was what he had worn as a neck-cloth, having been in the king's service at Gaudaloupe. On being acquitted, he asked for some money which had been taken from him on his apprehension, and which the court directed to be delivered to him. The judge then remarked on the generosity of his prosecutor, and advised him to leave off such dangerous practices as those in which he had been concerned. Being told he was at his own disposal, he seemed full of anxiety till his fetters were knocked off, and then he immediately set out for London in a post-chaise. On his return to the metropolis, he commenced his former practices, infesting the roads round London for more than six months, spending at baguios, gaming houses, and taverns, what he acquired by his lawless practices. His robberies having been so numerous, he justly became apprehensive of detection, and therefore retired farther into the country, where he continued his depredations for some time, but at length returned to London. Having hired a horse in Piccadilly, he travelled to Oxford, where he slept; and the next day returned towards London, he stopped a gentleman named Gammon, near Nettlebed, and robbed him of his watch and money. Darking now turned back, but the gentleman proceeded towards

towards town, having first stopped at an inn, and left a description of the highwayman. Mr. Gammon had not been gone more than two hours, when Darking came to the same inn, and gave the landlord two letters directed to women in London, saying, that he should not go to town for two or three days, and begging that the letters might be forwarded. From the description that Mr. Gammon had given, the landlord concluded that Darking was the robber, but as he carried pistols he did not choose to secure him; he was no sooner departed, than the landlord enclosed the letters in a cover, and sent them to London by the post, directed to Mr. Gammon. These letters giving a knowledge of Darking's lodgings, Mr. Gammon applied to Sir John Fielding, in consequence of which, proper measures were taken for the apprehension of Darking, who was found in bed, some days afterwards, with a woman of the town. He made an attempt to escape out of the window, but was soon secured and lodged in Newgate. On the approach of the assizes, he was removed to Oxford by a writ of Habeas Corpus, and being tried before Baron Adams, was convicted on the clearest evidence. When he was brought to the bar to receive sentence of death, he besought the clemency of the Judge, petitioning to be transported for life; in answer to this petition, his lordship addressed him as follows:

"Young Man,

"You have been arraigned upon an indictment for a robbery on the King's highway, and have been found guilty, after a fair and candid trial. From your youth you might have expected to have lived many years; and, from your education, might have been

been a comfort to your friends and relations, as well as a service to your country; but your engaging in vicious and immoral courses hath at last brought you to this untimely end. A day of this sort you could not but have expected, and it hath now overtaken you. Happy would it have been for you, that your former deliverance, in such a situation as this, had been a memento to you to have altered your conduct. I hope your present circumstances will have a better effect upon you, and induce you to repentance. Make proper use of the time you have to live, in endeavouring to make your peace with God, for you will soon be in another world; your application to me for mercy is quite in vain; it is not in my power to grant it; from the King alone it is to be expected; of which, however, I can give you but little, very little hope."

Before his execution he drank freely, and frequently entertained himself with reading the *Beggar's Opera*. At the gallows his behaviour was equally unbecoming: he fitted the halter to his neck, and threw himself off with remarkable resolution. He suffered at Oxford on the 16th of April, 1761.

DARWELL, ——. See PAGE, WM.

DAVIS, CAPTAIN. See COX, WM.

DAY, ALEXANDER, (SHARPER,) having pretended to be a man of fortune, assumed the title of Marmaduke Davenport, Esq. and taking a large house in Queen's Square, asserted, that he possessed a capital estate in the north of England. He had a footman, who seems to have been an accomplice with him. This man he sent to a livery stable, to enquire the price of a pair of horses, which he himself

himself afterwards agreed to purchase, and then desired the stable-keeper to recommend him a coachman, a man rather lusty, as he had a suit of livery-clothes of a large size by him. The man was accordingly recommended, but when the livery was tried on, Day observed, that as they did not fit him he would send into the country for his own coachman; but this objection was obviated by the footman, who, saying that the clothes would fit with a small alteration, the squire consented to hire the man. When the stable-keeper saw the coachman he had recommended, he enquired to what places he had driven his new master, and being informed, to the duke of Montague's, and other persons of rank, he seemed satisfied; though he had begun to form ideas unfavourable to his new customer. Having kept his coach and horses something more than a week, he gave orders to be driven to a coffee-house in Red Lion Square, where he drank half a pint of wine at the bar, and asked if some gentlemen were come, whom he expected to supper. Being answered in the negative, he went out at the back-door without paying for the wine, and said he would return in a few minutes. The coachman waited a long time, but his master not coming back, he drove to the stable-keeper's, who seemed glad to have recovered his property out of his dangerous hands. It seems that Day made no small use of this coach while it was in his possession. He drove to the shop of a lace merchant, named Gravestock, and asked for some Spanish point; but the dealer having none of that kind by him, the squire ordered fifty-five pounds worth of gold-lace, to be sent to his house in Queen-square. When Gravestock's servant carried the lace, Day desired him to tell his master to call, as he was in want of

lace

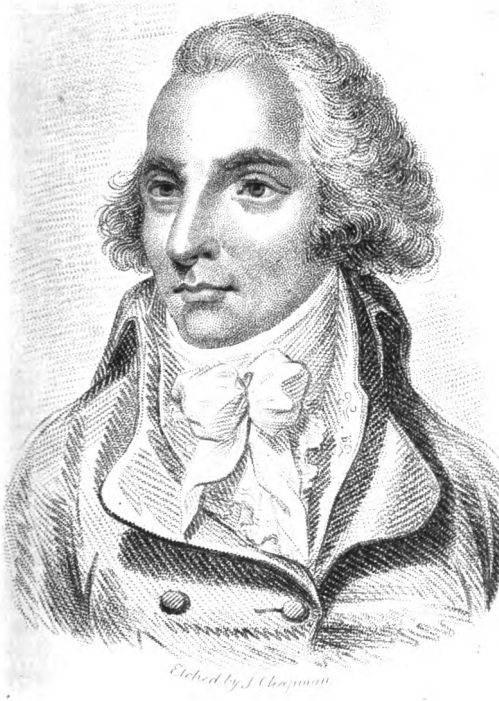
lace for some rich liveries, but he must speak with his taylor before he could ascertain the quantity wanted. Mr. Gravestock attended his new customer, who gave him so large an order for lace, that if he had executed it he must have been a very considerable loser, and the squire's liveries would have been gayer than those of any nobleman in London; however, on the following day, he carried some lace of the sort he had left before, nor did he forget to take his bill with him, but the person who should have paid it was decamped. He also went to the house of Mr. Markham, a goldsmith, and ordered a gold equipage worth fifty pounds. Markham carried home the equipage, and had the honour to drink tea with the supposed Mr. Davenport, who ordered other curious articles, and among the rest a chain of gold for his squirrel. Mr. Markham observing that the squirrel wore a silver chain, which he had sold to a lady not long before, began to suspect his new customer, and waiting on the lady, enquired if she knew Marmaduke Davenport, Esq.—She answered in the negative, on which Markham mentioned the circumstance that had arisen, and described the person of the defrauder. The lady now recollected him, and said that his name was Alexander Day, and that he had cheated her of property to a considerable amount. In consequence of this information, Markham arrested the sharper, and recovered his property. On another occasion, Day went in his carriage to the shop of a linen draper, named Schrimshaw, agreed for linen to the amount of forty-eight pounds, and ordered a large quantity to be sent to his house on the following day, when he would pay for the whole. The first parcel was delivered, but the purchaser was decamped when the linen-draper came with the

second,

second. After this he went to the shop of a tea-dealer, named Kendrick, and ordered tea to the amount of twenty-six pounds. The tea was sent in, and the proprietor called for payment, when Day gave him orders for a farther quantity, which he pretended to have forgot before, and told him to call the next morning, when he should be paid for it by the steward. The honest tea-dealer called the next day, but neither the squire nor the steward was to be found. His next adventure was contrived to defraud Mr. Hinchcliffe, a silk-mercer. Day going to his shop in his absence, left word for him to call at his house to receive a large order. The mercer went, and saw a carriage at the door, and being told that the squire had company, he waited a short time, during which the servants took care to inform him, that Mr. Davenport was the son of a baronet in Yorkshire, and possessed a large fortune in that county. When he saw the supposed Mr. Davenport, he was told that he wanted some valuable silks, and wished that a quantity might be sent, for him to select such as he approved. Mr. Hinchcliffe said, that the choice would be much better made by fixing on the patterns at his shop. Hereupon Day took the mercer in his coach, and on the way he talked of his father, Sir Marmaduke, and of other people of rank, and said he was on the point of marriage with the daughter of Counsellor Ward, and as he should be under a necessity of furnishing a house in London, he should want mercery goods to a large amount. When they came to the mercer's shop, Day selected as many damasks, &c. for bed-furniture and hangings, as were worth a thousand pounds. It looks as if Hinchcliffe had now some suspicion, for he told him that the ladies were best judges of such articles,

articles, and asked if he had not a lady of his acquaintance whom he could consult. He readily answered he had, and mentioned Lady Davenport as his relation, saying, "send the silks to my house, and I will take her opinion of them." Mr. Hitchcliffe said, he would send them, and permitted him to take with him two pieces of brocade, worth about thirty pounds; but desirous to know more of his customer before he trusted him with the whole property, he went to Counsellor Ward, and found that his daughter was already married to a gentleman of the name of Davenport. Hereupon the mercer went to the house of the supposed squire, but he was gone off with what property he had obtained. It was likewise discovered, that Day having casually met, at a coffee house, the Mr. Davenport, who had married the daughter of Counsellor Ward, had prevailed on him to call him cousin, on the pretence that they must be related, because, as he alledged, their coats of arms were the same. After a course of fraud, Day was taken into custody, in the month of May, 1723, on suspicion of his having robbed the mail; but it proved that he was not the man: however, there were six indictments brought against him for the defrauds. In his defence he pleaded, that his intention was to have paid for the goods he had purchased on credit; and he asserted, that he possessed an estate in the county of Durham, which he had mortgaged for 1200l. but no credit was given to his allegations. After a fair trial he was convicted, and sentenced to suffer two years imprisonment in Newgate, to stand twice in the pillory, to pay a fine of two hundred pounds, and to give secutity for his good behaviour for two years after the term of his imprisonment should be expired.

DESPARD, EDWARD MARCUS, (TRAITOR,) was born in 1759 or 1751, and descended from a very ancient and respectable family in the Queen's County, in Ireland. He was the youngest of six brothers, all of whom, except the eldest, had served either in the army or navy. In 1766, he entered the army as an ensign in the 5th regt.: in the same regiment he served as a lieutenant, and in the 79th he served successively as lieutenant, quarter-master, captain-lieutenant, and captain.—From his superior officers he received many marks of approbation, particularly from Gen. Calcraft of the 50th, Gen. Meadows, and the Duke of Northumberland. He had been for the last 20 years detached from any particular corps, and entrusted with important offices. In 1779 he was appointed chief engineer to the St. Juan expedition, and conducted himself so as to obtain distinguished attention and praise from Capt. Polson, who commanded on that occasion. He also received the thanks of the council and assembly in the island of Jamaica, for the construction of public works there, and was, in consequence of these services, appointed by the governor of Jamaica to be commander in chief of the island of Rattan and its dependencies, and of the troops there, and to rank as lieut.-colonel and field-engineer, and commanded as such on the Spanish main, in Rattan, and on the Musquito shore and Bay of Honduras. After this, at Cape Gracias a Dios he put himself at the head of the inhabitants, who voluntarily solicited him to take the command, and retook from the Spaniards Black River, the principal settlement of the coast. For this service he received the thanks of the governor, council, and assembly of Jamaica, and of the king himself. In 1783 he was promoted to the



COL DESPARD.

the rank of colonel. In 1784 he was appointed first commissioner for settling and receiving the territory ceded to Britain by the sixth article of the definitive treaty of peace with Spain in 1783. He as a colonel so well discharged his duty, that he was appointed superintendant of his Majesty's affairs on the coast of Honduras, which office he held much to the advantage of the crown of England, for he obtained from that of Spain some very important privileges. The clashing interests, however, of the inhabitants of the coast, produced much discontent, and the colonel was by a party of them accused of various misdemeanours to his majesty's ministers. He now came home, and demanded that his conduct should be investigated; but was, after two years constant attendance on all the departments of government, at last told by ministers, that there was no charge against him worthy of investigation; that his majesty had thought proper to abolish the office of superintendant at Honduras, otherwise he should have been reinstated in it. But he was then, and on every occasion, assured that his services should not be forgotten, but in due time meet their reward. He and ten associates being indicted for high treason, Feb. 7, 1803, after the preliminary business of choosing the jury was settled, the bill of indictment, which consisted of three courts, was then read. The prosecution was opened by the attorney general, who, in a very eloquent and impartial manner, laid before the jury the whole of the charge. "The eleven prisoners, including Despard, formed a society at the Oakley Arms, in the parish of St. Mary, Lambeth. The most active members were Francis and Wood, and their drift was to overturn

the government. His majesty having intended to meet his parliament a week earlier than he actually did (on the 16th of January, instead of the 23d,) they designed on that day to carry into effect their plan, by laying restraint upon the king's person, and destroying him. They frequently attempted to seduce soldiers into the association, in which they sometimes succeeded, and sometimes failed.—Francis administered unlawful oaths to those that yielded, and, among others, to Blades and Windsor, giving them at the same time two or three copies of the oath, that they might be enabled to make proselytes in their turn. Windsor soon after becoming dissatisfied, gave information of the conspiracy to a Mr. Bonus, and shewed him a copy of the oath. This gentleman advised him to continue a member of the association, that he might learn whether there were any persons of consequence engaged in it. On the Friday before the intended assassination of his majesty, a meeting took place, when Broughton prevailed upon two of the associates to go to the Flying-Horse, Newington, where he would meet with a *nice man*, which *nice man*, as he stiled him, was the prisoner, Despard." The first witness was John Stratford, clerk to the magistrates of Union-hall, who apprehended Col. Despard at the Oakley Arms. There were about thirty persons in the room, and they were all, except the colonel, of the lowest class, and very meanly dressed. The printed papers found in the room were then produced and read, consisting of the form of the oath, &c. This witness's evidence was corroborated by the depositions of other constables who had accompanied him. Tho. Windsor, the chief witness, declared the manner in

in which he took the oath, and the plan of the conspiracy. Having mentioned the intended mode of proceeding, he said the prisoner observed that the attack should be made on the day when his majesty should go to the parliament house, and that his majesty must be put to death; at the same time the prisoner said, "I have weighed the matter well, and my heart is callous!" After the destruction of the king, the mail coaches were to be stopped, as a signal to the people in the country that the revolt had taken place in town. The prisoner then desired the witness to meet him the ensuing morning, at half past 11 o'clock, on Tower-hill, and to bring with him four or five intelligent men, to conisder upon the best manner for taking the tower and securing the arms. The witness accordingly met him at the Tyger public-house on Tower hill, having brought with him two or three soldiers. The prisoner now repeated the declaration, that the king must be put to death—and Wood promised, when the king was going to the house, he would post himself as sentry over the great gun in the park—that he would load it, and fire at his Majesty's coach as he passed through the park. The several meetings, consultations, &c. were further proved by Wm. Campbell, Charles Read, Joseph Walker, Thomas Blades, and other witnesses. Mr. Serjeant Best, in behalf of the prisoner, dwelt upon the incredibility of the witnesses. They were characters of no worth—and he urged that the printed papers which were found were not sufficiently proved to be connected with the prisoner—that the scheme was too romantic ever to be seriously imagined—there was no arms—not a pike, a pistol, or a rusty musket—in fact, the attempts of the heroes of the Oakley Arms, as set forth, far

exceeded all the wild sallies of Don Quixote. Lord Nelson gave a most excellent characrer of the prisoner. They were on the Spanish main together—they served together, and he declared him to have been a loyal man, and a brave officer. On cross examination, his lordship said he had not seen him since the year 1780. Sir Alured Clarke and Sir Evan Nepean bore testimony of his having been a zealous officer. Mr. Gurney, the other counsel for the prisoner, addressed the jury in an able speech; and the Solicitor General having replied on the part of the Crown, Lord Ellenborough began to sum up nearly as follows:

"Gentlemen of the Jury,

"The prisoner stands charged with high treason, of three sorts, not very different in their nature—1st, for compassing the death of the king—next, for compassing to seize his person—and 3dly, for conspiring to depose him. The first of these is treason, by the statute of Edward III.—the two last, by a recent statute of the present reign.—Eight distinct overt acts are stated as evidences of this intention. Gentlemen, the overt acts are the holding conversations for effecting those malignant purposes of the heart. The defendant's counsel say, that the proof consists only of words, and that it cannot be treason. If it consisted only of loose words, the ebullition of an irritated or crazy mind, it would not be treason, because it would be too much to infer such a purpose as the destruction of the king from words so spoken. But when words are spoken at a public meeting, and addressed to others, exciting and persuading them to that purpose, it never was doubted by any one English lawyer,

lawyer—it never will be doubted but that they amount to treason. Another subject upon which I wish to say a few words is, the nature of evidence by accomplices. That he is a competent witness, upon whose testimony you may found a conclusion, cannot be doubted. If it were not so, it would be a dereliction of duty in the judges sitting here, and those who have formerly sat in courts of justice, not to have repelled such witnesses from the oath, and have told the jury that they were not fit to be credited. But they are always received; and although sullied with the contamination of the crime which they impute to others, they are credible, though their testimony must be received with caution." His lordship here read verbatim the whole of the evidence taken throughout the day. "Now, gentlemen, this is the whole evidence; see how it applies to the charge—first, with respect to an overt act committed within the county; it is proved at the Oakley Arms, and at the Flying Horse—that point of law is therefore satisfied. The only remaining consideration is, whether you will believe the evidence of Blades, Windsor, Emblyn, and Francis, or any of them. You have heard the high character given of the prisoner by a man, on whom to pronounce an eulogium were to waste words, but you are to consider whether a change has not taken place since the period he speaks of." The jury, after about half an hour's conversation, returned the verdict, Guilty, but earnestly recommended him to mercy, on account of his former good character, and the services he had rendered his country. The prisoner, during the whole of the trial, appeared very composed, nor did he exhibit any marks of agitation when the verdict was returned. On the following Wednesday,

day, the trial of the twelve other prisoners took place, when the same circumstances, by chiefly the same witnesses, being repeated, nine were found guilty, three of whom were recommended to mercy. The usual question was then asked each seperately, "What he had to say that sentence should not be pronounced?" when Colonel Despard remarked, that he had been tried and convicted on the evidence of such men as ought not to be listened to; he was charged with seducing certain soldiers—nothing could be more false; he declared he never had the smallest conversation with them on the subject. Lord Ellenborough, in a style of awful solemnity, highly befitting the melancholy, but just occasion, addressed the prisoners nearly to the following purport:—You, Edward Marcus Despard—you, John Wood—you, Thomas Broughton—you, John Francis—you, Thomas Newman—you, Daniel Tindall—you, James Sedgwick Wratten—you, William Lander—you, Anthony Graham—and you, John M'Namara, have been severally indicted for conspiring against his majesty's person, his crown, and government, for the purposes of subverting the same, and changing the government of this realm. To this indictment you have pleaded Not Guilty, and put yourselves for trial upon God and your country, which country has found you guilty. After a long, patient, and, I hope, just and impartial trial, you have been all of you severally convicted, by a most respectable jury of your country, upon the several crimes laid to your charge. In the course of evidence upon your trial, such disclosures have been made, as to prove, beyond the possibility of doubt, that the objects of your atrocious, abominable, and traitorous conspiracy were, to overthrow the government, and

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to seize upon, and destroy the sacred persons of, our august and reverend sovereign, and the illustrious branches of his royal house, which some of you, by the most solemn bond of your oath of allegiance, were pledged, and all of you, as his Majesty's subjects, were indespensably bound, by your duty, to defend; to overthrow that constitution, its established freedom, and boated usages, which have so long maintained among us that just and rational equality of rights, and security of property, which have been for so many ages the envy and admiration of the world; and to erect upon its ruins a wild system of anarchy and bloodshed, having for its object the subversion of all property, and the massacre of its proprietors; the annihilation of all legislative authority and established order--for such must be the import of that promise held out by the leaders of this atrocious conspiracy, of ample provision for the families of "those heroes who should fall in the struggle." The more effectually to ensure success in those evil machinations, and to encourage those who were to be seduced to their support, endeavours have been made by you and your accomplices to seduce from their allegiance to their sovereign, the soldiers of his Majesty—endeavours which, though they appear to have been in too many instances successful, yet I hope falsely said to be in that extent stated in evidence. Equally false, I hope, has been another assertion, that two-thirds of the inhabitants of this country were ready for a change, and prepared to support and adopt such measures as were likely to be most effectual for obtaining it—a change, by which no less was contemplated than the subversion of all the sources of law, order, and public justice, and the substi-

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tution of massacre, anarchy, and all their dire effects. It has, however, pleased that Divine Providence, which has mercifully watched over the safety of this nation, to defeat your wicked and abominable purpose, by arresting your projects in their dark and dangerous progress, and thus averting that danger which your machinations had suspended over our heads; and by your timely detection, seizure, and submittal to public justice, to afford time for the many thousands of his majesty's innocent and loyal subjects, the intended victims of your atrocious and sanguinary purpose, to escape that danger which so recently menaced them, and which, I trust, is not yet become too formidable for utter defeat. Happily for the families and the persons of thousands of your wicked and deluded accomplices, your detection has in time, I hope, served to avert the calamities in which they would have inevitably involved themselves, as well as their innocent fellow citizens. The vigilance of that government, unceasingly directed to the public security, was not to be eluded by the dark and mysterious secrecy under which you endeavoured to mask your wicked designs. Your very endeavours to propagate and promote your projects have been the sources of your defeat; and thus it has happened, that when you imagined your vile purposes to be nearest their completion, they have been fortunately discovered by the very means through which you intended to put them in execution; and thus the intended victims, who were on the eve of being involved in all the horrors of your projects, have fresh cause to acknowledge with gratitude the goodness of that all-provident God, who has thus timely, and I hope for ever, put a

stop

stop to your diabolical plans. As to you, deluded victims of a desperate and abandoned conspiracy, before I conclude the awful task which remains for me to perform, I wish to say a few words to you on the enormity of those crimes which have brought you to your present melancholy and ignominious situation. And first, you Edward Marcus Despard, in whom the dignified pride of birth, the advantages of a liberal education, and the habits of intercourse in that rank in which your conduct was once so highly honourable, and from whom the testimony borne of your former conduct by the honourable companions of your earliest pursuits, adduced in this court as witnesses for your character, should have induced us to expect widely different conduct and principles. How grossly have you misapplied and abused the talents and opportunities, which you enjoyed for honourable distinction in society! and how have you degraded yourself to the association of those unfortunate and wretched companions, by whom you are now surrounded, in whose ignominious fate you so justly share, but who are the unhappy victims of your seductive pursuasion and example. I do not wish, at this awful moment, to urge any thing to you and the degrading companions by whom you are surrounded, to sharpen the bitterness of your feelings under the ignominy of your fate, but I would most earnestly and sincerely wish to impress your mind, during the short period of your remaining life, with a due sense of your awful situation, and of the criminal conduct which has involved you in your present ignominious fate: I would earnestly entreat you zealously to endeavour to subdue the callous insensibility of heart, of which, in an ill-fated moment, you have boasted, and regain that

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senative affection of the mind, which may prepare your soul for that salvation, which, by the infinite mercy of God, I beseech of that God you may obtain. And as to you, other unhappy prisoners, the wretched victims of his seduction and example, to what a dreadful and ignominious fate have you brought yourselves, and what sorrow and affliction have been entailed upon your wretched families, by the atrocity of your crimes, and your purport and sanguinary attempts to subvert that happy constitution and government, under the mild protection of which you might still have continued to pursue industrious avocations, and enjoy with comfort the fruits of your honest and peaceful labours; and the unexampled mildness and merciful tendency of whose laws you have this day experienced, in a long, a patient, a fair, and most impartial trial, before that respectable and discerning jury, who have convicted you on the most uncontroverted evidence of your guilt. May the awful and impressive example of your untimely fate prove a warning to your wicked associates and accomplices in every quarter of this realm, and induce them to abandon those machinations which have brought you to this disgraceful catastrophe! May they learn to avoid your fate by cultivating the blessings of that constitution which you have calumniated and endeavoured to subvert; and by pursuing their honest and industrious avocations, and avoiding political cabals and seditious conspiracies, avoid also those dreadful consequences in which they themselves would most probably be amongst the first victims. The same earnest advice I have just given your unfortunate leader and seducer, I now offer to you, which is, to make the best use of the short period of life now remaining,

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to make your peace with an offended God for your crimes, and seek mercy in another life, which the interest of your fellow-creatures will not suffer to be extended to you here! The only thing remaining for me is the painful task of pronouncing against you, and each of you, the awful sentence which the law denounces against your crime, which is, that you and each of you (here his lordship named the prisoners severally) be taken to the place from whence you came, and from thence you are to be drawn on hurdles to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged by the neck, but not until you are dead, for while you are still living your bodies are to be taken down, your bowels torn out and burnt before your faces; your heads are then to be cut off, and your bodies divided each into four quarters, and your heads and quarters to be then at the king's disposal; and may the Almighty God have mercy on your souls!"

On Saturday afternoon, Feb. 19, 1803, was received the information that the warrant for execution, to take place on the following Monday, was made out. It was sent to the keeper of the New Goal in the Borough at six o'clock on Saturday evening, and included the names of Col. Despard, Tho. Broughton, John Francis, Arthur Graham, John Macnamara, John Wood, and James Sedgwick Wratten; the three other prisoners, Newman, Tyndal, and Lander, recommended by the jury to mercy, having been respited. As soon as the warrant for execution was received, it was communicated to the unhappy persons by the keeper of the prison, Mr. Ives, with as much tenderness and humanity as the awful nature of the case required. We believe it was expected by all—by

all it was received with resignation and fortitude. Col. Despard observed, upon its being communicated to him, that the time was short; yet he had not had, from the first, any strong expectation that the recommendation of the jury would be effectual. The mediation of Lord Nelson, and a petition to the Crown, were tried, but Col. Despard was convinced, according to report, that they would be unavailing. From the moment of his conviction, he had begun to prepare himself for that last moment that was to close all sublunary scenes upon him for ever! During the whole of the interval between the period of the passing and the executing his sentence, he behaved with composure.—Much of his time was employed in writing, some in reading, and the greater part with his wife, Mrs. Despard. Soon after the warrant was received; all papers, and every thing he possessed, were immediately taken from the colonel. He was strictly searched, to discover whether he had any knife or means of self destruction concealed about him, and every thing that was thought might enable him to put an end to his existence, was conveyed out of his reach. There is no reason to suppose he had the slightest design of committing suicide; but these are the usual and necessary precautionary measures, Mrs. Despard was greatly affected when she first heard his fate was sealed, but afterwards recovered her fortitude. Accompanied by another lady, she had a last interview with him on the Sunday preceding his execution, about three o'clock. The lady wept bitterly, but first Mrs. Despard, and then the colonel, reproached her with her weakness. Mr. and Mrs. Despard bore up with great firmness, even in parting; and when she got into a coach, as it drove off she waved her handkerchief

chief out of the window. The other prisoners bore their fate with equal hardihood, but conducted themselves with less solemnity than the colonel.—Their wives, &c. were allowed to take a farewel of them on the same day, and the scene was truly distressing! Five of these men attended on Sunday morning a chapel within the gaol, used for its inhabitants only. Macnamara, being a Roman Catholic, did not attend; neither did the colonel, who had constantly refused the assistance of a clergyman. At day-light on Sunday morning, the drop, scaffold and gallows, on which they were to be executed, were erected on the top of the gaol. The erection of the apparatus of death gave full information of the approaching event, and great crowds continued to arrive and retire, viewing the place the whole day. All the Bow-street patrole, and many other peace-officers, were on duty all day and night, and the military near London were drawn up close to it. Mrs. Despard, after having taken leave of her husband at three in the afternoon, came again about five o'clock; but it was thought adviseable to spare the colonel the pangs of a second parting, and she was therefore not admitted into the prison. She evinced some indignation at the refusal, and expressed a strong opinion with respect to the cause for which her husband was to suffer. After Mrs. D. had left the colonel, at three o'clock, he walked up and down his cell for some time, seemingly more agitated than he had been at the period of taking leave of his wife. Between six and seven in the evening he threw himself on the bed, and fell into a short sleep. At eight o'clock he awoke, and addressed one of the officers of the prison, who was with him, in these words:—"Me—they shall receive no information from me—

no, not for all the gifts, the gold, and jewels in the possession of the crown!" He then composed himself, and remained silent. These expressions might induce some to suppose that endeavours had been made to prevail upon him to make disclosures. Whether this was the case or not, we are not able to say. Sir Richard Ford was at the prison on Sunday, and we believe saw the colonel and all the other prisoners, but we have not heard that his visit had for its object to induce them to make any confessions. In the course of the evening, the colonel was visited by his solicitor, who came to ask him where he wished to be buried? He was silent for some minutes, and at length replied, he believed several of his countrymen were buried at Pancras; he therefore desired to be buried there. When Mr. Ives went to communicate the warrant for execution to two of the prisoners, Wood and Graham, they said, they wished to have some conversation with him. On Sunday evening he went to them, attended by the clergyman, Mr. Winkworth. Graham then entered into a long conversation with him, upon the motives of the meeting at the public house where they were apprehended; but we do not learn that he threw any new light upon the subject, or made any new discoveries of importance. Macnamara spent the whole of the night in prayer. The Roman Catholic priest left him at a late hour of the night, and came again early in the morning. Graham, Wratten, and another (Wood we believe) were the greater part of the night engaged in a similar manner. They were dissenters; Broughton and Francis were protestants. Col. Despard slept from three to half past four; the remainder of the night he passed in walking up and down his cell. The rest of the prisoners

prisoners slept about two hours. All the arrangements for the execution were settled on Sunday by Sir Richard Ford, and the sheriffs of Surrey, with the government and the magistrates. Sir Richard slept that night at a Mr. Smith's, in order to be near the prison. At four o'clock the following morning, Monday, February 21, the drum beat at the Horse Guards, as a signal for the cavalry to assemble. We understand that four regiments were on duty. Two troops of horse were stationed at the Obelisk; others patroled the roads from the Obelisk to the Elephant and Castle, and down the Borough road. The military occupied their station as soon as it was day-light. It was not till past five o'clock that persons began to pour in any numbers along the Westminster and city roads to Horsemonger-lane. At half past six the prison bell rang, the signal for unlocking the cells. Mr. Winkworth, the clergyman, and Mr. Griffith, the Roman Catholic priest (the same gentleman who attended Quigley when he was executed,) came to the prison, and were immediately admitted to the prisoners. At seven o'clock five of them, Broughton, Francis, Graham, Wood, and Wratten, went into the chapel. They attended to the prayers with great earnestness, but at the same time without seeming to lose that firmness they had displayed since their trial. Before they received the sacrament, four of them confessed they had done wrong, but not to the extent charged against them by the evidence. The fifth, Graham, said he was innocent of the charges brought against him, but had attended two meetings, the second at the instigation of Francis. It was Emblyn, he added, who called on him to go to the meeting, by Francis's

desire. For some time the clergyman refused to administer the sacrament to Francis, because he persisted in declaring he had been guilty of no crime. The clergyman said to him, "You admit you attended meetings?" He replied, "Yes." "You knew they were for the purpose of overturning the constitution and government of the country. I by no means wish you to enter into particulars; I only wish you to acknowledge generally." Francis then smiled (it seemed to be the natural character of his countenance), and answered, "I admit I have done wrong in attending those meetings." The clergyman then asked each of them "how they found themselves?" Francis, Wood, Broughton, and Wratten said, "they were never happier in their lives." Graham remained silent. The sacrament was then administered to them. The service in the chapel lasted three quarters of an hour. Before it was over Colonel Despard and Macnamara were brought down from their cells; their irons were knocked off, and their arms and hands bound with ropes. Despard walked up and down before the chapel door, but did not enter the chapel. Macnamara walked about in earnest conversation with the Roman Catholic priest, and with a book in his hand. Whilst Despard was at the chapel door, the sheriff (Pepper) addressed himself very humanely to him, and asked him if he could render him any service. The colonel thanked him, and replied that he could not. The sheriff added something in a low tone of voice, which, it is supposed, related to Mrs. Despard. Whilst the clergyman was gone out of the chapel to prepare for the sacrament, the five prisoners in the chapel rose, on hearing the

the colonel's irons being knocked off. The executioner then tied their arms and hands in the same manner as he had before bound the colonel and Macnamara. Notice was then given to the sheriff that they were ready. The colonel, who stood the first, retired behind, and motioned to Francis (who was making way for him) to go before him. It was the body of a small cart, on which two trusses of clean straw was laid: it was drawn by two horses. The procession moved in the following order:

The Sheriff of Surrey,
The Clergyman in his gown,
Mr. Ives, the Keeper, with a white wand,
High Constable,
Other Constables,
The Executioner with a drawn sword.

Macnamara and Graham were first put into the hurdle, and drawn to the lodge, where the inner gates were opened, and they were conveyed to the stair-case that leads up to the scaffold. The hurdle then returned, and brought

Broughton and Wratten,
then
Wood and Francis.

Last of all, Col. Despard was put in it alone.

Macnamara seemed intent upon the book in his hand. Graham remained silent. Broughton jumped into the hurdle, smiled, and looked up to the scaffold. Wood and Francis both smiled, and they all surveyed the awful scene with much composure. Despard shook hands with a gentleman, as he got into the hurdle, and looked up to the scaffold with a smile. As soon as they had all been conveyed in

in the hurdle to the stair-case that leads to the scaffold, they were escorted up one by one—the sheriff, Sir R. Ford, the clergyman, Mr. Winkworth, and the Roman Catholic clergyman, Mr. Griffith, preceding them. Seven coffins, or shells, which had been previously placed in a room under the scaffold, were brought up and placed on the platform, on which the drop was erected. A bag of sawdust, to catch the blood when the heads were severed from their bodies, was placed beside them.—The block was near the scaffold. There were about 100 spectators on the platform. The greatest order and silence were observed. As soon as the prisoners were placed on the hurdle, St. George's bell tolled for some time. It was about half past eight when the prisoners were brought up to the scaffold one by one. As soon as the cord was fastened round the neck of one, the second was brought up, and so on till the cords were fastened round the necks of all the seven. Macnamara was first brought up; he still held a book in his hand; and when the cord was placed round his neck, he exclaimed, with the greatest devotion, "Lord Jesus have mercy upon me! Oh, Lord, look down with pity upon me!" Graham came second; he looked pale and ghastly, but spoke not. Wratten was the third; he ascended the scaffold with much firmness. Broughton, the fourth, smiled as he ran up the scaffold stairs, but as soon as the rope was fastened round his neck, he turned pale, and smiled no more. He joined the prayer with much earnestness. Wood was the fifth—Francis the sixth. Francis ascended the scaffold with a composure, which he preserved to the last. Wood and Broughton were equally composed. Of all of them, Francis was the best looking—tall, handsome, and well made.

He and Wood were dressed in soldier's uniform; the rest were in coloured clothes. Colonel Despard was brought up the last, dressed in boots, a dark brown great coat, his hair unpowdered; he ascended the scaffold with great firmness, and his countenance underwent not the slightest change while the awful ceremony of fastening the rope round his neck, and placing the cap on his head, was performing; he looked at the multitude assembled with perfect calmness. The clergyman, who ascended the scaffold after the prisoners were tied up, spoke to him a few words as he passed. The colonel bowed, and thanked him. The ceremony of fastening the prisoners being finished, the colonel advanced as near as he could to the edge of the scaffold, and made the following speech to the multitude.—

"Fellow Citizens,

"I come here as you see, after having served my country—faithfully, honourably, and usefully served it, for thirty years and upwards, to suffer death upon a scaffold for a crime of which I protest I am not guilty. I solemnly declare that I am no more guilty of it than any of you who may be now hearing me; but though his Majesty's ministers know as well as I do that I am not guilty, yet they avail themselves of a legal pretext to destroy a man, because he has been a friend to truth, to liberty, and justice,——" [There was a considerable huzza from part of the populace the nearest to him, but who, from the height of the scaffold from the ground, could not, for a certainty, distinctly hear what was said. The colonel proceeded]——"because he has been a friend to the poor and distressed. But, citizens, I hope and trust,

trust, notwithstanding my fate, and the fate of those who no doubt will soon follow me, that the principles of freedom, of humanity, and of justice, will finally triumph over falshood, tyranny, and delusion, and every principle hostile to the interests of the human race. And now, having said this, I have little more to add——" [The colonel's voice seemed to falter a little here—he paused a moment, as if he had meant to say something more, but had forgotten it.] He then concluded in the following manner: "I have little more to add, except to wish you all health, happiness, and freedom, which I have endeavoured, as far as was in my power, to procure for you, and for mankind in general."

The colonel spoke in a firm and audible tone of voice: he left off sooner than was expected. There was no public expression either of approbation or disapprobation given when he had concluded his address. As soon as the colonel had ceased speaking, the clergyman prayed with five of the prisoners. Macnamara prayed earnestly with the clergyman of his own persuasion. Despard surveyed the populace, and made a short answer, which was not distinctly heard, to some few words addressed to him by Francis, who was next him. The clergyman now shook hands with each of them. Col. Despard bowed, and seemed to thank him as he shook hands with him. The executioners pulled the caps over the faces of the unhappy persons, and descended the scaffold. Most of them exclaimed, "Lord Jesus receive our souls!" The last and most dreadful part of the ceremony was now to be performed. The most awful silence prevailed, and the thousands present, all with one accord, stood uncovered.

uncovered. At seven minutes before nine o'clock the signal was given, the platform dropped, and they were all launched into eternity!! The colonel had not one struggle: twice he opened and clenched his hands together convulsively—he stirred no more. Macnamara, Graham, Wood, and Wratten, were motionless after a few struggles. Broughton and Francis struggled violently for some moments after all the rest were without motion. The executioner pulled their legs, to put an end to their pain more speedily. After hanging about half an hour till they were quite dead, they were cut down. Col. Despard was first cut down, his body placed upon saw-dust, and his head upon a block; after his coat had been taken off, his head was severed from his body by persons engaged on purpose to perform that ceremony. The executioner then took the head by the hair, and carrying it to the edge of the parapet on the right hand, held it up to the view of the populace, and exclaimed, "This is the head of a traitor, Edward Marcus Despard." The same ceremony was performed on the parapet at the left hand. There was some hooting and hissing when the colonel's head was exhibited. His remains were now put into the shell that had been prepared for them. The other prisoners were then cut down, their heads severed from their bodies, and exhibited to the populace, with the same exclamation of "This is the head of another traitor." The bodies were then put into their different shells, and delivered to their friends for interment. The populace were struck with the appearance of Macnamara, who, on ascending the scaffold, bowed. Many of them were acquainted with him. They pitied the situation of his

his wife, to whom he had been married but a short time. It was at first thought he was Col. Despard. The crowd at the entrance of Horsemonger lane was immense; as the time of execution drew near, the people from all parts came with such force as to bear down all opposition. Those who had been in dry situations, were pushed into the middle of the road, where they stood almost up to the knees in mud. Several lost their shoes by the continual pushing and jostling. Many fainted, both men and women; of the latter, however, there were but few. While the heads were exhibiting, the populace took off their hats. The execution was over by ten o'clock, and the populace soon after dispersed quietly. There was not the least tendency to riot or disturbance. The precautions, however, taken by government, were certainly proper. A sky-rocket was sent to the keeper of the prison, to be let off, as a signal to the military, in case of any disturbance. The body of Col. Despard having lain at Mount Row, opposite the Asylum, was taken away on the first of March, by his friends, with a hearse and three mourning coaches, and interred near the north door of St. Paul's cathedral, St. Paul's church-yard. The crowd was great; but when the grave was covered in, the people immediately and quietly dispersed. The city marshal was present, lest there should be any disturbance on the occasion.

DICKENSON, EMANUEL, (MURDERER,) was the son of an officer in the army, by whose early death his mother was reduced to extreme indigence, and Emanuel and his three sisters, thus unprotected, became depredators upon the public. The former was soon apprehended for stealing a gentleman's hat from

from his head, in the Strand, for which, being convicted, he received sentence of transportation; but through the intercession of a general officer, who pitied his mother, he was pardoned. He then became acquainted with Edward Burnworth, William Blewitt, Thomas Berry, John Legee, and John Higgs. Burnworth was the son of a painter, in Moorfields, and served an apprenticeship to a buckle-maker in Grub-street; he distinguished himself by cudgel-playing, at a place in Moorfields, which was called the Ring. He commenced pick-pocket, and then by a very natural gradation, proceeded to the commission of foot-pad robberies and house breaking. In the exercise of his profession as a pick-pocket, he frequented every public place in and near the city. He used to steal snuff boxes watches, handkerchiefs, pocket books, &c. At length he was apprehended, and lodged in New Prison, from which he found means to escape, and renewed his former occupation, but with more circumspection, usually lounging about the fields near London during the day time, and returning to town at night in search of prey. He was a remarkable daring villain, and constantly carried pistols about him, to aid him to make a readier escape in case of detection. Going into a public-house in the Old Bailey, the landlord told him, that Quilt Arnold, one of Jonathan Wild's men, who had been seeking him some days, was then in the house. Hereupon Burnworth went backwards to a room where Arnold was sitting alone; and presenting a pistol, upbraided him for endeavoring to injure his old acquaintance; Arnold having been a brother thief. Burnworth then called for a glass of brandy, and putting some gunpowder in it, compelled the other

to drink it on his knees, and swear that he would never seek for him in future. He was once whipped at the cart's tail for a theft. William Blewit, another of this gang, was the son of poor parents near Cripplegate, who apprenticed him to a perfumer of gloves; but before he had served above three years of his time, he associated with ill company, and became pick pocket and house-breaker. Having been apprehended and lodged in Newgate, he was tried for an offence, of which he was convicted, and sentenced to be transported for seven years; in consequence of which he was put on board a ship in the river, in company with several other felons. Some of these had procured saws and files to be concealed in cakes of gingerbread, and by means of these instruments they hoped to effect their escape before the ship sailed to any distance. Blewit having discovered their intention, disclosed it to the captain of the vessel, who seized the implements, and gave Blewitt his liberty, as a reward for the information. But he was no sooner at large than he returned to his old practices, in consequence of which he was apprehended, and committed to Newgate. At the following sessions he was indicted for returning from transportation: and being convicted, received sentence of death; but he pleaded the service he had done by preventing the escape of the prisoners in the river: on which he was reprieved till the return of the vessel from America; when his allegations being found to be true, he was pardoned, on the condition of transporting himself. This, however, he neglected to do; but got into the company of Burnworth, Berry, Legee, and Hicks the three last having been thieves from their infancy. At this time there

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as a gin-shop kept in the Mint, Southwark, by a an named Ball, whose character was similar to iat of Jonathan Wild. Ball, who had been himlf a thief, threatened that he would cause Burnorth to be taken into custody. The latter, hearg of this circumstance, resolved on the murder of all, and engaged his accomplices in the execution the plan. Previous to this, while they were inking at Islington, Burnworth proposed to break ien and rob the house of a magistrate in Clerkenwell, who had distinguished himself by his diligence in causing thieves to be apprehended; and this robbery was proposed more from motives of revenge than of gain. They soon executed their esign, and robbed the house of what they thought large quantity of plate, which they carried to Coenhagen-house, at that time a public house of ill-ame, but on examining the supposed treasure, they iscovered that it was only brass covered with silver, on which they threw it into the New River. The following day, while they were carousing, one of their associates came and informed them that some peace officers were waiting for them in Chick-lane, a place they greatly frequented. Thus informed, hey kept in a body, and concealed their pistols and cutlasses under their clothes. On the approach of evening they ventured towards London, and having got as far as Turnmill-street, the keeper of Clerkenwell Bridewell happening to see them, called to Burnworth, and said he wanted to speak with him. Burnworth hesitated, but the other assuring him that he intended no injury, and the thief being confident that his associates would not desert him, swore he did not regard the keeper, whom he advanced to meet with the pistol in his hand, the other rogues waiting on the opposite side

of the street, armed with cutlasses and pistols. This singular spectacle attracting the attention of the populace, a considerable crowd soon gathered round them, on which Burnworth joined his companions, who kept together, and facing the people retired in a body, presenting their pistols, and swearing that they would fire on any one who should offer to molest them. Thus they retreated as far as Battle-bridge, and then making a circle round the fields, entered London by a different avenue, and going to Black-friars, took a boat and crossed the Thames. Having landed at the Bankside, Southwark, they went to a place called the Music-house, which was at that time much frequented by people of dissolute characters. Here they continued drinking some time, and then went into St. George's Fields, where Burnworth re-proposed the murder of Ball, on account of the threat that he had issued. All the company readily agreed except Higgs, who said he would have no concern in murder; however, the others forced him with them: it was dark when they arrived at Ball's house, and Higgs waited at the door, while the rest went in. Ball's wife told them he was at an alehouse in the neighbourhood, but she would go and call him, which she accordingly did; he no sooner got to the door of his own house, than Burnworth seized him and dragged him in, reproaching him with treachery in intending to betray his old acquaintance. As these desperadoes were armed with pistols, Ball trembled with just apprehension for his life, and dropping on his knees, earnestly entreated that they would not murder him; but Burnworth, swearing that he should never obtain the reward for betraying him, shot him dead on the spot, while thus begging for his life. The murder was no sooner perpetrated

petrated than they all sallied forth into the street; when Blewitt, supposing that the report of the pistol might alarm the neighbours, fired another into the air, saying, "We are now safe in town, and there is no fear of rogues;" thereby intimating that they had come out of the country, whither they had taken pistols for their protection. Higgs had left his companions as soon as the murder was committed, but on their way to the Falcon Stairs, where they intended to take a boat, they met with him again, when Burnworth proposed to murder him, as they had done Ball, but Majoram, an old acquaintance, whom they had picked up, interceded for his life, which was granted, on condition that, for the future, he should behave with greater courage. They now crossed the Thames, and went to the Boar's Head Tavern in Smithfield, where, not being known, they were under no apprehension of detection. Here they remained till ten at night, and then parted in different gangs to commit separate robberies. Some days after this Dickenson, Berry, and Blewitt, having obtained a large booty, went to Harwich, and sailed in the packet-boat to Holland. In the mean time Higgs went to Portsmouth, and entered on board the Monmouth man of war; but his brother happening to meet the mate of a ship in London, gave him a letter to deliver to him. The mate going accidentally into a public house in Smithfield, heard the name of Higgs mentioned by some people who were talking of the murder, among whom was a watchman, whom the mate told that he had a letter to carry to one Higgs. On this the watchman went to the under-secretary of state, and mentioned what he had heard and suspected. Hereupon the watch-

man and two of the King's messengers, being dispatched to Portsmouth, Higgs was taken into custody, brought to London, and committed to Newgate. Still Burnworth and the rest of his associates continued to defy the laws in the most open manner. Having stopped the Earl of Harborough's chair, during broad day-light, in Piccadilly, one of the chairmen pulled out a pole of the chair and knocked down one of the villains, while the Earl came out, drew his sword, and put the rest to flight; but not before they had raised their wounded companion, whom they took off with them. The number of daring robberies which were now daily committed were so alarming, that the King issued a proclamation for apprending the offenders, and a pardon was offered to any one who would impeach his accomplices, except Burnworth, who was justly considered as the principal of the gang. Marjoram happened to be drinking at a public-house in Whitecross-street one night, when a gentleman went in, and read the royal proclamation. The company present knew nothing of Marjoram; but he apprehending that some of his accomplices would become an evidence if he did not, applied to a constable in Smithfield, and desired him to take him before the Lord Mayor. By this time the evening was far advanced, on which Marjoram was lodged in the Comptor for that night, and being taken to Guildhall the next day, he discovered all the circumstances that he knew; and informing the Lord Mayor that Legee lodged in White-cross-street, he was almost immediately apprehended, and committed to Newgate the same day. The circumstance of Marjoram having turned evidence being now the public topic, John Barton, a fellow who had been some-

sometime connected with Burnworth and his gang, provided a loaded pistol, and placing himself near Goldsmith's hall, took an opportunity, when the officers were conducting Marjoram before the Lord Mayor, to fire at him, but Marjoram observing him advancing, stooped down, so that the ball grazed his back only. The suddenness of this action, and the surprise it occasioned, gave Barton an opportunity of effecting his escape. About this time one Wilson, who had likewise belonged to the gang, quitted London, but being apprehended about two years afterwards, he was hanged at Kingston in Surry. In the mean time Burnworth continued at large, committing depredations on the public, and appearing openly in the streets, notwithstanding the proclamation issued to apprehend him. He broke open the house of a distiller in Clare-market, and carried off a great number of bank-notes; in consequence of which another proclamation was issued, and three hundred pounds were offered for taking him into custody; notwithstanding he still appeared at large, and gave the following, among other proofs of his audacity. Sitting down at the door of a public-house in Holborn, where he was well known, he called for a pint of beer and drank it, holding a pistol in his hand by way of protection; he then paid for his beer, and went off with the greatest apparent unconcern. At this time he kept company with two infamous women, one of whom was the wife of a man named Leonard, who having belonged to the gang, thought to recommend himself to mercy by the apprehension of Burnworth. Having told his wife what he intended, she informed some magistrates of the proposed plan, and they sent six men to assist in carrying it into execu-

execution. Shrove Tuesday being the day appointed, the men waited at a public house till they should receive a hint to proceed. About six in the evening Burnworth went to the lodgings of the women, to which there was a back-door that opened into a yard. It was proposed to have pancakes for supper, and while one of the women was frying them, the other went to the public-house for some beer, and on her return pretended to bolt the door, but designedly missed the staple; at that moment six men rushed in, and seized Burnworth before he had time to make any resistance, though he had a pistol in the pocket of his great coat. Being carried before three magistrates, he was committed to Newgate; but his accomplices were so infamously daring as to attempt the murder of the woman who had occasioned his apprehension; a pistol was fired at her as she was entering the door of her own house, which being communicated to the magistrates, constables were appointed to watch nightly for her protection, till the desperadoes gave over their attempts. Burnworth, while in Newgate, projected the following scheme of escape: having been furnished with an iron crow, he engaged some of the prisoners, who assisted him in pulling stones out of the wall, while others sung psalms, that the keepers might not hear what they were doing. On the day following this transaction, which was carried on during the night, five condemned criminals were to be executed; but when the jailors came to take them out, there was such an immense quantity of stones and rubbish to remove, that it was two o'clock in the afternoon before the criminals could be got out of the cells. This scheme of Burnworth occasioned his closer confinement. He was removed

moved into a room, known by the name of the bilboes, and loaded with a pair of the heaviest irons in the prison, but he intended to have made his escape even from this place; and being furnished with files and saws from some of his acquaintance, he worked his way through a wall into a room in which were some women prisoners, one of whom acquainting the keeper with what had happened, Burnworth was chained to the floor of the condemned hold. Application was made to the Secretary of State, to take measures for the apprehension of Berry, Dickenson, and Blewitt, who had gone over to Holland; and hereupon instructions were sent to the English ambassador at the Hague, impowering him to request of the States General, that the offenders might be delivered up to justice, if found any where within their jurisdiction. The ambassador, on receiving the necessary instructions, made the application, and orders were issued accordingly, in consequence of which Blewit was apprehended at a public-house in Rotterdam, but Dickenson and Berry had taken refuge on board a ship at the Brill. Blewit was lodged in the state-house prison, and then the officers who took him went immediately on board the ship, and seized his two accomplices, whom they brought to the same place of confinement. They were chained to the floor till the English ambassador requested permission to send them home, which being readily obtained, they were guarded to the packet-boat by a party of soldiers, and were chained together as soon as they were put on board. When they reached the Nore, they were met by two of the King's messengers, who conducted them up the river On the arrival of the vessel, they were put into a boat opposite the Tower, which was guarded

guarded by three other boats, in each of which was a corporal and several soldiers. In this manner they were conducted to Westminster, where they were examined by two magistrates, who committed them to Newgate, to which they were escorted by a party of the foot guards. On sight of Burnworth they seemed to pity his situation, while he, in a hardened manner, expressed his happiness at their safe arrival from Holland. On the approach of the ensuing assizes for the county of Surry, they were handcuffed, put into a waggon, and in this manner a party of dragoons conducted them to Kingston. Their insolence on leaving Newgate was unparalleled;—they told the spectators that it would become them to treat gentlemen of their profession with respect, especially as they were going a journey; they likewise said to the dragoons, that they expected to be protected from injury on the road; and during their journey they behaved with great indifference, throwing money among the populace, and diverting themselves by seeing them scramble for it. A boy having picked up a halfpenny, one of a handful which Blewit had thrown among the people, told him that he would keep that halfpenny, and have his name engraved on it, as sure as he would be hanged at Kingston, on which Blewit gave him a shilling to pay the expence of engraving, and enjoined him to keep his promise, which, it is affirmed, the boy actually did. On their arrival at Kingston, they were put in the prison called the Stockhouse, where they were chained to the floor: and on the following day, bills of indictment being found against them, they were brought up for trial before Lord Chief Justice Raymond, and Judge Denton, but some articles having been taken from Burnworth when he was apprehended, he

he refused to plead unless they were restored to him. The judges made use of every argument to prevail on him to plead, but in vain; in consequence of which sentence was passed that he should be pressed to death. Hereupon he was taken back to the Stockhouse, where he bore the weight of one hundred, three quarters, and two pounds, on his breast. The High Sheriff, who attended him on this occasion, used every argument to prevail on him to plead, to which he consented, after bearing the weight an hour and three minutes, during great part of which time he endeavored to kill himself, by striking his head against the floor. Being brought into court, he was tried, and convicted with his companions. They were no sooner convicted, than orders were given for their being chained to the floor; but in this deplorable situation they diverted themselves, by recounting some particulars of their robberies, to such persons whose curiosity induced them to visit the gaol. Some people wished they would leave an account of their robberies, but Burnworth said the particulars could not be contained in an hundred sheets of paper. On passing sentence, the Reverend Judge most earnestly entreated them to prepare for another world, as their time in the present must necessarily be short. They begged that their friends might visit them; and this being complied with, files and saws were conveyed to them, to assist them in their escape. Their plan was to have mixed opium in wine to have made the keepers sleep; and if this had taken place, they then proposed to have set fire to some piles of wood near the prison, and in other parts of the town, and to get a considerable distance during the conflagration; but the keepers having

having listened to their discourse, they were more strictly guarded than before, and their whole scheme rendered abortive. A short time before their execution Burnworth told one of the keepers, that "If he did not see him buried in a decent manner, he would meet him after death in a dark entry, and pull off his nose." When the day of execution arrived, the prisoners were put into a cart, and a company of foot soldiers escorted them to the fatal tree. On their way, Blewit saw a gentleman named Warwick, and having obtained permission to speak to him, most earnestly entreated his pardon for having attempted to shoot him, in consequence of an information which Mr. Warwick had given against him. Dickenson and Blewit appeared more penitent than any of the rest. They wept bitterly at the place of execution, and said they hoped their untimely fate would teach young men to avoid such courses as had brought them to their fatal end. They suffered April 12, 1726. After execution, their bodies were brought to the new gaol in Southwark, to be fitted with chains. The bodies of Burnworth and Blewit were suspended on a gibbet in St. George's Fields, near where the murder was perpetrated. Legee and Higgs were hanged on Putney Common, and Berry and Dickenson on Kennington Common; but representation being made to the people in power, that Dickenson's father, when a lieutenant in the army, had died fighting for his country in Flanders, permission was given to his friends to take down and bury the body, after he had hung one day. Burnworth and his associates were hanged at Kingston. Marjoram, the evidence, obtained his liberty of course, when his accomplices were convicted; but

but in a few days afterwards, he cut the string of a butcher's apron, and ran away with his steel.—Being pursued, he was apprehended, committed, and when indicted for privately stealing, was convicted, and received sentence of death, which sentence, in consideration of his having been evidence against the above malefactors, was changed to that of transportation.

DICKSON, MARGARET, (MURDERER,) was the daughter of poor parents, who lived at Musselburgh, about five miles from Edinburgh, and who brought up their child in the practice of religious duties, having instructed her in such household business as was likely to suit her future situation in life. The village of Musselburgh is almost entirely inhabited by gardeners, fishermen, and persons employed in making salt. The husbands having prepared the several articles for sale, the wives carry them to Edinburgh, and procure a subsistence by crying them through the streets of that city. When Margaret Dickson had attained years of maturity, she was married to a fisherman, by whom she had several children. But there being a want of seamen, her husband was impressed into the naval service; and during his absence from Scotland, his wife had an illicit connection with a man at Musselburgh, in consequence of which she became pregnant. At this time it was the law in Scotland, that a woman known to have been unchaste should sit in a distinguished place in the church, on three Sundays, to be publicly rebuked by the minister; and many poor infants have been destroyed, because the mothers dreaded this public exposure, particularly as many Scotch ladies went to church to be witnesses of the frailty of a sister, who were never seen there on any other occasion. The

neighbours of Mrs. Dickson now averred that she was with child; but this she constantly denied, though there was every appearance that might warrant the discrediting what she said. At length she was delivered, but it is uncertain whether the child was born alive or not. However, she was taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh. When her trial came on, several witnesses deposed, that she had been frequently pregnant; others proved that there were signs of her having been delivered, and that a new-born infant had been found near the place of her residence. A surgeon deposed, that putting the lungs of the infant into water, they were found to swim, which was deemed a proof that the child had been alive; for it was a received opinion, that if no air be ever drawn into the lungs they will not swim: but this circumstance is now a matter of doubt among the gentlemen of the faculty; however, the jury giving credit to this evidence, brought in a verdict of Guilty, in consequence of which she was sentenced to die. After her condemnation she behaved in the most penitent manner, confessed that she had been guilty of many sins, and even owned that she had departed from the line of duty to her husband, but she constantly and steadily denied that she had murdered her child, or even formed an idea of so horrid a crime. She owned, that the fear of being exposed to the ridicule of her neighbours in church, had tempted her to deny that she was pregnant; she declared that, being suddenly seized with the pains of child-birth, she was unable to procure the assistance of her neighbours, and a state of insensibility having ensued, she could not tell what became of the infant. At the place of execution, her behaviour was consistent with her former declaration.

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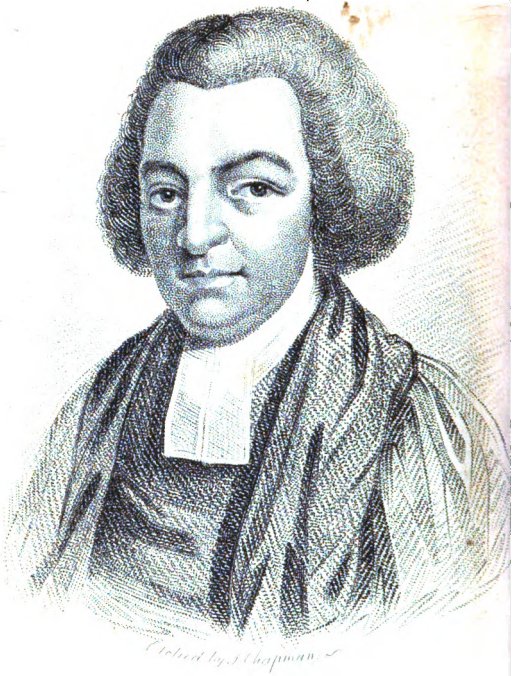
She avowed her total innocence of the crime of which she was convicted, but confessed the sincerest sorrow for all her other sins. She was hanged in the year 1728. After execution, her body was cut down and delivered to her friends, who put it into a coffin, and sent it in a cart to be buried at her native place; but the weather being sultry, the persons who had the body in their care stopped to drink at a village called Pepper-Mill, about two miles from Edinburgh While they were refreshing themselves, one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and uncovering it, the woman immediately sat up, and most of the spectators ran off with every sign of trepidation. It now happened that a person who was then drinking in the public-house, had recollection enough to bleed her: in about an hour after she was put to bed: and by the following morning she was so far recovered as to be able to walk to her own house. By the Scottish law, which is in part founded on that of the Romans, a person against whom the judgment of the court has been executed can suffer no more in future, but is thenceforward totally exculpated; and it is likewise held that the marriage is dissolved by the execution of the convicted party, which indeed is consistent with the ideas that common sense would form on such an occasion. Mrs. Dickson having been thus convicted and executed, the King's advocate could prosecute her no farther; but he filed a bill in the High Court of Justiciary against the sheriff, for omitting to fulfil the law. The husband of this revived convict married her publicly a few days after she was hanged. And she constantly denied that she had been guilty of the alledged crime. She lived about thirty years after this.

DOBBINS, JOHN, (MURDERER) a low-bred man, whose peculiar atrociousness excited much of the public curiosity, was tried at Worcester, 1797, and the court was consequently crowded. The prisoner having been indicted for the wilful murder of Jonathan Partington, near Eversham, pleaded Not guilty. And Mr. Plumer, one of the counsel for the prosecutor, in an affecting, yet candid speech, addressed the jury, and disclosed the circumstances which led to the suspicion, and the apprehension, of the prisoner; the most strong of which were, his having been seen in company of the deceased, when the latter was receiving money the evening on which the murder and robbery were perpetrated—his having been observed by three witnesses to follow him on the road within a mile of the fatal spot—his own bloody clothes and bloody hatchet—the many different and irreconcileable accounts he gave of himself when he was apprehended, and afterwards, but last of all, the death-bed declaration of Partington himself, who, when the prisoner was shewn to him, exclaimed, "Ah! you are the man who has done me this sad injury." This was often repeated by the deceased, when he believed the awful hour of his dissolution was fast approaching. After the learned Judge Lawrence had, in a most clear and comprehensive manner, summed up the evidence to the jury, they immediately found him guilty. During the whole of his trial, he betrayed no "compunctious visitings of nature." The production of the blood besmeared clothes, the fatal hatchet, the hat of Partington cut in many places, and the surgeon's description of his frightful wounds, produced no apparent symptoms of dismay or remorse. After a most pathetic and solemn exhortation to repentance, the



Dr. Dodd.

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the judge pronounced the awful sentence of the law, the last words of which did wring from his stubborn eye one solitary tear. He suffered on the 30th of March, 1797, and his body was given to be dissected and anatomized.

DODD, WM. (FORGER,) doctor of divinity, prebendary of Brecon, and chaplain in ordinary to his majesty; who was the promoter of many charities, and the in titutor of some, particularly the Magdalen Hospital, the Society for the Relief of Poor Debtors, and that for the Recovery of Persons apparently Drowned. Being in want of cash to pay his tradesmen's bills, and having been preceptor to the Earl of Chesterfield, he pretended that his lordship had an urgent occasion to borrow 4000l. but did not choose to be his own agent, and begged that the matter might be secretly and expeditiously conducted. The doctor employed Mr. Robertson, a broker, to whom he presented a bond, not filled up or signed, that he might find a person who would advance the requisite sum to a young nobleman who had lately come of age.—After applying to several persons who refused the business, because they were not to be present when the bond was executed, Mr. Robertson, absolutely confiding in the doctor's honor, applied to Messrs. Fletcher and Peach, who agreed to lend the money. Mr. Robertson returned the bond to the doctor, in order to its being executed; and on the following day the doctor produced it as executed, and witnessed by himself. Mr. Robertson, knowing Mr. Fletcher to be a particular man, and who would consequently object to one subscribing witness only, put his name under the doctor's. He then went, and received the money, which he paid into the hands of Dr. Dodd, 3000l. in notes of Sir

Charles Raymond and Co. the remaining 1200l. in bank notes. The money being thus obtained, the doctor gave Mr. Robertson 100l. for his trouble, and paid some of his own debts with a part of the remainder. It appears the doctor intended to replace the money, and pay off the bond, in a short time, without the knowledge of any person but the broker, and the gentlemen of whom the money had been borrowed. It happened, however, that the bond being left with Mr. Manly, (attorney for Messrs. Fletcher and Peach) he observed, in the condition of the bond, a very remarkable blot in the first letter E, in the word SEVEN, which did not seem to be the effect of chance, but done with design. He thought it remarkable, but did not suspect a forgery; yet he shewed Mr. Fletcher the bond and blot, and advised him to have a clean bond filled up, and carried to Lord Chesterfield for execution. Mr. Fletcher consented; and Mr. Manly went the next day to his lordship, who, having previous notice of the intended business, asked him if he had called about the bond. Mr. Manly said he had; and his lordship answered, "I have burnt the bond." This appeared very extraordinary; but was soon explained, by Lord Chesterfield's saying he thought the gentleman called about a bond for 500l. which he had given some years before, and had taken up and burnt. When Mr. Manly produced the bond in question, Lord Chesterfield was surprised, and immediately disowned it. Upon this Mr. Manly went directly to Mr. Fletcher to consult what steps to take. Mr. Fletcher, a Mr. Innis, and Mr. Manly, went to Guildhall, to prefer an information respecting the forgery against the broker and Dr. Dodd. Mr. Robertson was taken into custody, and with Fletcher,

cher, Innes, Manly, and two of the lord mayor's officers, went to the house of the doctor in Argyle-street. They opened the business—the doctor was very much struck and affected. Manly told him, if he would return the money, it would be the only means of saving him. He instantly returned six notes of 500l. each, making 3000l. he drew on his banker for 500l. the broker returned 100l. and the doctor gave a second draft on his banker for 200l. and a judgment on his goods for the remaining 400l. *which judgment was carried immediately into execution.* All this was done by the doctor in full reliance on the honor of the parties, that the bond should be returned to him cancelled; but, notwithstanding this restitution, he was taken before the lord mayor, and charged as above-mentioned. The doctor declared he had no intention to defraud Lord Chesterfield, or the gentleman who advanced the money. He hoped that the satisfaction he had made in returning the money, would atone for his offence. He was pressed, he said, exceedingly for 300l. to pay some bills due to tradesmen. He took this step as a temporary resource, and would have repaid it in half a year. "My Lord Chesterfield," added he, "cannot but have some tenderness for me, as my pupil. I love him, and he knows it. There is nobody wishes to prosecute. I am sure my Lord Chesterfield don't want my life.—I hope he will shew clemency to me. Mercy should triumph over justice." Clemency, however, was denied; and the doctor was committed to the Compter, in preparation for his trial. On the 19th of February, Dr. Dodd being put to the bar at the Old Bailey, addressed the court in the following words:

"MY

"MY LORDS,

"I am informed that the bill of indictment against me has been found on the evidence of Mr. Robertson, who was taken out of Newgate, without any authority or leave from your lordships, for the purpose of procuring the bill to be found. Mr. Robertson is a subscribing witness to the bond, and, as I conceive, would be swearing to exculpate himself, if he should be admitted as a witness against me; and as the bill has been found upon his evidence, which was surreptitiously obtained, I submit to your lordships that I ought not to be compelled to plead on this indictment; and upon this question I beg to be heard by my counsel. My lords, I beg leave also further to observe to your lordships, that the gentlemen on the other side of the question are bound over to prosecute Mr. Robertson."

Previous to the arguments of the counsel, an order, which had been surreptitiously obtained from an officer of the court, dated Wednesday, Feb. 19, and directed to the keeper of Newgate, commanding him to carry Lewes Robertson to Hicks's-hall, in order to his giving evidence before the grand inquest on the present bill of indictment; likewise a resolution of the court, reprobating the said order; and also the recognizance, entered into by Mr. Manly, Mr. Peach, Mr. Innis, and the right hon. the Earl of Chesterfield, to prosecute and give evidence against Dr. Dodd and Lewis Robertson, for the said forgery, were ordered to be read; and the clerk of the arraigns was directed to inform the court whether the name Lewis Robertson was indorsed as a witness on the back of the indictment, which was answered in the affirmative

affirmative. The counsel now proceeded in their arguments for and against the prisoner. Mr. Howarth, one of Dr Dodd's advocates, contended, that not any person ought to plead or answer to an indictment, if it appears upon the face of that indictment that the evidence upon which the bill was found was not legal, or competent to have been adduced before the grand jury. Mr. Cooper, counsel on the same side, followed this idea, and hoped that Dr. Dodd might not be called on to plead to the bill of indictment, and that the bill might be quashed. Mr. Buller likewise argued, as follows, on the same side :—

"MY LORDS,

"It is the established law of this land, that no man shall be put upon his trial for any offence, unless there be a bill first properly found by a grand jury: I say *properly* found; for if there be any objection whatsoever to the finding the indictment; and the most familiar that are to be found in our books are those that go to the objection of the grand jury; for instance, where only one person of the grand jury has been incompetent—where only eleven of the jury have found the bill, that therefore it shall not be tried. I take it, the objections go universally. I am aware that the objections I have been alluding to, and which are particularly stated in Lord Hale, go to the grand jury only; but I will beg leave to consider, whether the reason that governs the one does not govern the other. Another case put by my Lord Hale is this: if one of the grand jury is outlawed, these objections go to the persons of the grand jury. I am aware that that is not the present objection; but

but I will beg leave, with your lordships' permission, to consider whether this does not fall within the same reason; for I cannot conceive that the law, which is so peculiarly watchful over the personal qualifications of the grand jury, should not be equally attentive to the evidence which is laid before them, and upon which they are to decide the fate of the bill which is offered to their consideration. I take it to be as essential to the finding of the bill, that the evidence offered to the grand jury should be such as the law allows, as it is when the indictment afterwards comes to be tried before your lordships; and if that rule holds, I trust I shall have very little difficulty in convincing your lordships that this bill has been improperly found. My lords, the prosecutor has thought it so material to admit Mr. Robertson a witness in this cause, that though, in my humble apprehension, he stands in a more criminal light than the prisoner at the bar, yet they have thought fit to bargain with him, to let him off from a capital felony of the most dangerous sort to society—the most peculiarly so, from his situation in life, of any man that can be charged with such an offence. Mr. Robertson stands in this business as a sworn broker of the city of London: as such, it was his peculiar duty to preserve good faith between man and man: he is bargained with by the prosecutor to be let off in a case where he stands upon the appearance against him, now as the most criminal, for the purpose of procuring evidence against the prisoner at the bar. My lords, if that evidence be improper, there remains but one thing more to be enquired into; that is, whether your lordships can say that that evidence has not had an improper effect, when it

was

was admitted before the grand jury. It is not improbable that the bill might be found wholly upon his evidence: if I have a right to assume that as a fact, because the prosecutor has thought it material and absolutely necessary to produce him before the grand jury, why, then, your lordships sitting here cannot say but this indictment may have been found upon his evidence only: if it be so, is Robertson a person whose evidence ought to have been received? If I am right in saying that the same evidence, and the same evidence only, is legal before a grand jury, which is legal upon a trial, I apprehend the case which was mentioned in Lord Hale, folio 303, is decisive upon this point. My lords, there are more passages in that folio book. The first was the case mentioned of 'Henry Trew, indicted for a burglary, aud (by the advice of Keeling, chief justice; Brown, justice; and Wilde, recorder) Perrin was sworn a witness against Trew, as to the burglary, which he confessed, but was not indicted for the other felony.' Here he was admitted, because he confessed himself guilty. The passage before that in Lord Hale seems to me still stronger: If two defendants be charged with a crime, one shall not be examined against the other to convict him of an offence, unless the party examined confess himself guilty.' Now, has Robertson confessed himself guilty?—No, he has not; then there is an express authority, by Lord Hale, that not having done it, he is no witness; he does not stand in that predicament which Lord Hale states the man to be there. He says, that they were both charged with the crime; that is the case here; the prisoner and Robertson were both committed for the same crime; he stands now charged with that crime, and he has not plead-

ed

ed guilty, therefore upon this authority I take it to be clear, that he cannot be admitted a witness upon the trial; and if not, I must leave it to the ingenuity of the learned counsel to shew why a man, who the law says shall not be a witness upon the trial, shall be admitted a witness to find the bill upon, against a man whom there is no other evidence to affect."

Mr. Mansfield, and the other counsel employed for the prosecution, replied to these arguments with equal ingenuity and professional knowledge. It was now agreed on, that the trial should be proceeded on; and the question respecting the competency of Robertson's evidence, be reserved for the opinion of the Twelve Judges. Hereupon Dr. Dodd was indicted for forging a bond for the payment of 4200l. with intent to defraud, &c. and the facts already stated were sworn to by the respective witnesses. When the evidence was gone through, the Court called upon the doctor for his defence, which was as follows:

"My Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury,

"Upon the evidence which has been this day produced against me, I find it very difficult to address your Lordships: there is no man in the world who has a deeper sense of the heinous nature of the crime for which I stand indicted than myself. I view it, my Lords, in all its extent of malignancy towards a commercial state, like ours; but, my Lords, I humbly apprehend, though no lawyer, that the moral turpitude and malignancy of the crime always, both in the eye of the law, and of religion, consists in the intention. I am informed, my lords, that the act of parliament on this head

head runs perpetually in this style, *with an intention to defraud.* Such an intention, my lords and gentlemen of the jury, I believe, has not been attempted to be proved upon me, and the consequences that have happened, which have appeared before you, sufficiently prove that a perfect and ample restitution has been made. I leave it, my lords, to you, and the gentlemen of the jury, to consider, that if an unhappy man ever deviates from the law of right, yet, if in the single first moment of recollection, he does all that he can to make a full and perfect amends, what, my lords, and gentlemen of the jury, can God and man desire further? My lords, there are a variety of little circumstances, too tedious to trouble you with, with respect to this matter. Were I to give a loose to my feelings, I have many things to say which I am sure you would feel with respect to me: but, my lords, as it appears on all hands, as it appears, gentlemen of the jury, in every view, that no injury, intentional or real, has been done to any man upon the face of the earth, I hope that, therefore, you will consider the case in its true state of clemency. I must observe to your lordships, that though I have met with all candour in this court, yet I have been pursued with excessive cruelty; I have been prosecuted after the most express engagements, after the most solemn assurances, after the most delusive, soothing arguments of Mr. Manly; I have been prosecuted with a cruelty scarcely to be paralleled. A person, avowedly criminal in the same indictment with myself, has been brought forth as a capital witness againt me; a fact, I believe, totally unexampled. My lords, oppressed as I am with infamy, loaded as I am with distress, sunk under this cruel prosecution,

your lordships, and the gentlemen of the jury, cannot think life a matter of any value to me. No, my lords, I solemnly protest, that death of all blessings would be the most pleasant to me after this pain. I have yet, my lords, ties which call upon me—ties which render me desirous even to continue this miserable existence. I have a wife, my lords, who, for twenty-seven years, has lived an unparalleled example of conjugal attachment and fidelity, and whose behaviour during this trying scene would draw tears of approbation, I am sure, even from the most inhuman. My lords, I have creditors, honest men, who will lose much by my death. I hope, for the sake of justice towards them, some mercy will be shewn to me. If, upon the whole, these considerations at all avail with you, my lords, and you gentlemen of the jury—if, upon the most impartial survey of matters, not the slightest intention of injury can appear to any one—and I solemnly declare it was in my power to replace it in three months—of this I assured Mr. Robertson frequently, and had his solemn assurances that no man should be privy to it but Mr. Fletcher and himself—and if no injury was done to any man upon earth, I then hope, I trust, I fully confide myself in the tenderness, humanity, and protection of my country."

The jury retired for about ten minutes, and then returned with a verdict, "that the prisoner was Guilty;" but at the same time presented a petition, humbly recommending the doctor to the royal mercy. On the first day of the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in May, Dr. Dodd, being put to the bar, was addressed by Mr. Justice Aston in the following terms:

"Dr. William Dodd,

"When you were brought up in last February sessions, to plead to an indictment found by the grand jury of Middlesex for forgery, before you pleaded, or the trial was proceeded upon, a question was submitted to the court by you, with the advice of your counsel, which was reserved for the opinion of the judges; that is, whether you were bound to plead to, and ought to be tried, upon that indictment, as the name of Lewis Robertson, committed for the same forgery, appeared to be indorsed as a witness upon the bill of indictment, and that he had been taken before the grand jury to be examined as a witness, by means of an order directed to the keeper of Newgate, which had been improperly obtained, on the 19th of February, and which was afterwards vacated by the court.——The judges have met, and have fully considered the whole matter of this objection; and they are unanimously of opinion, that the necessity of some proper authority to carry a witness, who happened to be in custody, before the grand jury, to give evidence, regards the justification of the gaoler only; but that no objection lies upon that account in the mouth of the party indicted, for, in respect of him, the finding of the bill is right, and according to law. Whether a private prosecutor, by using an accomplice in or out of custody as a witness, gives such a witness a plea not to be prosecuted, or can entitle himself, the prosecutor, to have his recognizance discharged, is a matter very fit for consideration, under all the circumstances of the particular case, when that question shall arise; but it is a matter in which the party indicted has no concern, nor can he make any legal objection to the produc-

ing such a person as a witness, for the accomplice is, against him, a legal and competent witness, and so was Lewis Robertson upon the bill of indictment preferred against you, the judges, therefore, are of opinion, that the proceedings upon that indictment against you were legally had, and that you were thereupon duly convicted according to law. Of this opinion I thought it most proper thus early to apprize you, that you may be prepared for the consequence of it at the close of the sessions."

To this address Dr. Dodd replied in the following terms:

"MY LORD,

"I humbly thank your lordship, and the rest of the learned judges, for the consideration you have been pleased to give to the objections made by my counsel, on that awful day of my trial; and I rest fully satisfied, my lord, in the justice of your lordship's opinion."

On the last day of the sessions Dr. Dodd was again put to the bar, when the clerk of the arraigns said,—

"Dr. William Dodd,

"You stand convicted of forgery—what have you to say why this court should not give you judgment to die according to law?

Hereupon Dr. Dodd addressed the court as follows:—

"MY

"MY LORD,

"I now stand before you a dreadful example of human infirmity. I entered upon public life with the expectations common to young men whose education has been liberal, and whose abilities have been flattered; and when I became a clergyman, I considered myself as not impairing the dignity of the order. I was not an idle, nor, I hope, an useless minister: I taught the truths of christianity with the zeal of conviction, and the authority of innocence. My labours were approved—my pulpit became popular; and I have reason to believe, that of those who heard me, some have been preserved from sin, and some have been reclaimed.—Condescend, my lord, to think, if these considerations aggravate my crime, how much they must embitter my punishment! Being distinguished and elevated by the confidence of mankind, I had too much confidence in myself, and thinking my integrity, what others thought it, established in sincerity, and fortified by religion, I did not consider the danger of vanity, nor suspect the deceitfulness of my own heart. The day of conflict came, in which temptation seized and overwhelmed me! I committed the crime, which I entreat your lordship to believe that my conscience hourly represents to me in its full bulk of mischief and malignity. Many have been overpowered by temptation, who are now among the penitent in heaven! To an act now waiting the decision of vindictive justice, I will not presume to oppose the counterbalance of almost thirty years (a great part of the life of man) passed in exciting and exercising charity—in relieving such distresses as I now feel—in administering those consolations which I now want, I will not otherwise extenuate my offence, than by

declaring, what I hope will appear to many, and what many circumstances make probable, that I did not intend finally to defraud: nor will it become me to apportion my own punishment, by alledging that my sufferings have been not much less than my guilt. I have fallen from reputation, which ought to have made me cautious, and from a fortune, which ought to have given me content. I am sunk at once into poverty and scorn: my name and my crime fill the ballads in the streets; the sport of the thoughtless, and the triumph of the wicked! It may seem strange, my lord, that, remembering what I have lately been, I should still wish to continue what I am! but contempt of death, how speciously soever it may mingle with heathen virtues, has nothing in it suitable to christian penitence. Many motives impel me to beg earnestly for life. I feel the natural horror of a violent death, the universal dread of untimely dissolution. I am desirous to recompence the injury I have done to the clergy, to the world, and to religion, and to efface the scandal of my crime, by the example of my repentance: but, above all, I wish to die with thoughts more composed, and calmer preparation. The gloom and confusion of a prison, the anxiety of a trial, the horrors of suspense, and the inevitable vicissitudes of passion, leave not the mind in a due disposition for the holy exercises of prayer and self-examination. Let not a little life be denied me, in which I may, by meditation and contrition, prepare myself to stand at the tribunal of Omnipotence, and support the presence of that judge, who shall distribute to all according to their works—who will receive and pardon the repenting sinner, and from whom the merciful shall obtain mercy! For these reasons, my lords,

lords, amidst shame and misery, I yet wish to live; and most humbly implore, that I may be recommended by your lordship to the clemency of his majesty."

The Recorder now replied,—

"Dr. William Dodd,

"You have been convicted of the offence of publishing a forged and counterfeit bond, knowing it to be forged and counterfeited; and you have had the advantage which the laws of this country afford to every man in that situation, a fair, an impartial, and an attentive trial. The jury, to whose justice you appealed, have found you guilty; their verdict has undergone the consideration of the learned judges, and they found no ground to impeach the justice of that verdict; you yourself have admitted the justice of it; and now the very painful duty that the necessity of the law imposes upon the court, to pronounce the sentence of that law against you, remains only to be performed. You appear to entertain a very proper sense of the enormity of the offence which you have committed; you appear too in a state of contrition of mind, and I doubt not have duly reflected how far the dangerous tendency of the offence you have been guilty of is increased by the influence of example, in being committed by a person of your character, and of the sacred function of which you are a member. These sentiments seem to be yours: I would wish to cultivate such sentiments; but I would not wish to add to the anguish of a person in your situation by dwelling upon it. Your application for mercy must be made

made elsewhere: it would be cruel in the court to flatter you; there is a power of dispensing mercy, where you may apply. Your own good sense, and the contrition you express, will induce you to lessen the influence of the example, by publishing your hearty and sincere detestation of the offence of which you are convicted; and that you will not attempt to palliate or extenuate, which would indeed add to the degree of the influence of a crime of this kind being committed by a person of your character and known abilities; I would therefore warn you against any thing of that kind. Now, having said this, I am obliged to pronounce the sentence of the law, which is—That you Dr. Wm. Dodd be carried from hence to the place from whence you came; that from thence you are to be carried to the place of execution, where you are to be hanged by the neck until you are dead."

To this Dr. Dodd replied, "Lord Jesus, receive my soul!"

The exertions now made to save Dr. Dodd were perhaps beyond all example in any country. The newspapers were filled with letters and paragraphs in his favour. Individuals of all ranks and degrees exerted themselves in his behalf: parish officers went, in mourning, from house to house, to procure subscriptions to a petition to the king; and this petition, which, with the names, filled 23 sheets of parchment, was actually presented. Even the lord-mayor and common-council went in a body to St. James's to solicit mercy for the convict. As clemency, however, had been denied to the unfortunate Perreaus, it was deemed unadvisable to

to extend it to Dr. Dodd.* This unhappy clergyman was attended to the place of execution, in a mourning-coach, by the Rev. Mr. Villette, ordinary of Newgate, and the Rev. Mr. Dobey.—Another criminal, named John Harris, was executed at the same time. It is impossible to give an idea of the immense crouds of people that thronged the streets from Newgate to Tyburn.—When the prisoners arrived at the fatal tree, and were placed in the cart, Dr. Dodd exhorted his fellow-sufferer in so generous a manner, as testified that he had not forgot the duty of a clergyman, and was very fervent in the exercise of his own devotions. Just before the parties were turned off, the doctor whispered the executioner. What he said is not ascertained; but it was observed that the man had no sooner driven away the cart, than he ran immediately under the gibbet, and took hold of the doctor's legs, as if to steady the body, and the unhappy man appeared to die without pain; but the groans, prayers, and tears of thousands

* It was observed to his majesty, that if Doctor Dodd was pardoned, the Perreaus were *murdered*. Since the execution of Dr. Dodd, several convicted of forgery have been pardoned; therefore, according to this sophistical mode of reasoning, Doctor Dodd, the Perreaus, and all who have suffered before, have been MURDERED. How often in a gang of convicted mutineers, are several, at the moment of expected punishment, forgiven, and only two or three examples made! Are those examples MURDERED? Mercy is a royal prerogative, and justice should withdraw when she is pleased to smile. EDITOR.

sands attended his departure. He suffered on the 27th of June, 1777. See GRIFFITHS, WM.

DONELLAN, JOHN, ESQ. (MURDERER,) was the son of Colonel Donellan. At the age of twelve years he entered into the royal regiment of artillery; with part of which regiment he went to the East Indies in 1754. On his arrival there, he changed his service into the 39th regiment of foot; but, on that regiment being ordered home, he, with many other officers of the same regiment, had his Majesty's leave to remain in the service of the East India Company, without prejudice to their rank in the army. He then obtained a company, and certainly distinguished himself as a good soldier, being much wounded in the service, and, if his own account may be credited, was singularly instrumental to the taking of Mazulapatam. However, being appointed one of the four agents for prize-money, he condescended to receive some presents from some black merchants, to whom part of their effects had been ordered to be restored. For this he was tried by a court-martial, and cashiered. In the sequel, he purchased a share in the Pantheon, where he figured some time as master of the ceremonies. After a variety of applications, he at length obtained a certificate from the war-office, that he had behaved in the East Indies "like a gallant officer;" in consequence of which he was put upon half-pay in the 39th regiment. But, notwithstanding the most strenuous memorials and petitions, representing his great services, and insisting that the offence for which he was broke was of a civil nature only, not cognizable by a court-martial, he never could obtain a restoration into the Company's service. In June, 1777, he married Miss Boughton. On Friday, March 30, 1781, he was

was tried at the assizes at Warwick, for the wilful murder of Sir Theodosius Edward Allesley Boughton, Bart. his brother-in-law. Mr. Digby opened the indictment, after which Mr. Howorth stated, and minutely commented on all the circumstances, which he intended, in the course of the trial, to adduce in evidence. Mr. Powell, apothecary, of Rugby, was the first witness examined on the part of the crown. He had attended Sir Theodosius Broughton for two months before his death, on account of a slight venereal complaint. He gave him some cooling physic for about three weeks. This was discontinued for about a fortnight, when it was repeated on account of a small swelling in the groin, that did not rise above the skin. For this he gave him four more doses, two of manna and salts, and the other two of rhubarb and jalap. The last draught he sent was on Tuesday the 29th of August. He had previously seen Sir Theodosius that day, who appeared to him in great spirits and good health. He produced two phials in court, the one containing the rhubarb draught, exactly as he had sent it to Sir Theodosius, the other had the same ingredients. with the difference of laurel water instead of simple water. On the Wednesday morning, he was sent for to Lawford-hall. He arrived there a little before nine. Captain Donellan accompanied him into Sir Theodosius's room. He had been dead near an hour. The witness saw no distortion, nor any thing particular. He continued some minutes in the room. Captain Donellan asked him no question, but, in answer to his enquiries, said that Sir Theodosius died "in convulsions." Being questioned what further conversation he had then with Mr. Donellan, he said that he

he could not recollect his particular words, but his general intent was to make him believe that "Sir Theodosius had taken cold." Lady Boughton deposed, that Sir Theodosius was twenty years old on the 3d of August last. On his coming of age, he would have been entitled to above 2000l. a year. On the event of his dying a minor, the greater part of his fortune was to descend to the sister, the wife of Mr. Donellan. The prisoner, several times before the death of her son, had talked to her about the state of his health. His expressions were,—"Don't talk about leaving Lawford-hall; he is in a very bad state of health: you cannot tell what may happen before that time." She thought he meant his being so very venturous in going a hunting, and the like. Mr. Fonnereau, a friend of her son, was expected at Lawford-hall, the latter end of the week in which he died. He was to stay a week, and then Sir Theodosius was to have returned with him into Northamptonshire; Sir Theodosius had not said how long he intended to continue there. On Tuesday, the 29th of August, a servant was sent to Mr. Powell for the draughts for Sir Theodosius. Upon enquiry where the servant was, Mr Donellan said, "O, Sir Theodosius had sent him a second time for the bottle of stuff." It was known in the family that Sir Theodosius was to take his physic the next morning. He used to put his physic in his dressing-room. He happened once to forget to take it; upon which Mr. Donellan said, "Why don't you set it in your outer room? then you would not so soon forget it." After this he had several times the medicines upon his shelf over the chimney-piece in his outer room. On the evening of Tuesday, the 29th, about six o'clock,

Sir

Sir Theodosius went a fishing, attended only by one servant, Samuel Frost. She and Mrs. Donellan took a walk in the garden. They were there above an hour. To the best of her recollection she had seen nothing of Mr. Donellan after dinner till about seven o'clock, when he came out of the house door into the garden, and told them that "he had been to see them a-fishing, and that he would have persuaded Sir Theodosius to come in, lest he should take cold, but he could not." Sir Theodosius came home a little after nine, apparently very well. He went up into his own room soon after, and went to bed. He requested her to call him the next morning, and give him his physic. Accordingly, she went into his room about seven that morning, when he appeared to be very well. She asked him, "Where the bottle was?" he said, "It stands there upon the shelf." He first desired her to get him a bit of cheese, in order to take the taste out of his mouth, which she did. He then desired her to read the label, which she accordingly did, and found there was written upon it, "Purging draught for Sir Theodosius Boughton." As she was talking to him, she omitted to shake the bottle. Observing that, he said, "Pour it back again, and shake the bottle." In doing this she spilt part of it upon the table; the rest she gave him. As he was taking it, he observed, "it smelt and tasted very nauseous:" upon which she said, "I think it smells very strongly like bitter almonds." She gave him the cheese; he chewed it and spit it out. He then remarked, that "he thought he should not be able to keep the medicine upon his stomach." She gave him some water; he washed his mouth with it, and, spitting it out, lay down. Here a

bottle was delivered to Lady Boughton, (containing the genuine draught) which she was desired to smell at, and to inform the court, whether it smelt at all like the medicine Sir Theodosius took. She answered in the negative. She was then desired to smell at another, (containing the draught with the addition of the laurel-water,) which she said had a smell very much like that of the medicine she gave to Sir Theodosius. Lady Boughton then proceeded with her evidence. In two minutes, or a minute and a half, after Sir Theodosius had taken the draught, he struggled very much. It appeared to her as if it was to keep the draught down. He made a prodigious rattling in his stomach, and guggling; and these symptoms continued about ten minutes. He then seemed as if he was going to sleep, or inclined to dose. Perceiving him a little composed, she went out of the room. She returned in about five minutes after, and to her great surprise, found him with his eyes fixed upwards, his teeth clenched, and foam running out of his mouth. She instantly desired a servant to take the first horse he could get, and go for Mr. Powell. She saw Mr. Donellan in less than five minutes after. He came into the room where Sir Theodosius lay, and asked her, "What do you want?" she answered, "She wanted to inform him what a terrible thing had happened; that it was an unaccountable thing in the doctor to send such a medicine, for, if it had been taken by a dog, it would have killed him, and she did not think her son would live." He asked, "In what manner was Sir Theodosius, then?" She told him. He then asked her "where the physic bottle was?" She shewed him the two draughts. He took up one of the

the bottles, and said, "Is this it?" She answered, "Yes." He took it, and, after rincing it, emptied it into some dirty water that was in a wash-stand bason. After he had thrown the contents of the first bottle into the wash-hand bason, she observed, "that he ought not to do that." She added, "What are you at? you shall not meddle with the bottle." Upon that he snatched up the other bottle and rinced it; then he put his finger to it, and tasted it. She said, "What are you about? you ought not to meddle with the bottles." Upon which he said, "I did it to taste it." But he did not taste the first bottle. Sarah Blundell and Catharine Amos came up into the room. The former is since dead. He desired Sarah Blundell "to take away the bason, the dirty things, and the bottles;" and he put the bottles into her hands. Her ladyship took the bottles from her, set them down, and bid her let the things alone. He then desired "that the room might be cleaned, and the clothes thrown into an inner room." Her ladyship opened the door of the inner room. As soon as Sarah Blundell had put the clothes into that room, Mr. Donellan, while the witness's back was turned, put the bottles into her hand again, and bid her take them down; and was angry she had not done it at first. This circumstance Sarah Blundell told her; for all that she herself knew of it in fact was that the bottles were taken out of the room. Some time afterwards her ladyship went down into the parlour. Mr. and Mrs. Donellan were there. The prisoner, in the witness's presence, said to his wife, that "her mother had been pleased to take notice of his washing the bottles, and that he did not know what he should have done, if he had not thought of saying he put the water into it to put

his finger to it to taste." The witness, on this, turned away from him to the window, and made no answer; upon which he repeated the same. As she still made no answer, he desired his wife to ring the bell, in order to call up a servant; when the servant came, he ordered him to send in the coachman. When he came, the prisoner said, "Will, don't you remember that I set out of these iron gates at seven o'clock this morning?" "Yes, Sir," said he. "And that was the first time of my going out; I have never been on the other side of the house this morning: you remember that I set out there this morning at seven o'clock, and asked for a horse to go to the Wells?" "Yes, Sir." Mr. Donellan said, "then you are my evidence." The servant answered, "Yes, Sir." She did not recollect that the prisoner made any other observation. She then said, that Mr. Donellan received a letter from Sir William Wheeler, desiring the body might be opened. He shewed her his answer to this letter. She told him, "he had better let it alone, and not send such a letter as that; but she did not tell him the reason of her disliking it. He replied, "it was necessary to send an answer, and he would send it." She afterwards attended before the coroner and the jury in order to be examined. Mr. Donellan was present. She mentioned to the jury the circumstance of the prisoner's rincing the bottles. Being returned to Lawford-hall, the prisoner said to his wife before the witness, that "she had no occasion to have told the circumstance of his washing the bottles: she was only to answer such questions as were put to her; and that question had not been asked her. Being asked whether Mr. Donellan did not endeavour to account to her for her son's death, she answered, that, when the things

were

were removed, in order to be put into the inner room, he said to the maid, "Here, take his stockings; they have been wet; he has catched cold, to be sure; and that might occasion his death." On that, she examined the stockings, and there was no mark or appearance of their having been wet. In answer to some further questions, she denied that she or any of the family had ever declined eating of the same dishes that Sir Theodosius did. Mr. Donellan, indeed, had recommended to her not to drink out of the same cup, because he was affected with a venereal disorder; nor to touch the bread he did, because there might be arsenic about his fingers, as he used to put arsenic for his fish. On her cross-examination, she said, that long before Mr. Donellan had begun to talk of her son's being in a bad state of health, she had apprized him and her daughter that Sir Theodosius had been ill of a particular disorder. She acknowledged, that she had written to Bath, where Mr. and Mrs. Donellan then were, in the year 1777, and in 1778, that "she was afraid her son was in a bad way, for his fine complexion was gone." In November afterwards she went to Bath. She recollected, that a quarrel happened there between Sir Theodosius and a gentleman of that city, and that Mr. Donellan interfered to prevent any thing happening. She remembered a second quarrel at Rugby, in which she desired Mr. Donellan would interpose, to prevent the consequences, which he told her he did. She said, that Sir Theodosius did sometimes amuse himself with laying poison for fish; that he sent for a pound of arsenic; and that, after his death, a large quantity was found in his closet. Catharine Amos, cook to Lady Boughton, deposed, that she was call-

ed up stairs to the room where Sir Theodosius lay. She confirmed her lady's evidence with respect to the effects of the draught upon the deceased. She then went down stairs to her work. In about a quarter of an hour after she saw Mr. Donellan, who said, "Sir Theodosius was out very late over-night a-fishing; it was very silly of him, as he had been taking the same physic that he had taken before that time." She also saw Mr. Donellan the day the body was opened. He said, "there was nothing the matter: it was a blood-vessel had broke, which had occasioned Sir Theodosius's death." About a fortnight after, Mr. Donellan brought her a still that had been washed, and desired her to put it into the oven to dry, that it might not rust. The Rev. Mr. Newsam deposed, that he saw Captain Donellan at Lawford-hall the Saturday preceding Sir Theodosius's death; that the captain informed him, "that Sir Theodosius was in a very ill state of health; that he had never got rid of the disorder that he had brought with him from Eaton, but rather, in his opinion, had been adding to it; that he had made such frequent use of mercury, inwardly and outwardly, that his blood was a mass of mercury and corruption; that he had had a violent swelling in his groin, which they were endeavouring to bring to a head, but he was so obstinate, that he would not live well enough to do it; that they were fearful it would return into his blood, for at that time it was at a crisis; that he had frequent swellings in his throat, and his breath was so offensive, that they could hardly sit at the table to eat with him; that his intellects at intervals were so much affected, that nobody knew what it was to live with him." Mr. Newsam's answer was, "that if

If that was the case, he did not think his life was worth two years' purchase." He replied, "Not one." The witness asked him, "What advice he had?" he told him, "He was attended by Mr. Powell of Rugby, and that his medicines were made up by him from a prescription of Mr. Kerr's which he had while he was at Mr. Jones's; that he had given him a medicinal book called the Family Physician, which he was very fond of consulting." This witness then said, that at the time Sir Theodosius looked like a man to all appearance in health; he did not look so florid as he had done. Mr. Kerr, surgeon, of Northampton, deposed, that he attended Sir Theodosius when he was at Mr. Jones's. He really saw no disorder. There was a small wart or excrescence, very immaterial indeed. It was so slight that he did not think it a subject of medicine at all. He ordered him some lotion to wash it with, and dissuaded him from the use of medicine. He gave him a prescription for the lotion, but not for internal medicines. Dr. Rattray, of Coventry, deposed, that in consequence of an anonymous note, desiring him to bring Mr. Wilmer with him, in order to open the body of Sir Theodosius Boughton, they went there on Monday evening the 4th of September. Captain Donellan, who received him, asked him if he had heard from, or seen Sir William Wheeler. He answered in the negative: the prisoner, before he went up to see the corpse, shewed him a letter from Sir William Wheeler, part of which he read: it was that part of the letter in which Sir William excused himself from coming to Lawford-hall, conceiving that no person was proper to be there but the "surgeon and physician sent for." Mr. Donellan searched in his waistcoat pocket for another letter, but instead of

of it pulled out a cover. The letter the witness did see, the captain said, "was exceedingly polite; the first letter he received was much the same as this." It was now late. Mr. Wilmer went first into the room. He came out of it as the witness entered, and testified some surprise. Mr. Wilmer seeming to think that it would answer no purpose to open the body at that time, they asked Mr. Donellan "for what purpose it was to be opened;" who answered, "it was for the satisfaction of the family." He intimated no suspicion of poison. They therefore thought, that, it being merely for that purpose, it was of no use to open the body at so late a period. On the 9th of September, the doctor was again sent for, but by whom he could not tell. Mr. Wilmer and he went together, and met Mr. Bucknell, Mr. Powell, and Mr. Snow, in Newbold church-yard. Mr. Bucknell opened the body. Here the witness proceeded to describe the external appearances of the body, and its appearances in the dissecting. He was then asked whether, as he had heard the evidence of Mr. Powell and Lady Broughton, he could from that evidence, totally independent of the appearances he had been describing, form a judgment of the death of Sir Theodosius? he answered, that exclusive of these appearances, he was of opinion, from the symptoms that followed the taking of the draught, that it was poison, and the immediate cause of his death. Being desired to smell at the bottle, and asked what was the noxious medicine in it, he said it was a distillation of laurel-leaves, called laurel-water. Here he entered into a detail of several experiments on animals, tending to shew the instantaneous and mortal effects of the laurel-water. He knew nothing in medicine that corresponded in smell with

that

that mixture, which was like that of bitter almonds. He further said, that the quantity of laurel-water contained in the bottle shewn to him, was sufficient to be the death of any human creature: and that the appearances of the body confirmed him in his opinion, that the deceased was poisoned, so far as, upon the viewing a body so long after the death of the subject, one could be allowed to form a judgment upon such appearances. On his cross-examination, being asked whether, after he had heard Lady Boughton describe the symptoms, and after he had seen the body opened, he did not give it as his opinion, that the deceased died of arsenic, he said, "I have had such an opinion." He was not ashamed to own a mistake. He added, that nobody would attempt to form a judgment altogether upon the external appearances of the body when opened. Mr. Wilmer confirmed the evidence of Dr. Rattray, with respect to going to Lawford-hall, on Monday the 4th of September. Had any intimation been given to him that Sir Theodosius died by poison, he would have opened the body at all events. In general, he agreed with Dr. Rattray, as to the effects of the laurel-water. On his cross-examination he said, that on the 4th and 9th of September, he perceived not the least reluctance in the prisoner to the body's being opened. From the symptoms described by Lady Boughton, he was clearly of opinion that Sir Theodosius's death was occasioned by the poisonous draught administered to him by his mother. The heaving of the stomach, one of the symptoms she described, did not attend an epilepsy. Dr. Ashe, of Birmingham, was of opinion, from the symptoms described, that the deceased died by poison. If the laurel-water were distilled

distilled strong enough to collect the essential oil, a tea-spoonful of it would destroy animal life in a few seconds; and he believed as strong a poison might be made from bitter almonds. Dr. Parsons, professor of anatomy, at Oxford, was of opinion, that Sir Theodosius died by poison, and that poison was laurel-water. He adduced a case, from Dr. Rutty, "of a girl of eighteen years of age, in perfect health, who took less than two spoonfuls of the first runnings of simple water of laurel-leaves: within half a minute she fell down, was convulsed, foamed at the mouth, and died in a short time." On his cross-examination he said, that black-cherry water was said to have the same smell, but it was now out of use, nor did he believe there was an apothecary in the island that had it, and therefore it could not be substituted by accident for the other vehicle. Bitter almonds had that smell, and spirits flavoured with them were said to be poisonous to the human species. Mr. Bucknill, surgeon, at Rugby, deposed, that he waited on Mr. Donellan, of his own accord, on Tuesday morning, the 5th of September, and told him, that "he heard that Dr. Rattray and Mr. Wilmer had been there; that he was informed he and the rest of the family wanted the body of Sir Theodosius to be opened; that he had heard they had declined opening it on account of the putrid state it was in; but that, if it would be any satisfaction to the family, he would at all events take out the stomach." Mr. Donellan refused this. He said, "that Dr. Rattray and Mr. Wilmer had been there, and had declined opening the body, and it would not be fair to do any thing after men so eminent in their profession had said it was impossible." In consequence of this answer, he

he went away. The next day, at two o'clock, he went again to Lawford-hall, in consequence of a verbal message from Sir William Wheeler, to meet Mr. Snow there. He saw Mr. Donellan in the hall, and asked him "if Mr. Snow was come?" he said, "he was not come." The witness told him that he had received a verbal message from Sir William Wheeler to meet Mr. Snow there, and they were to get the body into the garden, or any other convenient place, and to open it; to which Mr. Donellan answered, that "he had then written to Sir William, and to the gentlemen of the faculty at Coventry; and he then waited Sir William's further orders." The witness then went to attend a patient two miles from Lawford-hall, leaving word he would be back in an hour and a half. He returned within an hour. Captain Donellan then told him that "Mr. Snow was gone; that he had given him orders what to do, and they were proceeding according to those orders; but," he added "I am sorry you have given yourself all this unnecessary trouble." The witness then went away. William Frost, coachman to Lady Boughton, deposed, that, the morning Sir Theodosius died, the captain and his lady were to go to the Wells to drink the water. By their orders he had got their horses ready in the morning. He took them to the gate. Captain Donellan came to the gate, and then said, "I will go and see if my lady is ready." He came back, and said, "My lady is not ready yet; I will take my mare and go to the Wells." The witness then put the horses into the stable. A considerable time after, Lady Boughton came, and desired him instantly to go for Mr. Powell, her son being dangerously ill. He said, that there was only her horse in the stable. She answered, "that would

would not go fast enough; he must get the mare." On his telling her that the captain had the mare, she bade him go and meet him, and take the mare. Then going towards the gate, the captain came withinside of it. He told him on on what errand he was going. The captain's answer he took no particular notice of, but mounted the mare and rode off. He confirmed Lady Boughton's evidence respecting his being called into the parlour, and was interrogated by the prisoner which gate he went out of. Samuel Frost deposed, that he was the servant sent to Mr. Powell for the medicine, on Tuesday the 29th of August. He received it from Mr. Powell's hands, brought it in between five and six in the afternoon, and delivered it to Sir Theodosius himself, who carried it up stairs. About seven o'clock, he went to a place where he was then a fishing, and staid till he returned. Captain Donellan was not there the whole time, during which Sir Theodosius was never off his horse. He had boots on, and it was not possible to wet his feet. About six o'clock the next morning he went into his room and waked him, in order to get some straps to buckle on a net he was to carry somewhere. The deceased got out of his bed, and went himself into the next room to give him the straps. He then appeared to be in a very good state of health. Mary Lymnes deposed, that she had been servant to Lady Boughton about two or three months. She left her place about a month before Sir Theodosius died. When she lived at Lawford-hall, Mr. Donellan used frequently to distil roses. He kept the still in what was called his own room, which was not that he slept in. He only slept in this room when Mrs. Donellan lay in. At that time it was left open, but at all other times was locked. Francis Amos, gardener

gardener to Lady Boughton, deposed, that he was out with Sir Theodosius the whole time he was a fishing, the night before he died. Mr. Donellan was not there. The evening after Sir Theodosius died, the prisoner came to him in the garden, and said, "Now, gardener, you shall live at your ease, and work at your ease; it shall not be as it was in Sir Theodosius's days; I wanted to be master before, but I have got master now, and I shall be master." Two or three days after Sir Theodosius died, he brought him a still to clean; it was full of wet lime. He said he used the lime to kill fleas. The witness used to gather lavender for him to distil. In the garden there were laurels, bays, and laurel-stines. On the morning that Sir Theodosius died, Mr. Donellan came to him, and bid him get a couple of pigeons directly. He answered, "there were none fit to eat." The prisoner replied, "it will make no odds if they are not, for they are for Sir Theodosius. We must have them against the doctor comes. Poor fellow! he lies in a sad agony now with this d—d nasty distemper; it will be the death of him. As soon as the witness went into the house with the pigeons, he met his Lady and Mrs. Donellan at the door. They were wringing their hands, and said, "It is too late now; he is dead." William Crofts, one of the coroner's jury, deposed, that on the examination of Lady Boughton, when she said, "Captain Donellan rinsed the bottle, he saw the Captain catch her by the gown and give her a twitch. John Darbyshire deposed, that he had been a prisoner in Warwick goal for debt; that Mr. Donellan and he had a bed in the same room for a month or five weeks. He remembered to have had a conversation with

 him

him about Sir Theodosius's being poisoned. On his asking him whether the body was poisoned or not, he said, "There was no doubt of it." The witness said, "For God's sake, Captain, who could do it?" he answered, "it was amongst themselves; he had no hand in it." The witness asked "Whom he meant by themselves?" he answered, "Himself, Lady Boughton, the footman, and the apothecary." The witness replied, "Sure Sir Theodosius could not do it himself?" He said, "He did not think he did, he could not believe he would." The witness answered, "The apothecary could hardly do it; he would lose a good patient; the footman could have no interest in it; and it was very unnatural to suppose that Lady Boughton would do it." He then said, "How covetous Lady Boughton was; she had received an anonymous letter the day after Sir Theodosius's death, charging her plump with poisoning him; that she called him and read it to him, and she trembled; she desired he would not let his wife know of that letter, and asked him if he would give up his right to the personal estate, and to some estates of about 200l. a year belonging to the family." The conversation was about a month after the Captain came into the gaol. At other times he has said, "That he was innocent; it was impossible he could do a thing that never was in his power." This being the chief evidence, the prisoner, in his defence, pleaded a total ignorance of the fact, and several respectable characters bore testimony of his integrity. The jury, however, found him guilty, and he received sentence of death. Immediately after his conviction, a divine, accompanied by a particular friend of the prisoner, went

went to see him, and to all appearance he was perfectly resigned to his unhappy fate. It was urged to him, that as the evidence had been so clear, a denial of the fact would be looked upon by the world as a mean prevarication, and would induce people to throw additional insult upon his memory. To this observation he answered, "he could not help any man's conclusions; he knew his own heart, and would with his last breath assert his innocence; some few unguarded and unpremeditated expressions, aggravated by falshoods of the most flagrant kind, which were sworn at his trial, have induced a jury to take his life; but time would do him justice, and prove him an injured man, ruined by those who ought to have been his friends." Perceiving the gentlemen in astonishment at this conversation, he added, "that he should dedicate to-morrow (Sunday) to the purpose of drawing up an answer to, and a refutation of the evidence, and should leave it with a friend, that he had no doubt would comply with the last request he should make, that of seeing it correctly published." He was asked whether he had not a desire to see his wife, and take a last farewel. To this he hastily replied, "I do beseech you, let me not hear again of this: if she does not come, I shall die composed." On Sunday evening he deposited his case with a gentleman of Coventry, who assisted him in his trial, with an earnest request, that he would print and publish it. He then gave some directions relative to the adjustment of the sad operation which was to take place in the morning, and appeared remarkably cheerful and composed. At seven o'clock next day he was carried to the place of execution in a mourning coach, followed by a hearse, and the sheriff's officers

in deep mourning; as he went on, he frequently put his head out of the coach, desiring the prayers of the people around him. On his arrival at the place of execution, he alighted from the coach, and ascending a few steps of the ladder, prayed for a considerable time, and then joined in the usual service with the greatest appearance of devotion; he then in an audible tone of voice addressed the spectators in the following terms:—"That as he was then going to appear before God, to whom all deceit was known, he solemnly declared, that he was innocent of the crime for which he was to suffer! that he had drawn up a vindication of himself, which he hoped the world would believe, for it was of more consequence to him to speak truth than falshood, and had no doubt but that time would reveal the many mysteries that had arisen in his trial." After praying fervently some time, he let his handkerchief fall, a signal agreed on between him and the executioner, and was launched into eternity. After hanging the usual time, the body was put into a black coffin, and conveyed to the Town Hall to be dissected. He suffered at Warwick, on Monday the 2d of April, 1781.

DOWDELL, JOSEPH. See TALBOT, T.

DOWNIE, DAVID. See WATT, R.

DRAMATTI, JOHN PETER, (MURDERER,) was the son of protestant parents, born at Saverdun, in the county of Foix, and province of Languedoc in France. He received a religious education; and, when he arrived at years of maturity, left his own country on account of the persecution then prevailing there, and went to Geneva. From thence he travelled into Germany, and served

served as a horse-grenadier under the elector of Brandenburgh, who was afterwards king of Prussia. When he had been in this sphere of life about a year, he came over to England, and entered into the service of lord Haversham, with whom he remained about twelve months, and then enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of Col. de la Meloniere. Having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was broke, in consequence of which Dramatti obtained his liberty. He now became acquainted with a widow, between 50 and 60 years of age, who pretending she had a great fortune, and allied to the royal family of France, he soon married her, not only on account of her supposed wealth and rank, but also of her understanding English and Irish, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could speak the language of the country in which he proposed to spend the remainder of his life. As soon as he had discovered that his wife had no fortune, he took a small house and a piece of ground, about ten miles from Cork, intending to turn farmer; but being altogether ignorant of husbandry, he found it impossible to subsist by that profession, on which he went to Cork, and worked as a skinner, being the trade to which he was brought up. At the expiration of a twelvemonth from his coming to that city, he went to London, and offering his service again to lord Haversham, was admitted as one of his domestics. His wife, unhappy on account of their separate residence, wished to live with him at lord Haversham's, which he would not consent to, saying, that his lordship did not know he was married. Hereupon she entreated him to quit his service, which he likewise refused, saying that he could not provide for himself so well in

any other situation, and that it would be ungenerous to leave so indulgent a master. The wife now began to evince the jealousy of her disposition, and intimated that Dramatti had fixed his affections on some other woman; and the following circumstance aggravated the malignant disorder that preyed upon her mind. Dramatti being attacked with a violent fever, about the Christmas preceding the time the murder was committed, his noble master gave orders that all possible care should be taken of him at his lordship's expence. At this period Mrs. Dramatti paid a visit to her husband, and again urged him to quit his service, which he positively refused. A servant girl came into the room, bringing him some water-gruel; and the wife suspecting that this was her rival in her husband's affections, once more entreated him to leave his place; in answer to which, he said he must be out of his senses to abandon a situation in which he was so well provided for, and treated with such humanity. Dramatti being recovered from his illness, visited his wife at her lodgings as often as was consistent with the duties of his station; but this not being so often as she wished him to come, she grew more uneasy than before. At length lord Haversham took lodgings at Kensington, and Dramatti was so busy in packing up some articles on the occasion, that he had no opportunity of acquainting his wife with their removal. At length she learnt this circumstance from another quarter; on which, enflamed to the highest degree of rage, she went to Kensington, to reproach her husband with his unkindness to her, though he declared he always maintained her as well as he was able, and as a proof of it had given her three guineas but a little time before the murder was committed. Frequent

quent were the disputes between this unhappy man and his wife, till, on the 9th of June, 1703, Dramatti being sent to London, and his business lying near Soho, he called on his wife, who lodged in that neighbourhood, and having been with her some time, he was about to take his leave, but she laid hold of him, and wanted to detain him.—Having got away from her, he went towards Charing-cross, to which place she followed him; but at length she seemed to yield to his persuasions, that she would go home, as he told her he was going to his lord in Spring Gardens; instead, however, of going home, she went and waited for him at or near Hyde-park gate, and in the evening he found her there as he was going to Kensington.—At the Park-gate she stopped him, and insisted that he should go no farther, unless he took her with him. He left her abruptly, and went towards Chelsea, but she followed him till they came near Bloody bridge, where the quarrel being vehemently renewed, she seized his neckcloth, and would have strangled him; whereupon he beat her most unmercifully with his cane and sword, which latter she broke with her hands, as she was remarkable for her strength; and, if he had been unarmed, could have easily overpowered him. Having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion immediately began to subside, and falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid sin of which he had been guilty. He then went on to Kensington, where his fellow-servants observing that his clothes were bloody, he said he had been attacked by two men in Hyde-park, who would have robbed him of his clothes, but that he defended himself, and broke the head of one of them.

them. This story was credited for a short time, and on the following day Dramatti went to London, where he heard a paper read in the streets respecting the murder that had been committed.—Though he dreaded being taken into custody every moment, yet he did not seek to make his escape, but dispatched his business in London, and returned to Kensington. On the following day the servants heard an account of the murder that had been committed near Bloody-bridge; they immediately hinted to his lordship that they suspected Dramatti had murdered his wife, as they had been known to quarrel before, and as he came home the preceding evening with his sword broke, the hilt of it bruised, his cane shattered, and some blood on his clothes. Upon this lord Haversham, with a view to employ him, that he might not think he was suspected, bid him get the coach ready, and in the interim sent for a constable, who, on searching him, found a woman's cap in his pocket, which afterwards proved to have belonged to his wife.—When he was examined before a justice of peace, he confessed he had committed the crime; but, in extenuation of it, said that his wife was a worthless woman, who had entrapped him into marriage, by pretending to be of the blood-royal of France, and a woman of fortune. On his trial, it appeared that he went into lord Haversham's chamber late on the night on which the murder was committed, after that nobleman was in bed; and it was supposed he had an intention of robbing his lordship, who called out to know what he wanted. But, in a solemn declaration Dramatti made after his conviction, he stedfastly denied all intention of robbing his master, declaring he only went into the room to fetch a silver tumbler which he had forgot, that

that he might have it in readiness to take in some asses milk in the morning, for his lordship. The body of Mrs. Dramatti was found in a ditch between Hyde park and Chelsea, and a track of blood was seen to the distance of twenty yards, at the end of which a piece of a sword was found sticking in a bank, which fitted the other part of the sword in the prisoner's possession. The circumstances attending the murder being proved to the satisfaction of the jury, the culprit was found guilty, condemned, and on the 21st of July, 1703, was executed at Tyburn.

DREW, CHARLES, (PARRICIDE,) was the son of an attorney of great practice at Long Melford in Suffolk, who, though a man of good fortune, was of so unaccountable a disposition, that he entirely neglected the education of his son, who was consequently brought up in total ignorance; and though his talents were not of the inferior kind, there was no probability of his ever making a respectable figure in life. This old gentleman had quarrelled with, and lived separate from, his wife, and behaved in the most reserved and unfriendly manner to his children, having, besides this son, five daughters. When young Drew arrived at years of maturity, he became acquainted with one Eliz. Boyer, who submitted to his solicitations, but was a woman of so much art, that most people thought he would have married her; however, when she urged him to it, he said,—"Betsey, let us stay a little longer—it will be worse for us both if I do it now, for my father will certainly disinherit me." To which she replied, "I wish somebody would shoot the old dog." Charles having been to the assizes at Chelmsford,

Chelmsford, fell in company with some smugglers, among whom was one Humphreys, a hardened villain, calculated for the execution of any desperate enterprise. With this man he held a conference, telling him that he would inform him of a scheme by which he might make his fortune, if he would meet him at Mrs. Boyer's lodgings. Humphreys accordingly met him; when Drew promised to settle 200l. a year on him if he would murder his father, and likewise give him a considerable sum in money. Humphreys hesitated some time—but at length consenting to the horrid proposal, they went together towards the house, having a gun loaded with slugs, about eleven at night on the 31st of January, 1740. It seems it was agreed that young Drew was to stand at a distance, while Humphreys was to knock at the door, and ask for the old man: then to shoot him when he came to speak to him; but his courage failing him when he came near the spot, he threw down the gun, saying, he would have no concern in the murder. On this young Drew commanded him to keep silence, on pain of death; and, taking up the gun, went to the door, and when his father opened it, shot him dead on the spot. This done, he went away with Humphreys, to whom he said, "The job is finished!" on which Humphreys went to Dunmow in Essex, where he had appointed to meet some smugglers that night; and after that travelled to London. An inquest having been held on the body of the deceased, and Humphreys being told that he was supected, he returned into the country, but was soon apprehended. He did not impeach Drew till some time afterwards, when the interception of some letters discovered the nature of

of the connection that had subsisted between them. Humphreys deposed on the trial, that meeting the prisoner about a fortnight after the murder was committed, he asked him if he was not concerned at the death of his father. To which he replied in the negative, saying, "If he had lived he would have ruined the family." Humphreys likewise endeavored to exculpate himself from having had any share in the murder. In the mean time young Drew went to London, and made application for the king's pardon to any person except him who had actually murdered his father; in consequence of which an advertisement to that purpose was inserted in the London Gazette, signed by the secretary of state; and another advertisement followed it, in which Drew himself offered a reward of 100l. on conviction of the murderer. This procedure appears evidently to have been intended to take off all suspicion from himself, though he meant not to fix it on Humphreys. On the apprehension of the latter on suspicion, he gave such an indifferent account of the transaction, that he was ordered to be kept in custody. While he was in prison Drew sent him 20l. with the promise of one hundred more. After he was committed, the suspicion of his guilt grew stronger, and was corroborated by several informations. This gave Drew great uneasiness: he took the utmost pains to suppress all farther informations, and even to destroy the credibility of those already made. He publicly declared that Humphreys was not the man who shot his father, and threatened to prosecute the officer who apprehended him. In the meantime Drew resided in London, where he changed his name to that of Roberts, and corresponded with Humphreys, who had assumed the name of

John

John Smith. Some of the letters falling into the hands of Timothy Drew, Esq. a namesake only, he went to London in search of the murderer; and after repeated enquiries, was told that he lodged in Shire lane, whither he went, and enquired for him by the name of Roberts. The people of the house said they had no lodgers; but the gentleman, who had a magistrate's warrant for apprehending the offender, insisted on searching the house, but the search was made in vain. On this he went to several bagnios, and at length to Eastmead's in Leicester-fields, where he enquired for Mr. Roberts. It should seem that Drew had given orders to be denied, for the landlord said that all the gentlemen who had lodged there the preceding night were gone. Mr. Timothy Drew observing the landlord whisper one of the waiters, suspected the truth of this declaration, called for a pint of wine, and asked the waiter to drink with him.—After some conversation, he raised his voice, and in a positive manner declared he knew Mr. Roberts was in the house, but that his real name was Chas. Drew, and that he had murdered his father; and he threatened to have all the people in the house apprehended for concealing a murderer. The authoritative manner in which he spoke, induced the waiter to confess that the gentlemen was in the house; and the unwelcome visitor being introduced to him, said he had a warrant to apprehend him, and to take him before Justice De Veil, on a charge of having murdered his father. Hereupon, he was conducted to the house of the magistrate; and, after an examination of above six hours, was committed to Newgate, under a strong guard.—During his residence in the prison, he offered, and actually gave, to Jonathan Keate, the turnkey, a bond

bond of half his fortune, on the condition of permitting him to escape, and accompanying him to France: and for the further security of Keate, he executed a bond to him for the payment of a thousand pounds. The turnkey seemed to comply, and the time was fixed on for their departure; but the man having informed Mr. Akerman, the keeper, of it, Drew was removed into the old condemned cell, where a guard was placed over him night and day. On the approach of the assizes, he was sent to the gaol of Bury St. Edmund's; and Humphreys being admitted an evidence, Drew was convicted after a trial of several hours. On conviction, he did not evince any concern for the enormity of the crime of which he had been guilty, but attributed it all to his father's ill treatment of him. He said that his father denied him necessary money for his expences; and his having refused to make over an estate to him, was the first instigation to his committing the horrid crime. He was visited by his sisters, who carefully avoided reflecting on him; and did all in their power to console him in his unhappy situation. He suffered the 9th of April, 1749, aged 25, amidst the greatest croud of spectators that were almost ever assembled on such a melancholy occasion in that part of the country. He seemed to give up his life with evident signs of reluctance, begging the clergyman who attended him to continue the devotions to the last possible moment.

DRURY, ANTHONY, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was a native of Norfolk, and the son of parents in reputable circumstances, who imprudently neglected to bring him up to any business. When he arrived at years of maturity, he wandered about

the country curing smoky chimnies, which procured him the appellation of "the smoky doctor" among those who knew him. He married a woman who was said to possess a very considerable fortune, but never received more of it than 500l. He lived some years with his wife at Andover, but occasionally ranged the country, preferring a wandering to a domestic life. His wife used every argument to prevail on him to remain at home, but her solicitations were without effect. Sometimes he would stroll to London, and carry with him valuable articles for his support. On one of these occasions he pawned some plate for 10l. and dissipated the money in company with women of the town. He thus continued, till he reduced his wife to such a state of indigence, that she was obliged to the friendship of her relations for a maintenance. By a continued course of extravagance, he grew daily more and more vicious, and at length determined to commence highwayman. In London he made an acquaintance with Rob. King, the driver of the Bicester waggon, who was a fellow of bad character; and whose practice, for the sake of a share in the booty, was to inform the highwaymen when he had any persons to travel in his waggon who possessed a considerable sum of money or valuable effects, for at this time people of great property used to travel in waggons. Drury being in company one night with King, the latter told him that a gentleman named Eldridge would travel in his waggon on the following day, and that it would be prudent to rob him before he got far from town, as he would have with him a very considerable booty. Drury listened eagerly to this tale, and the next day robbed Mr. Eldridge of 214 guineas.

neas. As he took money only, he had very little apprehension of detection; but another traveller in the waggon happening to know him, repaired to London and gave information against him; whereupon he was taken into custody, and being brought to trial, was convicted on full evidence. After he received sentence of death, his behaviour was consistent with his unhappy situation. He was a regular attendant on divine worship, and a constant peruser of religious books: but at the same time he did every thing in his power to procure a respite of the fatal sentence. Some people of consequence exerted themselves to obtain the royal mercy for Drury, but in vain—his character and crime militated too forcibly against him. After conviction he repeatedly wrote to his wife, desiring her to come to London, and, among other motives to prevail on her, told her she might redeem the plate he had pawned: but his entreaties had no effect. This her unfeeling indifference gave him great uneasiness; and prevented that calmness of disposition which a proper preparation for his approaching exit required. Two days before his death he received the sacrament with every mark of real contrition. On the evening preceding his execution, a gentleman sent a woman to enquire what declaration he would make respecting the waggoner; to whom he answered, that he had no idea of committing the crime till King proposed it to him; and that his life was sacrificed in consequence of his taking that advice. When at the place of execution, he appeared to possess more courage than he had done some time before. He again declared that the waggoner had seduced him to commit the robbery, and therefore exhorted all young people

and both of them received sentence of death.—After conviction, their behaviour was more resigned and devout than could have been expected from men whose repeated crimes might be supposed to have hardened their hearts; but the terrors of death had due effect. Butler was a Roman Catholic, and Duce a Protestant. The latter was urged by the ordinary to discover the names of some of his old accomplices; but this he refused to do, because, he said, they had left off their practices, and now lived honest lives. A few moments before they were launched into eternity, Butler declared that the circumstances of cruelty with which their crimes had been attended, gave him more pain than the thoughts of death; and Duce acknowledged the enormity of his offences, and begged the forgiveness of all whom he had injured.—They suffered at Tyburn, August 14, 1723. See ANGIER, HUMPHREY.

DUELL, WM. (MURDERER,) was convicted of occasioning the death of Sarah Griffin, at Acton, by robbing and ravishing her. We have inserted his name in this collection, on account of the following singular circumstance which succeeded his execution. Having suffered Nov 24, 1740, at Tyburn, with Tho. Clock, Wm. Meers, Margery Stanton, and Eleanor Munoman, (who had been convicted of several burglaries and felonies,) his body was brought to Surgeons'-hall to be anatomized; but after it was stripped and laid on the board, and one of the servants was washing him in order to be cut, he perceived life in him, and found his breath to come quicker and quicker, on which a surgeon took some ounces of blood from him: in two hours he was able to sit up in his chair, and in the evening was again committed

to

to Newgate. His sentence was afterwards changed to transportation.

DUNCALF, ——. See COOPER, JAMES.

DUNTAP, ——. See M'NAUGHTON, J.

E.

EASTERBY, ——. See CODLIN, WM.

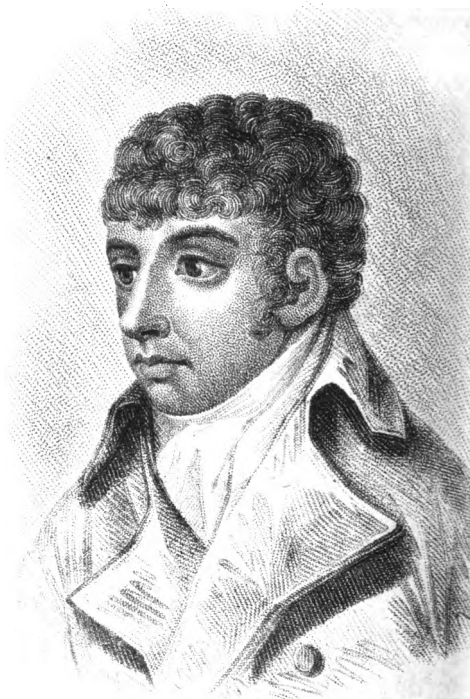
EDMONDSON, MARY, (MURDERER,) was the daughter of a farmer near Leeds in Yorkshire, and sent to reside with her aunt, Mrs. Walker, of Rotherhithe, who was a widow lady, and with whom she lived two years, comporting herself in the most decent manner, and regularly attending the duties of religion. A lady named Toucher having spent the evening with Mrs. Walker, Mary Edmondson lighted her across the street on her way home; and soon after her return, a woman who cried oysters through the street, observed that the door was open, and heard the girl cry out,—"Help! murder! they have killed my aunt!" Edmondson now ran to the house of Mrs. Odell, wringing her hands, and bewailing the misfortune; and the neighbours being by this time alarmed, some gentlemen went from a public house where they had spent the evening, in order to enquire into the affair. They found Mrs. Walker, with her throat cut, lying on her right side, and her head near a table, which was covered with linen. One of the gentlemen, named Halloway, said, "this is very strange—I know not what to make of it—let us examine the girl." Her account of the matter was, that four men had entered at the back door, one of whom, putting his arms round her aunt's neck, another, who was a tall

tall man, dressed in black, swore that he would kill her if she spoke a single word. Mr. Holloway, observing the girl's arm was cut, asked her how it happened; to which she replied, that one of the men, in attempting to get out, had jammed it with the door: but Halloway, judging from all appearances, that no men had been in the house, said he did not believe her, but supposed she was the murderer of her aunt. On this she fell into a fit, and, being removed to a neighbour's house, was blooded by a surgeon, and continued there till the following day, when the coroner's inquest sat on the body, and brought in a verdict of wilful murder, whereupon she was committed to prison. Mrs. Walker's executors, anxious to discover the truth, caused the house to be diligently searched, and found that a variety of things which Mary Edmondson had said were stolen, were not missing; nor could they discover that any thing was lost. Mrs. Walker's watch, and some other articles, which she said had been carried off by the murderers, were found under the floor of the privy. Being committed to the new gaol, Southwark, she remained there till the next assizes for Surry, when she was tried at Kingston, and convicted on evidence which, though acknowledged to be circumstantial, was such as, in the general opinion, admitted little doubt of her guilt. She made a defence, indeed, but not sufficiently probable to have any weight. Being condemned on Saturday, to be executed on the Monday following, she was lodged in the prison at Kingston, whence she wrote to her parents, most solemnly avowing her innocence. She likewise begged that the minister of the parish would preach a sermon on the occasion of her death. She asserted her innocence on the Sunday; when

when she was visited by a clergyman, and several other people; yet was her behaviour devout, and apparently sincere. Being taken out of prison on the Monday morning, she got into a post-chaise with the keeper, and arriving at the Peacock in Kennington-lane about nine o'clock, there drank a glass of wine, and then, being put into a cart, was conveyed to the place of execution, where she behaved devoutly, and made the following address to the surrounding multitude:—"It is now too late to trifle either with God or man. I solemnly declare that I am innocent of the crime laid to my charge. I am very easy in my mind, as I suffer with as much pleasure as if I was going to sleep. I freely forgive my prosecutors, and earnestly beg your prayers for my departing soul." She suffered on Kennington Common, April 2, 1759. Her body was conveyed to St. Thomas's Hospital, Southwark, and there dissected.

ELBY, WILLIAM, (MURDERER, &c.) was born in the year 1673, at Deptford in Kent, and served his time with a block maker at Rotherhithe, during which he became acquainted with some women of ill-fame. After the term of his apprenticeship was expired, he kept company with young fellows of such bad character, that he found it necessary to enter on board a ship to prevent worse consequences. Having returned from sea, he enlisted as a soldier; but while in this situation he committed many small thefts, in order to support the women with whom he was connected. At length he deserted from the army, assumed a new name, and prevailed on some of his companions to engage in house-breaking. Detection soon terminated his career; and he was indicted for robbing the house of ——— Barry, Esq. of Fulham, and murdering his

his gardener. Elby, it seems, having determined on robbing the house, arrived at Fulham soon after midnight, and had wrenched open one of the windows, at which he was getting in, when the gardener awaking, came down to prevent the intended robbery. As the gardener had a light in his hand, Elby, terrified lest he should be known, seized a knife, and stabbed him to the heart, of which wound the poor man fell dead at his feet. This done, he broke open a chest of drawers, and stole about two hundred and fifty pounds, with which he immediately repaired to his associates in London. Though this man, naturally inclined to gaiety, dressed in a stile much above people of his profession, yet being at this juncture in possession of a greater sum of money than usual, those who knew him suspected that it could not have been honestly obtained; and as every one was now talking of the horrid murder that had been committed at Fulham, the idea immediately occurred that it had been perpetrated by Elby, particularly as he began to abound in cash at this critical juncture. Elby now used to frequent a public-house in the Strand, where, being casually in company, the robbery and murder at Fulham became the subject of conversation. Hereupon Elby turned pale, and seeing one of the company go out of the room, he was so terrified, that he immediately ran out of the house without paying the reckoning. Soon after he was gone a person called for him; but as he was not there, he said he would go to his lodgings. The landlord, enraged that the reckoning had not been paid, demanded where he lived, which being told, and remarked by the person who called, he was taken into custody the next day, and committed on suspicion of the robbery and murder. On his trial he steadily denied



J. Chapman sc.

ROBERT EMMETT

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denied the perpetration of the crimes with which he was charged, and his conviction would have been very doubtful, had not a woman, with whom he cohabited, become an evidence, and swore that he came from Fulham with the money the morning after the commission of the fact. Some other persons likewise deposed, that they saw him come out of Mr. Barry's house on the morning the murder was committed; but as they did not know what had happened, they had entertained no suspicion of him. The jury deeming this circumstance sufficient conviction, Elby received sentence of death, and having been executed at Fulham on the 13th of September, 1704, was hung in chains near the place where the crime was committed.

ELLIOTT, EDWARD. See WALTHAM BLACKS, THE.

EMMETT, ROBERT, (TRAITOR,) of a most respectable Irish family, who, with his brother, had been concerned in wickedly endeavoring to subvert the government of Ireland, and had expended a large sum in providing arms for his associates. His brother had, during our last war with France, been in custody for the like offence, but in consequence of becoming an exile for life, government was pleased to forego severe measures. These gentlemen had an excellent education, and were both renowned for eloquence. The elder, who was the banished brother, was in London, at the Temple, about twenty-five years ago, and distinguished himself at Coach-makers' Hall, then a respectable debating society. He found, however, a rival, in Maynard C. Walker, Esq. (now at the Irish bar) both here, and in a debating society in Dublin; in consequence of which Mr. Emmett, by the

the advice of his friends, declined any further controversy. These gentlemen would certainly have been great luminaries at the bar, had not that lurking fiend, disloyalty, eclipsed their fame, and instigated bright talents to perpetrate dark deeds. Robert Emmett was tried and convicted in Dublin, before Lord Norbury and a respectable jury, Monday, September 19, 1803. After the evidence, the provincial proclamation was read, to shew the object of the insurrection, and the resolution proscribing the yeomanry and other loyal subjects. The prisoner desired that a part of it should also be read by which it was decreed, that no man should suffer death by court-martial, but for mutiny, until the pleasure of the provisional government should be known: it was read accordingly. The proclamation addressed to the citizens of Dublin was also read. The prisoner's counsel accounted for the intimate knowledge he had of the provisional proclamation, by saying that it had appeared in other publications. The following papers were then read;—No. I. (found in his lodgings by Major Sirr,) was nearly as follows:—"It may seem strange that a person avowing himself to be an enemy of the present government, and engaged in a conspiracy for its overthrow, should undertake to suggest an opinion on its conduct, or expect that advice from such a quarter should be received with attention. The writer of this, however, does not mean to offer an opinion upon a point in which he feels difficulty—on which his candour might be doubted; his intention is to confine himself to points on which he feels with the merciful, and as an Irishman, with the English part of the present government: he will communicate in the most precise

cise terms the line of conduct which he may be hereafter compelled to adopt; and which, however painful, would be doubly so if he did not try to avoid it by the most explicit notification. It is not the intention of the undersigned to do more than state what the government must acknowledge, that of the conspiracy it knows nothing; and instead of creating terror in its enemies, and confidence in its friends, it will serve by the scantiness of its information to furnish new grounds of conviction to those who are too ready to accuse it for the want of that intelligence which no sagacity could enable it to obtain. If, then, it is unable by a display of discoveries to evince its strength and vigilance, it cannot hope to crush the conspiracy by the weight of its power. It is only now that men have to learn that entering into a conspiracy exposes them to be hanged. . . . . Can it hope to injure the body of the conspiracy, so imperceptibly woven as the present, by merely cutting off a few of the threads? . . . . . No system can change the conduct which the U. I. will adopt for effecting the emancipation of their country." No. II. found on the prisoner's person.—"I wish particularly to know how matters stand, if you are not afraid. What hopes there are from abroad, and what they mean to do; and whether, if they pay us a visit, we shall not be worse off than we are? . . . . . He is very desponding, and says the people are incapable of redress, and unworthy of liberty; that he is confirmed in this by the late transaction, which must have succeeded but for their barbarous desertion and want of unanimity. He thinks that the invasion will not take place at all, but that it is the plan to wear down the English by the expence of frequent

preparation." No. III. found in the desk in Thomas-street.—"I have but little time to look at the thousand difficulties between me and the completion of my wishes; that they would succeed I have ardent, and, I trust, rational hopes; but if that should not be the case, I thank God for having gifted me with a sanguine disposition, so that I run from reflection; and if my hopes are without foundation—if a precipice be opening under my feet, from which duty will not suffer me to depart, I am thankful for that disposition which leads me on to it, and hurls me down, while my eyes are raised to the visions of happiness which my fancy has formed in the air." No. IV. was the manuscript of the Proclamation of the Provisional government, found in the desk in Thomas street.—When this unfortunate young man was called upon to know if he had any thing to say why sentence of death should not be passed upon him, he addressed the court and jury nearly in the following terms:

"I am asked if I have any thing to say why sentence of death should not be pronounced upon me. Was I to suffer only death, after being adjudged guilty, I should bow in silence; but a man in my situation has not only to combat with the difficulties of fortune, but also the difficulties of prejudice; the sentence of the law which delivers over his body to the executioner, consigns his character to obloquy. The man dies, but his memory lives; and that mine may not forfeit all claim to the respect of my countrymen, I use this occasion to vindicate myself from some of the charges advanced against me. I am charged with being an emissary of France—'tis false! I am no emissary—I did not

not wish to deliver up my country to a foreign power, and least of all to France. No! never did I entertain the idea of establishing French power in Ireland—God forbid! On the contrary, it is evident from the introductory paragraph of the Address of the provisional government, that every hazard attending an independent effort was deemed preferable to the more fatal risk of introducing a French army into the country. Small would be our claims to patriotism and to sense, and palpable our affectation of the love of liberty, if we were to encourage the profanation of our shores by a people who are slaves themselves, and the unprincipled and abandoned instruments of imposing slavery on others. If such an inference be drawn from any part of the proclamation of the Provisional Government, it calumniates their views, and is not warranted by the fact. How could they speak of freedom to their countrymen? How assume such an exalted motive, and meditate the introduction of a power which has been the enemy of freedom in every part of the globe? Reviewing the conduct of France to other countries, could we expect better towards us? No! Let not, then, any man attaint my memory by believing that I could have hoped freedom through the aid of France, and betrayed the sacred cause of liberty by committing it to the power of her most determined foe: had I done so, I had not deserved to live; and dying with such a weight upon my character, I had merited the honest execration of that country which gave me birth, and to which I would have given freedom. Had I been in Switzerland, I would have fought against the French—in the dignity of freedom, I would have expired on the threshold of that coun-

try, and they should have entered it only by passing over my lifeless corpse. Is it, then, to be supposed, that I would be slow to make the same sacrifice to my native land? Am I, who lived but to be of service to my country, and who would subject myself to the bondage of the grave to give her independence—am I to be loaded with the foul and grievous calumny of being an emissary of France? My lords, it may be part of the system of angry justice to bow a man's mind by humiliation to meet the ignominy of the scaffold; but worse to me than the scaffold's shame, or the scaffold's terrors, would be the imputation of having been the agent of French despotism and ambition; and while I have breath, I will call upon my countrymen not to believe me guilty of so foul a crime against their liberties and their happiness. Though you, my lord, sit there a judge, and I stand here a culprit, yet you are but a man, and I am another; I have a right therefore to vindicate my character and motives from the aspersions of calumny; and as a man to whom fame is dearer than life, I will make the last use of that life in rescuing my name and my memory from the afflicting imputation of having been an emissary of France, or seeking her interference in the internal regulation of her affairs. Did I live to see a French army approach this country, I would meet it on the shore with a torch in one hand and a sword in the other—I would receive them with all the destruction of war! I would animate my countrymen to immolate them in their very boats; and before our native soil should be polluted by a foreign foe, if they succeeded in landing, I would burn every blade of grass before them, raze every house, contend to the last for every inch of

of ground, and the last spot on which the hope of freedom should desert me, that spot I would make my grave! What I cannot do, I leave a legacy to my country, because I feel conscious that my death were unprofitable, and all hopes of liberty extinct, the moment a French army obtained a footing in this land." After some further matter, he concluded thus: "My lamp of life is nearly expired—my race is finished: the grave opens to receive me, and I sink into its bosom. All I request then, at parting from the world, is the charity of its silence. Let no man write my epitaph, for as no man who knows my motives dare vindicate them, let not prejudice or ignorance asperse them; let them and me repose in obscurity and peace, and my tomb remain undescribed, till other times and other men can do justice to my character."

The foregoing is a faithful report of this unfortunate young man's exculpation of himself from the charge of co-operating with the French in any design to invade this country; and whether voluntary or involuntary, it is an evidence against the character of the common enemy, which, coming from such authority, ought, and we trust will have the most salutary effect upon all who may have participated in his principles or his treasons. Whether the sincere conviction of his mind, or the imposition of pride, anxious to rescue his memory from the foul shame of having sought to deliver his country up to a foreign and a cruel enemy, he is entitled to equal credit, and if any thing were inscribed on his tomb most honorable to himself, and atoning to his country, it is the character which he has given of the arch-foe to the peace and liberty of mankind.

—The court listened to him with a great deal of patience, and although indignation was visible in the countenance of every person in court, at this public avowal of his guilt, yet not a murmur was heard. Lord Norbury, after a salutary remonstrance to the prisoner, and paying a handsome compliment to some of the respectable members of the family to which he belonged, pronounced the awful sentence of the law in cases of High Treason.——Mr. Emmett, after his trial, was taken to Newgate, where dinner had been prepared for him. He there requested to see one of the gentlemen who were engaged in his defence. To him, it is generally rumoured, he made a full disclosure of all the means he had used to effect the late insurrection, and authorized him to make it known to government. He declared himself the chief mover and instigator of that attempt to effect a revolution, and solemnly denied having any associates in this country of either property or respectability. He accounted for the expences incurred in preparations for rebellion, by stating that he had received on the death of his father 3500l. and that he had expended of that sum 2500l. in purchasing the arms found in the depot in Marshelsea-lane. He also denied having solicited or received any assistance from the French government, and protested, were this country invaded by Frenchmen, from his information of their principles and conduct wherever they went, that he would be one of the most zealous in the expulsion of such treacherous, rapacious, and sanguinary miscreants. At the place of execution he expressed the same sentiments.

EVANS, DAVID. See GRIFFITHS, WM.

EVERETT,

EVERETT, JOHN, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was a native of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, and had been well educated, his father possessing three hundred pounds per annum. He was apprenticed to a salesman; but running away from his master, he entered into the army, and served in Flanders, where he behaved so well that he was promoted to the rank of serjeant. On the return of his regiment to England, he purchased his discharge, and repairing to London, bought the place of an officer in Whitechapel Court, in which he continued about seven years, but having given liberty to some persons whom he had arrested, one Charlesworth, a solicitor of that court, caused him to be discharged, and then sued him for the amount of the debts of the parties whom his inconsiderate good-nature had liberated. To evade imprisonment, Everett enlisted in Lord Albemarle's company of foot-guards; soon after his engaging in the army, he fell into company with Richard Bird, with whom he had been formerly acquainted. This Bird hinted that great advantages might be acquired in a particular way, if Everett could be trusted; and the latter, anxious to know what the plan was, learnt that it was to go on the road; on which an agreement was immediately concluded. Hereupon they set out on their expedition, and robbed several stages in the counties adjacent to London, from which they obtained considerable booty, in jewels, money, and valuable effects. Thus successful in their first exploits, they went to Hounslow-Heath, where they stopped two military officers, who were attended by servants armed with blunderbusses; but they obliged them to submit, and robbed them of their money and watches: the watches were afterwards

left, according to agreement, at a coffee-house near Charing-Cross, and the thieves received twenty guineas for restoring them. Soon after they stopped a gentleman in an open chaise near Epsom. The gentleman drew his sword, and made several passes at them; yet they robbed him of his watch, two guineas, his sword, and some writings; but they returned the writings at the earnest request of the injured party. They also made a practice of robbing the butchers and higlers on Epping Forest, on their way to London. One of these robberies was singular. Meeting with an old woman, a higler, they searched the lining of a high-crowned hat, which she said had been her mother's, in which they found about three pounds; but returned her hat. Soon after this they stopped a coach on Hounslow-Heath, in which were two quakers, who calling them *sons of violence*, jumped out of the coach to oppose them; but their fellow-travellers making no resistance, and begging them to submit, all the parties were robbed of their money. Everett remarking that one of the quakers wore a remarkable good wig, snatched it from his head, and gave him in return an old black tye, which he had purchased for half a crown of a Chelsea pensioner. This sudden metamorphose caused great mirth among the other company in the coach. About ten days after this, he and his companion walked to Hillingdon Common, where, seeing two gentlemen on horseback, Everett stopped the foremost, and Bird the other, and robbed them of upwards of three guineas and their gold watches; they then cut the girths of the saddle, and secured the bridle, to prevent a pursuit. They now hastened to Brentford, where, understanding that they were followed, they got into the ferry to cross the Thames; and when

when they were three parts over, so that the river was fordable, they gave the ferrymen ten shillings, and obliged them to throw their oars into the river. They then jumped overboard, and got on shore, while the spectators thought it was only a drunken frolic, and the robbers got safe to London. Some time after this, Everett was convicted of an attempt to commit a robbery on the highway, for which he was sentenced to three years imprisonment in New Prison, Clerkenwell. After some time, he was employed to act here as turnkey, and his conduct meeting with approbation, he remained in that station after the term of his imprisonment was expired; but the keeper dying, he took a public-house in Turnmill-street. He had not been long in this station, when the new keeper who had been appointed frequently called on him, and made him advantageous offers, on the condition of his re-assuming the office of turnkey. This he did; but when Everett had perfectly instructed him in the management of the prison, he dismissed him, without assigning any reason for so ungenerous a conduct. Everett being now greatly in debt, and consequently obliged to remove within the rules of the Fleet Prison, took a public-house in the Old Bailey. After which he took the Cock alehouse in the same street, which he kept three years with reputation, when the warden of the Fleet persuaded him to keep the tap-house of the said prison. While in this station, he was charged with being concerned with the keeper in some mal-practices, for which the House of Commons ordered him to be confined in Newgate; but he obtained his liberty at the end of the sessions, as no bill had been found against him. During his confinement, his brewer seized his stock of beer, to the amount of

above

above 300l. which reduced him to circumstances of great distress; but he even now resolved on a life of industry, if he could have got employment, but his character was such that no person would engage him. Thus distressed, he once more equipped himself for the highway, with a view, as he solemnly declared after sentence of death, to raise only fifty pounds, as his brewer would have given him credit if he could have possessed himself of that sum. Having stopped a coach on the Hampstead road, in which were a lady, her daughter, and a child about five years old, the child was so terrified at his presenting a pistol, that he withdrew it at the request of the lady, who gave him a guinea and some silver; and though he observed she had a watch and some gold rings, &c. he did not demand them. Some company riding up, he was followed to the end of Leather-lane, where he evaded the pursuit by turning into Hatton garden, and going into the Globe tavern. Here he called for wine, and while he was drinking he saw his pursuers pass, on which he paid his reckoning, and slipped into a public house in Holborn, where he again saw them pass. Thinking himself safe, he remained here a considerable time. When he thought the pursuit was over, he called a coach at the end of Brook street, and driving to Honey-lane market, purchased a duck for his supper, and a turkey for his Christmas dinner; he then went to his lodging in Newgate-market. On the following day, one Whitaker (called the boxing drover) circulated a report that Everett had committed a highway robbery; on which the latter loaded a brace of pistols, and vowed he would be revenged. He went to Islington in search of Whitaker, and visited several public houses which he used to frequent, but

but not meeting with him, the perpetration of murder was happily prevented. A woman in the neighbourhood of Newgate-market having buried her husband, who had left her enough to support herself and children with decency; Everett repeatedly visited the widow, was received with too great marks of esteem, and assisted her in the dissipation of that money which should have provided for her family. The widow's son, jealous of this connection, remonstrated with his mother on the impropriety of her conduct, and told her it would end in her ruin. This made Everett and her more cautious in their meetings; but the son watched them with the utmost degree of vigilance and circumspection. Having one evening observed them go into a tavern, he provided himself with a large and sharp knife, and entering the room where they were sitting, swore he would stab Everett to the heart; but the latter, by superiority of strength, disarmed him. The young fellow was at length persuaded to sit down, when Everett assured him that he entertained the utmost respect both for himself and his mother; but the youth answered, that he was a liar, and the mutual destruction both of mother and children must follow their unlawful connection. As the lad grew warm, Everett affected great coolness and good-humour, and considered how he might most readily get rid of so unwelcome a guest; as he was unwilling so soon to part with the widow. At length he determined to make the young fellow drunk, and plied him with such a quantity of liquor that he fell fast asleep, in which condition he was left, while the other parties adjourned to a distant tavern, where they remained till morning, when Everett borrowed seven guineas of

of the widow, under pretence of paying her in a week. Not long after this Everett was married to this very widow at Stepney church, by which he came into possession of money and plate to a considerable amount, and might have lived happily with her if he would have taken her advice; but the extravagance of his disposition led to his ruin. When he was in very low circumstances he casually met his old accomplice Bird, and joined with him in the commission of a robbery in Essex, they were both taken, and lodged in Chelmsford gaol, but Everett having turned evidence, the other was convicted and executed. As soon as he had obtained his liberty, he committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of London, the last of which was on a lady named Ellis, whom he stopped near Islington; but being taken into custody on the following day, he was tried, and capitally convicted. He had been married to three wives, who all visited him after sentence of death. He was likewise visited by the son of the widow, but recollecting what had formerly passed between them, Everett would have stabbed him with a pen-knife, but was prevented by one of his wives; for which interposition he afterwards expressed the greatest happiness. What gave him most uneasiness was the crime of perjury, of which he had been guilty; with a view to take away the life of an innocent man.—One Picket, a cooper, having affronted him, he swore a robbery against him, but the jury not being satisfied with the evidence, the man was fortunately acquitted. Mr. Nicholson, the then minister of St. Sepulchre's church, attended the prisoner while under sentence of death, and kindly exerted himself to convince him of the atrocious nature of his offences;

offences; but the number of people who visited him from motives of curiosity, took off his attention from his more important duties. However, he became at times serious, and would then advise his brethren in affliction to prepare for that death which now appeared unavoidable. The gaol distemper having seized him while in Newgate, a false report was propagated that he had poisoned himself. He wrote letters to some of his acquaintance, begging they would take warning by his unhappy fate, and avoid those steps which led him to his ruin. He suffered at Tyburn, February 20, 1729.

EVERETT, JOHN, (FELON,) was probably related to the preceding, being also a native of Hertfordshire, where he served his apprenticeship to a baker: after which he connected himself with a gang of notorious gamblers, and other dissolute wretches, in conjunction with whom he perpetrated a great number of villanies, and for several years escaped the vengeance of the law. By persuasions and the promise of a sum of money, he and a man named Wright, induced a young woman to exhibit a charge of felony against two innocent men, who were put on their trial, but happily acquitted, as the perjured evidence was not able to authenticate her accusation. In revenge for their failing to supply the girl with the money they had promised, she lodged an information against Everett and Wright, who were in consequence indicted for subornation of perjury, and sentenced to stand in the pillory at the end of Chancery lane, where they received very severe treatment from the populace. Soon after this punishment, Everett was tried at Hick's-hall, and sentenced again to

stand in the pillory, for having fraudulently obtained a thirty-six shilling piece. He was afterwards convicted of having circulated counterfeit Portugal coin, and ordered to be imprisoned two years in Newgate. During his confinement a company of gentlemen went to Newgate to visit a criminal, and in a short time discovered they had been robbed of their handkerchiefs. The circumstance being mentioned to Everett, he pretended to be much surprised, and intimated that there was but little probability of the property being discovered. However in a little time he produced the handkerchiefs, and received some money from the gentlemen, as a reward for his supposed honesty. While in Newgate, he picked the pocket of almost every person who came to visit the prisoners. He was continually uttering the most vile expressions, and seemed to delight in the practice of every species of wickedness. Upon the expiration of the time he was sentenced to remain in prison, he found sureties for his good behaviour for two years, and was discharged. He, and a woman of the town, now went to a small inn at Hoddesdon in Hertfordshire, which was kept by an elderly widow, and being invited into a room behind the bar, after having each drank a glass of wine, the widow and her female guest went to walk in the garden: in the mean time Everett broke open a bureau, and stole 60l. in cash, and several gold rings. They kept the widow in conversation till the time of going to bed, in order to divert her from going to the bureau, and the next morning decamped with their booty taking the road to Nottingham, whence they crossed the country to Newmarket, and then returned to London. Everett's numerous villanies having

having rendered his name so notorious, he went under the denomination of George Anderson, and lived in a very private manner till the money he had thus obtained was expended. He now procured a knife eighteen inches long, and determined to levy contributions on passengers on the highway. In the road between Kentish-town and Hampstead, he attempted to rob a countryman, who being of an intrepid temper, a desperate contest ensued, in which Everett proved the conqueror, and dangerously wounded his antagonist, from whom he, however, obtained but a small booty. The same evening he stole a quantity of ribbons from a haberdasher's shop, but was immediately pursued, apprehended, and secured in prison. He was soon brought to trial, and the prosecutor having laid the indictment capitally, he was convicted and sentenced to be hanged. For some time after conviction he behaved in a decent manner, and appeared to be resigned to the fate that awaited him: but upon learning that the order for his execution was received by the gaoler, he became perfectly outrageous, violently threatening those who were near him, and uttering the most blasphemous expressions. A report being circulated that he meditated a design against the life of the gaoler, his cell was carefully searched, but no suspicious instruments were found. He denounced vengeance against the man who gave the information, declaring, with horrid imprecations, that if he could procure a pistol, or any other offensive weapon, he would put him to death. He applied the most opprobrious epithets to the keeper of the prison; and such was his ungovernable conduct, that it was judged necessary to chain him down to the floor.—His behaviour was more decent and composed on the

the day preceding that of his execution; but he did not appear to be conscious of the enormity of his guilt, or to be earnest in repentance. He joined in prayer with the ordinary of Newgate at the place of execution, and a little time before he was turned off, said he considered death as too severe a punishment for the crime he had committed. He suffered at Tyburn, Dec. 31, 1750.

F.

FERGUSON, RICHARD, (HIGHWAYMAN,) familiarly called *Galloping Dick*, was the son of a gentleman's servant, and a native of Hertfordshire. He was sent to school at a very early age, but to little purpose, and was afterwards employed as a stable boy where his father was hired. At the age of 16 he came to London with the family.—During their stay in town, the postillion was taken ill, and Dick was appointed to supply his place till he recovered, which was not very long. Now stripped of his fine livery, and sent to occupy his station as a stable boy, his haughty spirit could not brook the degradation. Fond of dress, and being thought a man of consequence, he resolved to look out for another place. Accordingly he told his father of his resolution, and asked his advice. His father knowing he was well qualified, in respect to the management of horses, told him he would look out for one for him. A circumstance happened, that very afternoon, highly gratifying to his pride. A lady who frequently visited the family, being in want of a postillion, asked Dick's master what was become of his late postillion. Being informed he was in his place, and was very fit for her employ, he

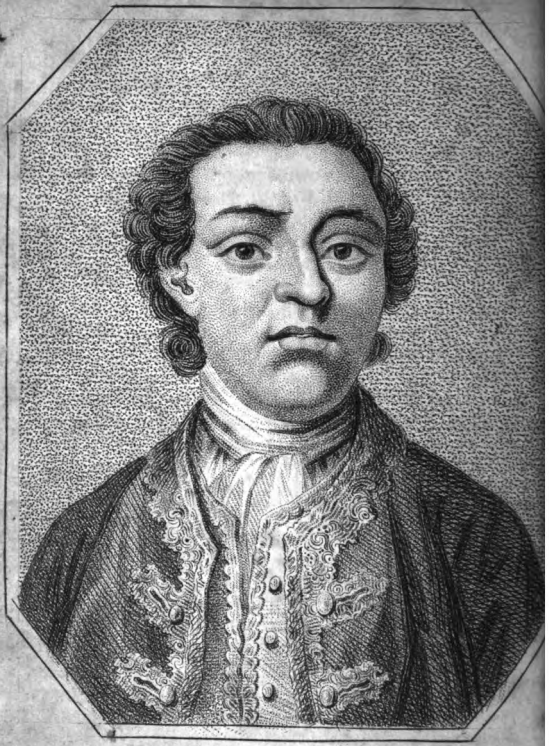
he was sent for and hired. Dick was now completely his own master, and for some time behaved to the satisfaction of his mistress. He was a great favourite in the family, particularly among the female part; but his mistress discovering him in an improper situation with one of her female servants, he was immediately discharged; nor could any intercession prevail upon her to reinstate him. Soon afterwards he got another place, in which he did not long remain. He had at this time got connected with some other servants of a loose character, and their manner of drinking, gaming, and idleness, suiting his disposition, he soon became one of them. After losing several good places by negligence, he applied to a livery stable in Piccadilly, and obtained employment. His father having now died, left him the sum of 37l. which he had saved during the time he lived in the family. With this he commenced gentleman. He left his place, bought mourning, frequented the theatres, &c. One evening, at Drury-lane, he got seated by a female, who particularly engaged his attention; he took her to be a modest lady, and was very much chagrined at finding her readily granting his request to conduct her home. He resolved to leave her, but found his resolution fail him, and at the end of the play he attended her to her residence in St. George's-fields, and staid with her the whole night. Next morning, after making her a handsome present, he took his leave, with a promise of soon repeating his visit. He went home—but this artful courtezan had so completely enamoured him, that he could not rest many hours without paying her another visit; and only for the accidental visit of some companions he would have returned immediately. With them he reluctantly

spent the day, and in the evening flew again on the impatient wings of desire to his dear Nancy. She, suspecting him to be a person of considerable property, from the specimen she had of his generosity, received him with every mark of endearment in her power. At this time she was the first favourite of several noted highwaymen and housebreakers, who, in their turn, had all their favoured hours. Unfortunately for himself, Ferguson became as complete a dupe as ever she had ensnared. What money he possessed, what he could obtain by borrowing or otherwise, was all lavished on this female, and he was, after all, in danger of being discarded. He was a total stranger to her connections with the *gentlemen* of the road, though he knew she bestowed her favours on others. Not able to bear the thoughts of entirely parting with his dear Nancy, he went to an inn in Piccadilly, offered himself as a postillion, and was accepted. Whenever he could obtain a little money, he flew with impatience to his fair dulcinea, and squandered it away in the same thoughtless manner. As he drove post-chaises on the different roads round the metropolis, he frequently saw his rivals on the road gaily mounted and dressed. One day driving a gentleman on the north road, the chaise was stopped by the noted Abershaw and another, with crapes over their faces. Abershaw stood by the driver till the other went up to the chaise and robbed the gentleman. The wind being very high, blew the crape off his face, and gave Ferguson a full view of his person. They stared at each other, but before a word could pass, some company coming up, the two highwaymen gallopped off. Ferguson, who at this time was under the frowns of his mistress, for want of money, well knew and

was

was known by Abershaw, whom he had often seen at Nancy's. Abershaw was very uneasy at the discovery, which he communicated to his companion. A consultation was immediately held, and it was resolved to wait at an inn on the road for the return of Ferguson, and bribe him, to prevent a discovery. They accordingly went to the inn, and when Ferguson came back, and stopped to water his horses, the waiter was ordered to send him in. After some conversation, Dick accepted of the present offered him, and agreed to meet them that night, to partake of a good supper.—With this fresh recruit of cash he flew to his Nancy; but she being otherwise engaged, and not expecting him so soon to possess sufficient for her notice (being now acquainted with his situation in life) absolutely refused to admit him, and shut the door in his face. Mad with the reception he had experienced, he quitted the house, and resolved never to repeat his visit, which resolution he strictly adhered to. He was now proceeding homewards, when he met the highwayman who accompanied Abershaw, and went with him to the place of rendezvous in the Borough, where he was received by those assembled with every mark of attention.—They supped sumptuously, drank wine, and spent the time in noisy mirth. This exactly suited Ferguson; he joined in their mirth, and when sufficiently elevated, very eagerly closed with a proposition to become one of their number. He was, according to their forms, immediately initiated.—When the plan of their next depredation on the public was settled, Ferguson was not immediately called into action, as it was suggested by one of the members that he could be better employed in giving

giving information at their rendezvous of the departure of gentlemen from the inn where he lived, &c. whereby those who were most likely to afford a proper booty might be way-laid and robbed.—This diabolical plan he followed too successfully for some time; taking care to learn from the drivers the time post-chaises were ordered from other inns, &c. He shared very often considerable sums, which he quickly squandered away in gambling, drunkenness, and dissipation. At length he lost his place, and consequently his knowledge, respecting travellers becoming confined, he was obliged himself to go on the road. As a highwayman he was remarkably successful. Of a daring disposition, he defied danger; and, from his skill in horses, took care to provide himself with a good one, whereby he could effect his escape, when others ran every risk of being taken. Of this we shall mention one remarkable instance. Two others and himself stopped two gentlemen on the Edgware road, and robbed them; soon after three other gentlemen coming up, they pursued, and Ferguson's two companions were taken, tried, and executed.—When his associates complimented him on his escape, he triumphantly asserted, that he would gallop a horse with any man in the kingdom, and that he was known among the 'gentlemen of the whip,' by the appellation of 'Galloping Dick.'—Through this circumstance he obtained that name among his companions, which afterwards became general. He now indulged himself in every excess. His amours were very numerous, particularly among those married women he could, by presents or otherwise, induce to listen to his desires. He prevailed upon the wives of two publicans in



EARL FERRERS.

the Borough to elope with him, and carried on several private intrigues with others. At one of the last places in which he lived, he was frequently employed to drive post-chaises between Hounslow and London, and notwithstanding he drove close by his old companion Abershaw, where he hung in irons, it had no effect in altering his morals. To follow him through the various wicked exploits in which he was afterwards engaged, would far exceed our limits. He was concerned in a very great number of robberies committed round the metropolis. At the time that he lived at different inns, as a post-chaise driver, he went on the road, and kept up a connection with almost every infamous character of the day. He was concerned with Middleton, Harper, &c. in the robbery at Brixton Causeway, in 1799, and most of the other robberies committed on that road. He was repeatedly in custody at Bow-street, tried at the Old Bailey, but nothing could be properly brought home. At length he was apprehended by some patroles belonging to Bow-street, thence conveyed to Aylesbury, Bucks, and there tried and convicted of a highway robbery in that county. When he found himself left for execution, he seriously prepared for his approaching end, and when he came to the fatal tree-met his awful fate with a religious resignation. He suffered at Aylesbury in 1800.

FERRERS, LAURENCE, EARL (MURDERER,) whose family was descended from the royal blood of the Plantagenets, and had been distinguished for ages. One of the family was slain while fighting on behalf of the crown, at the memorable battle of Shrewsbury, in the beginning of the reign of Henry the Fourth, a circumstance that is mentioned by the immortal Shakespeare. The

The second baronet of this family, Sir Henry Shirley, married one of the daughters of the famous earl of Essex, who was beheaded in the reign of queen Elizabeth; and Sir Robert Shirley, son of Sir Henry, died in the Tower, where he was confined by Oliver Cromwell, for his attachment to the cause of king Charles the First. Sir Robert's second son succeeding to his title and estate, Charles the second summoned him to parliament by the title of lord Ferrers of Chartley, as the descendant of one of the coheiresses of Robert earl of Essex, the title having been in abeyance from the death of the said earl, and the precedency of it as high as the 27th year of Edward the First. In the year 1711, queen Anne created Robert lord Ferrers viscount Tamworth and earl Ferrers. This nobleman possessed a very large estate, but it was greatly diminished by making provision for his numerous family, which consisted of no less than fifteen sons and twelve daughters, by two wives. The titles were possessed by the second son of the first earl; as he died without having any son, they fell to the next surviving brother, who was his father's ninth son; but as he did not marry, they fell, on his death, to the tenth son, who was father to Laurence earl Ferrers, a man of an unhappy disposition. Though of clear intellects and acknowledged abilities when sober, yet an early attachment to drinking greatly impaired his faculties; and, when drunk, his behaviour was that of a madman. He married the youngest daughter of Sir Willian Meredith, in the year 1752; but behaved to her with such unwarrantable cruelty, that she was obliged to apply to parliament for redress; the consequence of which was, that an act passed for allowing her a separate maintenance, to be raised out of his estates,

tates. At Derby races, in the year 1756, lord Ferrers ran his mare against captain M——'s horse for 50l. and was the winner. When the race was ended, he spent the evening with some gentlemen, and in the course of conversation the captain (who had heard that his lordship's mare was with foal) proposed, in a jocose manner, to run his horse against her at the expiration of seven months. Lord Ferrers was so affronted by this circumstance, which he conceived to have risen from a preconcerted plan to insult him, that he quitted Derby at three o'clock in the morning, and went immediately to his seat at Stanton Harold, in Leicestershire. He rang his bell as soon as he awaked, and a servant attending, he asked if he knew how captain M—— came to be informed his mare was with foal. The servant declared that he was ignorant of the matter, but the groom might have told it; and the groom being called, he denied having given any information respecting the matter. Previous to the affront presumed to have been given on the preceding evening, lord Ferrers had invited the captain and the rest of the company to dine with him as on that day; but they all refused their attendance, though he sent a servant to remind them that they had promised to come. Lord Ferrers was so enraged at this disappointment, that he kicked and horsewhipped his servants, and threw at them such articles as lay within his reach. Some oysters had been sent from London, which not proving good, his lordship directed one of the servants to swear that the carrier had changed them; but the servant declining to take such an oath, the earl flew into a rage, stabbed him in the breast with a knife, cut his head with a candlestick, and kicked him on the

the groin with such severity, that he was under the surgeon's care for several years afterwards. Lord Ferrers's brother and his wife paying a visit to him and his countess at Stanton-Harold, some dispute arose between the parties; and lady Ferrers being absent from the room, the earl ran up stairs with a large clasp knife in his hand, and asked a servant whom he met where his lady was. The man said, "in her own room;" and, being directed to follow him thither, lord Ferrers ordered him to load a brace of pistols with bullets. This order was complied with; but the servant, apprehensive of mischief, declined priming the pistols, which lord Ferrers discovering, swore at him, asked him for powder, and primed them himself. He then threatened that if he did not immediately go and shoot his brother the captain, he would blow his brains out. The servant hesitating, his lordship pulled the trigger of one of the pistols, but it missed fire. Hereupon the countess dropped on her knees, and begged him to appease his passion; but in return he swore at her, and threatened her destruction if she opposed him. The servant now escaped from the room, and reported what had passed to his lordship's brother, who immediately called his wife from her bed, and they left the house, though it was then two o'clock in the morning. The unfortunate Mr. Johnson, who fell a sacrifice to the ungovernable passions of lord Ferrers, had been bred up in the family from his youth, and was distinguished by the regular manner in which he kept his accounts, and his fidelity as a steward. When the law had decreed a separate maintenance for the countess, Mr. Johnson was proposed as receiver of the rents for her use; but he declined this office,

office, till urged to take it on him by the earl himself. It appears that Johnson now stood high in his lordship's opinion; but a different scene soon ensued; for the earl having conceived an opinion that Johnson had combined with the trustees to disappoint him of a contract for coal-mines, he came to a resolution to destroy the honest steward. The earl's displeasure was first evinced by his sending notice to Johnson to quit a beneficial farm which he held under him; but Johnson producing a lease granted by the trustees, no farther steps were taken in the affair. After this, lord Ferrers behaved in so affable a manner to Johnson, that the latter imagined all thoughts of revenge had subsided; but, on the 13th of January, 1760, his lordship called on Johnson, who lived about half a mile from his seat, and bid him come to Stanton between three and four in the afternoon of the Friday following. His lordship's family now consisted of a gentlewoman named Clifford, with four of her natural children, three maid servants, and five men-servants, exclusive of an old man and a boy. After dinner, on the Friday, lord Ferrers sent all the men-servants out of the house, and desired Mrs. Clifford to go with the children to the house of her father, at the distance of about two miles. Johnson coming to his appointment, one of the maids let him in, and, after waiting some time, he was admitted to his lordship's room, and, being ordered to kneel down, he was shot with a pistol, the ball from which entered his body just beneath his ribs. Lord Ferrers, alarmed at the crime he had committed, now called for the maid-servants, and directed them to put Mr. Johnson to bed. He likewise sent to Mr. Kirkland, a surgeon, who lived at Ashby de la Zouch, two

miles from his seat. At the request of the wounded man, a person was also sent for his children. Miss Johnson, the eldest daughter, soon came, and was followed by the surgeon, to whom lord Ferrers said, "I intended to have shot him dead, but, since he is still alive, you must do what you can for him." The surgeon soon found that Johnson had been mortally wounded; but, knowing the earl's fiery disposition, and dreading similar consequences to himself, he dissembled the matter, and told him that there was no danger in the case. Hereupon the earl drank himself into a state of intoxication, and then went to bed; after which, Mr. Johnson was sent to his own house in a chair, at two o'clock in the morning, and died at nine. Mr. Kirkland, being convinced that Johnson could not live, procured a number of persons to secure the murderer. When they arrived at Stanton Harold, lord Ferrers was just arisen, and going toward the stables with his garters in his hand, but observing the people, he retired to the house, and shifted from place to place, so that it was a considerable time before he was taken. This happened on a Saturday, and he was conveyed to Ashby de la Zouch, and confined at the public house till the Monday following, when the coroner's jury having sat on the body, and delivered a verdict of wilful murder, his lordship was committed to the gaol of Leicester. After remaining in the above place about a fortnight, he was conveyed to London in his own landau. He behaved with the utmost composure during the journey, and being taken before the house of peers, the verdict of the coroner's jury was read; on which he was committed to the Tower. His lordship's place of confinement

was

was the round tower, near the draw-bridge. Two wardens constantly attended in his room, and one waited at the door. At the bottom of the stairs two soldiers were placed, with their bayonets fixed, and a third was stationed on the draw bridge; and the gates of the tower were shut an hour before the usual time, on occasion of his imprisonment. Mrs. Clifford now brought her four children to London, and taking lodgings in Tower-street, she sent messages to his lordship several times in the day, and answers being sent, the communication became troublesome; so that their messages were forbid to pass more than once in the day. While in the Tower, lord Ferrers lived in a regular manner. His breakfast consisted of a muffin, and a bason of tea, with a spoonful of brandy in it. After dinner and supper he drank a pint of wine mixed with water. His behaviour in general was very decent, but he sometimes exhibited evident proofs of discomposure of mind. His natural children were permitted to be with him some time; but Mrs. Clifford was denied admittance, after repeated application. Preparations being made for lord Ferrers' trial, and lord Henly (the chancellor) being created high steward on the occasion, the trial came on before the house of peers, in Westminster hall, on the 16th of April, 1769. The proof of the fact was sufficiently clear: but lord Ferrers cross-examined the witnesses in such a manner, as gave sufficient proof of the sanity of his mind, of which some doubts had been entertained. Being found guilty by the unanimous voice of the peers of Great Britain, the lord high steward passed sentence that he should be executed on the 22st of April, but his sentence was respited to the 5th of May. While in the Tower, lord Ferrers

left sixty pounds a year to Mrs. Clifford, a thousand pounds to each of his natural daughters, and thirteen hundred pounds to the children of Mr. Johnson; but this last legacy, which should have been the first discharged, was never received! This unhappy nobleman petitioned to be beheaded within the Tower: but, as the crime was so atrocious, the king refused to mitigate the sentance. A scaffold, was erected under the gallows at Tyburn, and covered with black baize; and a part of this scaffold on which he was to stand, was raised about eighteen inches above the rest. About nine o'clock on the morning of execution, the sheriffs attended at the Tower-gate; and lord Ferrers being told they were come, requested that he might go in his own landau, instead of a mourning-coach, which had been prepared for him. No objection being made to this request, he entered the landau, attended by the Rev. Mr. Humphries, chaplain of the Tower. His lordship was dressed in a white suit, richly embroidered with silver, and when he put it on, he said—"This is the suit in which I was married, and in which I will die." Mr. Sheriff Vaillant joined them at the Tower-gate, and taking his seat in the landau, told his lordship how disagreeable it was to wait on him on so aweful an occasion, but that he would endeavour to render his situation as little irksome as possible. The procession now moved slowly, through an immense crowd of spectators. On their way, lord Ferrers asked Mr. Vallant if he had ever seen such a crowd: the sheriff replied in the negative; to which the unhappy peer replied—"I suppose it is because they never saw a lord hanged before." The chaplain observing that the public would be naturally inquisitive about his lordship's religious opinions;

opinions: he replied—"That he did not think himself accountable to the world for his sentiments on religion; but that he always believed in one God, the maker of all things; that whatever were his religious notions, he had never propagated them; that all countries had a form of religion, by which the people were governed, and whoever disturbed them in it, he considered as an enemy to society: that he thought lord Bolingbroke to blame, for permitting his sentiments on religion to be published to the world."—And he made other observations of a like nature. Respecting the death of Mr. Johnson, he said—"he was under particular circumstances, and had met with so many crosses and vexations, that he scarce knew what he did;" but declared that he had no malice against the unfortunate man. So immense was the crowd, that it was near three hours before the procession reached the place of execution; on the way to which, lord Ferrers desired to stop to have a glass of wine and water; but the sheriff observing that it would only draw a greater crowd about him, he replied—"that is true, by no means stop." He likewise observed, that the preliminary apparatus of death produced more terror than death itself. At Tyburn he expressed a wish to take a final leave of Mrs. Clifford; but the Sheriff advised him to decline it, as it would disarm him of the fortitude he possessed: to which he answerd—"If you, sir, think I am wrong, I submit:" after which he gave the sheriff a pocket-book, containing a bank note, with a ring, and a purse of guineas, which were afterwards delivered to the unhappy woman. The procession was attended by a party of horse-grenadiers and foot-guards, and at the place of execution was met by another party of horse, which formed a

circle round the gallows. His lordship walked up the steps of the scaffold with great composure, and having joined with the chaplain in repeating the Lord's prayer, which he called a fine composition, he spoke the following words with great fervency—"O God, forgive me all my errors! pardon all my sins!" He then presented his watch to Mr. Vaillant, and gave five guineas to the assistant of the executioner, by mistake, instead of giving them to himself. The master demanded the money, a dispute arose between the parties, which might have discomposed the dying man, had not the sheriff exerted his authority to put an end to it. The executioner now proceeded to do his duty, lord Ferrer's neckcloth was taken off, a white cap, which he had brought in his pocket, put on his head, his arms secured with a black sash, and the halter put round his neck. He then ascended the raised part of the scaffold, and the cap being pulled over his face, the sheriff gave a signal, on which the raised scaffold was struck, and remained level with the rest. After hanging an hour and five minutes, the body was received in a coffin lined with white satin, and conveyed to Surgeon's hall, where an incision was made from the neck to the bottom of the breast, and the bowels were taken out; on inspection of which, the surgeons declared that they had never beheld greater signs of long life in any subject which had come under their notice. His lordship's hat and the halter lay near his feet in the coffin, on the lid of which were these words—"Laurence Earl Ferrers, suffered May 5, 1760." After the body had remained some time at Surgeon's hall, for public inspection, it was delivered to his friends for interment. But it would be unjust to his memory, not to mention that, during

ing his imprisonment, he had made pecuniary recompence to several persons whom he had injured, during the extravagance of those passions to which he was unhappily subject.

FIELD, WILLIAM, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was an accomplice of the notorious Hawke, (see HAWKE) and went by a variety of names, particularly that of GREEN. Not having learnt any trade, he entered into the service of a gentleman, with whom he lived three years, but was at length discharged on account of his character. However, he got another place, through a false recommendation; but his extravagance and ill hours induced this master likewise to discharge him. Being reduced to great poverty, he resolved on commencing highwayman; and, having hired horses at livery-stables, he committed such a variety of robberies, that he soon became the subject of public conversation. The money he acquired by his lawless depredations, he squandered among men and women of abandoned character. At length he was taken by the officers of justice, who carried him before a magistrate, by whom he was committed to Newgate. He was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey: when the prosecutor gave his testimony against him in so favourable a manner, that though the jury found him guilty, they recommended him to the royal mercy: the consequence was that he was reprieved for transportation in the year 1770. On his arrival in North America he was sold as a slave, but soon finding means to escape with others slaves to New-York, they embarked on board a vessel bound for Pool, and landed in England. Field hastening to London, engaged with Hawke in the practice of robbing on the highway,

highway, and making large booties, he assumed the character of a gentleman; when, courting a girl who lived servant with a man of fortune, she consented to accept him for a husband. For some months after his marriage, he committed highway robberies about twice a week; but his wife had no suspicion of the life he led, conceiving him to be a man in good circumstances. It is said, that in five months he collected 10,000l. in bills of exchange and cash. He frequently committed four or five robberies on a night, sometimes on Finchley Common, and often on Shooter's-hill, Blackheath, and other places in that neighbourhood; when once, being closly pursued, he effected a difficult escape to town. After this he frequented Putney Common and its adjacencies, whence he brought considerable booties to London. Field, Hawke, and another, having robbed some coaches, dined and made merry at a public-house at Barnes, and staying till it was near night, they crossed Kew Bridge, and went to Acton, where they slept, being afraid of coming to London.—Notice having been given at Sir John Fielding's office, persons were sent out on different roads, and the offenders being taken, were conveyed, handcuffed, to Tothill-fields Bridewell. On a subsequent day they were examined, and a great number of robberies being sworn against Hawke and Field, they were remanded to prison, whence the former made his escape in a few days. Though Field had returned from transportation, it was thought proper to indict him at the Surry assizes for the subsequent robberies, when he would have pleaded guilty; but Lord Chief Baron Smythe advised him to put himself on his trial; and the jury having

having given a verdict against him, the Judge pronounced sentence, after addressing him in the most pathetic manner. Being conveyed to the New Gaol in Southwark, he was attended by the Rev. Mr. Dyer, to whom he acknowledged that the robberies he had been charged with were far short of those he had committed, and appeared very penitent for his crimes. At the place of execution, he warned young people to avoid bad company, as it was the certain road to destruction. He suffered at Kennington Common, September 1, 1778. See POULTER, &c.

FISHER, MARGARET, (FELON,) was indicted at the Old Bailey, in Sept. 1722, for privately stealing thirteen guineas from the person of Dan. M'Donald, who gave his evidence in the following singular manner:—

"And leek yer loardship, I had just taken my wages, thirteen guineas in goud, and was gawn alang King-strate, in Wasmanster, when I mat wi' this fow quean at the bare, and speird where I was gawn; I taud her name. She said gen I wad ga wi' hur tull Joanny Davis's hoose, she wad gi' me a drame, Sir, for, in troth, she tuck me for a poor gawkey, boss headed chiel, and leek yer loardship. Sa she tuck hand o' my haind, and lad me a get I kenna' reet weel. And when we came tull Joanny Davis's hoose, she caud for muckle beer and braindy, and gerd me as bung as a swobe, and leek yer hoanour. I staid there wi' her a pratty while; and thane, sir, I pit my haind intull my bricks, to feel for money to pay the rackoning; but the deel a bawbie could I find, for it was aw tint. And when I speird about it, they glowred, and taud me, gen I wanna' tack myself awaw,

awaw, they wad gar me ga, wi' a deel to me; and as sir, they dang me su' sair, and tusned me oot at the back door, intull the strate, and I rambled aboot, and cou' na' find the hoose agen: and the watchmen met wi me, and carried me intull the roond hoose. And there I taud 'em hoo I had been roabed. The neist moarning I gade and food oot Joanny Davis's hoose, but she was rin away and the prasoner too. But at neet, about saven a cloke, I mat wi' this ampudent betch at the bare, and tuck her up. I ken weel enuh that she must ha' my goud, for na saul alse was wi' me but Joanny Davis, wha brote what we cawd for. Let her denee it an she can. Somebody (but I kenna' whaw it was) offered me sax guineas in my haind to make the matter up, but I wanna' tack it."

In her defence the prisoner alledged, that meeting with a coachman and the prosecutor, the former asked her to drink; on which they went to the house of Mrs. Davis; but that she sat on the opposite side of the room that the prosecutor did, and had not robbed him; and that nothing was found upon her when she was searched. The jury not believing her allegations, and the prisoner having no person to appear in behalf of her character*, she was found guilty, and received sentence of death. Having, however, pleaded pregnancy, which

* In *circumstantial* evidence, a good character has great weight with the jury; and, doubtless, this woman would have been acquitted, had any one appeared in her behalf. The want of character, therefore,

which was confirmed by a jury of matrons, she had the good fortune to be respited, and afterwards pardoned.

FITZGERALD, ROBERT. See POWER, JOHN.

FLOOD, MATTHEW. See OAKY, RICHARD.

FOLLARD, JOHN. See WILD, JONATHAN.

FONTAINE, Capt. PETER DE LA, (FELON,) was a frenchman by birth, and nobly descended, who received a military education, and served at the siege of Phillipsburg under the duke of Berwick. The campaign being ended, he went to Paris, where a gentleman invited him to spend some time at his country seat, when he fell in love with his daughter, who wished to marry him; but the father interposing, she eloped with her lover, and they lived a considerable time as married people at Rouen. On their return to Paris, the young lady lodged in a convent; but de la Fontaine appearing in public, some officers of Justice, seeing him in a coffee-house, told him they had the king's warrent for apprehending him: on which he wounded two of them with his sword, notwithstanding which, he was seized and lodged in prison. On this he wrote to the young lady, telling her he was obliged to go into the country on urgent business, but would soon return; and, having made interest with the daughter of the keeper of

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therefore, in some respects, condemns a person; but when the evidence is clear, the character of a prisoner, though ever so good, is unavailing, except recommending the culprit to royal mercy. See DESPARD, &c. EDITOR.

of the prison, she let him out occasionally to visit his mistress. Being brought to trial for running away with an heiress, he would have been capitally convicted, ageeable to the then laws of France, but that the young lady voluntarily swore that she went off with him by her own consent; however, soon after his acquittal, she was seized with the pains of labour, and died in child-bed: hereupon de la Fontaine went again into the army, and behaved so bravely at the battle near Kale, that the duke of Berwick rewarded his courage with the commission of lieutenant of granadiers. A young lady of Strasburg, who had fallen in love with him at Paris, before his former connection, now obtained a pass from the marshal de Belleisle, and being introduced to the duke of Berwick, told him she wished to see de la Fontaine; and the duke, judging of the cause, ordered her to be conducted to him. On the following day she went to the duke, dressed in men's cloaths, and entered as a volunteer in the same regiment with de la Fontaine. She went through the regular duties of a soldier, and reposed in the same tent with her paramour; but in the winter following the campaign she died of the small-pox, leaving a part of her fortune to her lover. The duke of Berwick having been killed at the siege of Philipsburg, de la Fontaine made the tour of Europe; but returning to Paris, he fought a duel with an officer, who being dangerously wounded, Fontaine repaired to Brest, and embarked as lieutenant of marines on board a vessel bound for Martinico: but the ship having been taken by a Turkish corsair, and carried to Constantinople, he was their confined in a dungeon, and had only bread and water for his sustenance. While in this situation he was visited

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by another prisoner, who had more liberty than himself, and who advised him, as the French consul was then absent, to apply to a Scotch nobleman in the city, who was distinguished for his humane and generous feelings. De la Fontaine having procured pen, ink, and paper, with a tinder-box to strike a light, (all by the friendship of his fellow-prisoner) sent a letter to the Nobleman, who had no sooner read it, than he hurried to the cell, to visit the unfortunate prisoner. Having promised his interest to procure his enlargement, he went to the Grand Vizier, and pleaded his cause so effectually, that de la Fontaine was released, and went immediately to thank the Vizier, who wished him happy, and presented him with a sum of money. Hence our adventurer sailed to Amsterdam, where having a criminal connexion with a lady, who became pregnant, he embarked for the Dutch settlement of Curassoe; but finding the place unhealthy, he obtained the Governor's permission to go to Surinam, and continued above five years on that island. —While in this place the governor invited him to a ball, where one of the company was a widow lady of rank, of whom he determined, if possible, to make a conquest; nor did he long fail of an opportunity, for, dining with her at the governor's house, they soon became very intimately acquainted. The consequence of their sociability was a residence as husband and wife; and four children were the fruits of the connexion, three of whom died, but the other, a boy, was educated by the governor of the Island. Other officers having addressed the same lady, de la Fontaine was occasionally involved in difficulties on her account. One of these officers having traduced him in his absence, Fontaine, on

meeting him, bade him draw his sword, but the other refused; on which he struck him with his cane, and cut off one of his ears. On this he was seized, tried by a court-martial, but acquitted; and the officer degraded, on account of the provocation he had given. From this time de la Fontaine was treated with unusual marks of civility. He still lived on the best terms with the lady, and their affection appeared to be reciprocal. The governor bestowed on him a considerable tract of land, which he cultivated to great advantage; but the malice of his enemies was so restless, that they prevailed on one of his negro servants to mix poison in his food. Unsuspecting any villainy, he swallowed the poison, the consequence of which was, that he languished several months; and the lady, affected by his situation, gave way to melancholy, which brought on a consumption, that deprived her of life. After her death, de la Fontaine obtained the governor's permission to return to Europe; and lived for some time in a splended manner at Amsterdam; but at length determined to embark for England. On his arrival in London, he took elegant lodgings, lived in the stile of a gentleman, and made several gay connexions. Among his acquaintance was Zannier, a Venetian, who had been obliged to quit his own country on account of his irregularities. This man possessed such an artful address, that de la Fontaine made him at all times welcome to his table, and admitted him to a considerable share of his confidence. Zannier soon improved this advantage; for, contriving a scheme with an attorney and bailiff, he pretended to have been arrested for 300l. and prevailed on his new friend to bail him, on the assurance that he had a good estate in Ireland,

land, and would pay the money before the return of the writ; but when the term arrived, de la Fontaine was compelled to discharge the debt, as Zannier did not appear. At this time there having been a grand processions of free-masons, he dressed himself in a superb style, and his chariot being the most elegant of any in the procession, he was particularly noticed by the spectators. Among the rest, the daughter of an alderman had her curiosity so much excited, that she caused enquiry to be made who he was, and on the following day sent him a letter, intimating that she should be at a ball at Richmond, where he might have an opportunity of dancing with her. De la Fontaine did not hesitate to comply; and when the ball was ended he received an invitation to dine with the young lady on the ensuing day, at her father's house. He attended accordingly; but the father having learnt his character, insisted that he should decline his visits, which put an end to all his hopes from that quarter. His circumsrances being now greatly reduced, he resolved, if possible, to repair them by marriage, and was soon afterwards wedded to a widow of considerable fortune; but his taste for extravagance rendered this fortune unequal to his support; nor was his conduct to his wife by any means generous. Soon after this union he was at the Lord Mayor's ball, where he made an acquaintance with the wife of a tradesman, which ended in a criminal connection. The parties frequently met at taverns and bagnios; and de la Fontaine having written to the Lady, appointing her to meet him at a tavern, the letter fell into the hands of her husband, who communicated the contents to her brother; whereupon the letter was sealed up, and de-

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livered according to its address. The brothers agreed to go to the tavern, where they told the waiter to shew any lady to them who might enquire for de la Fontaine. In a short time the lady came, and was astonished to be introduced to her brother and husband; but the latter was so affected, that he promised a full remission of all that was past, on her promise of future fidelity. These generous terms she rejected with contempt, and immediately left the room. De la Fontaine being acquainted with this circumstance, was oppressed with a sense of the husband's generous behaviour, and advised the lady to return to her duty. At first she insulted him for his advice, but at length thought proper to comply with it. Having now seen his own conduct in an unfavourable light, he went into the country with his wife for some time, to avoid his old asscoiates, and when he returned to London, determined to abandon his former course of life. Unfortunately, however, he had not long formed this resolution, when Zannier went to him, begging his forgiveness for obliging him to pay the debt. De la Fontaine too easily complied with his request, and once more considered him as a friend. They went together to a tavern, where they met with a woman, whom Fontaine had formerly known, and a man who was dressed in black. While de la Fontaine was conversing with the woman, the stranger (who afterwards appeared to be a Fleet parson) read the marriage ceremony from a book which he held in his hand; and the next week de la Fontaine was apprehended on a charge of bigamy, and committed for trial at the Old bailey. The villain Zannier visiting him in Newgate, de la Fontaine was so enraged at his perfidy, that he beat him through the press-

press yard with a broomstick with such severity, that the turnkey was obliged to interpose to prevent murder. In revenge of this, Zannier swore that de la Fontaine had been guilty of forgery, in imitating the hand-writing of a gentleman named Parry: in consequence of which de la Fontaine was brought to his trial, and capitally convicted; though a gentleman swore that the writing resembled that of Zannier. He received sentence of death, and was ordered for execution; and after repeated respites for five years, he was transported in September, 1752.

FRANCIS, JOHN. See DESPARD, E. M.

FRANKLIN, ROBERT, (FORGERY,) was a genteel young man, born in Holborn, of a very respectable parents, who gave him an education suitable to his expectations in life. At the age of fifteen, he was apprenticed to an eminent merchant in the city, with whom he remained till his time had expired: his master and he had frequent quarrels about keeping late hours, the former seriously expatiating on the evil tendency of his conduct, but without effect. When his apprenticeship was completed, he went and lived with his parents. In this situation he bridled his passions for some time, but at length they broke out again; however, by the tender persuasions of an affectionate mother they were kept within bounds. One fatal Sunday evening, he accidentally met with an old companion who insisted on his accompanying him to see a favourite mistress. Franklin unfortunately consented; and they went to St. George's Fields, where they drank tea, and afterwards visited the Apollo Gardens. Here Franklin, whose heart was very easily cought, beheld, and instantaneously admired,

the beautiful, but perfidious Mary Jones; he requested her to be seated, to which she readily assented, and they soon afterwards went home together. By her persuasions he immediately left his parents, and lived with her, in every extravagance as long as he could obtain money, which he procured from every person who would trust him; but that failing, he took the fatal resolution of forging Bank notes. Struck with horror at his situation, he applied to his friends to procure him a place in the navy, which they did; and he soon after left his fair decoyer, to go on board the Hydra frigate. Here, perhaps, the unfortunate Franklin might have avoided his fate; but he received a letter from Mary Jones, stating, that his departure had such an effect on her, as to occasion a violent disorder, of which she then lay without friends or money, in Middlesex Hospital; and that, as she had abandoned all the world for him, she hoped he would not now forsake her. In this snare Franklin was caught; he procured leave of absence for some time, and immediately returned to town. He went to Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital, to a Miss Dixon, an acquaintance of Mary Jones's whose servant he sent out to get change for a forged ten pound note, which she obtained of Mr. Kearse, the One Tun, in Goodge-street, When he got the change, he left with Miss Dixon, for her to give to Mary Jones, a two pound note, one shilling, and two sixpences. After passing this note, he again left town to join the Hydra frigate, which then lay at the Nore. On his way thither he slept at the George Inn, Rochester. His behaviour here caused some suspicion, and made him be particularly noticed by one J. North, a waiter; he went

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to bed intoxicated, and complained next day of being robbed of upwards of forty pounds. It seems he had been robbed by two men, who went off immediately for London; the notes being forged, they were stopped in attempting to pass them; at Bow street they confessed how they came by them. In consequence Lavender and Rivet went to Rochester, and traced Franklin on board the Hydra, from whence they brought him to London. He had in his posession, when taken, four hundred and fifty pounds in notes and cash. He was tried in December sessions, 1797, convicted, and received sentence of death. At the time of his execution he appeared very penitent, and met his fate with a becoming resignation. He suffered on the 24th of January, 1798, aged 29. His body was taken away in a hearse to an undertaker's in Aldersgate street.

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GARDELLE, THEODORE, (MURDERER,) was a native of Geneva: having received an university education, he went to Paris, where he studied miniature-painting, and having made a great proficiency in the art, returned to Geneva, where he married, and carried on his business for some years; but not being happy in his domestic connections, he came to London, and lodged with Mrs. King in Leicester fields. Some time afterwards he removed to Knightsbridge; but finding that place inconvenient for his business, he returned to town, and took possession of his former lodgings. On the 19th of February, 1761, Mrs. King's maid-servant opened the doors of her parlour, and being ordered by her mistress

mistress to make a fire, she afterwards went to Gardelle's room, and found him employed. He now gave her two letters to carry to the Haymarket and a guinea to change, to buy a pennyworth of snuff; but returning to her mistress, she ordered her not to go, as there was no one to give an answer at the door. This the girl told to Gardelle, who came down into the parlour to give attendance if any one should call. When the maid was gone out, Mrs. King hearing him walking in the room, called out, "Who is there?" At this instant Gardelle had just sat down to read; but she called him, and saying some harsh things to him, he told her she was an impertinent woman, on which she struck him a violent blow on the left side, and he gave her a push, as if he despised her; but, as she was retreating, her foot hitched in the floor-cloth, she fell, and her head struck against the bed post with great force. He professed his sorrow for what had happened, and, observing the blood gushing from her mouth, attempted to lift her up, and stop the bleeding; but she threatened to have him punished, and continuing these threats, he became so enraged, that he seized an ivory comb, which had a long sharp pointed handle, and vowed her destruction, unless she desisted from her threats. The woman, however, persevered in her menaces, and at length, in the heat of passion, he pushed the handle of the comb into her throat, which killed her; and then he covered her with the bed clothes. Terrified himself at the fatal blow, he fainted away; and, on his recovery, found the maid-servant in the front parlour, just returned with his snuff. The girl now called her mistress, but not being answered, she got her own breakfast, and then went to clean and adjust Gardelle's apartment,

while

while she was so doing, she observed him come down from the garret, which she wondered at, as she knew not any business he could have in that part of the house; and she remarked that he had changed his dress, and seemed unusually agitated. He now sent her with a letter to Suffolk street, and on her return told her, that her mistress was gone out in a coach with a gentleman. The maid, knowing that she had not been absent long enough for her mistress to dress herself, did not credit this story; but presumed that she and Gardelle had been very intimate in her absence; Mrs. King not having been a woman of unblemished reputation. A gentleman, named Wright, having lodged on the first floor, but gone into the country for the benefit of the air, his servant came at one o'clock, and ordered preparation to be made for his return in the evening. In the interim, the maid thought that her mistress continued in bed, being ashamed to appear after her supposed commerce with Gardelle. The wretched man went frequently up and down stairs till three in the afternoon, when he again sent the girl to Suffolk-street, and during her absence resolved, if posible, to discharge her from the family, to prevent a discovery of the murder. As the girl could not write, and Gardelle knew not enough of English to draw up a receipt, he wrote to a Mr. Brocket, to write a proper recept to which the girl might affix her mark. This gentleman asked, if she knew that Gardelle was authorised to discharge her. She answered in the negative; but Brocket told her, he wrote word that he had such authority; that Mrs. King was gone out, and when she returned would bring another servant. The girl thought that the true reason of her dismissal was the

the intimacy between her mistress and Gardelle; and soon after her return the latter paid her her wages, gave her a gratuity, and took her receipt which Mr. Brocket had written. Meeting Mr. Wright's servant as she was going out, she told him, if he would wait a little, he might probaly see her mistress, who had been in bed the whole day; but the man declining to wait, Gardelle was left alone. Hereupon he went to Mrs. King's chamber, stripped the body, and laid it on the bed. Her bloody shift he hid in a bag, under his own bed; and locked his own shirt, which was likewise bloody, in a drawer. The bed-cloths being stained, he left them to soak in a tub of water. Mr. Wright's servant returning, said his master had procured other lodgings, but himself slept in the garret, as it was not convenient to remove his effects. On his asking for Mrs. King next morning, Gardelle said she was gone out, and told him she was not come home, when he made a similar enquiry in the evening. On the Saturday, two days after the murder, a gentleman named Mozier, who had been intimate both with Gardelle and Mrs. King, called at the house for the latter to go with him to the opera, according to promise. The answer Gardelle gave was, that she had suddenly gone to Bristol or Bath: the other, however, observing that he seemed out of humour, and attributing it to her absence, sent a girl of the town to keep him company. Gardelle did not seem pleased with her sudden visit, but said he had some shirts to mend, which she promised to begin on the Monday following. In the interim, the body remained as he had left it on the Thursday night, for he had not gone near it since: but now, anxious to conceal his

his crime, he left his bed, and went down stairs: however, being followed by the girl, he was obliged to desist for the present. He arose soon after seven the next morning, leaving the girl in bed, who did not come down till after ten, and then she found him lighting a fire. How he had employed himself in the mean time can only be conjectured. After breakfast he sent the girl for a charwoman, whom she brought in the afternoon. On the Monday morning Gardelle instructed this charwoman to tell Mr. Wright's footman, that the girl in the house had been sent by Mrs. King, to look after it in her absence: but the footman paid no credit to this tale, as he had seen Gardelle and the girl in bed together. This footman, whose name was Pelsey, repeatedly enquired for Mrs. King, and Gardelle as repeatedly said she was gone to Bath or Bristol; but without being credited. Pelsey going up stairs on Tuesday, remarked a disagreeble smell, and asking Gardelle what it was, he answered the burning of a bone, which was partly true; for the wretch had been burning the bones of the murdered woman in the garret. After Pelsey was asleep at night, Gardelle sent his girl to bed, and then cut Mrs. King's body in pieces. The flesh which he cut from the bones he secreted in the cock-loft, and threw the bowels into the vault. On the Wednesday evening he dismissed his girl, telling her that Mrs. King was to return that night. The footman and charwoman still remained in the house, and the water failing in the cistern, the latter went to the water-tub in the back kitchen, in which she felt something soft, and mentioned this to Pelsey; but there was yet no suspicion of murder: however, the following day the bed-clothes which Gardelle had thrown over Mrs. King's body, were found in the

the water-tub. Hereupon Pelsey found the maid-servant whom Gardelle had discharged; and she denying the having put any such clothes into the tub, the footman told his master what he suspected; and Mr. Baron, an apothecary, being applied to, went to the house, and asking for Mrs. King, Gardelle told him the same story he had told the others. The late servant maid being examined before Sir John Fielding on the Saturday, a warrant was issued to take Gardelle into custody, and Mr. Baron attended the serving it. Gardelle denied the murder, and fell in fits; but soon recovering, they demanded the key of Mrs King's chamber, but he said she had it with her in the country. On this the constable got in at the window, and let Mr. Baron and others into the room. On examination, they found the bed bloody; and then going up stairs, they discovered the bloody linen which had been secreted by Gardelle. Hereupon he was carried before Justice Fielding; but, not giving direct answers to the questions asked him, was committed for farther examination. In the mean time a bricklayer and carpenter were directed to search the house, and they found the flesh of a human body in the loft, and the bowels in the vault: they likewise observed some burnt bones in the garret, where it was evident a fire had been made. A gentleman had received a box from Gardelle, on the Thursday before he was taken into custody, with an injunction to keep it safely; but opening it, when he heard he was apprehended, it was found to contain Mrs. King's watch, and other articles. While Gardelle was in New Prison, he took opium, with an intent to destroy himself; but the strength of his constitution counteracting the poison, he begged to be carried before a magistrate, to make a full con-

confession. This the justice heard, but would not permit him to sign it as evidence against himself; he was then re-committed for trial: and after this he swallowed a number of halfpence, in order to destroy himself, but this did not answer the end. He was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, on the 2nd of April, and capitally convicted. His behaviour at first was outrageous, but the next day he was more resigned. He said it was with the utmost horror that he associated with the woman that Mozier had sent to him, but was afraid to dismiss her, lest a sufmise of his guilt should arise; and when asked why he had not escaped abroad after committing the murder, he said it was for fear that some innocent person might be charged with it. He was conveyed to the place of execution in a cart, which stopped a while near the spot where he committed the murder. He suffered in the Haymarket, April 4, 1761, amidst an immense crowd of spectators, who testified their joy at his exit in a manner too turbulent for so solemn an occasion. He was afterwards hung in chains on Hounslow Heath.

GARDINER, STEPHEN, (HOUSE BREAKER,) was born in Moorfields, of poor parents, who put him apprentice to a weaver, but his behaviour soon became so bad, that his master was obliged to correct him severly; on which he ran away, and associated with idle boys in the streets, and then was driven home through mere hunger. His friends now determined to send him to sea, and put him on board a corn vessel, the master of which traded to France and Holland. Being an indolent and useless hand on board, he was treated so roughly by his shipmates, that he grew heartily tired of a sea-faring life: and, on his return from the first

voyage, he promised the utmost obedience, if his friends would permit him to remain at home. This was readily complied with, in the hope of his reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but being impatient of restraint, he soon quitted his service, and engaged with dissolute fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, &c. till he was stripped of what little money he had, and then commenced pickpocket. His first attempt was at Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket; but though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the surrounding multitude permitted his escape. This circumstance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, underwent the dicipline of the horsepond. He was now determined to give over a business which was necessarily attended with so much hazard, and afforded so little prospect of advantage; but soon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious housebreakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as partner, but he rejected their proposals; however, one night, when he had lost all his money and most of his clothes, at cards, he went to his new acquaintance, and agreed to be concerned in their illicit practices. Garraway proposed that they should rob his own brother, which being immediately agreed to, they broke open his house, and stole most of his and his wife's waring appearel, which they sold, and spent the money in extravagance. They in the next place robbed Garraway's uncle of a considerable quantity of plate, which they sold to a woman named

named Gill, who disposed of the plate, but never accounted to them for the produce. Gardiner, provoked at being thus defrauded of his share of the ill gotten booty, informed Jonathan Wild of the robbery, who got him admitted an evidence against the other men, who were convicted, but respited, on condition of being transported. Having now become acquainted with one Rice Jones, they agreed to go together on the *passing lay*, an artifice practice in those times, and was thus accomplished:—one of the rogues takes a countryman into a public-house, under pretence of pleasure or business; then his accomplice comes in as a stranger, and in a little time finds a pack of cards, which his companion had designedly laid on the shelf in the room: on which the two sharpers begin to play. At length one of them offers a wager on the game, and puts down his money. The other shows his cards to the countryman, to convince him that he must certainly win, and offers to let him go halves in the wager; but soon after the countryman has laid down his money, the sharpers manage the matter so as to *pass off* with it.—This mode of tricking was afterwards improved, for the sharpers generally gamed with the countryman till he had lost all his money. In this practice our adventurers were very successful at differeut places, particulary at Bristol; but in this last place Jones biiked Gardiner, for having defrauded a country-gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a suit of laced clothes, and about a hundred guineas, he gave no share of the booty to Gardiner. This induced the latter to think of revenge; he disguised his sentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained some time, and then proceeded on their journey, but in the morning on which they

set out, Gardiner stole an iron pestle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with an intention of murdering his companion when they should come into an unfrequented place. On their journey Gardiner generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the pestle in order to perpetrate the murder: but his resolution failing him, he at length dropped it in the road, unperceived by his companion. In a few days afterwards these comrades in iniquity parted, and soon after Gardiner broke open a house between Abergavenny and Monmouth; but finding no money, he took only a gown, with which he rode off. Soon after his arrival in London, he robbed a house on Addle-hill, and then broke open the house of Mrs. Roberts, and carried off linen to the amount of twenty-five pounds. In this robbery he was assisted by John Martin, and both the offenders being soon afterwards taken into custody, were brought to trial, capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but Martin was afterwards reprieved, on condition of transportation for fourteen years. After sentence of death, Gardiner became as sincere a penitent as he had been a notorious offender. He resigned himself to his fate with the utmost submission: and, before he quitted Newgate on the day of execution, he dressed himself in a shroud, in which he was executed, refusing to wear any other clothes, though the weather was intensely cold. At the fatal tree he saw some of his old companions, whom he desired to take warning from his calamitous fate; to avoid bad company, and embrace a life of sobriety, as the most certain road to happiness in this world and the next. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 3d of February, 1724.

GARRAWAY.——See GARDINER, S.

GIBSON,

GIBSON, JAMES, (FORGERY,) having received a liberal education, was articled to an attorney of eminence, with whom he served his time, with credit to himself and satisfaction to his employer; and, when his clerkship was ended, he engaged in business on his own account, and was acknowledged an excellent attorney. In the early part of life he had married a young lady, with whom he received a genteel fortune; and by whom he had five children, all living at the time of his death. Notwithstanding these tender pledges of his love, he deserted his wife and family for the embraces of a mistress, who had been kept by a Scotch nobleman; leaving them to suffer the extremes of want, while he was enjoying the luxuries of life. His skill as a lawyey being indisputable, Mr. Francis, deputy solicitor to the treasury, took him into partnership; and for a considerable time he behaved with a degree of fidelity that did ample justice to the choice that had been made. Mr. Francis's business was of a very extensive nature, and was principally transacted by Gibson, who gave proof of the most consummate abilities in his profession. Not simply that of the treasury, but a variety of other concerns, were committed to the care of Mr. Francis, and by him to the management of Gibson. Among other engagements, Mr. Francis was employed in a cause respecting an estate in chancery, on which an injunction was issued; and a person was appointed to receive the rents of the estate till the lord chancellor should make his final decree. In the interim, Gibson, having reduced himself by a profuse mode of living, forged the hand-writing of the accomptant-general of the court of chancery, in consequence of which

he received above nine hundred pounds. Discovery of this transaction being made in a short time, Gibson was taken into custody, and lodged in Newgate, in September 1760. Being brought to trial for the forgery at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges. From this time Gibson continued in Newgate till January 1768 (upwards of fifteen months), and it was the prevailing opinion that no farther notice would be taken of the affair. However Gibson, by repeated applications, urged that his case might be determined by the judges; and at length, in Hilary term, 1768, the reverend bench made a final decision on his case, importing that it came within the meaning of the law; consequently he received sentence of death, and was removed into the cells of Newgate. After sentence, his behaviour was every way becoming his melancholy situation, and he reflected with much sorrow on his unkindness to his wife and family. His preparation for the awful change that awaited him, appeared to be rational, serious, and devout. He applied for pardon to that throne of mercy, whence alone he had a right to expect it. His seriousness seemed to increase as the solemn moment approached, and it was evident that he was determined to meet his fate as became a man and a christian. On the day of his execution he was indulged with a mourning coach, and was attended by an immense crowd of spectators. His behaviour was so pious, so resigned, and in all respects so admirably adapted to his unhappy situation, that the tears of the commiserating multitude accompanied his last ejaculation. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 23d of March, 1768. His body, when

when cut down was delivered to his friends for interment.

GONZALEZ, BLI, alias SYMONDS, JOHN, (FELON,) called SPANISH JACK, was descended of reputable parents residing at Alicant in Spain, who were exceedingly careful of his education, intending him for holy orders: but all their hopes were disappointed: he absconded from school, and entered on board a man of war. Having remained some years in this station, he engaged on board a ship of war belonging to England, and sailed up the Levant. After staying some time at Alexandria, Smyrna, and other places, the ship put into Gibraltar, and was ordered to be laid up; in consequence of which he entered on board a Dutch vessel. He served in several English privateers during the war; and when peace was restored, joined one of the gangs of smugglers that infested the coast of Kent and Sussex. Having acquired a sum of money, he repaired to London, and formed an acquaintance with a number of people of both sexes of the most abandoned characters. Having spent his money in scenes of riot and intoxication, he obtained credit for divers small sums from different people, whom he amused, by assuring them that he was entitled to prize-money, on the receipt of which he would pay them. His creditors becoming importunate for their money, he formed the resolution of going again to sea: but not being able to enter into such advantageous engagements as he expected, he became acquainted with an infamous gang of robbers, with whom he committed a variety of robberies in the fields near Stepney; but none of them were attended with circumstances sufficiently remarkable for recital.—

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As he was passing along Rag-fair, he was seized by a person whom he, in conjunction with other villains, had robbed the preceding evening. This event occasioned him to reflect on his dangerous situation; and judging that, if he continued his illegal courses, he could not long escape detection, he determined to give information against his accomplices. He communicated his design to M'Daniel, and accompanied him and other thief-takers one evening to a house where they were drinking, when Mandeville, Holmes, and Newton, were taken into cutody; but two others of the gang escaped through a window. Mandeville, Holmes, and Newton, were convicted on the evidence of Gonzalez, who had now assumed the name of Symmonds, and executed in October, 1751, at Tyburn. For the apprehension of these three malefactors, the thief-takers received a reward of 420l. of which they allowed the evidence only 10l. and, by various contrivances, they kept him in custody till he had expended all but 30s. of that sum. They imagined they might obtain farther emolument through his means; and therfore endeavoured to keep him in a state of poverty, that he might be the more readily induced to return to his former practices, and betray his new accomplices, as he had done his old ones. Accordingly he formed new connections, and renewed his depredations upon the public, till at length the several robberies he committed in London and its adjacencies rendered him so notorious, that he determined to go into the country for concealment. Having travelled to Rochester, he formed an acquaintance with one Smith, who was well known for his felonious practices. While they were together in a public-house at

at Rochester, drinking some punch, they found an opportunity of concealing, a silver tankard, which they carried off unperceived. On the following day they were apprehended, and committed to Maidstone goal, Gonzalez to be tried for stealing the tankard, and Smith to appear against him as evidence for the crown. Upon this evidence he was found guilty, and received sentence of death. After conviction he acknowledged, that till he was convinced the term of his life was nearly expired, he had not reflected on the most important consequence that would result from his iniquitous proceedings; and that, if he had escaped conviction, he should have returned to his usual practices. He appeared to repent of his former wickedness with unfeigned sincerity. From the prison to the place of execution, he was seriously employed in prayer, and when under the gallows he warned the people to guard against following such courses as had produced his destruction. He suffered at Maidstone, April 18, 1656.

GOODERE, Capt. SAMUEL, (FRATRICIDE) was bred to the sea, and in due time advanced to the rank of captain of a man of war. He was the younger brother of Sir Edward, in the possession of an estate of 3000l. a year, situated near Evesham in Worcestershire, and having married the daughter of a merchant, received 20,000l. as a marriage portion; but mutual unhappiness was the consequence of this connection: for the husband was brutal in his manners, and the wife not strictly observant of the sacred vow she had taken. After frequent recriminations between the married pair, Sir John brought an action in the Court of Common Pleas against Sir Robert Jason for criminal

nal conversation, and 500l. damages were given by the jury. His next step was to indict his lady for a conspiracy, and a conviction following, she was fined, and imprisoned a year in the King's Bench. He likewise petitioned for a divorce; but the matter being heard in the House of Lords, his petition was rejected. Having no children, this brother of his (Samuel) formed very sanguine expectations of possessing the estate; but finding that ir John had docked the entail in favour of his sister's children, the captain sought the most diabolical means of revenge for the supposed injury. While his vessel lay in the port of Bristol, Sir John went to that city on business; and being engaged to dine with an attorney named Smith, on the 10th of January, 1741, the captain prevailed on the latter to permit him to make one of their company, under pretence of being reconciled to his brother. Mr. Smith consented, and used his good offices to accommodate the difference; and a sincere reconciliation appeared to have taken place. The captain having previously concerted his measures, brought some sailors on shore with him, and left them at a public house, in waiting, to seize the baronet in the evening. Accordingly, when the company broke up, the captain attended his brother through the streets; and when they came opposite the public-house, the seamen ran out, seized Sir John, and conveyed him to a boat that had been appointed to wait for his reception. Some persons who were witnesses to this outrage, would have rescued the unfortunate gentleman; but the captain telling them he was a deserter, and the darkness of the evening preventing them from judging by his appearance, this violation of the law was permitted to pass unobstructed. As soon

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as the devoted victim was in the boat, he said to his brother, "I know you have an intention to murder me, and if you are ready to do it, let me beg that it be done here, without giving yourself the trouble to take me on board." To which the captain said, "No, brother, I am going to prevent your rotting on land; but, however, I would have you make your peace with God this night." Sir John being put on board, appealed to the seamen for help: but the captain put a stop to any efforts that might have been made to assist him, by saying he was a lunatic, and brought on board to prevent his committing an act of suicide. White and Mahoney now conveyed him to the purser's cabin, which the captain guarded with a drawn sword; while the other villians attempted to strangle him with an handkerchief which they found in his pocket, the wretched victim crying out "murder!" and beseeching them not to kill him, and offering all he possessed as a compensation for his life. As they could not strangle him with the handkerchief, the captain gave them a cord, with which Mahoney dispatched him, while White held his hands, and trod on his stomach. The captain now retired to his cabin; and the murder being finished, the perpetrators went and told him "the job was done!" on which he gave them money, and bade them seek their safety in flight. The attorney with whom the brother had dined, having heard of the commission of a murder, and knowing of the former animosity of the captain to his brother, immediately conjectured who it was that had fallen a sacrfice; on which he went to the mayor of Bristol, who issued his warrant to the water-bailiff, who, going on board, found that

the lieutenant and cooper had prudently confined the captain to his cabin. The offender being brought on shore, was committed to Newgate, and Mahoney and White being taken in a few hours afterwards, were lodged in the same prison. At the sessions held at Bristol, March 26, 1741, these offenders were brought to trial, and being convicted on the fullest evidence, received sentence of death. After conviction, Mahoney's behaviour was very hardened. When the gaolers were putting irons on him, he said he should not regard dying on the following day, if he could be attended by a priest, to whom he might confess his sins. This man and White were both Irishmen, and Roman Catholics. Capt. Goodere acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and left the following confession in writing:—

"When I returned from supper, I went to carry him (meaning his brother) a clean pair of stockings, that I might the better see how he lay, and which way we should murder him; at the same time ordering the sentry not to be surprised if he tore the cabin down in the morning. Between two and three o'clock I ordered Mahoney to call up Charles White (for Elisha Cole, who was intended to assist Mahoney in this murder, was dead drunk) and to bring him into my cabin. White came presently, and I believe I made him drink a quart of rum out of gill glasses. When he was near drunk, I asked him if he would kill a Spaniard. The poor fellow seemed surprised: but Mahoney and myself worked him up to a proper pitch, so that he was ready enough to assist. All the night long Mahoney was to and fro in the deceased's

ceased's cabin; and the centry thought he was sent by me to assist and help Sir John to any thing he might want in the night. I must own that Mahony was unwilling to commit the murder; but I insisted, that as he had undertaken it, he should go through with it. I immediately gave him a handkerchief, and a piece of half inch rope, about ten feet long, bidding him and White follow me. The rope was to strangle him, and the handkerchief to thrust into his mouth, to stop his making a noise. When we came to the cabin door, I desired the centry to give me his sword, and ordered him to go up on deck, which he did. I then opened the cabin door, and Mahony and White went in. I saw my poor brother lying on the bed in his clothes. White seized him by the throat, and he having his stock on, almost strangled him; but he cried out "murder!" as well as he could, and "help for God's sake!" I stood at the cabin door with my sword drawn, and gave the lanthorn, which hung up in the cabin, just as they had got the rope about his neck. They told me to keep back; and the centry, whose place I had taken, seeing me without a candle, brought one to the cabin door; but I held my sword to his breast, and ordered him away. This was the very time that my poor brother was giving his last gasp, for about a minute before I heard him say, "Oh! my poor life!" which were the last words he ever spoke. In a minute or two after the deceased expired, both Mahony and White came out of the cabin, and I asked if he was dead. They said he was. I then went into the cabin, and felt my brother's corpse. Having afterwards locked the cabin-door, I put the key into my pocket, and

ordered White and Mahony to attend me in my cabin, where I went and sat down. Mahony came in first, and said, "D—n me, captain, we have done it, my boy!" Then Mahony gave me my brother's gold watch, and I gave him in return a silver one which I wore. As to the money they took out of his pockets, they shared it, each having upwards of 14l. though White had the most cash, because Mahony had the watch. About four o'clock they went into the yawl, and got on shore, I having promised to send them tickets for three weeks or a month's absence from the ship.—As to the disposal of the deceased's body, we intended to have concealed it till the ship sailed, and to fling it overboard sewed up in a hammock; or, if it had been discovered before, then I intended to have proved, by Mahony, that the deceased strangled himself, and thought I could have influenced a jury to have brought him in lunatic. I cannot help reflecting on my conduct in this affair; and what makes a great impression on me is, when my brother was first brought into the boat, he told me he knew my intent was to murder him, and, says he, why don't you throw me overboard now? and then you may go ashore and hang yourself in the boat's fore-sheet. Justice has most deservedly overtaken me; and what gives me the greatest uneasiness is, that the death of these two poor creatures, Mahony and White, lie at my door. Pray God forgive me, for sure never was any man guilty of so much wickedness. As to what the witnesses swore on my trial, I can contradict no part of it. They did their duty, and I forgive them, as I hope, through the merits of my dear Saviour, the Almighty will forgive me."

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He was equally ingenuous in acknowledging his guilt to his particular friends who visited him when under confinement. The persons whose evidence convicted him felt the extremest sorrow that they should be the instruments by which he was to receive the punishment due to his crime, lamenting his fate with the most poignant grief. His time after conviction was spent chiefly in writing letters to persons of rank, to make interest to save his life, and his wife and daughter presented a petition to the king; but all endeavours of this kind proving ineffectual, he employed a man to hire some colliers to rescue him on his way to the fatal tree; an intimation of which having been given to the sheriff, a proper guard was provided to carry the law into effectual execution. Capt. Goodere's wife and daughter, dressed in deep mourning, took a solemn leave of him on the day before his death. He went in a mourning coach to the place of execution, to which his accomplices were conveyed in a cart. They suffered near the Hot-wells, Bristol, the 20th of April, 1741, within view of the place, where the ship lay when the murder was committed.

GOW, JOHN, (PIRATE,) whose assumed name was CAPTAIN SMITH, was a native of one of the Orkney Islands in the North of Scotland, and having been instructed in maritime affairs, became so expert therein, that he was appointed mate of a ship, in which he sailed on a voyage to Santa Cruz. When the vessel was ready to weigh anchor from this place, the merchants who had shipped goods on board her came to pay a parting visit to the captain, and to give him their final instructions.—On this occasion, the captain, agreeable to custom, entertained his company under an awning on the

quarter-deck; and while they were regaling, some of the sailors preferred a complaint of ill-treatment they pretended to have received, particularly with regard to short allowance. The captain was irritated at so undeserved a charge, which seemed calculated to prejudice him in the opinion of his employers; but conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did not reply in anger, but only said that there was a steward on board who had the care of the provisions, and that all reasonable complaints should be redressed; on which the seamen retired with apparent satisfaction. The wind being fair, the captain directed his men to weigh anchor as soon as the merchants had quitted the vessel. It was observed that Paterson, one of the complainants, was very dilatory in executing his orders, on which the captain demanded why he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails; to which he made no direct answer, but was heard to mutter, "As we eat, so shall we work." The captain heard this, but took no notice of it, as he was unwilling to proceed to extremities. The ship had no sooner sailed than the captain considered his situation as dangerous, on reflecting that his conduct had been complained of and his orders disobeyed. Hereupon he consulted the mate, and they agreed to deposit a number of small arms in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case of an attack. This precaution might have been extremely salutary, but that they spoke so loud as to be overheard by two of the conspirators, who were on the quarter deck. The captain likewise directed the mate to order Gow, who was second mate and gunner, to clean the arms, a circumstance that must plainly insinuate to the latter that the conspiracy was at least suspected. Those who had overheard the conversation between the captain

captain and mate, communicated the substance of it to Gow and the other conspirators, who thereupon resolved to carry the plan into immediate execution. Gow, who had previously intended to turn pirate, thought the present an admirable opportunity, as there were several chests of money on board the ship; therefore he proposed to his companions that they should immediately embark in the enterprize; and they accordingly determined to murder the captain, and seize the ship. Half the vessel's company were regularly called to prayers in the great cabin, at eight o'clock in the evening, while the other half were doing duty on deck; and after service, those who had been in the cabin went to rest in their hammocks. The contrivance was to execute the plot at this juncture. Two of the conspirators only remained on duty; the rest, being among those who retired to their hammocks. Between nine and ten at night a kind of watch-word was given, which was, "Who fires first?" On this some of the conspirators left their hammocks, and going to the cabins of the surgeon, chief mate, and supercargo, they cut their throats while they were sleeping. The surgeon, finding himself violently wounded, quitted his bed, and soon afterwards dropped on the floor and expired. The mate and supercargo held their hands to their throats, and going on the quarter-deck, solicited a momentary respite, to recommend their souls to heaven: but even this favour was denied, for the villains, who found their knives had failed to destroy them, dispatched them with pistols. The captain hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it. The boatswain replied, that he did not know, but he was apprehensive that some of the men had

either fallen or been thrown overboard. The captain hereupon went to look over the ship's side, on which two of the murderers followed, and tried to throw him into the sea; but he disengaged himself, and turned about to take a view of them, when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him; hereupon he solicited mercy, but, instead of granting it, the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger, and would have repeated his blow, had he not struck with such force that he could not draw back the weapon. At this instant, Gow, who had been assisting in the murders between the decks, came on the quarter-deck, and fired a brace of balls into the captain's body, which put a period to his life. As soon as the dead bodies were thrown overboard, Gow was unanimously appointed to the command of the ship. Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy, secreted themselves; some in the shrouds, others under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of sharing the fate of the captain and their murdered companions. Gow having assembled his associates on the quarter-deck, appointed them their different stations on board, and it was agreed to commence pirates. The new captain now directed that the men who had concealed themselves should be informed that no danger would happen to them, if they did not interfere to oppose the new government of the ship, but keep such stations as were assigned them. The men, whose terrors had taught them to expect immediate death, were glad to comply with these terms; but the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, appointed two men to attend with drawn cutlasses, to terrify the others into submission. Gow and his companions now divided the most valuable effects

effects in the cabin; and then ordering liquor to be brought on the quarter-deck, they consumed the night in drinking, while those unconnected in the conspiracy had the care of working the ship. The crew originally consisted of twenty-four men, of whom four had been murdered, and eight were conspirators; and before morning, four of the other men had approved of the proceedings of the pirates, so that there were only eight remaining in opposition to the newly usurped authority. On the following day, the new captain summoned these eight men to attend him, and telling them he was determined to go on a cruizing voyage, said, that they should be well treated if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He said, that every man should fare in the same manner, and that good order and discipline were all that would be required. He said farther, that the captain's inhumanity had produced the consequences which had happened; that those who had not been concerned in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill consequences from it; that they had only to discharge their duty as seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit. To this address these unfortunate honest men made no kind of reply; and Gow interpreted their silence into an assent to measures which it was not in their power to oppose. After this declaration of the will of the new captain, they were permitted to range the ship at their pleasure, but as some of them appeared to act very reluctantly, a strict eye was kept on their conduct; for, as guilt is ever suspicious, these pirates were greatly apprehensive of being brought to justice by means of some of these men. Williams, who acted as lieutenant of the vessel, and who was distinguished by the ferocity of his nature, had an opportunity

tunity of exerting his cruelty, by beating these unhappy sailors; a privilege that he did not fail to exert with a degree of severity that rendered his very name detestable. The ship thus seized had been called the George galley, but the pirates gave her the name of the Revenge, and having mounted several guns, they steered towards Spain and Portugal, in expectation of making a capture of wine, of which article they were greatly in want. They soon made prize of an English vessel, laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland to Cadiz; but having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men who navigated the ship, which they sunk. One of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel was named John Belvin; a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was by nature cruel, and by practice hardened in that cruelty. He said to Gow that he was willing to enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed to the practice of acts of barbarity. This man was thought a valuable acquisition to the crew, as several of the others appeared to act from motives of fear rather than of inclination. The next vessel taken by the pirates was a Scotch ship, bound to Italy with pickled herrings; but this cargo, like the former, being of no use to them, they sunk the vessel, having first taken out the men, arms, ammunition, and stores. After cruizing eight or ten days, they saw a vessel about the size of their own, to which they gave chase. She hoisted French colors, and crowded all her sail in order to get clear of them; and after a chase of three days and nights, they lost the French vessel in a fog. Being distressed for water, they now steered towards the Madeira islands, of which they came in sight in two days; but not thinking it prudent to enter the har-

bour, they steered off and on for several days, in expectation of making prize of some Portuguese or Spanish vessel; but their hopes were frustrated. Their distress increasing, they stood in for the harbour, and brought the ship to an anchor, but at a considerable distance from the shore. This being done, they sent seven men, well armed, in a boat, with instructions to board a ship, cut her cables, and bring her off; but if they failed in this, they were to attempt to make prize of wine and water, conveying them in the boats to the ships. Both these schemes, however, were frustrated, it being easily known, from the distance they lay at, that they were pirates. When they had cruised off for some days, they found themselves in such distress, that it became absolutely necessary to seek immediate relief; on which they sailed to Porta Santa, a Portuguese settlement at the distance of about ten leagues. On their arrival off this place, they sent their boat on shore, with a present of salmon and herrings for the governor, and the name of a port to which they pretended to be bound. The persons sent on shore were civilly treated by the governor, who accompanied some of his friends on board the ship. Gow and his associates received the governor very politely, and entertained him and his company in the most hospitable manner; but the boats belonging to the pirates not coming on board with some provisions they had expected, and the governor and his attendants preparing to depart, Gow and his people threatened to take away their lives, unless they instantly furnished them with what they required. The surprise of the Portuguese governor and his friends on this occasion is not to be expressed. They dreaded instant death, and with every sign of extreme fear solicited that their lives

might

might be spared. Gow being peremptory in his demands, the governor sent a boat repeatedly on shore, till the pirates were furnished with such articles as they wanted. This business being ended, the Portuguese were permitted to depart, and the pirates determined to steer towards the coast of Spain, where they soon arrived. After cruizing a few days off Cape St. Vincent, they fell in with an English vessel, bound from the coast of Guinea to America, with slaves, but had been obliged to put into the port of Lisbon: though it was of no use to them to capture such a vessel, they took it, and putting on board the captain and men they had heretofore taken, and taking out all the provisions and some of the sails, they left the ship to proceed on her voyage. Falling in with a French ship laden with wine, oil, and fruit, they took out the lading, and gave the vessel to the Scotch captain, in return for his ship which they had sunk. The Scotchman was likewise presented with some valuable articles, and permitted to take his men to sail with him, all of whom did so, except one, who continued with the pirates through choice. The day previous to this affair, they observed a French ship bearing down towards them; on which Gow ordered his people to lay to, but observing that the vessel mounted two and thirty guns, and seemed proportionably full of men, he assembled his people, and observed to them that it would be madness in them to think of engaging so superior a force. The crew in general were of Gow's opinion; but Williams, the lieutenant, said that Gow was a coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact was, that Gow possessed somewhat of calm courage, while Williams's impetuosity was of the most brutal kind. The latter, after behaving in the most abusive manner

manner, demanded that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel; but Gow refusing to comply, the other presented a pistol to shoot him, which only flashed in the pan. This being observed by two of the pirates, named Winter and Paterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm, and the other in the belly. He dropped as soon as the pieces were discharged, and the other seamen, thinking he was dead, were about to throw him overboard, when he suddenly sprang on his feet, jumped into the hold, and swore he would set fire to the powder-room; and as his pistol was yet loaded, there was every reason to think he would actually have done so, if he had not been instantly seized, and his hands chained behind him, in which condition he was put among the French prisoners, who were terrified at the sight of him, it having been a common practice with him to flog the poor prisoners by way of entertainment. No engagement happened with the French ship, which held on her way; and two days afterwards the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt fish, and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions, and many of the stores, they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing, when they began to reflect in what manner Williams should be disposed of. At length they determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn him over to the first English man of war he should meet with, that he might experience the justice due to his crimes; and in the mean time to keep him in the strictest confinement. On the departure of the

Bristol

Bristol ship, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They were apprehensive, that as soon as intelligence of their proceedings reached Portugal, some ships would be sent in pursuit of them. Hereupon they formed a kind of council, in which every one gave his opinion; as dictated by the hope of profit, or by his fears. Some of them advised going to the coast of Guinea, others to North America, and others again to the West Indies; but Gow proposed to sail to the isles of Orkney, on the north of Scotland, where, he said, they might dispose of the effects, and retire and live on the produce. To induce his people to comply with the proposal, Gow represented that they were much in want of water, and provisions of every kind; that their danger would be great if they continued longer on the high seas, and, above all, that it was highly necessary for them to repair their ship, which they could not do with any degree of safety in a southern port. He likewise said, that if any ships should be dispatched in quest of them, they would not think of searching for them in a northern latitude, so that their voyage that way would be safe; and if they would follow his directions, much booty might be obtained by plundering the houses of the gentlemen residing near the sea coast. The danger of alarming the country was started as an objection to these proposals; but Gow said that they should be able to dispatch all their business, and sail again, before such an event could happen. Apparently convinced by this reasoning, they steered northward, and entering a bay of one of the Orkney Islands, Gow assembled his crew, in order to instruct them to say that they were bound from Cadiz to Stockholm, but contrary winds driving them past the Sound, till it was filled

filled with ice, they were under the necessity of putting in to clean their ship, and that they would pay ready money for such articles as they stood in need of. It happened that a smuggling vessel lay at this time in the bay. It belonged to the Isle of Man, and being laden with brandy and wine from France, had come north about, to steer clear of the custom-house cutters. In their present situation, Gow thought it prudent to exchange goods with the commander of the vessel, though, in any other, he would hardly have been so ceremonious. A Swedish vessel entering the bay two days afterwards, Gow likewise exchanged some goods with the captain. When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow, who had been compelled to take part with the pirates, got away from the rest of the boat's crew, and, after lying concealed some time at a farm-house, hired a person to shew him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, and about twelve miles distant from the bay where the ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate, said he had been forced into the service, and begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law, as the fear of death alone had induced him to be connected with the pirates. Having given a full account of all their irregular proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables and other peace officers to call in the aid of the people, to assist in bringing those villains to justice. About this juncture, ten of Gow's sailors, who had likewise taken an involuntary part with the pirates, seized the long-boat, and having made the main-land of Scotland, coasted the country till they arrived at Edinburgh, where they were imprisoned on suspicion of being pirates. Notwith-

standing these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his own safety, that he did not put immediately to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of the gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions. In pursuance of this resolution, he sent his boatswain and ten armed men to the house of Mr. Honeyman, high-sheriff of the county; and the master being absent, the servants opened the door without suspicion. Nine of the gang went into the house to search for treasure, while the tenth was left to guard the door. The sight of men thus armed, occasioned much terror to Mrs. Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, employed in the search of plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies. Mrs. Honeyman running to the door, saw the man who stood guard there, of whom she asked the meaning of the outrage; to which he calmly replied, that they were pirates, and had come hither only to ransack the house. Recollecting that she had a considerable quantity of gold in a bag, she returned and put it in her lap, and ran by the man at the door, who had no idea but that the wish to preserve her life occasioned her haste. The boatswain finding no money, declared that he would destroy the family writings if cash was not produced; but this being overheard by Miss Honeyman, she threw the writings out of the window, and jumped out after them, (it being a low house) escaped unhurt, and carried them off. In the interim, the pirates seized the linen, plate, and other valuable articles, and then walked in triumph to their boat, compelling one of the servants to play before them on the bagpipes. On the following day

day they weighed anchor, but on the evening of the same day came again to anchor near another island. Here the boatswain and some men were sent on shore in search of plunder, but did not obtain any. They then sailed to an island called Calf Sound, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr. Fea, who had been an old school-fellow with Gow. This house was the rather pitched upon, as Gow supposed that Mr. Fea could not have yet heard of the transactions at Mr. Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken; however, Mr. Fea, on account of the then indisposition of his wife, was ill capable of opposing them. His house was situated near the sea-shore: he had only six servants at home when the pirates appeared off the coast, and they were by no means equal to a contest with the plunderers. It may not be improper to remark, that the tide runs so high among the islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger. Gow, who had not boats to assist him in an emergency, and was unskilled in the navigation of those seas, made a blunder in turning into the bay of Calf Sound; for, standing too near the point of a small island called the Calf, the vessel was in the utmost danger of being run on shore. This little island was merely a pasture for sheep belonging to Mr. Fea, who had at that time six hundred feeding on it. Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr. Fea, requesting that he would lend him another boat, to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out an anchor, and assuring him that he would not do the least injury to any individual. As Gow's messenger did not

not see Mr. Fea's boat, the latter gave him an evasive answer, and, on the approach of night, ordered his servants to sink his own boat, and hide the sails and rigging. While they were obeying this order, five of Gow's men came on shore in the boat, and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Fea's house. Hereupon the latter advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged that they would not enter the house, for that his wife was exceeding ill, that the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her, and that the sight of them might probably deprive her of life. The boatswain replied, that they had no design to terrify Mrs Fea, or any other person, but that the most rigorous treatment must be expected, if the use of the boat was denied them. Mr Fea represented how dangerous it would be for him to assist them, on account of the reports circulated to their discredit; but he offered to entertain them at an adjacent alehouse, and they accepted the invitation, as they observed that he had no company. While they were drinking, Mr. Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boat, and when they had done so, to call him hastily out of company, and inform him of it.—These orders were exactly complied with; and when he had left the pirates, he directed six men, well armed, to station themselves behind a hedge, and if they observed him come alone with the boatswain, instantly to seize him; but if he came with all the five desperadoes, he would walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing without wounding himself. After giving these orders, Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on the promise of their behaving peaceably, and said he would make them heartily welcome.

come. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat; but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's company only, and would afterwards send for his companions. This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, and walking with Mr. Fea till they came to the hedge where his men were concealed, he then seized him by the collar, while the others took him into custody, before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his men; but Mr. Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, bound him hand and foot, and then left one of his own people to guard him, while himself and the rest went back to the public-house. There being two doors to the house, they went some to the one, and some to the other, and rushing in at once, they made prisoners of the other four men, before they had time to have recourse to their arms for defence. The five pirates being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village, and separately confined; in the interim, Mr. Fea sent messengers round the island, to acquaint the inhabitants with what had been done; desiring them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to and steal them; and requesting that no person would venture to row within reach of the pirates' guns. On the following day the wind shifted to the north-west, and blew hard, on which the pirates conceived hopes of getting out to sea; but the person employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked; she turned round, and the cable parting, the vessel was driven on Calf Island. Reduced to this dilemma, without even a boat to assist in getting off the ship, Gow hung out a white flag, as

an intimation that he was willing to treat on friendly terms; but Mr. Fea, having now little doubt of securing the pirates, wrote to Gow, and told him he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men, on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him that the whole country was alarmed, and that the most probable chance of securing his own life, would be by surrendering, and becoming an evidence against his accomplices. Four armed men in an open boat carried this letter to Gow, who sent for answer that he would give goods to the value of a thousand pounds to be assisted in his escape; but if this should be refused, he would set fire to the ship rather than become a prisoner. He even said, that he would trust to the mercy of the waves, if Mr. Fea would indulge him with a boat. On reading this letter, Mr. Fea determined to persuade him to submit, and therefore took four men well armed, in a boat, and rowed towards the ship; but he previously placed a man with a flag in his hand, at the top of his house, to make such signals as might be proper to prevent his falling a sacrifice to any artifice of the pirates. The instructions given to the servant were, that he would wave the flag once if he saw one of the pirates swim towards the shore; but if he beheld four or more of them he should wave it constantly till his master got out of danger. Mr. Fea, rowing forwards, spoke through a trumpet, asking Gow to come on shore, and talk with him, which the latter said he would. Hereupon Fea lay to, in waiting for him; but at this juncture he saw a man swimming from the ship, with a white flag in his hand, on which the man on the house waved his flag; but soon afterwards he was observed to wave it continually, on which

which Mr. Fea's boat retired, and those in her presently saw five more of the pirates swimming towards them; but they returned to the ship as soon as they saw the others were aware of the artifice. The first pirate, who carried the white flag, now retired to a corner of the island, and calling to Mr. Fea, told him that "the captain had sent him a bottle of brandy." Fea replied, that he hoped to see Gow hanged, and that he was inclined to shoot the messenger for his insolence; on which the fellow decamped with great precipitation. Soon after this Gow wrote a most humble letter to Mrs. Fea, imploring her interference in his behalf; and though she had determined not to interest herself in his favour, yet he resolved to go on shore; and taking a white flag in his hand, he made signals for a parley; on which Mr. Fea sent some armed men to seize him living or dead. On their meeting, Gow insisted that one of the men should be left as a hostage; and this circumstance being seen by Mr. Fea, from the windows of his house, he sailed over to the island, where he reprimanded his people for delivering the hostage; and likewise told Gow that he was his prisoner. Gow replied, that could not be, since a hostage had been delivered for him. To this Mr. Fea replied, that he had issued no orders for delivering the hostage, and that the man who had foolishly engaged himself as such, must submit to the consequence: but he advised Gow, for his own sake, to make signals, that the man might obtain his liberty. This Gow refused to do; but Fea made signals which deceived the pirates, two of whom came on shore with the man, and were instantly taken into custody. Gow was now disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging

ging to be shot with his sword in his possession. The leader of the gang being thus secured, Mr. Fea had recourse to stratagem to get all the rest into his power. He now compelled Gow to make signals for some of the men to come on shore, which they readily did, and were apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived. Fea now insinuated to Gow that he would let him have a boat to escape, if he would send for his carpenter to repair it, and to bring with him two or three hands to assist him: Gow complied, the men came off, and were severally seized; but as there were other people still on board, Mr. Fea had recourse to the following contrivance to get them into his possession. He directed his own servants to provide hammers, nails, &c. and make a pretence of repairing the boat; and, while this was doing, told Gow to send for his men, since he must have possession of the ship before he would deliver up the boat. The pirates, on receiving their late captain's orders to come on shore, were very doubtful how to act, but after a short debate, and having no officers to command them, they shared what money they possessed, and coming on shore, were all taken into custody. Thus, by an equal exertion of courage and artifice, Mr. Fea secured these dangerous men, twenty-eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded; and only with the aid of a few countrymen, a force apparently very insufficient to the accomplishment of such a business. When all the prisoners were properly secured Mr. Fea sent an express to Edinburgh, requesting that proper persons might be sent to conduct them to that city. As soon as his express arrived, another was forwarded to London, to learn the Royal pleasure

pleasure respecting the disposal of the pirates; and the answer brought was, that the Lord Justice Clerk should immediately send them to London, in order to their being tried by a court of admiralty; to be held for that purpose. When these orders reached Edinburgh, a guard of soldiers marched to fetch them to that city; and, on their arrival they were put on board the Greyhound frigate, which immediately sailed for the Thames. On their arrival in the river, a detachment of the guards from the tower attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshalsea prison, where they once more saw Lieutenant Williams, who had been conveyed to England by the man of war which received him from the Bristol captain at Lisbon. This Williams, though certain of coming to an ignominious end, took a malignant pleasure in seeing his companions in like circumstances of calamity. A commission was now made out for their trial; and soon after their commitment they underwent separate examinations before the Judges of the admiralty court in Doctors' Commons, when five of them, who appeared to be less guilty than the rest, were admitted evidences against their accomplices. The behaviour of Gow, from his first commitment, was reserved and morose. He considered himself as an assured victim to the justice of the laws, nor entertained any hope of being admitted an evidence, as Mr. Fea had hinted. Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey. Gow, at first, refused to plead, in consequence of which he was sentenced to be pressed to death in the usual manner. His reason for this refusal was, that he had an estate which he wished might descend to a relation, and which would have

have been the case had he died under the pressure; but when the proper officers were about to inflict this punishment, he begged to be taken again to the bar to plead, of which the judge being informed, humanely granted his request; and the consequence was, that he, Williams, and six others, were convicted, and received sentence of death: the rest were acquitted, as it appeared that they had acted by compulsion. While under sentence of death, Gow was visited by some Presbyterian ministers, who laboured to convince him of the atrociousness of his crime, but he seemed deaf to all their admonitions and exhortations. Williams was equally, if not more, hardened. He seemed insensible to the hope of happiness, or the fear of torment, in a future state. He boasted, to those who visited him, of his constantly advising Gow "to tie the prisoners back to back, and throw them into the sea," to prevent their giving evidence against them. Gow, Williams, and the six accomplices, suffered at Execution Dock, August 11, 1729. Gow's friends, anxious to put him out of pain, pulled his legs so forcibly that the rope broke, and he dropped down, on which he was again taken up to the gibbet, and when he was dead, was hung in chains on the banks of the Thames.

GRAHAM, A. See DESPARD, E. M.

H

HANDLAND, WILLIAM, } See ISDWELL.
HARDWICKE, GEO. }

HARPER, ——. See POULTER, JOHN.

HARPHAM

HARPHAM, Rt. (COINER) carried on the business of a carpenter for a considera le time in Westminster, with some success; but at length became a bankrupt; when, having engaged the assistance of one Fordham, he hired a house near St. Paul's Churchyard, and pretending to be a button-maker, he put up an iron press, with which he used to coin money, and Fordham, having aided him in the coinage, put off the counterfeit money thus made. From hence they removed to Rosemary-lane, and there carried on this trade for some time, till the neighbors observing that great quantities of charcoal were brought in, and the utmost precaution taken to keep the door shut, began to form very unfavorable suspicions; on which Harpham took a cellar in Paradise-row, near Hanover-square, to which the implements were removed. While in this situation, Harpham invited a gentleman to dine with him, and was impudent enough to take him into his workshop, and shew him his tools. The gentleman wondering for what purpose they could be intended, Harpham said, "in this press I can make buttons; but I will shew you something else that is a greater rarity." He then struck a piece of metal, which instantly bore the resemblance of a half-guinea, except the milling on the edge, but another instrument being applied to it, the half-guinea was completed. These coiners now removed to Jermyn-street, St. James's, where Harpham took an empty cellar, and, on the old pretence of button making, gave orders to a bricklayer to put up a grate. The bricklayer remarking what a quantity of coals the grate would consume, the other said it was so much the better, for it was calculated to dress victuals, either by baking, stewing, toasting, or boiling. Harpham kept the key of this cellar, permitting

miittng no one to enter but Fordham; and once in three weeks he had a quantity of charcoal and sea-coal put in through the window. The landlord of the place suspecting some illegal proceeding, desired his neighbours to watch the parties; in consequence of which, Harpham was soon discovered in the attempt to put off counterfeit money; on which, he and his assistant were apprehended and committed to Newgate, and Fordham being admitted an evidence, the other was convicted, and received sentence of death. His behaviour after commitment was unusually serious. He procured religious books, and exercised himself in the offices of devotion in a very earnest manner. He likewise resolved to eat no more food than should be absolutely necessary for the support of nature; and in this he persevered from the time of his conviction to the day of his death. He desired a person to awake him at three o'clock in the morning, and continued his devotions till midnight. While he was thus properly employed, a person hinted to him that he might entertain some hope of a reprieve; but he said he did not regard a reprieve on his own account, for that slavery in a foreign country was as much to be dreaded as death. Some questions being asked him respecting any accomplices he might have, he declined charging any particular person with a crime, but gave the ordinary of Newgate a list of the names of some people whom he desired him to send to, requesting that they would reform the errors of their ways. The sacrament was administered to him in private, on the day before his execution, at his own request, as he said he could not attend the duties of religion while exposed to the observation of a curious multitude. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 24th of May, 1725.

HARRISON,

HARRISON, JOHN, (FORGERY) was brought up in a merchant's counting-house, and soon after the expiration of his apprenticeship, he began business on his own account, and had a lime and a coal wharf at Limehouse, where he carried on an extensive trade; but failing in that business, he engaged himself as clerk to Mr. Smeeton, previous to that gentleman's undertaking to construct the Eddystone light-house, and he was entrusted with the care and management of all the money employed in that important work. His conduct under Mr. Smeeton was in every respect unexceptionable, and through the interest of that gentleman, and other respectable characters, he became accomptant to the London Assurance corporation; and it was his peculiar misfortune to be acquainted with a Mr. Angus Mackey, a merchant in the city, in an extensive way of trade, who, by urgent solicitations, prevailed upon the unsuspecting and good-natured man to lend him several sums belonging to the company, solemnly promising to return the money before he would have occasion to make up his accounts. When the time appointed for the first payment arrived, instead of returning what he had already got into his possession, Mackey urged Harrison for a further supply, assuring him that he was in daily expectation of remittances, on the receipt of which he would return the whole sum that Harrison was deficient in his account with the company; adding that, if he met with a refusal he must inevitably stop payment, which would necessarily occasion an exposure of Harrison's violation of the trust reposed in him by the company. In this manner was the unfortunate man amused for several months, during which time he supplied Mackey with different sums, amounting in the whole to 7550l. and, to prevent

detection, he inserted figures in the book containing the account between the bank of England and the London Assurance Company, so that the bank appeared to be debtor for seven thousand five hundred and fifty pounds more than had been paid there. He sent a clerk with 210l. to the bank; and when the book was returned to him, he put a figure of 3 before the 2, which made the sum appear 3000l. more than was really paid; and similar alterations were made in other parts of the book. A committee of that company being appointed to meet on Wednesday the 9th of July, 1777, Mr. Harrison mentioned the circumstance to Mackey, and told him that he must be utterly ruined unless the deficiency in the company's cash was made good before that day; but, notwithstanding the life and reputation of his generous, but imprudent friend, were at stake, he neglected to return the money. About eleven in the forenoon of the day on which the committee was to be held, Harrison placed several account-books on the table of the committee-room, and had some conversation with Alexander Aubert, Esq. the Deputy-governor. When the committee was about to be opened, Harrison absconded; and, in about ten minutes after, the following letter was received by Mr. George Hall, secretary to the company:

"Dear Sir,

"I am distressed beyond expression, having forfeited every thing that is dear to me, by an act of kindness to a friend who has deceived me: inclosed is a state of my account with the company, which tortures my very soul to think of it. I know the company will not forgive me, therefore don't care what becomes of me, as I dare not see them any more.

more. God Almighty knows what will become of me, or where I shall fly for succour: indeed, Mr. Hall, I am one of the most miserable wretches living, but I have betrayed by trust, for which I never can forgive myself. When I parted with the money, it was but for a few days, or I would sooner have died than have parted with it; but, alas! I shall now severely pay for suffering myself to be drawn in to serve a friend, who knew it was not my own, and saw the distress of mind it cost me when I did it. Please to present my humble duty to the gentlemen; tell them I can meet any death after this, sooner than I can see them again, and am determined not to survive the shame: I am, dear Sir, a lost, unhappy being;—I am so bewildered, that I scarce know what I am doing, but believe the enclosed account is not right, as I don't recollect that I am any way short of cash; but in truth I am not myself.

J. H."

When Harrison absconded, he left upwards of one thousand nine hundred pounds in his desk, and among his papers were found securities on behalf of the company to a great amount, besides a bond given to him by Mackey, for seven thousand five hundred and fifty pounds. Notice being given at the office that Harrison was at a friend's house at Wapping, Mr. Aubert went there in the evening, and found him in a state of mind little short of distraction. Mackey's bond was produced by Mr. Aubert, and Harrison assigned it over to him as a security on behalf of the company. He accompanied Mr. Aubert to the office, where two persons were ordered to attend him, and prevent his putting an end to his life, which there was sufficient reason

to suppose he would attempt: and the next morning he was taken before Sir John Fielding, who committed him to Tothill-fields bridewell. He was re-examined the following Wednesday, and committed to Newgate in preparation for his trial, which came on at the Old Bailey in September sessions, 1777: the indictment consisted of twenty-four counts, on twelve of which the jury pronounced him guilty. The prisoner's counsel objected to judgment being passed, on account of a supposed inaccuracy in the indictment, and the matter was left to be argued by the judges. Having remained in Newgate some months after his trial, Mr. Harrison petitioned for the judges to meet and that he might be heard by counsel. He was advised by an illustrious personage to wave the plea on which his petition was founded, and in consequence thereof the petition was immediately withdrawn. In a few days a messenger came to Newgate, and delivered Mr. Harrison the agreeable news that his Majesty had been graciously pleased to grant him an unconditional pardon;* and the same evening an order was delivered to Mr. Akerman for his immediate enlargement. Harrison had been accomptant to the London Assurance Company nineteen years and a half, when it was discovered that he had betrayed the confidence reposed in him; and till that period his character was without a blemish, and he was held in the highest esteem by all his acquaintance.

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* In consequence of a note, which the reader will find by reverting to the case of Dr. Dodd, we have thought proper to insert the present case.

EDITOR.

HARTLEY, JOHN, (MURDERER,) was a private in the third regiment of guards, who was tried for the wilful murder of George Scott, another soldier. Henry Kendrick, also a soldier, swore that he, the deceased, and another, of the name of Rudkin, with Davis, a higler, were together at the Black Lion at Bayswater, on the 29th of January, 1800, in the afternoon; that about six o'clock, the prisoner, and his brother-in-law James Bull, came in; they had some ale, and at near eight o'clock Bull went away. The prisoner then wished to join their company, and wanted to drink with them, but to this the witness objected, telling him he had better keep his own company: the deceased then interfered in his favour, answering, that they were all soldiers, and that his pot was as good as another's. The prisoner then joined them. They remained till they had four pots together, when Rudkin considering it was time to return to his barracks, they paid the reckoning, agreeing at the same time to have a parting pot. This the witness fetched, and observed, that as it was only pence a piece, it had better be paid for at once, for short reckonings made long friends. The prisoner immediately said, "I'll see you d—d before I'll give you a penny." "Nay, (returned the witness,) there is no occasion to see one d—d, but you ought to pay if you drink among us." On this the deceased started up and said, that as he had been the cause of introducing the prisoner into their company, sooner than there should be any words, he would pay the penny for him, as soon as he came back from the door, to which he wanted to go; and then approaching the door, the prisoner thrust his sword into him, and which the witness saw him draw out of the belly of the deceased, who cried out, "I'm a dead man."

The deceased then stept back, fell, and expired in about a quarter of an hour. The prisoner then holding up his sword, the witness struck him over the arm, took the sword away, and broke it. The prisoner then attempted to escape; but Davis and Rudkin struck him several blows over the face, and then secured him. The witness accompanied the constable to town, when he had the prisoner in custody, the latter of whom said to him as they went along, "Don't hurt me; there is no occasion for you to tell all you know." The whole of this story was confirmed by Rudkin and Davis, and they all three positively affirmed that no one struck the prisoner, until after he had given the fatal wound; that none of them played at domino along with the prisoner, nor had they any spirits to drink. The landlord confirmed the latter part of their testimony, and added, that he had heard neither high words nor scuffle, but that they appeared, as far as he saw, to be very good company, until the fatal circumstance took place, on which he went into the room, and the man was lying on the floor. The surgeon who had examined the body, described it as having received a wound in the belly, about two inches from the navel, which appeared to him to have been made by a kind of dagger, and which wound was most certainly the cause of his death. The prisoner, in his defence, gave an account of his going to the above house; and then said that as soon as his brother was gone, the deceased challenged him to play at domino for half a gallon of beer; that they did so, and he, the prisoner, lost the game; that he then went to sleep, and they awakened him, for the purpose of making him pay part of six pots of beer; that they then tossed up for a shilling's worth of gin, which was brought in, and being

being drank, he laid his head down upon the table; he was awakened the second time, and asked for a penny towards another pot of beer, which he refused to give, the deceased struck him several times on the face, and gave him two black eyes. He threatened, if he was struck again, he would cut him down with his sword: Kendrick asked what he said: he repeated it, when they beat him over the face until the blood came out of his mouth, and in that state he had made use of his sword. —Three witnesses were called to shew Rudkin had given a different account of the transaction, and to fix the idea of his being actuated by malice, from his having said, "The prisoner is a big villain, he has killed my comrade, I'll never forgive him, but would go an hundred miles to see him hanged."—The colonel of the third regiment of foot-guards, the serjeant of the company to which he belonged, and at least a dozen respectable witnesses, appeared in the prisoner's behalf, all of whom spoke of him as a quiet humane young man. Baron Hotham, who tried the cause, then called the several witnesses again, consisting of the constable and the company who were present, but they were all clear and consistent in their testimony, and agreed, that the beating was after the murder. The jury went out of court, and after a consultation of near half an hour, returned a verdict—Guilty. Having received sentence of death, he suffered the ensuing Monday, February 24. He conducted himself with great fortitude, bowing repeatedly to his comrades, who attended in great numbers. Previous to his being turned off, he requested that his infant child might be brought to him, at sight of which he seemed much agitated, and kissed it with great affection.

fection. Two females who were in the crowd fainted, and were with difficulty conveyed away.

HATFIELD, JOHN, (FORGERY.) known by the appellation of the KESWICK IMPOSTOR, was born in the year 1759, at Mortram, in Longdale, Cheshire, of low descent, but possessing great natural abilities. After some domestic depredations, he quitted his family, and was employed in the capacity of a rider to a linen-draper in the north of England. In the course of this service he became acquainted with a young woman, who was nursed and resided at a farmer's house in the neighbourhood of his employer. She had been, in her earlier life, taught to consider the people with whom she lived as her parents. Remote from the gaities and follies of what is so idly denominated polished life, she was unacquainted with the allurements of fashion, and considered her domestic duties as the only object of her consideration. When this deserving girl had arrived at a certain age, the honest farmer explained to her the secret of her birth. He told her that, notwithstanding she had always considered him as her parent, he was, in fact, only her poor guardian, and that she was the natural daughter of Lord Robert Manners, who intended to give her one thousand pounds, provided she married with his approbation. This discovery soon reached the ears of Hatfield. He immediately paid his respects at the farmer's, and having represented himself as a young man of considerable expectations in the wholesale linen business, his visits were not discountenanced. The farmer, however, thought it incumbent on him to acquaint his lordship with a proposal made to him by Hatfield, that he would marry the young woman,

woman, if her relations were satisfied with their union, "but on no other terms." This had so much the appearance of an honourable and prudent intention; that his lordship, on being made acquainted with the circumstance, desired to see the lover. He accordingly paid his respects to the noble and unsuspecting parent, who, conceiving the young man to be what he represented himself, gave his consent at the first interview, and, the day after the marriage took place, presented the bridegroom with a draft on his banker for 1500l. This transaction took place about the year 1771 or 1772. Shortly after the receipt of his lordship's bounty, Hatfield set off for London, hired a small phaeton, was perpetually at the coffee-houses in Covent-Garden, described himself to whatever company he chanced to meet as a near relation of the Rutland family, would frequently purchase a haunch of venison, invite his coffee-house acquaintances to dine with him, and entertain them with a flowing description of his park in Yoskshire, and the flavor of the venison it produced, a specimen of which he had given them. These idle and romantic tales passed current for a few weeks, when some of his new acquaintance began to find him out, and frequently jeered him on his being an adept in what they styled "poetical prose, or the beauties of imagination." Hatfield, however, was insensible to all these rebukes, and continued to retail his preposterous fabrications with such an air of confidence, that he became generally known throughout Covent-Garden by the name of "Lying Hatfield." The marriage-portion being nearly exhausted, he retreated from London, and was scarcely heard of until about the year 1782, when he again visited the metropolis, and was shortly after-

afterwards arrested, and committed to the King's Bench prison, for a debt, amounting to the sum of 260l. Several unfortunate gentlemen, then confined in the same place, had been of his parties when he flourished in Covent-Garden, and perceiving him in great poverty, frequently invited him to dinner; yet, such was the unaccountable disposition of this man, that, notwithstanding he knew there were people present who were thoroughly acquainted with his character, still he would continue to describe his Yorkshire park, his estate in Rutlandshire, settled upon his wife, and generally wind up the whole with observing how vexatious it was to be confined at the suit of a "paltry tradesman," for so insignificant a sum, at the very moment when he had thirty men employed in "cutting a piece of water" near the family mansion in Yorkshire. At the time Hatfield became a prisoner in the King's Bench, the late unfortunate Valentine Morris, formerly governor of the Island of St. Vincent, was confined in the same place. This gentleman was frequently visited by a clergyman of the most benevolent and humane disposition. Hatfield soon directed his attention to this good man, and one day earnestly invited him to attend him to his chamber. After some preliminary apologies, he implored the worthy pastor never to disclose what he was going to communicate. The divine assured him the whole should remain in his bosom. "Then," said Hatfield, "you see before you a man nearly allied to the house of Rutland, and possessed of estates (here followed the old story of the Yorkshire park, the Rutlandshire property, &c. &c.); yet, notwithstanding all this wealth, (continued he) I am detained in this wretched place for the insignificant sum

sum of 160l. But the truth is, Sir, I would not have my situation known to any man in the world but my worthy relative his Grace of Rutland.—(The father of the present duke was then living.) Indeed, I would rather remain a captive for ever. But, Sir, if you would have the goodness to pay your respects to this worthy nobleman, and frankly describe how matters are, he will at once send me the money by you, and this mighty business will not only be instantly settled, but I shall have the satisfaction of introducing you to a connection which may be attended with happy consequences." The honest clergyman readily undertook the commission, paid his respects to the duke, and pathetically described the unfortunate situation of his amiable relative. His Grace of Rutland not recollecting at the moment such a name as Hatfield, expressed his astonishment at the application.—This reduced the worthy divine to a very awkward situation, and he faltered in his speech when he began making on apology, which the duke perceiving, he very kindly observed, that he believed the whole was some idle tale of an impostor, for that he never knew any person of the name mentioned, although he had some faint recollection of hearing Lord Robert, his relation, say that he had married a natural daughter of his to a tradesman in the north of England, and whose name he believed was Hatfield. The reverend missionary was so confounded, that he immediately retired, and proceeded to the prison, where he gave the unhappy gentleman, in the presence of Mr. Morris, a most severe lecture; but the appearance of this venerable man as his friend, had the effect which Hatfield expected; for the duke sent to enquire if he were the man that married the natural daughter

of

of Lord Robert Manners, and being satisfied as to the fact, dispatched a messenger with 200l. and had him released. In the year 1784 or 1785, his Grace of Rutland was appointed lord lieutenant of Ireland, and, shortly after his arrival in Dublin, Hatfield made his appearance in that city. He immediately on his landing engaged a suite of apartments at a hotel in College-green, and represented himself as nearly allied to the viceroy, but that he could not appear at the castle until his horses, servants, and carriages, were arrived, which he ordered, before his leaving England, to be shipped at Liverpool. The easy and familiar manner in which he addressed the master of the hotel, perfectly satisfied him that he had a man of consequence in his house, and matters were arranged accordingly. This being adjusted, Hatfield soon found his way to Lucas's coffee-house, a place which people of a certain rank generally frequent, and, it being a new scene, the Yorkshire park, the Rutlandshire estate, and the connections with the Rutland family, stood their ground very well for about a month. At the expiration of this time, the bill at the hotel amounted to upwards of 60l. The landlord became importunate, and after expressing his astonishment at the non-arrival of Mr. Hatfield's domestics, &c. requested he might be permitted to send in his bill. This did not in the least confuse Hatfield; he immediately told the master of the hotel, that very fortunately his agent, who received the rents of his estates in the north of England, was then in Ireland, and held a public employment; he lamented that his agent was not then in Dublin; but he had the pleasure to know his stay in the country would not exceed three days. This satisfied the landlord; and, at the expiration of

of the three days, he called upon the gentleman, whose name Hatfield had given him, and presented the account. Here followed another scene of confusion and surprise. The supposed agent of the Yorkshire estate very frankly told the man, who delivered the bill, that he had no other knowledge of the person who sent him, than what common report furnished him with, that his general character in London was that of a romantic simpleton, whose plausibilities had imposed on several people, and plunged himself into repeated difficulties.—The landlord retired, highly thankful for the information, and immediately arrested his guest, who was lodged in the prison of the Marshalsea. Hatfield had scarcely seated himself in his new lodgings, when he visited the gaoler's wife in her apartment, and, in a whisper, requested of her not to tell any person that she had in her custody a near relation of the then Viceroy. The woman, astonished at the discovery, immediately shewed him into the best apartment in the prison, had a table provided, and she, her husband, and Hatfield, constantly dined together for nearly three weeks, in the utmost harmony and good humour. During this time he had petitioned the duke for another supply, who, apprehensive that Hatfield might continue his impositions in Dublin, released him, on condition of his immediately quitting Ireland; and his grace sent a servant, who conducted him on board the packet that sailed the next tide for Holyhead. A few years after his arrival on this side the water, he was arrested for a debt contracted in the north of England, and remained in prison for eight years, when he was liberated by a lady, who also gave him her hand in mar-

marriage. Some time after he was liberated, he had the good fortune to connect himself with some respectable tradesmen in Devonshire, where he might have lived happily, secluded from those who formerly knew him, and acquired an honest independence; but deception was so rooted in his nature, that he could never shake it off. He was soon detected in fraudulent practices; and, in order to bring his villainies to light, declared a bankrupt—leaving behind his wife, late Miss Nation, and two infant children, at Tiverton. He visited other places; and at length, in July 1802, arrived at the Queen's Head, in Keswick, in a carriage, but without any servant, where he assumed the name of the Honourable Alexander Augustus Hope, brother of the Earl of Hopetoun, and member for Linlithgow. Unfortunately some evil genius directed his steps to the once happy cottage of poor Mary, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robinson, an old couple, who kept a small public-house at the side of the beautiful lake of Buttermere, Cumberland, and by industry gained a little property. She was the only daughter, and probably her name had never been known to the public, but for the account given of her by the author of "A Fortnight's Ramble to the Lakes in Westmoreland, Lancashire, and Cumberland." He now became acquainted with an Irish gentleman, and member of the then Irish parliament, who had been resident with his family some months at Keswick. With this gentleman, and under his immediate protection, there was likewise a young lady of family and fortune, and of great personal attraction. One of the means which Hatfield used to introduce himself to this respectable family, was the

the following :—Understanding that the gentleman had been a military man, he took an army list from his pocket, and pointed to his assumed name, the Hon. Alex. Aug. Hope, lieut.-colonel of the 14th regt. of foot. This new acquaintance daily gained strength, and he shortly paid his addresses to the daughter of the above gentleman, and obtained her consent. The wedding clothes were bought, but, previously to the wedding day being fixed, she insisted that the pretended Col. Hope should introduce the subject formally to her friends. He now pretended to write letters, and while waiting for the answers, proposed to employ that time in a trip to Lord Hopetoun's seat, &c. From this time he played a double game: his visits to Keswick became frequent, and his suit to the young lady assiduous and fervent. Still, however, both at Keswick and Buttermere, he was somewhat shy of appearing in public. He was sure to be engaged in a fishing expedition on the day in which any company was expected at the puplic-house at Buttermere; and he never attended the church at Keswick but once. Finding his schemes baffled to obtain this young lady and her fortune, he now applied himself wholly to gain possession of Mary Robinson. He made the most minute enquiries among the neighbours into every circumstance relating to her and her family; and at length the pretended Col. Hope, in company with the clergyman, procured a licence on the 1st of October, and they were publicly married in the church of Lorton, on Saturday, October the 2d. On the day previous to his marriage, he wrote to Mr. —, informing him, that he was under the necessity of being absent for ten days on a journey into Scotland, and sent him a draft for 30l. drawn on Mr.

Crump, of Liverpool, desiring him to cash it, and pay some small debts in Keswick with it, and send him over the balance, as he feared he might be short of cash on the road. This Mr. —— immediately did, and sent him ten guineas in addition to the balance. On the Saturday, Wood, the landlord of the Queen's Head, returned from Lorton, with the public intelligence that Col. Hope had married the "Beauty of Buttermere." As it was clear, whoever he was, that he had acted unworthily and dishonourable, Mr. ——'s suspicions were of course awakened. He instantly remitted the draft to Mr. Crump, who immediately accepted it. Mr. M——, the friend of the young lady whom he first paid his addresses to, wrote to the Earl of Hopetoun. Before the answer arrived, the pretended Honourable returned with his wife to Buttermere. He went only as far as Longtown, where he received two letters, seemed much troubled that some friends whom he expected had not arrived there, stayed three days, and then told his wife that he would again go back to Buttermere. From this time she was seized with fears and suspicions. They returned, however, and their return was made known at Keswick. A Mr. Harding, a Welsh judge, and a very singular man, passing through Keswick, heard of this impostor, and sent his servant over to Buttermere with a note to the supposed Col. Hope, who observed, "that it was a mistake, and that the note was for a brother of his." However, he sent for four horses, and came over to Keswick, drew another draft on Mr. Crump for 20l., which the landlord at the Queen's Head had the courage to cash. Of this sum, he immediately sent the ten guineas to Mr. ——, who came and introduced him to the judge, at

as his old friend Col. Hope. But he made a blank denial that he had ever assumed the name. He had said his name was Hope, but not that he was the "honourable member for Linlithgow," &c. &c. and one who had been his frequent companion, his intimate at Buttermere, gave evidence to the same purpose. In spite, however, of his impudent assertions, and those of his associate, the evidence against him was decisive. A warrant was given by Sir Fred. Vane, on the clear proof of his having forged and received several franks as the member for Linlithgow, and he was committed to the care of a constable. Having, however, found means to escape, he took refuge for a few days on board a sloop off Ravinglass, and then went in the coach to Ulverstone, and was afterwards seen at the hotel in Chester. In the mean time, the following advertisement, setting forth his person and manners, was inserted in the public prints:—

"*Notorious Impostor, Swindler, and Felon!*

"John Hatfield, who lately married a young woman, commonly called the Beauty of Buttermere, under an assumed name: height about five feet ten inches; aged about 44; full face, bright eyes, thick eyebrows, strong but light beard, good complexion, with some colour; thick, but not very prominent nose, smiling countenance, fine teeth, a scar on one of his cheeks near the chin, very long thick light hair, and a great deal of it grey, done up in a club; stiff square shouldered, full breast and chest, rather corpulent, and strong limbed, but very active; and has rather a spring in his gait, with apparently a little hitch in bringing up one leg; the two middle fingers of his left

hand are stiff from an old wound: he has something of the Irish brogue in his speech; fluent and elegant in his language, great command of words, frequently puts his hand to his heart; very fond of compliments, and generally addressing himself to persons most distinguished by rank or situation; attentive in the extreme to females, and likely to insinuate himself where there are young ladies.—He was in America during the war, is fond of talking of his wounds and exploits there, and of military subjects, as well as of Hatfield-hall, and his estates in Derbyshire and Cheshire; of the antiquity of his family, whom he pretends to trace to the Plantagenets. He makes a boast of having often been engaged in duels; he has been a great traveller also, by his own account, and talks of Egypt, Turkey, and Italy; and, in short, has a general knowledge of subjects, which, together with his engaging manners, is well calculated to impose on the credulous. He had art enough to connect himself with some very respectable merchants in Devonshire, as a partner in business, but having swindled them out of large sums, he was made a separate bankrupt in June, 1802. He cloaks his deceptions under the mask of religion, appears fond of religious conversation, and makes a point of attending divine service and popular preachers."

Though he was personally known at Cheshire to many of the inhabitants, yet this specious hypocrite had so artfully disguised himself, that he quitted the town without any suspicion, before the Bow street officers reached that place in quest of him. He was then traced to Brielth in Brecknockshire, and was at length apprehended about 16 miles from Swansea, and committed to Brecon gaol.

gaol. He had a cravat on, with his initials, J. H. which he attempted to account for, by calling himself John Henry. Before the magistrates he declared himself to be Tudor Henry; and in order to prepossess the honest Cambrians in his favor, boasted that he was descended from an ancient family in Wales, for the inhabitants of which country he had ever entertained a sincere regard. He was, however, conveyed up to town by one of the Bow-street officers, where he was examined on his arrival before the magistrates. The solicitor for his bankruptcy attended to identify his person, and stated, that the commission of bankruptcy was issued against Hatfield in June, 1802; that he attended the last meeting of the commissioners, but the prisoner did not appear, although due notice of the bankruptcy had been given in the Gazette, and he himself had given a personal notice to the prisoner's wife at Wakefield, near Tiverton, Devon. Mr. Parkyn, the solicitor to the post-office, produced a warrant from Sir Fred. Vane, Bart. a magistrate for the county of Cumberland, against the prisoner, by the name of the Hon. Alex. Aug. Hope, charging him with felony, by pretending to be a member of parliament of the United Kingdom, and franking several letters by the name of A. Hope, to several persons, which were put into the post-office at Keswick, in Cumberland, in order to evade the duties of postage. Another charge for forgery, and the charge of bigamy, were explained to him, but not entered into, as he was committed for trial for these charges at the next assizes at Carlisle. He conducted himself with the greatest propriety during his journey to town, and on his examination; but said nothing more than answering a few questions put to him by Sir Rich. Ford

Ford and the solicitors. He was then dressed in a black coat and waistcoat, fustian breeches and boots, and wore his hair tied behind, without powder. His appearance was respectable, though quite in dishabillle. The Duke of Cumberland and several other gentlemen were present at his examination, in the course of which the following letter was produced :—

Keswick, October the first, 1802.
John Crump, Esq. Liverpool.
Free, A. Hope.

Buttermere, Oct. 1, 1802.

"DEAR SIR,

"I have this day received Mr. Kirkman's kind letter from Manchester, promising me the happiness of seeing you both in about ten days, which will indeed give me great pleasure; and you can, too, be of very valuable service to me at this place, particulars of which, when we meet, though I shall probably write to you again in a few days.—The chief purpose for which I write this, is to desire you will be so good as to accept a bill for me, dated Buttermere, the 1st of October, at ten days, and I will either give you cash for it here, or remit it to you in time, which ever way you please to say. It is drawn in favour of Nath. Mont. More, Esq. Be pleased to present my best respects to your lady, and say, I hope, ere the winter elapses, to pay her my personal respects; for, if you will manage so as to pass a little time with me in Scotland, I will promise to make Liverpool in my way to London. With the truest esteem,

"I am, dear Sir, your's ever, A. HOPE."

This

This letter, it was proved, passed free of the postage. Another letter was also produced from his wife at Tiverton, and a certificate of his marriage with Mary of Buttermere. His trial came on Aug. 15, 1803, at the assizes for Cumberland, before the Hon. Alex. Thompson, Knt. He stood charged upon the three following indictments:—1. With having assumed the name and title of the Hon. Alex. Aug. Hope, and pretending to be a member of parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and with having, about the month of October last, under such false and fictitious name and character, drawn a draft or bill of exchange, in the name of Alex. Hope, upon John Crump, Esq. for the sum of 20l. payable to George Wood, of Keswick, Cumberland, innkeeper, or order, at the end of 14 days from the date of the said draft or bill of exchange. 2. With making, uttering, and publishing as true, a certain false, forged, and counterfeit bill of exchange, with the name of Alex. Augustus Hope thereunto falsely set and subscribed, drawn upon Jn. Crump, Esq. dated the first day of Oct. 1802, and payable to Nath. Mont. More, or order, ten days after date for 30l. sterling. 3. With having assumed the name of Alex. Hope, and pretending to be a member of parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, the brother of the Rt. Hon. Lord Hopetoun, and a colonel in the army; and under such false and fictitious name and character, at various times in the month of October, 1802, having forged and counterfeited the hand writing of the said Alex. Hope, in the superscription of certain letters or packets, in order to avoid the payment of the duty of postage. During the evidence for

for the prosecution, the circumstances already mentioned were clearly proved, after which the judge with a great deal of perspicuity and force, summed up the whole of the evidence, and commented upon such parts as peculiarly affected the fate of the prisoner. "Nothing could be more clearly proved than that the prisoner did make the bill or bills in question under the assumed name of Alex. Augustus Hope, with an intention to defraud. That the prisoner used the additional name of Augustus is of no consequence in this question. The evidence proves clearly that the prisoner meant to represent himself to be another character, and under that assumed character he drew the bill in question. If any thing should appear in mitigation of the offences with which the prisoner stands charged, they must give them a full consideration; and though his character had been long shaded with obloquy, yet they must not let this in the least influence the verdict they were sworn to give." The jury consulted about ten minutes, and then returned a verdict of—Guilty.

The trial commenced about eleven o'clock in the forenoon and ended about seven in the evening, during the whole of which time the court was excessively crowded. Never perhaps in Carlisle did there a cause come before a court of justice which claimed such a general interest. The prisoner's behavior in court was proper and dignified, and he supported his situation from first to last with unshaken fortitude. He employed himself during the greatest part of his trial in writing notes on the evidence given, and in conversing with his counsel, Messrs. Topping and Holroyd. After the verdict of the jury was given, he discovered no relaxation of his accustomed demeanour; but after the court adjourned,

adjourned, he retired from the bar, and was ordered to attend the next morning to receive the sentence of the law. The crowd was immense, and he was allowed a post-chaise from the town-hall to the gaol. At eight o'clock the next morning, the court met again, when John Hatfield, the prisoner, appeared at the bar to receive his sentence. Numbers of people gathered together to witness this painful duty of the law passed upon one whose appearance, manners, and actions, had excited a most uncommon degree of interest. After proceeding in the usual form, the judge addressed the prisoner in the following terms.—"John Hatfield, after the long and serious investigation of the charges which have been preferred against you, you have been found guilty by a jury of your country. You have been distinguished for crimes of such magnitude as have seldom, if ever, received any mitigation of capital punishment, and in your case it is impossible it can be limited.—Assuming the person, name, and character of a worthy and respectable officer, of a noble family in this country, you have perpetrated and committed the most enormous crimes. The long imprisonment you have undergone has afforded time for your serious reflection, and an opportunity of your being deeply impressed with a sense of the enormity of your crimes, and the justice of that sentence which must be inflicted upon you, and I wish you to be seriously impressed with the awfulness of your situation. I conjure you to reflect with anxious care and deep concern on your approaching end, concerning which much remains to be done. Lay aside now your delusions, and impositions, and employ properly the short space you have to live. I beseech you to employ the remaining part of your time in preparing for eternity, so that

that you may find mercy in the hour of death and in the day of judgment. Hear now the sentence of the law:—That you be carried from hence to the place from whence you came, and from thence to the place of execution, and there to be hanged by the neck till you are dead,—and may the Lord have mercy on your soul!" A notion very generally prevailed that he would not be brought to justice, and the arrival of the mail was daily expected with the greatest impatience. No pardon arriving, September 3, 1803, (Saturday) was at last fixed upon for the execution. The gallows was erected the preceding night between twelve and three, in an island formed by the river Eden on the north side of the town, between the two bridges. From the hour when the jury found him guilty, he behaved with the utmost serenity and cheerfulness. He received the visits of all who wished to see him, and talked on the topics of the day with the greatest interest or indifference. He could scarce ever be brought to speak of his own case. He neither blamed the verdict, nor made any confession of his guilt. He said that he had no intention to defraud those whose names he forged, but was never heard to say that he was to die unjustly. By eleven in the morning appointed for the execution, he was in the chapel of the gaol with the chaplain. He continued performing his devotions for several hours. He had determined to have all his business over before he arrived at the scaffold, that he might remain as short a time as possible under the gaze of the mob. The post coming in a little before three, and bringing neither pardon nor reprieve, the under sheriff and a detachment of the Cumberland yeomanry immediately repaired to the prison, near the English gate. A prodigious crowd had previously assembled,

assembled. This was the market-day, and people had come from the distance of many miles out of mere curiosity. A post-chaise was brought for him from the Bush inn. Having taken farewell of the clergyman, who attended him to the door, he mounted the steps with much steadiness and composure. The gaoler and executioner went in along with him. The latter had been brought from Dumfries upon a retaining fee of ten guineas. It was exactly four o'clock when the procession moved from the gaol. Passing through the Scotch gate, in about twelve minutes it arrived on the Sands. Half the yeomanry went before the carriage, and the other half behind. Upon arriving on the ground, they formed a ring round the scaffold. It is said that he wished to have had the blinds drawn up, but that such an indulgence was held inconsistent with the interest of public justice. As soon as the carriage-door had been opened by the door sheriff, the culprit alighted with his two companions. A small dung cart, boarded over, had been placed under the gibbet. A ladder was placed to this stage, which he instantly ascended. He was dressed in a black jacket, black silk waistcoat, fustian pantaloons, white cotton stockings, and ordinary shoes. He wore no powder in his hair. He was perfectly cool and collected. At the same time his conduct displayed nothing of levity, of insensibility, or of hardihood. He was more anxious to give proof of resignation than of heroism. His countenance was extremely pale, but his hand never trembled. He immediately untied his handkerchief, and placed a bandage over his eyes. The executioner was extremely aukward, and Hatfield found it necessary to give various directions as to the placing of the rope, &c. He several times put on a languid

and piteous smile. He at last seemed rather exhausted and faint. Having been near three weeks under sentence of death, he must have suffered much, notwithstanding his external bearing; and a reflection of the misery he had occasioned must have given him many an agonizing throb. Having taken leave of the gaoler and the sheriff, he prepared himself for his fate. He was heard at this time to exclaim, "My spirit is strong, though my body is weak." Great apprehensions were entertained that it would be necessary to tie him up a second time; the noose slipped twice, and he fell down above eighteen inches. His feet at last were almost touching the ground; but his excessive weight, which occasioned this accident, speedily relieved him from pain. He expired in a moment, and without any struggle. The ceremony of his hands being tied behind his back was satisfied by a piece of white tape passed loosely from one to the other; but he never made the smallest effort to relieve himself. He was cut down after he had hung about an hour. On the preceding Wednesday, he had made a carpenter take his measure for a coffin. He gave particular directions that it should be large, as he meant to be laid in it with all his clothes on. It was made of oak, adorned with plates, and extremely handsome every way. A hearse followed with it to the ground, and afterwards bore him away. It was understood that the body was to be buried in the parish of Burgh, about ten miles west of this city. It seems he had a great terror of his body being taken up, and though he was told that it would be safer for him to be buried in the city, yet he preferred Burgh, a place extremely sequestered. He is said to have been acquainted with the parson. It has however been asserted, that the conscientious parishioners

parishioners of Burgh objected to his being laid there, and that he was consequently interred in St. Mary's church-yard, the usual place for those who come to an untimely end. Notwithstanding his various and complicated enormities, his untimely end excited considerable commiseration in this place. His manners were extremely polished and insinuating, and he was possessed of qualities which might have rendered him an ornament to society.

HAWES, NATHANIEL, (ROBBER) was a native of Norfolk, in which county he was born in the year 1701. His father was a grazier in ample circumstances, but dying while the son was an infant, a relation in Hertfordshire took care of his education. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an upholsterer in London; but becoming connected with people of bad character, and thus acquiring an early habit of vice, he robbed his master when he had served only two years of his time, for which he was tried at the Old Bailey, and being convicted of stealing to the amount of thirty nine shillings, was sentenced to seven years transportation. This sentence, however, was not carried into execution, owing to the following circumstance. A man named Phillips had encouraged the unhappy youth in his depredations, by purchasing, at a very low rate, such goods as he stole from his master: but when Hawes was taken into custody, he gave information of this affair, in consequence of which a search-warrant was procured, and many effects belonging to Hawes's master were found in Phillips's possession. Hereupon application was made to the king, and a free pardon was granted to Hawes, whereby he was rendered a competent evidence against Phillips, who was tried for receiving stolen goods, and transported for fourteen years. Hawes,

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during his confinement in Newgate had made such bad connections as greatly contributed to the contamination of his morals; and soon after his release, he connected himself with a set of bad fellows who acted under the direction of Jonathan Wild; and having made a particular acquaintance with one John James, they joined in the commission of a number of robberies. After an uncommon share of success for some days, they quarrelled on the division of the booty, in consequence each acted on his own account. Some little time after they had thus separated, Hawes, being apprehensive that James would impeach him, applied to Jonathan Wild, and informed against his old acquaintance, on which James was taken into custody, tried, convicted, and executed. Notwithstanding this conviction, the court sentenced Hawes to be imprisoned in New Prison, and that goal was preferred to Newgate, because the prisoners in the latter had threatened to murder Hawes, for being an evidence against James. Here it should be observed, that by an act of the 4th and 5th of William and Mary, for the more effectual conviction of highwaymen, the evidence of accomplices is allowed; but the evidence *cannot claim his liberty* unless two or more of his accomplices are convicted; *but may be imprisoned during the pleasure of the court.*—Soon after his commitment, Hawes and another fellow made their escape, and entering into partnership, committed a variety of robberies, particularly in the road between Hackney and Shoreditch. This connection, like the former, lasted but a short time: a dispute on dividing their ill-gotten gains occasioned a separation: soon after which, Hawes went alone to Finchley Common, where meeting with a gentleman riding to town, he presented a pistol to his

his breast, and commanded him instantly to dismount, that he might search him for his money. The gentleman offered him four shillings, on which Hawes swore the most horrid oaths, and threatened instant death, if he did not immediately submit. The gentleman quitted his horse, and in the same moment seized the pistol, which he snatched from the hand of the robber, and presenting it to him, told him to expect death if he did not surrender himself. Hawes, who was now as terrified as he had been insolent, made no opposition; and the driver of a cart coming up just at that juncture, he was easily made prisoner, conveyed to London, and committed to Newgate. When the sessions came on, and he was brought to the bar, he refused to plead to his indictment, alledging the following reason for so doing; that he would die, as he had lived, like a gentleman: "The people (said he) who apprehended me, seized a suit of fine clothes, which I intended to have gone to the gallows in; and unless they are returned I will not plead; for no one shall say that I was hanged in a dirty shirt and ragged coat." On this he was told what would be the consequence of his contempt of legal authority; but this making no impression on him, sentence was pronounced that he should be pressed to death, whereupon he was taken from the court, and being laid on his back, sustained a load of two hundred and fifty pounds weight about seven minutes; but unable any longer to bear the pain, he entreated he might be conducted back to the court, which being complied with, he pleaded "Not guilty;" but the evidence against him being complete, he was convicted, and sentenced to die. After conviction his behaviour was very improper. He told the other capital convicts he would die like

a hero; and behaved in the same thoughtless way till the arrival of the warrant for his execution: after which his conduct was not altogether so imprudent. He owned to the ordinary of Newgate, that he was induced to refuse to plead to his indictment, that the other prisoners might deem him a man of honor, and not from the idle vanity of being hanged in fine clothes. He acknowledged many robberies which he had committed; but charged Jonathan Wild as being the principal author of his ruin, by purchasing the stolen goods. He likewise owned that he had been base enough to inform against persons who were innocent, particularly a gentleman's servant who was then in custody; but he did not discover many signs of contrition for this or any other of his offences. He suffered at Tyburn on the 22d of December, 1721.

HAWKE, WILLIAM, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was born at Uxbridge, in the county of Middlesex. On the death of his father, he was hired to draw beer at a public house on Saffron-hill. Contracting an acquaintance with some abandoned people who frequented an alehouse in St. Giles, he was persuaded to join them in committing depredations upon the public. At length he commenced highwayman, and became an accomplice of James Field, (See FIELD.) Field and Hawke were transported to America: and returning to England nearly at the same period, they again became associates in committing robberies upon the highway. Hawke and Field being apprehended together, the former escaped from Tothill-fields bridewell, and got to France; but the other suffered the sentence of the law. Upon his return to England he committed a surprising number of most daring robberies: and several

several months elapsed before the thief-takers knew him to be the man by whom the roads about London were so dangerously infested. Information being given to Mr. Smith, the keeper of Tothill-fields Bridewell, that Hawke's wife had been to Uxbridge on a party of pleasure, he sought the driver of the coach in which she was conveyed, and learned from him that Hawke lodged in Shoe lane. The following morning Mr. Smith, Mr. Bond, Mr. Leigh, and some other persons in the service of Sir John Fielding, went to Shoe-lane. Bond going up two pair of stairs, entered the front room, and there discovering Hawke slumbering in bed, threw himself across the highwayman, but Hawke rolling the sheet round Bond's head, reached at a pistol that was under the pillow, at which instant Smith entered, and caught hold of his hand. With much difficulty Hawke was secured; and being put into a coach he said, that his misfortunes were in some measure alleviated by the consideration that no life was lost, for he was provided with several loaded pistols, and had formed the resolution of firing upon every man who should attempt to take him in custody. Being conveyed to the public office in Bow street, a great number of persons were bound to prosecute, and he was committed to Newgate. At the next sessions of the Old Bailey he was arraigned on an indictment for robbing Mr. Hart of a small sum of money. Mr. Hart and Captain Cunningham were stopped in the Fulham stage, a little beyond Knightsbridge, by the prisoner, who demanded their money. The Captain refused to resign his property; and Hawke threatened to fire, and pointing his pistol at the Captain, he said, "Fire away and be d—'nd!" On which the

the robber discharged his pistol, and the ball passed between the Captain's shoulder and his coat. Mr. Hart then delivered a few shillings; and Captain Cunningham, getting out of the coach in the interim, seized the bridle of the highwayman's horse, when he discharged a second pistol. He then remounted, but did not ride away for some minutes, during which interval the Captain employed himself in picking up stones and throwing them at him. At the time of Hawke's trial Captain Cunningham was abroad; but Mr Hart's evidence was so positive, clear, and circumstantial, that no doubt remained as to the guilt of the prisoner, who was therefore sentenced to suffer death. While under sentence of death, in Newgate, his behaviour was such as may be called decent, but not penitential. While his irons were knocking off on the morning of execution, one of his acquaintance addressed him thus: "How do you do, Billy? Will you have some flowers?" Hereupon Hawke said, "I am pretty well, I thank you. How is Harry Wright? (one of the then turnkeys of Tothill-fields bridewell,) he has been ill of late, I hear." And then while the man held the nosegay, he picked out a flower, and with great composure placed it in a button-hole of his coat. When the cart was preparing to be driven from under the gallows, he threw off both his shoes; and when he found it move, he collected his utmost strength, and leaped up, so that his neck was instantly dislocated. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 1st of July, 1774.

HAWKINS, JOHN, (HIGHWAYMAN.) was the son of a poor farmer at Staines, who not being able to afford to educate him properly, he went into the service of a gentleman, which he soon quitted, and

and lived as a waiter at the Red Lion at Brentford; but leaving this place, he again engaged as a gentleman's servant. Having been at length in different families, he became butler to Sir Dennis Drury, and was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance. His person was uncommonly graceful, and he was remarkably vain of it. He used to frequent gaming-tables two or three nights in a week, a practice which led to that ruin which finally befel him. About this time, Sir Dennis had been robbed of a considerable quantity of plate: and as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive, it was suspected that he was the thief, for which reason he was discharged without the advantage of a good character. Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence, he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow Heath, where he took eleven pounds from the passengers in a coach: but such was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London, and lost it all. He continued to rob alone for some time, and then engaged with other highwaymen; but the same fate still attended him: he lost by gaming what he obtained at so much risque, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house, and sneak off without paying his reckoning. Several of his old companions having met their deserts at the gallows, he became acquainted with one Wilson, a youth of good education, who had been articled to a solicitor in chancery, but had neglected his business through an attachment to the gaming-table. These associates having committed several robberies in conjunction, were tried for one of them, but acquitted for want of evidence. After which Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby,

Whitby, in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year, and then coming to London, lived with a gentleman of the law; but having lost his money in gaming, renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now concerned with a new gang of villains: one of whom, however, being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon dispersed the gang, but not until some of them had made their exit at Tyburn: on which Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself for a considerable time; but at length he ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley Common, and shot one of his servants too, who died on the spot. His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce in Richmond lane, from whom he took about twenty pounds, two gold watches, and a sapphire ring. For this ring, a reward of one hundred pounds was offered to Jonathan Wild; but Hawkins sailed to Holland with it, and there sold it for forty pounds. On his return to England he joined his companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about three pounds, a snuff-box, and a pocket book, for which last Sir David offered sixty pounds reward to Wild; but Hawkins's gang having no conection with that villain, who did not even know their persons, they sent the book by a porter to Sir David, without expense. They next stopped Mr. Hyde, of Hackney, in his coach, and robbed him of ten pounds and his watch, but missed three hundred pounds which the gentleman then had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Westmorland's coach in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and robbed him of a sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called the watch, but the robbers firing a pistol

pistol over their heads, the guardians of the night decamped. Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland; but Jonathan Wild having heard of the connection, caused some of the gang to be apprehended; on which the rest went into the country to hide themselves. On this occasion Hawkins and Wilson went to Oxford, and paying a visit to the Bodleian library, the former wantonly defaced some pictures in the gallery; and one hundred pounds reward was offered to discover the offender, when a poor taylor having been taken up on suspicion, narrowly escaped being whipped, merely because he was of whiggish principles. Hawkins and his friend returning to London, the latter coming of age at that time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for three hundred and fifty pounds, a small part of which he lent to his companions to buy horses, and soon dissipated the rest at the gaming-table. The associates now stopped two gentleman in a chariot on the Hampstead Road, who both fired at once, by which three slugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder, and the highwaymen got to London with some difficulty. On Hawkins's recovery, they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde-Park; but the coachman driving hastily, Wilson fired, and wounding himself in the hand, found it difficult to scale the Park wall, to effect his escape. This circumstance occasioned some serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to recur to his former practices. While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness,

piness, he was sent for to a public-house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with one George Simpson, another associate, who was a native of Putney, in Surry. His father was a wine-merchant, but being reduced in circumstances, removed into Lincolnshire. Young Simpson kept a public-house at Lincoln, and acted as a sheriff's officer, but quitting the country, he came to London, and was butler to Lord Castlemain; after which he lived in several other creditable places, till he became acquainted with Hawkins. Wilson was shocked at seeing them, and asked what could induce them to take such a journey. Hereupon Hawkins swore violently, said Wilson was impeached, and would be taken into custody in a few days. This induced him to go to London with them; but, on his arrival, he found that the story of the impeachment was false. When in London, they formed connections with other thieves, and committed several robberies, for which some of the gang were executed. They frequented a public-house at London Wall, the master of which kept a livery stable, so that they rode out at all hours, and robbed the stages as they were coming into town. They took not only money, but portmanteaus, &c. and divided the booty with Carter, the master of the livery stable. Thus they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their associates, named Child, was executed at Aylesbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail. This incensed them to such a degree, that they determined to avenge the supposed insult by committing a similar crime. Having mentioned their design in the presence of Carter, the stable-keeper, he advised them to stop the mail from Harwich;

with; but this they declined, because the changing of the wind must render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was determined to rob the Bristol mail; and they set out on an expedition for that purpose. It appeared on the trial, that the boy who carried the mail was overtaken at Slough, by a countryman, who travelled with him to Langley-Broom, where a person rode up to them, and turned back again. When passing through Colnbrook, they saw the same man again, with two others, who followed them at a small distance, and then pulling their wigs over their foreheads, and holding handkerchiefs in their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, where they ordered them to quit their horses, and then Hawkins, Simpson, and Wilson, tied them back to back, and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge. They now crossed the Thames, and riding a little way into Surry, put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey-street. It was now about six in the morning, when they parted, and went different ways to a public-house in the Minories, where they proposed to divide their ill-gotten treasure. The landlord being well acquainted with their persons, and knowing the profusion of his guests, shewed them a private room, and supplied them with pen and ink. Having equally divided the bank notes, they threw the letters in the fire, and then went to their lodgings in Green-Arbour-Court, in the Old Bailey. A few days after this, information was given at the Post-Office, that suspicious people fre-

quented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper, at London-Wall; accordingly, some persons were sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson happening to be there at the time, suspected their business, on which he abruptly retired, slipped through some bye alleys, and got into the Moorgate coffee-house, which he had occasionally used for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore less liable to be searched for suspicious people. He had not been long in the house before a quaker mentioned the search that was making in the neighbourhood for the men who robbed the mail. This shocked him so that he instantly paid his reckoning, and going out at the back-door, went to Bedlam, where the melancholy sight of the objects around him, induced him to draw a comparison between their situation and his own; and he concluded that he was far more unhappy through the weight of his guilt, than those poor wretches whom it had pleased God to deprive of the use of their intellects. Having reflected that it would not be safe for him to stay longer in London, he resolved to go to Newcastle by sea, and he was confirmed in this resolution, upon being told by a person who wished his safety, that he and his companions were the parties suspected of having robbed the mail. This friend likewise advised him to go to the Post-Office, surrender, and turn evidence; hinting, that if he did not, it was probable Simpson would; as he had asked some questions which seemed to intimate such a design. Wilson neglected this advice, but held his resolution of going to Newcastle, and with that intention quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate coffee-house he met the man he had seen at

Carter's.

Carter's. They turned and followed him; yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-house, while they went under the arch of the gate, and if he had returned by the door he entered, he would have again escaped them; but going out of the fore door of the house, they took him into custody, and conducted him to the Post-Office. On his first examination, he refused to make any confession; and on the following day he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances induced him to reveal it. In the first place, the Post-Master-General promised that he should be admitted an evidence if he would discover his accomplices; and one of the clerks calling him aside, shewed him a letter without any name to it, of which the following is a copy:

"Sir,

"I am one of those persons who robbed the mails, which I am sorry for; and, to make amends, I will secure my two companions as soon as may be. He whose hand this shall appear to be, will, I hope, be entitled to the reward and his pardon."

As Wilson knew this letter to be of Simpson's hand-writing, he thought himself justified in making a full discovery, which he accordingly did, in consequence of which his associates were apprehended at their lodgings in the Old Bailey, two days afterwards. At first they made an appearance of resistance, and threatened to shoot the peace-officers; but the latter saying they were provided with arms, the offenders yielded, and were committed to Newgate. On the trial, Hawkins endeavoured to prove that he was in London at the

time that the mail was robbed; and one Fuller, of Bedfordbury, swore that he lodged at his house on that night. To ascertain this, Fuller produced a receipt for thirty shillings, which he said Hawkins then paid him for horse hire. The judge desiring to look at that receipt, observed, that the body of it was written with an ink of a different color from that of the name at the bottom; on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked that Fuller's testimony deserved no kind of credit. After examining some other witnesses, the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by the following singular occurrence, as stated by the short-hand writer:

"My ink, as it happened, was very bad, being thick at bottom, and thin and waterish at top; so that, according as I dipped my pen, the writing appeared very pale or pretty black. Now, just as the court was remarking on the difference of the ink in Fuller's receipt, a gentleman who stood by me, perceiving something of the same kind in my writing, desired to look upon my notes for a minute. As I was not aware of any ill-consequences, I let him take the book out of my hand; when presently shewing it to his friend, "See here, (said he) what difference there is in the colour of the same ink!" His friend took it, and shewed it to another. Uneasy at this, I spoke to them to return me my book. They begged my pardon, and said I should have it in a minute; but this answer was no sooner given, than a curiosity suddenly entered one of the jurymen who sat just by, and he too begged a sight of the book; which, notwithstanding my importunity, was immediately handed to him. He viewed

viewed it, and gave it to the next, and so it passed from one to the other, till the judge perceiving them very busy, called to them, 'Gentlemen, what are you doing? What book is that?' They told him it was the writer's book, and they were observing how the same ink appeared pale in one place, and, black in another. 'You ought not gentlemen, says he, 'to take notice of any thing but what is produced in evidence;' and then turning to me, demanded what I meant by shewing that to the jury. I answered, that I could not fix upon the persons, for the gentlemen near me were all strangers to me, and I was far from imagining I should have any such occasion for taking particular notice of them.—His lordship then re-assumed his charge to the jury, which, being ended, they withdrew to consider of their verdict."

After staying out about an hour, the jury returned into court without agreeing on a verdict, saying they could not be convinced that Fuller's receipt was not genuine, merely on account of the different colours of the ink. Hereupon the court intimated how many witnesses had sworn that Hawkins was absent from London, to contradict all of whom there was only the evidence of Fuller, which was at least rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours; and it was submitted whether Fuller's testimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the opposing parties. Hereupon the jury went out of court, and, on their return, gave a verdict of Guilty against both the prisoners. At the place of execution, Hawkins addressed the surrounding multitude, acknowledging his sins, professing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of those who were witnesses of his melan-

choly exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpson was out of his pain almost without a struggle. They suffered at Tyburn, on the 21st of May, 1722, and were hung in chains on Hounslow-Heath.

HAWKINS, THOMAS JAMES, alias HENRY (SWINDLER) whose chief livelihood was obtaining goods and money under false pretences, in conjunction with his brother, Edward Underwood, as he called himself; the elder of whom was not more than twenty, when, in 1800, they were both tried at the Old Bailey for imposing upon Mary Marnet, who lived at No 2, Ranelagh-walk, Chelsea, where she had kept a house upwards of seven years, ever since her husband left her; the furniture being her own. On the 21st of January, 1800, as she was walking through Great George-street, Westminster, she was accosted by Hawkins; she could not recollect what he first said to her, but believed it was something about the weather, such as, "this is a fine day." He walked with her, and held her in conversation on some trifling subjects: as she was in haste, she wanted to get rid of him; she could not recollect what led to it, but she told him she was going on business to a gentleman's in Tufton-street, Westminster: he said he would accompany her, as her manners and conversation were so engaging: she still wanted to get rid of him; he wanted her to come through Westminster College, where he said he was educated, and where he would shew her his name in letters of gold; she refused to go that way. Having transacted her business in Tufton-street, he waited for her till she came out, and renewed the conversation; he began to profess a great attachment to her, as he said she resembled a lady he once passionately admired. She told him that she

she had to call in Oxford-road, and that she wished to go through Parliament street; he said, "No, for if I am seen with you by the officers, who are my acquaintances, as I have a brother in the guards, they'll *quiz* me;" in consequence of which he persuaded her to turn down Great George street. As they walked along, he told her he was the son of General Hawkins, that he lived in Spring-Gardens, and that his uncle, Sir Cæsar Hawkins, lived in Sackville-street; that he had been a little gay, but that he had 500l. a year, independent of his father, on whose death he was heir to a considerable property. He also added, that he had expectations from an uncle in the East-Indies, a general, who was at the taking of Seringapatam, and whose wife in this country was allowed 5000l. a year. He amused her with these stories (the truth of which she did not suspect) till they came to Saville row, where he proposed to meet her the next day (Wednesday) in Spring-gardens, near his father's house; she said she was invited to a wedding the next day, so that of course she could not meet him; he then named Thursday (the next day) about one o'clock, to which she consented; he then told her that his father lived at No. 14. in Spring-Gardens, (the house in which Mr. Drummond lives) and that he should be looking out of the window at that hour. He wished, however, to have some pledge that she would not disappoint him, as he would be quite impatient till he saw her again; he desired her to give him any thing she set a value on: she pulled off her glove to give him, but as the day was cold, he said he would not deprive her of it. She had two rings, the one of little value, and the other of more: she gave him the one of little value; he desired to look at the other, and then put it in his pocket,

pocket, and refused to return it, saying, "that ladies had sometimes given him rings, nay, even pictures of more value, and did not afterwards keep their appointments." He also took a fancy to her ear-rings, and said that his sister had exactly such a pair. She told the court he was dressed *slovenly genteel*, just as he was at that time at the bar, in black, with boots. On Thursday, as she promised, she passed by the house which he called his father's, in Spring-Gardens, looked up at the wind w, but saw no one. He met her in the street, and apologized for not looking out at the window as he had promised, but he was closely watched by his father, in consequence of an attachment to a lady some time since, so that he was obliged to act with prudence for a while, but that in a short time every thing would be as it ought to be: a gentleman knocked at No. 14, at the time they were talking, "that is my brother," said he, he has an estate at Hampstead, and he was sure if she would come with him to his father's house in the absence of the general, that his brother would be very glad to see her, as he was a very polite, well-bred gentleman; adding, that his sister lived at her uncle's, Sir Cæsar Hawkins, in Sackville-street. As they walked along, he said, in order to be a little more at liberty, he had taken chambers at Clifford's-inn, for which he paid 400l. and he asked her if she would accompany him, and see them, as his servant was waiting for him; she consented, and on the way he made great professions of attachment to her, and told her, as he said he wished to be candid at once, that he would settle 500l. a year on her, and in addition to that, he would do something handsome for her on the death of his father; as all this came with the greatest appearance of sincerity

sincerity, she told him it was a very tempting offer, but was more than he could spare; to which he answered, never mind that, you don't know my expectation; I have been extravagant, but that's all over. In short, she consented to live with him: the chambers were on the second floor of Clifford's Inn, No. 14; he remarked how extraordinary it was that his chambers and father's house should be the same number. She thought the chambers looked very shabby, and yet it did not raise any suspicion in her mind, that he was not what he represented himself to be. He let himself in with a key, and declared he was very much surprised that his servant should be out of the way, as he desired him to stay till he returned. She saw a hat in the window-seat, which she supposed belonged to the servant. He insisted she should stay to dinner, as he expected some company; she consented; he renewed the subject of his circumstances, and told her he had 9000l. in the bank. She saw no company, nor even the servant. She pressed him to return her rings, as he could not say she had forfeited them; he said he had forgot them among some trinkets at his father's, but that he would certainly give them to her the next day. Underwood (who was also on his trial at the same time) dined with them. Hawkins, in the absence of Underwood, said, that he was the son of Dr. Underwood, of Broad-street, that he had procured him a commission in the army, and hinted as much as that he was a dependant. He asked if she had any silver, on which she pulled out her purse, which contained a guinea and four shillings, he put the money in his pocket, and threw the purse into the fire, saying that it was a shabby one. She was anxious, as the night approached, to return to her house; a coach

was

was called; he handed her in, and then took his seat beside her, and began to flatter her, by saying, what pleasure he promised himself in the company of such a woman, and that he had now found what he had been so long in pursuit of. The coachman refused to drive further than Hyde Park corner, and as the night was wet, he accompanied her home on foot; after supper, he put several questions in an indirect manner, as to her furniture, and seemed to be very well pleased when he found they were her own. She shewed him a miniature picture set in pearls, and two watches, one of which was gold, with some other trinkets, which seemed to give him a great deal of pleasure. The next morning after breakfast, he wrote a draft for eight pounds, in consideration of the trouble he had given, but on reflection, he said it was too trifling a sum to trouble his banker with, and took it up, and put it in his pocket. He then persuaded her to pack up the best articles of her furniture, and to deposit them in his chambers, as he said they would then be at hand, and perhaps, that it would amuse her to look over them occasionally; which, after some persuasion, she agreed to do, and he assisted in packing them, and seemed very particular that the watches and the rest of the trinkets should be put up. He asked her what the miniature picture cost? she answered ten guineas; he said he was very intimate with the gentleman who sat for it; he then assisted to put the boxes in a coach, and desired the coachman to drive to Clifford's Inn. In passing through Parliament-street, he happened to see a fine coach, which he said was his father's; on which he threw himself back in the coach, that he might not be seen; he nodded in the way to several persons of fashion, as if he was familiar with them. When

they

they came to the chambers, the boxes were put in the sitting room. Soon after they arrived, Underwood entered, when Hawkins desired her to open her box, and to shew Underwood the miniature picture, as he said he was as well acquainted with the original as he was; that they had both known him for a long time. She did so; Hawkins wished that she would hang it up to ornament the room, as he expected every day to lay in furniture, but was prevented by one thing or other. He then began to talk of a journey to Scotland, and of a fine castle in that country; he did not know how soon he would be obliged to set out on that journey; he talked very much of the pleasures they would enjoy when they came to the castle, which really made her impatient for the day; she believed he took notice of this, for he immediately began to say that she should rid herself of all incumbrances, and that he thought the best way would be to dispose of her furniture, as otherwise she would not be at ease in her mind, but be still thinking of them; besides, as it was uncertain when they would return, as he had many friends in Scotland; so that their time would be very agreeably spent in paying and receiving visits; she said she would take some time to consider of it; he answered that it might be too late, as he did not know the moment he should be called on to set out, and that he would not break his word for the world. She asked him to return the miniature picture, as she had a great value for it, but he would not; began to quarrel with her, and threatened her to throw it in the fire, to prevent which she desisted, expecting to recover it when he returned to his temper. She complained of his behaviour to Underwood, who said, "Hawkins is sometimes an odd kind of fellow, and sometimes petulent

petulent in his temper; but he was a man of honour, family, and fortune; he will return it to you by and bye, depend on it; you will have no reason to repent of any thing that he has taken, or any thing that you have done or may do." When she asked him for her gold watch, with a ribbon and seals, he said he should keep it as a further security. He told her, if she would consent to sell her furniture, he would give her, as a security, the lease of his chambers, which cost 400l. She told him that she could not stay at his chambers that night, as she was obliged to return home; he said he could not be seen in her house again, as it might come to his father's ears. They went to an exhibition in the Strand, and from thence she went home. In the course of the day, he told her again that he was the son of General Hawkins, and she had not the least doubt but he was. The next day (Saturday) she returned to the chambers, where she saw Underwood in a blue coat, and a red collar. Hawkins told her, that he was an officer in the Surry Fencibles. He now renewed the conversation about the sale of her goods, and in a more pressing manner than before; she said they cost her a great deal of money; he answered, what did it signify if they did? in a short time she would think very little of money; that was not the object; all that he wanted to secure was her affections, which he was afraid he could not effectually do as long as the furniture was in question, for she would be always talking or thinking of it. He then turned the conversation to a jaunt in the country the next day, (Sunday) in Underwood's brother's curricle; she said she had no objection to a little airing in the country. After some time, he began again about the sale of her goods: she said she had an aunt, Mrs. West

to whom she was under every obligation, and she could not think of leaving her in distress behind her; on which Hawkins said, make yourself easy about that; my friend Underwood will take care of her. After many persuasions, she consented to sign the bill of sale, which was drawn up by Mr. Wilkinson. This was done on Saturday night. On Sunday morning she prepared for her jaunt to the country; when Underwood came and told them, with great appearance of disappointment in his countenance, manner, and voice, that his brother unfortunately was engaged that day to dine with Dr. Lettsom, in the country; Hawkins seemed to be very much disappointed; but, said he, I have sent to a gentleman, a very particular friend of mine, who will lend me his curricle I am sure. In a few minutes after, a man, (or, as they called him, the groom) came and said, that he was very sorry, that his master had drove out that morning in his curricle. Hawkins paused for some time, and said, "we must not be disappointed of our jaunt at any rate; I'll send to a person who will furnish us with one;" accordingly Underwood was dispatched with this message. They all walked to Blackfriar's-bridge, where they found a one-horse buggy, which she refusing to go in, they returned to the chambers. As Hawkins saw that her spirits were low through the disappointment, he told her not to be cast down; that the next morning they would go to the bank, and that he would sell out 9000l. which he had in the funds, and that henceforward every thing would be right; that she would hear his name called over by the man in the red cloak, which was done when persons of fashion only went to sell out. On Sunday night he told her, as his furniture was not come in, that he thought it

would be best to write to her aunt for some articles which they wanted; at length she consented; he took up a piece of paper, and wrote a note in her name for a pair of sheets, to her aunt, to which he added, without her knowledge, "send all the plate." He called a porter, and sent the note by him, who returned with all the articles he had written for. When the laundress took out the sheets to put them on the bed, she followed her into the room, with a view of knowing something of Hawkins; she began by asking her if the bed was well aired; the laundress said, she believed no one had lain in it since the last lodger; Hawkins came in, and prevented any further conversation. The next morning they went to the bank, accompanied by Underwood, where she actually did hear the man in the red cloak call out the name of Hawkins twice, but Hawkins did not answer, as he said he did not wish to make himself too public, lest his father should hear he was selling out stock. In a short time, he shewed her a paper, part written and part printed, filled with the sum of 9000l. On seeing this paper filled with so large a sum, all her uneasiness was removed. He asked her if she was now satisfied? and she said yes. They got out of the coach at St. Paul's, and walked to the chambers. Mr. Postan, the broker, came in the evening, and said he could afford to give no more for the furniture than 38l. she objected to so small a sum and said they cost her 140l. and that she would much rather have them sold by public auction, for she was not ashamed to have them sold in that manner, as she did not owe a farthing in that neighbourhood, or any place else. Hawkins said, it would take some time to dispose of them in that manner, and might end in the disappointment of their

their journey to Scotland, from which he had great expectations; that Mr. Postan was a man of honor, and that he, (Hawkins) would make up the deficiency; he said many things besides, which she could not recollect, to induce her to agree to the proposal; she still persisted in declaring, that she could not think of parting with them for so small a sum: she did not see Mr. Postan till the things were sold, nor afterwards. On Tuesday, the next day, she was told that her furniture was sold, but she never received a farthing of the money, nor could she say who received it. On the morning of that day, as they were preparing to set out for the Bank, Underwood came in; Hawkins asked him if he had changed the 100l. bank-note; he replied that he had not, and then produced two guineas, which afterwards she had every reason to think he had raised at the pawnbroker's on her property. On Monday night she slept at the chambers, and the next morning was told, that Postan, the broker, called, but did not see him. On Wednesday she insisted on going to her house, which she found stripped of all her furniture, returned to the chambers that evening, and slept there that night. On Thursday she was permitted, after much altercation, to visit a friend in Covent-Garden: in her absence, Hawkins took a letter out of her box, which he made the ground of a quarrel. She now began to find, when it was too late, that she was duped, and scarce slept a wink that night. She began to upbraid Hawkins with his duplicity, when he flew into a passion, and exclaimed, "What redress could a creature like her expect!" She spent that night in great uneasiness, as she did not wish to leave her boxes behind her. On Friday, Hawkins told her, that she should have part of her own

furniture back again for the use of her house, or that, if she did not like chambers, he would give her 50l. to take lodgings in Westminster, and that if she did not think her trunks secure, that they should be lodged in the Salopian coffee-house: he wanted her to join him in a bond of 200l. which she refused to do; and on the same day she made her escape A seal, a miniature picture, with the setting broken, were now shewn to her, which she identified as her property. Mr. Alley, counsel for the prosecution, called Mr. Jones, a hair dresser, who deposed, that in January last the prisoner Hawkins gave him a bundle to carry to Mary Evans, somewhere near Goswell-street. He said, it contained a petticoat, gown, shawl, and one piece of whole muslin; he delivered it to Mary Evans, as he was desired; h said he never saw Hawkins before that time in his life, to his knowledge. Mary Cole was then called, who said she lived in the Strand. Hawkins called at her house about the 24th of January, with a bundle, containing some articles of wearing apparel, which he said he had got from his mother. She could not call to her memory whether he had a watch or not; but, to the best of her recollection he had a watch. Mr Alley then called Mary Evans, (a genteel girl, about 15 years of age,) who said she received a bundle from Hawkins, containing gowns, petticoats, one piece of muslin, and a shawl, in lieu, she supposed, of things which he had taken from her, which she delivered to an officer in Bow-street. Josiah Bray, a peace-officer, produced the bundle, which was then opened, and the contents shewn to Mary Marner, the prosecutrix, who said that the gowns, petticoats, shawls, and muslin, were her property. Another peace-officer said, that,

that, under the authority of a warrant, he searched Hawkins's chambers in Clifford's-Inn, and traced him to new lodgings in the Temple, where he found a seal, which Mrs. Marner identified as her property. Daniel Rees, a salesman, knew Hawkins; he brought a veil to his shop to sell, and offered to sell at the same time a topaz ring; but this witness did not buy either one or the other.—Mary Rees, wife of the aforesaid Rees, knew Hawkins; recollected he had brought a veil to her husband's shop, but could not recollect the time. He said his mother lived over the bridge, and that he had many more of the kind to dispose of. She gave him 2s. for the veil, which the prosecutrix said cost six and thirty. Mary Delantry, the laundress, said, she recollected the lady, Mrs. Marner, very well; that the night she went to lay the sheets on the bed, the lady followed her into the room, but that Mr. Hawkins came in immediately after her, and huffed her (the laundress) for having spoken to the lady. Laurence Delantry deposed, that on a Sunday night he received a note from Mr. Hawkins, to go to Ranelagh-Walk for some articles; and that, as he was just going, Mr. Underwood said to him, "If you are asked in Chelsea where you are to take the property to, don't tell them."—Postan, the broker, deposed, that Underwood called on him, on Monday morning, with a bill of sale, made out by Mr. Wilkinson. Underwood told him that Mr. Wilkinson recommended him to him. The witness answered, that Mr. Wilkinson was a very honest man. The valuation of the goods was made by his clerk. He said the goods were well worth 40l. but he would not recommend him to give more than 38l. He appointed to meet

Underwood at the Chapter Coffee-House, from whence they went to Clifford's-Inn, where he saw the lady, Mrs. Marner. She seemed to think 38l. too little, as they cost 140l. He (Postan) said, that was the utmost he could afford to give, as there was a great deal of difference betwixt buying and selling. She wished they should be sold by public auction, as she thought they would bring more. He, the witness, said; she might do as she pleased, but that she would find, if she sold them by public auction, they would be cut up by commission and other contingent expences. Mr. Hawkins said to the lady, "My dear, we can't think of selling them by public auction, as you know we are to go into the country." He did not know from any entry, from his own memory, from his clerk, or from any other means, how these goods were disposed of. Part of them, perhaps, was sold in the first sale. Mr. Underwood, the son of Dr. Underwood, was now called, who deposed, that Underwood, the prisoner, was not his brother; he had seen him before, however, at a gentleman's house; how often he could not recollect. The prisoners were now called upon for their defence.—As they had no counsel, Underwood undertook the defence of both, which he read from a paper of considerable length. The substance was, that his father was a gentleman and a scholar; that by unforeseen misfortunes he was reduced to distress. —He strove, however, under accumulated misfortunes, to give his children a good education. He (Underwood) was articled to Mr. Bolton, an eminent attorney, in 1793 He served his clerkship to the satisfaction, he was conscious, of his master, and those who were employed in the same office.—

As

As the circle of his connection was narrow, he saw that he should have many difficulties to contend with, if he should attempt to follow the profession he was bred to; in consequence of which he turned his attention to the army, as he had some very respectable acquaintances in that line. Several circumstances, however, induced him to turn his thoughts to some other mode of life, though he was promised an ensigncy at the time. He complained very much of the manner in which his brother's character and his own had been misrepresented in the newspapers. They were held out to the public in all the caricature of Bond-street loungers, than which there was not a character that he held in a higher degree of contempt. When first brought to Bow-street, they were stated in the public prints to have appeared in puckered sleeves, large breeches, monstrous sized boots—when the fact was, that they wore the very same dress at the time in which the court saw them, and he would leave it to the court and jury if it resembled in any manner the dress of a Bond-street lounger.—He then commented, in very severe terms, on the character of the prosecutrix, the attorney, and counsel for the prosecution, and the gentleman who, he supposed, instituted the prosecution. Mr. Alley said, the prosecution was instituted for the ends of public justice, and not, as insinuated by the prisoner, for the mere gratification of malice or private pique. The prisoner then called some witnesses to his character, among whom was Mr. Debourg, who, being questioned by the court, denied that the prisoners were the sons of Lieut. Gen. Hawkins, or nephews to Sir Cæsar Hawkins, or that they had an uncle in the East Indies, or a brother in the guards. The jury having withdrawn

for about ten minutes, brought in both guilty.—The court immediately passed sentence on them, to be transported for the term of seven years. The prisoners, who, throughout the whole of the trial, conducted themselves with great propriety, bowed on receiving their sentence.

HAWKSWORTH, WILLIAM, (MURDERER,) was a native of Yorkshire, and born of reputable parents, who gave him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a considerable trade; but being of a disposition too unsettled to think of business, he enlisted for a soldier, in the hope of being promoted in the army. After he had served some time, and found himself disappointed in the expectation of preferment, he made interest to obtain his discharge, and then entered into the service of a gentleman, with whom he behaved in a proper manner for a considerable time; but not being content with his situation, he repaired to London, and again enlisted as a soldier in the foot-guards. In this station he remained four years, during two of which he was servant to the colonel, who entertained a very good opinion of him. At this time party disputes ran very high, and the soldiers were frequently the subjects of the contempt and derision of the populace. While Hawksworth was marching, with others, to relieve the guard in St. James's park, a man, named Ransom, who had a woman in his company, jostled him, and cried, "What a stir is here about king George's soldiers!" Hawkesworth, imagining the woman had incited him to this behaviour, quitted his rank, and gave her a blow on the face. Irritated hereby, Ransom called him a puppy, and demanded the reason of such behaviour to the woman. The term of reproach enraged Hawksworth

to

to such a degree, that he knocked the other down with his musket, and then the soldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the mean time a crowd of people gathered round Ransom, and finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair, and sent him to a surgeon, who examined him, and found his skull fractured to such a degree, that there were no hopes of his recovery, and he died in a few hours. Hereupon a person, who had been witness to what passed in the park, went to the Savoy, and having learnt the name of the offender, caused Hawksworth to be taken into custody, and he was committed to Newgate. When brought to trial, the colonel whom he had served gave him a most excellent character; but the facts were so clearly proved, that the jury could do no otherwise than convict him, and judgment of death passed accordingly. For some time after sentence he flattered himself with the hope of a reprieve; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he seriously prepared to meet his fate. He solemnly averred that Ransom struck him first, and said he did not recollect the circumstance of leaving his rank to strike the blow that occasioned the death of the other. He declared he had no malice against the deceased, and therefore thought himself acquitted in his own mind of the crime of murder. He behaved in a very contrite manner, and received the sacrament with sincere devotion. A few minutes before he was executed, he made a speech to the surrounding multitude, advising them to keep a strict guard over their passions. He lamented the situation of the common soldiers, who are considered as cowards if they do not resent an injury; and if they do, are liable to endure legal punishment for the consequences that may arise from such resent-

rssentment. However, he advised his brethren of the army to submit with patience to the indignities that might be offered, and trust to the goodness of God to recompence their sufferings. He suffered at Tyburn the 17th of June, 1723, at the age of 27 years.*

HAYDEN, JAMES. See IDSWELL, J.

HAYES, CATHARINE, (TRAITORESS,) was the daughter of a poor man of the name of Hall, who lived near Birmingham. She remained with her parents till she was about 15 years old, and then, having a dispute with her mother, she left her home, and set out with a view of going to London. Her person being rather engaging, and some officers in the army meeting with her on the road, prevailed on her to accompany them to their quarters, at Great Ombersley in Worcestershire, where she remained with them a considerable time. —On being dismissed by these officers, she strolled about the country, till arriving at the house of Mr. Hayes, a farmer in Warwickshire, the farmer's wife hired her as a servant. When she had continued a short time in this service, Mr. Hayes's son fell violently in love with her, and a private marriage took place, which was managed in the following manner: Catharine left the house early in the morning, and the younger Hayes being a carpenter, prevailed on his mother to let him have some money to buy tools; but as soon as he had got

* The reader will no doubt agree with us, that many, less deserving clemency, have been often pardoned. To gratify a prejudiced and infatuated populace, was perhaps the chief motive of executing the law. EDITOR.

CATHERINE HAYES.

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got it he set out, and meeting his sweetheart at a place they had ageeed on, they went to Worcester, where the nuptial rites were celebrated. At this time it happened that the officers, by whom she had been seduced, were at Worcester, and hearing of her marriage, they caused young Hayes to be taken out of bed from his wife, under pretence that he had enlisted in the army. Thus situated, he was compelled to send an account of the whole transaction to his father, who, though offended with his son for the rash step he had taken, went to a magistrate, who attended him to Worcester, and demanded by what authority the young man was detained. The officers endeavoured to excuse their conduct: but the magistrate threatening to commit them to prison if they did not release him, the young fellow immediately obtained his liberty. The father, irritated at the imprudent conduct of his son, severely censured his proceedings; but considering that what was passed could not be recalled, had good sense enough not to persevere in his opposition to an unavoidable event.—Mr. Hayes now furnished his son with money to begin business for himself; and the young couple were in a thriving way, and appeared to live in harmony: but Mrs. Hayes, being naturally of a restless disposition, prevailed on her husband to enlist for a soldier. The regiment in which he served being ordered to the Isle of Wight, Catherine followed him thither. He had not been long there before his father procured his discharge, which, as it happened in the time of war, was attended with an expence of 60l. On the return of young Hayes and his wife, the father gave them an estate of 10l. per annum, to which he afterwards added another

of

of 16l. which, with the profit of their trade, would have been amply sufficient for their support. The husband bore the character of an honest, well-disposed man; he treated his wife very indulgently, yet she constantly complained of the covetousness of his disposition: but he had much more reason to complain of her disposition, for she was turbulent, quarrelsome, and perpetually exciting disputes among her neighbours. The elder Mr. H. observing with concern how unfortunately his son was matched, advised him to leave her, and settle in some place where she might not find him. Such, however was his attachment to her, that he could not comply with this advice; and she had the power of persuading him to come to London, after they had been married about six years. On their arrival in the metropolis, Mr. Hayes took a house, part of which he let into lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal-trade, in which he was as successful as he could have wished. Exclusive of his profit by shop keeping, he acquired a great deal of money by lending small sums on pledges, for at this time the trade of pawnbroking was followed by any one at pleasure, it having been then subject to no regulation. Mrs. Hayes's conduct in London was still more reprehensible than it had been in the country. The chief pleasure of her life consisted in creating and encouraging quarrels among her neighbours; and, indeed, her unhappy disposition discovered itself on every occasion. Sometimes she would speak of her husband, to his acquaintance, in terms of great tenderness and respect; and at other times she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of every thing that was contemptible in

in human nature. On a particular occasion, she told a woman of her acquaintance, that she should think it no more sin to murder him, than to kill a dog. At length her husband finding she made perpetual disturbances in the neighbourhood, thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham-court-road, where he carried on his former business; but not being as successful here as he could have wished, he took another house in Tyburn-road, since called Oxford-road. Here he continued his practice of lending small sums of money on pledges, till having acquired a decent competency, he left off housekeeping, and hired lodgings near the same spot.—Tho. Billings, a journeyman taylor, and a supposed son of Mrs. Hayes's, by her former connections, lodged in the house with Mrs. Hayes, and the husband having gone into the country on business, his wife and this man indulged themselves in every species of extravagance. On Hayes's return, some of his neighbours told him how his wife had been wasting his substance, on which he severely censured her conduct, and a quarrel arising between them, they proceeded from words to blows. It was commonly thought that she formed the resolution of murdering him at this time, as the quarrel happened only six weeks before his fatal exit. She now began to sound the disposition of Billings, to whom she said it was impossible for her to live longer with her husband; and she urged all possible arguments to prevail on him to aid her in the commission of the murder, which Billings resisted for some time, but at length complied.—At this period Tho. Wood, an acquaintance of Mr. Hayes, arrived from the country; and as he was apprehensive of being impressed, Hayes kindly took him into his house, and promised to use his

interest in procuring him some employment. After a few days residence, Mrs. Hayes proposed to him the murder of her husband; but the man was shocked at the thought of destroying his friend and benefactor, and told her he would have no concern in so atrocious a deed. However, she artfully urged that "he was an atheist, and it could be no crime to destroy a person who had no religion or goodness—that he was himself a murderer, having killed a man in the country, and likewise two of his own children, one of which he had buried under a pear-tree, and the other under an apple tree." She likewise said, that her husband's death would put her into possession of 1500l. of the whole of which Wood should have the disposal, if he would assist her and Billings in the perpetration of the murder. Wood went out of town a few days after this, and on his return found Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and Billings in company together, having drank till they had put themselves into the utmost apparent good humor. Wood sitting down at Hayes's request, the latter said they had drank a guinea's worth of liquor, but notwithstanding this, he was not drunk. A proposal was now made by Billings, that if Hayes could drink six bottles of mountain without being drunk, he would pay for it; but that Hayes should be the paymaster if the liquor made him drunk, or if he failed of drinking the quantity. This proposal being agreed to, Wood, Billings, and Mrs. Hayes, went to a wine-vault to buy the wine, and, on their way, this wicked woman reminded the men that the present would be a good opportunity of committing the murder, as her husband would be perfectly intoxicated. The mind of Wood was not yet wrought up

up to a proper pitch for the commission of a crime so atrocious as the murder of a man who had sheltered and protected him; and this too at a time when his mind must necessarily be unprepared for the launching into eternity. Mrs. H. had therefore recourse to her former arguments, urging that it would be no sin to kill him; and Billings seconding all she said, and declaring he was ready to take a part in the horrid deed, Wood was at length prevailed on to become one of the execrable butchers. Thus agreed, they went to the wine-vault, where Mrs. Hayes paid half a guinea for six bottles of wine, which being sent home by a porter, Mr. Hayes began to drink it, while his intentional murderers regaled themselves with beer. When he had taken a considerable quantity of the wine, he danced about the room like a man distracted, and at length finished the whole quantity; but not being then in an absolute state of stupefaction, his wife sent for another bottle, which he likewise drank, and then fell senseless on the floor. Having lain some time in this condition, he got, with much difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed. When he was asleep, his wife told her associates that now was the time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part. Accordingly, Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently, that he fractured his skull. At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow, made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and taking the hatchet out of Billing's hand, gave the poor man two more blows, which effectually dispatched him. A

woman, named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication; and going down stairs, she told Mrs. Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, child, and herself. Catherine had a ready answer to this: she said some company had visited them, and were grown merry, but they were on the point of taking their leave; with which answer Mrs. Springate returned to her room well satisfied. The murderers then consulted on the best manner of disposing of the body, so as most effectually to prevent detection. Mrs. Hayes proposed to cut off the head, because if the body was found whole, it would be more likely to be known. The villains agreeing to this proposition, she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them going into the room, the men drew the body partly off the bed, when Billings supported the head, while Wood, with his pocket-knife, cut it off, and the infamous woman held the pail to receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood. This being done, they poured the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it; but notwithstanding all this care, Mrs. Springate observed some congealed blood the next morning; though at that time she did not in the least suspect what had passed. It was likewise observed, that the marks of the blood were visible on the floor for some weeks afterwards, though Mrs. Hayes had scraped it with a knife and washed it. When the head was cut off, this diabolical woman recommended the boiling it till the flesh

should

should part from the bones; but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised the throwing it into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried off by the tide, and sink. This agreed to, the head was put into the pail, and Billings took it under his great coat, being accompanied by Wood; but making a noise in going down stairs, Mrs. Springate called, and asked what was the matter; to which Mrs. Hayes answered, that her husband was going a journey, and, with incredible dissimulation, she affected to take her leave of him, and, as it was now past eleven, pretended great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour. By this artifice Wood and Billings passed out of the house unnoticed, and went to Whitehall, where they intended to have thrown in the head; but the gates being shut, they went to a wharf near the horse-ferry, Westminster. Billings putting down the pail, Wood threw the head into the dock, expecting it would have been carried away by the stream; but at this time the tide was ebbing, and a lighterman, who was then in his vessel, heard something fall into the dock, but it was too dark for him to distinguish objects. The murderers having thus disposed of the head, went home, and were let in by Mrs. Hayes, without the knowledge of the lodgers. On the following morning, soon after day-break, as a watchman, named Robinson, was going off his stand, he saw the pail, and looking into the dock observed the head of a man. Having procured some witnesses to this spectacle, they took out the head, and observing the pail to be bloody, concluded that it was brought therein from some distant part. The lighterman now said that he had heard something

thrown into the dock; and the magistrates and parish officers having assembled, gave strict orders that the most diligent search should be made after the body, which, however, was not found till some time afterwards; for, when the murderers had conversed together on the disposal of the body, Mrs. Hayes had proposed that it should be put into a box, and buried, and the other parties agreeing to this, she purchased a box, which, on being sent home, was found too little to contain it; on which she recommended the chopping off the legs and arms, which was done; but the box being still too small, the thighs were likewise cut off, and all the parts packed up together, and the box put by till night, when Wood and Billings took out the pieces of the mangled body, and putting them into two blankets, carried them into a pond near Marybone; which being done, they returned to their lodgings, and Mrs. Springate, who had still no suspicion of what had passed, opened the door for them. In the interim the magistrates directed that the head should be washed clean, and the hair combed; after which it was put on a pole in the church-yard of St. Margaret, Westminster, that an opportunity might be afforded for its being viewed by the public. Orders were likewise given that the parish officers should attend this exhibition of the head, to take into custody any suspicious person who might discover signs of guilt on the sight of it. The high constable of Westminster, on a presumption that the body might, on the following night, be thrown where the head had been, gave private orders to the inferior constables, to attend during the night, and stop all coaches, or other carriages,

or

or persons with burdens, coming near the spot, and examine if they could find the body, or any of the limbs. The head being exposed on the pole, so excited the curiosity of the public, that immense crowds of people of all ranks went to view it; and among the rest was a Mr. Bennet, apprentice to the King's organ-builder, who having looked at it with great attention, said, he thought it was the head of Hayes, with whom he had been some time acquainted: and hereupon he went to Mrs. Hayes, and telling her his suspicions, desired she would go and take a view of the head. In answer hereto, she said that her husband was in good health, and desired him to be cautious of what he said, as such a declaration might occasion him a great deal of trouble, on which, for the present, Bennet took no farther notice of the affair. A journeyman taylor, named Patrick, who worked in Monmouth-street, having likewise taken a view of the head, told his master, on his return, that he was confident it was the head of Hayes; on which some other journeymen in the same shop, who had likewise known the deceased, went and saw it, and returned perfectly assured that it was so. As Billings worked at this very shop in Monmouth street, one of these journeymen observed to him, that he must know the head, as he lodged in Hayes's house; but Billings said he had left him well in bed when he came to work in the morning, and therefore it could not belong to him. On the following day Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a suit of clothes which belonged to her husband, and sent him to Harrow on the Hill. As Wood was going down stairs with the bundle of clothes, Mrs. Springate asked him what he had got: to which Mrs. Hayes readily replied,

replied, a suit of clothes he had borrowed of an acquaintance. On the second day after the commission of the murder, Mrs. Hayes being visited by a Mr. Longmore, the former asked what was the news of the town; when the latter said that the public conversation was wholly engrossed by the head which was fixed in St. Margaret's churchyard. Hereupon Catherine exclaimed against the wickedness of the times, and said she had been told that the body of a murdered woman had been found in the fields that day. Wood coming from Harrow on the Hill on the following day, Catherine told him that the head was found, and giving him some other clothes that had belonged to her husband, and five shillings, said she would continue to supply him with money. After the head had been exhibited four days, and no discovery made, a surgeon, named Westbrook, was desired to put it in a glass of spirits to prevent its putrifying, and keep it for the farther inspection of all who chose to take a view of it, which was accordingly done. Soon after this Mrs. Hayes quitted her lodgings, and removed to the house of Mr. Jones, a distiller, paying Mrs. Springate's rent also at the former lodgings, and taking her with her. Wood and Billings likewise removed with her, whom she continued to supply with money, and employed herself principally in collecting cash that had been owing to her late husband. A sister of Mr. Hayes's, who lived in the country, having married a Mr. Davies, Hayes had lent Davies some money, for which he had taken his bond; which bond Catherine finding among Mr. Hayes's papers, she employed a person to write a letter in the name of the deceased, demanding ten pounds in part of payment, and threat-

ening a prosecution in case of refusal. Mr. Hayes's mother being still living, and Davies unable to pay the money, he applied to the old gentlewoman for assistance, who agreed to pay the money on condition that the bond was sent into the country; and wrote to London, intimating her consent so to do, having no suspicion of the horrid transaction which had taken place. In the mean time incredible numbers of people resorted to see the head, and among the rest a poor woman from Kingsland, whose husband had been absent from the very time that the murder was perpetrated. After a minute survey of the head, she believed it was that of her husband, though she could not be absolutely positive. However, her suspicions were so strong, that strict search was made after the body, on a presumption that the clothes might help her to ascertain it. Mr. Hayes not being visible for a considerable time, his friends could not help making enquiry after him. A Mr. Ashby in particular, who had been on the most friendly terms with him, called on Mrs. Hayes, and demanded what was become of him. Catherine pretended to account for his absence by communicating the following intelligence, as a matter that must be kept profoundly secret:—"Some time ago (said she) he happened to have a dispute with a man, and from words they came to blows, so that Mr. Hayes killed him. The wife of the deceased made up the affair, on Mr. Hayes's promising to pay her a certain annual allowance: but he not being able to make it good, she threatened to inform against him, on which he absconded."—This method of accounting for the absence of his friend was by no means satisfactory to Mr. Ashby, who asked her if the head that had been exposed on the

the pole was that of the man who had been killed by her husband. She readily answered in the negative, adding that the party had been buried entire; and that the widow had her husband's bond for the payment of fifteen pounds a year. Ashby enquiring to what part of the world Mr. Hayes was gone, she said to Portugal, in company with some gentlemen; but she had yet received no letter from him. The whole of this story seemed highly improbable to Mr. Ashby, who went to a Mr. Longmore, a gentleman nearly related to Hayes, and it was agreed between them that Mr. Longmore should call on Catherine, and have some conversation: but not let her know that Ashby had been with him, for they supposed that by comparing the two accounts together, they might form a very probable judgment of the matter of fact. Accordingly, Longmore went to Catherine, and enquired after her husband. In answer to his questions, she said she presumed Mr. Ashby had related the circumstance of his misfortune; but Longmore replied, that he had not seen Ashby for a considerable time, and expressed his hope that her husband was not imprisoned for debt. "No, (she replied) it is much worse than that." "Why, (said Longmore) has he murdered any one?" To this she answered in the affirmative; and desiring him to walk into another room, told him almost the same story as she had done to Mr. Ashby, but instead of saying he was gone to Portugal, said he had retired to Hertfordshire, and, in fear of being attacked, had taken four pistols to defend himself. It was now remarked by Mr. Longmore, that it was imprudent for him to travel thus armed, as he was liable to be taken up on suspicion of being a highwayman.

wayman, and if such a circumstance should happen, he would find it no easy matter to procure a discharge. She allowed the justice of this remark, but said that Mr. Hayes commonly travelled in that manner. She likewise said that he was once taken into custody on suspicion of being a highwayman, and conducted to a magistrate, but a gentleman who was casually present happening to know him, gave bail for his appearance. To this Longmore observed, that the justice of peace must have exceeded his authority, for that the law required that two parties should bail a person charged on suspicion of having robbed on the highway. In the course of conversation, Mr. Longmore asked her what sum of money her husband had in his possession. To which she replied, that he had seventeen shillings in his pocket, and about twenty-six guineas sowed within the lining of his coat. She added, that Mrs. Springate knew the truth of all these circumstances, which had induced her to pay that woman's rent at the former lodgings, and bring her away. Mrs. Springate having been interrogated by Longmore, averred the truth of all that Catherine had said, and added that Mr. Hayes was a very cruel husband, having behaved with remarkable severity to his wife: but Mr. Longmore said this must be false, for to his knowledge, he was remarkably tender and indulgent of her. Longmore went immediately to Mr. Ashby, and said, that from the difference of the stories Catherine had told them, he had little doubt but that poor Hayes had been murdered. Hereupon they determined to go to Mr. Eaton, who was one of the life-guards, and nearly related to the deceased, and to communicate their suspicions to him, but Eaton happening to be absent from home, they agreed to go again to Westminster,

minster, and survey the head with more care and attention than they had hitherto done. On their arrival, the surgeon told them that a poor woman from Kingsland had, in part, owned the head as that of her husband, but she was not so absolutely certain as to swear that it was so, and that they were very welcome to take another view of it. This they did, and agreed in opinion that it was actually the head of Hayes. On their return, therefore, they called at Eaton's house, and took him with them to dine at Mr. Longmore's, where the subject of conversation ran naturally on the supposed discovery they had made. A brother of Mr. Longmore coming in at this juncture, listened to their conversation, and remarked that they proposed that Mr. Eaton should go to Mrs. Hayes, at the expiration of two or three days, and make enquiries after her husband, similar to those which had been made by the other gentlemen. To this Longmore's brother urged his objections, observing, that as they had reason to think their suspicions so well founded, it would be very ill policy to lose any time, since the murderers would certainly effect an escape if they should hear they were suspected; and as Wood and Billings were drinking with Mr. Hayes the last time he was seen, he advised that they should be immediately taken into custody. This advice appeared so reasonable, that all the parties agreed to follow it; and going soon afterwards to Justice Lambert, they told him their suspicions, and the reasons on which they were founded. The magistrate immediately granted his warrant for the apprehension of Catherine Hayes, Thomas Wood, Thomas Billings, and Mary Springate, on suspicion of their having been guilty of the murder of John Hayes: and Mr. Lambert, anxious that there should

should be no failure in the execution of the warrant, determined to attend in person. Hereupon, having procured the assistance of two officers of the life-guards, and taking with him the several gentlemen who had given the information, they went to Mr. Jones's, the distiller, (Mrs. Hayes's lodgings) about nine o'clock at night. As they were going up stairs without any ceremony, the distiller desired to know by what authority they made so free in his house; but Mr. Lambert informing him who he was, no farther opposition was made to their proceedings. The magistrate going to the door of Mrs. Hayes's room, rapped with his cane, on which she said, 'Who is there?' and he commanded her to open the door immediately, or it should be broke open. To this she replied, that she would open it as soon as she had put on her clothes, and she did so in little more than a minute, when the justice ordered the parties present to take her into custody. At this time Billings was sitting on the side of the bed, bare-legged; on which Mr. Lambert asked if they had been sleeping together; to which Catherine replied, "No;" and said that Billings had been mending his stockings. On this the justice observed, that *his sight must be extremely good, as there was neither fire nor candle in the room when they came to the door.* Some of the parties remaining below, to secure the prisoners, Mr. Longmore went up stairs with the justice, and took Mrs. Springate into custody; and they were all conducted together to the house of Mr. Lambert. This magistrate having examined the prisoners separately for a considerable time, and all of them positively persisting in their ignorance of any thing respecting the murder, they were separately committed for re-examination on the following day, before Mr. Lam-

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bert, and other magistrates. Mrs. Springate was sent to the Gate-house, Billings to New-Prison, and Mrs. Hayes to Tothill-fields Bridewell. When the peace-officers, attended by Longmore, went the next day to fetch up Catherine to her examination, she earnestly desired to see the head: and it being thought prudent to grant her request, she was carried to the surgeon's, and no sooner was the head shewn to her, than she exclaimed, "Oh! it is my dear husband's head! It is my dear husband's head!" She now took the glass in her arms, and shed many tears while she embraced it. Mr. Westbrook told her that he would take the head out of the glass, that she might have a more perfect view of it, and be certain that it was the same. The surgeon doing as he had said, she seemed to be greatly affected, and having kissed the head several times, she begged to be indulged with a lock of the hair; and on Mr. Westbrook expressing his apprehension that she had too much of his blood already, she fell into a fit; and on her recovery was conducted to Mr. Lambert's, to take her examination with the other parties. On the morning of this day, as a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields near Marybone, they observed something lying in a ditch, and taking a nearer view of it, they found that it consisted of some of the parts of a human body. Shocked at the sight, the gentleman dispatched his servant to get assistance to investigate the affair farther; and some labouring men being procured, they dragged the pond, and found the other parts of the body wrapped in a blanket; but no head was to be found. A constable brought intelligence of this fact while Mrs. Hayes was under examination before the justices, a circumstance that con-

contributed to strengthen the idea conceived of her guilt. Notwithstanding this, she still persisted in her innocence: but the magistrates paying no regard to her declarations, committed her to Newgate for trial. Wood being at this time out of town, it was thought prudent to defer the farther examination of Billings and Springate, till he should be taken into custody. On the morning of the succeeding Sunday, he came on horseback to the house where Mrs. Hayes had lodged when the murder was committed; when he was told that she had removed to Mr. Jones's. Accordingly he rode thither, and enquired for her; when the people knowing that he was one of the parties charged with the murder, were disposed to take him into custody; however, their fear of his having pistols prevented their doing so; but, unwilling that such an atrocious offender should escape, they told him that Mrs. Hayes was gone to the Green-Dragon in King-street, on a visit, (which house was kept by Mr. Longmore,) and they sent a person with him, to direct him to the place. The brother of Longmore being at the door on his arrival, and knowing him well, pulled him from his horse, and accused him of being an accomplice in the murder. He was immediately delivered to the custody of some constables, who conducted him to the house of Justice Lambert, before whom he underwent an examination; but refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothill-fields Bridewell for farther examination. On his arrival at the prison, he was informed that the body had been found: and not doubting but that the whole affair would come to light, he begged that he might be carried back to the justice's house. This being made known to Mr. Lambert, he sent

for the assistance of two other magistrates, and the prisoner being brought up, he acknowledged the particulars of the murder, and signed his confession. It is thought that he entertained some hope of being admitted an evidence; but as his surrender was not voluntary, and as his accomplices were in custody, the magistrates told him he must abide the verdict of a jury. This wretched man owned that since the perpetration of the crime, he had been terrified at the sight of every one he met, that he had not experienced a moment's peace, and that his mind had been distracted with the most violent agitations. His commitment was made out for Newgate; but so exceedingly were the passions of the populace agitated on the occasion, that it was feared he would be torn to pieces by the mob; wherefore it was thought prudent to procure a guard of a serjeant and eight soldiers, who conducted him to prison with their bayonets fixed. A gentleman, named Mercer, having visited Mrs. Hayes in Newgate, the day before Wood was taken into custody, she desired he would go to Billings, and urge him to confess the whole truth, as the proofs of their guilt were such, that no advantage could be expected from a farther denial of the fact. Accordingly the gentleman went to Billings, who, being carried before Justice Lambert, made a confession, agreeing in all its circumstances with that of Wood; and thereupon Mrs. Springate was set at liberty, as her innocence was evident from their concurrent testimony. Numbers of people now went to see Mrs. Hayes in Newgate; and on her being asked what could induce her to commit so atrocious a crime, she gave very different answers at different times; but frequently alledged that Mr. Hayes had been

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an unkind husband to her, a circumstance which was contradicted by the report of every person who knew the deceased. In the history of this woman there is a strange mystery. She called Billings her son, and sometimes averred that he was really so, but he knew nothing of her being his mother, nor did her relations know any thing of the birth of such a child. To some people she would affirm he was the son of Mr. Hayes, born after marriage: but his father having an aversion to him while an infant, he was put to nurse in the country, and all farther care of him totally neglected on their coming to London. But this story is altogether incredible, because Hayes was not a man likely to have deserted his child to the frowns of fortune: and his parents had never heard of the birth of such a son. Billings was equally incapable of giving a satisfactory account of his own origin. All he knew was, that he had lived with a country shoemaker, who passed for his father, and had sent him to school, and then put him apprentice to a tailor. It is probable that she discovered him to be her son, when she afterwards became acquainted with him in London; and as some persons, who came from the same part of the kingdom, said that Billings was found in a basket near a farm-house, and supported at the expence of the parish, it may be presumed that he was dropped in that manner by his unnatural mother. Tho. Wood was born near Ludlow in Shropshire, and brought up to the business of husbandry. He was so remarkable for his harmless and sober conduct when a boy, as to be very much esteemed by his neighbours. On the death of his father, his mother took a public-house for the support of her children, of whom

this Thomas was the eldest, and he behaved so dutifully to his mother, that the loss of her husband was scarcely felt. He was equally diligent abroad and at home; for when the business of the house was insufficient to employ him, he worked for the farmers, by which he greatly contributed to the support of the family. On attaining years of maturity he engaged himself as a waiter at an inn in the country, from thence he removed to other inns, and in all his places preserved a fair character. At length he came to London, but being afraid of being impressed, as already mentioned, obtained the protection of Mr. Hayes, who, behaved in a very friendly manner to him, till the arts of a vile woman prevailed on him to imbrue his hands in the blood of his benefactor. Billings and Wood having already made confessions, and being penetrated with the thought of the heinous nature of their offence, determined to plead guilty to the indictments against them: but Mrs. Hayes having made no confession, flattered herself there was a chance of her being acquitted, and therefore resolved to put herself on her trial, in which she was encouraged by some people that she met with in Newgate. The indictment being opened, and the witnesses heard, the jury, fully convinced of the commission of the fact, found her guilty.—The prisoners being brought to the bar to receive sentence, Mrs. Hayes entreated that she might not be burnt, according to the then law for petty treason, alledging that she was not guilty, as she did not strike the fatal blow; but she was informed by the court, that the sentence awarded by the law could not be dispensed with. Billings and Wood urged, that, having made so full and free a con-

a confession, they hoped they should not be hung in chains: but to this they received no answer.—After conviction, the behaviour of Wood was uncommonly penitent and devout; but while in the condemned hole, he was seized with a violent fever, and being attended by a clergyman to assist him in his devotions, he confessed he was ready to suffer death, under every mark of ignominy, as some atonement for the atrocious crime he had committed; however, he died in prison, and thus defeated the final execution of the law. At particular times Billings behaved with sincerity; but at others, prevaricated much in his answers to the questions put to him. On the whole, however, he fully confessed his guilt, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and said no punishment could be adequate to the excess of the crime to which he had been guilty. The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes was somewhat similar to her former conduct. Having an intention to destroy herself, she procured a phial of strong poison, which being casually tasted by a woman who was confined with her, it burnt her lips; on which she broke the phial, and thereby frustrated her design. On the day of her death she received the sacrament, and was drawn on a sledge to the place of execution. Billings was executed in the usual manner, and hung in chains not far from the pond in which Mr. Hayes's body was found, in Marybone fields. When the wretched woman had finished her devotions, an iron chain was put round her body, with which she was fixed to a stake near the gallows. On these occasions, when women were burnt for petit treason, it was customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck, and pulled by the executioner, so that they were dead before the flames reached

reached the body. But this woman was literally burnt alive; for the executioner letting go the rope sooner than usual, in consequence of the flames reaching his hands, the fire burnt fiercely round her, and the spectators beheld her pushing the faggots from her, while she rent the air with her cries and lamentations. Other faggots were instantly thrown on her, but she survived amidst the flames for a considerable time, and her body was not perfectly reduced to ashes in less than three hours. They suffered at Tyburn, May 9, 1726. Horrid and serious as the murder of Hayes was, it was notwithstanding rendered the subject of mirth by a humourous punster of those times, who, having very prudently concealed his name, published in the periodical prints the following ballad, to the tune of Chevy Chase:—

IN Tyburn Road a man there liv'd
  A just and honest life;
And there he might have lived still,
  If it had pleased his wife:

But she, to vicious ways inclin'd,
  A life most wicked led;
With tailors and with tinkers too,
  She oft defil'd his bed.

Full twice a day to church he went,
  And so devout would be,
Sure never was a saint on earth,
  If that no saint was he.

This vex'd his wife unto the heart;
  She was of wrath so full,

That

That finding no hole in his coat,
  She picked one in his skull.

But then her heart 'gan to relent,
  And griev'd she was so sore;
That quarter to him for to give,
  She cut him into four.

All in the dark and dead of night,
  These quarters she convey'd;
And in a ditch at Marybone
  His marrow bones she laid.

His head at Westminster she threw
  All in the Thames so wide;
Says she, my dear, the wind sets fair,
  And you may have the tide.

But heav'n, whose pow'r no limits knows
  On earth, or on the main,
Soon caus'd the head for to be thrown
  Upon the land again.

This head being found, the justices
  Their heads together laid;
And all agreed there must have been
  Some body to this head!

But since no body could be found,
  High mounted on a shelf,
They ev'n set up the head, to be
  A witness for itself.

Next, that it no self-murder was,
  The case itself explains;
For no man could cut off his head,
  And throw it in the Thames.

Ere

Ere many days were gone and pass'd
The deed at length was known;
And Cath'rine she confess'd at last,
The fact to be her own.

God prosper long our noble king,
Our lives and safeties all;
And grant that we may warning take
By Cath'rine Hayes's fall.

END OF VOL. I.

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