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MARTIN'S
" **ANNALS OF CRIME;**

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR,

AND

GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS,

INCLUDING

Ancient and Modern Modes of Torture, &c.:

COMPREHENDING

A HISTORY OF THE MOST NOTORIOUS

MURDERERS, TRAITORS, HIGHWAYMEN, PIRATES,
BURGLARS, PICKPOCKETS, ADULTERERS, RAVISHERS, DECOYERS,
INCENDIARIES, POACHERS, SWINDLERS,

AND

FELONS AND ROGUES OF EVERY DESCRIPTION:

INTERSPERSED WITH

REFLECTIONS AND OBSERVATIONS ON THE AFFAIRS OF LIFE; AUTHENTIC ACCOUNTS
OF VARIOUS MODES OF PUNITION AND TORTURE; DELINEATIONS OF GAOLS
AND JUDICATORIES; AND ANECDOTES AND MEMORANDA OF CRIMINAL
PROCEEDINGS, AND OF THE SAYINGS AND DOINGS OF DIFFERENT
COURTS AND AGENTS IN THE DISPENSING OF LAW AND
JUSTICE, AND THE EXERCISING OF AUTHORITY.

VOLUME I.

LONDON:

WILLIAM MARK CLARK,
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1837.

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Vol. 1
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TRIALS
(CASE)
"MARTY"

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ADVERTISEMENT.

THE first volume of this work being brought to a termination, an opportunity is afforded me of stating the grounds on which it is intended to proceed in its future progress. There are several matters connected with the history of delinquents which have been passed over in the present volume, which likewise contains no account of any gaol, as was originally contemplated. These matters will therefore furnish one of the characteristics of the second volume, which will also be devoted to cases of a more immediate occurrence; the trial of Greenacre and his paramour, for the murder of Hannah Brown, being in preparation for the commencement of the same.

The utility of such a publication as the present will generally be considered doubtful; but such a work must give an idea of the moral conformation of man; and it is fondly hoped, that, as its conductor aims at impressing upon the mind of the reader the reflections dispersed throughout, which treat especially on the necessity of spurning the path of iniquity, it will at least effect no harm if it effect no good. This, however, can hardly be: one of the two results must almost naturally follow; and it is presumed that the result of good, however moderate, must in general supersede the other. The mirror of Vice has generally been found equal to the task of controlling the human passions, deterring from the commission of crime; whilst the oft-repeated view of Vice personally, on the contrary, tends strongly to lead to the practice of those evils which the simple mirror effectually warns us from, by creating perpetual loathing and disgust.

These remarks apply to the records of murderers, robbers, sharpers, and such like. There are other parties guilty of malfeasance, in adopting disgraceful tortures, upholding slavery, &c.: records of such characters are introduced for the purpose of justly decrying the abominations which they would fain perpetuate.

April 19th, 1837.

A. M.



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NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 1.

MARCH 2, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

TRIAL AND DOOM OF SEVEN SMUGGLERS FOR MURDER.



[THE SMUGGLERS TORTURING THEIR VICTIMS.]

DIVERSIFIED as are the modes which we find to have been adopted from age to age, amongst the sons and daughters of men, in the commission of crime, we have occasionally to lament over some case of more than ordinary prevalence, even in the branch of crime to which the case belongs: one of such cases, it is presumed, the details of the diabolical conduct of the delinquents in the perpetration of the murder now recorded unfold to us, leagued as it was with a deliberation both in design and action, and a species of extreme brutality, most appalling and truly heart-rending.

It was usual formerly for smugglers to form themselves into parties of effective power, so as to disarm the authorities, whose duty it was to watch them, of much of their endeavour to overcome any in-

fraction of the law, if not often to deter such authorities altogether from pursuing them, merely by their formidable appearance.

The two unfortunate men whose fate is the foundation of the superstructure now about to be erected,—a superstructure intended to be an establishment for enrolling the names of the most notorious agents of vice, of whatever grade,—those two unfortunate men, the lives of whom were sacrificed by a desperate gang of this description, were Mr. Galley, of Southampton, custom-house officer; and Mr. Chater, of Fordingbridge, shoemaker. Having been sent to give some information respecting a daring burglary at the custom-house of Poole, and not returning to their respective homes, a suspicion arose that they had been waylaid and murdered

by the smugglers: a search for them was therefore instituted forthwith.

The persons employed for this purpose, after every inquiry, could learn no certain tidings of them; as the fear of resentment, at the hands of the smugglers, silenced those inhabitants on the road over which they had carried their victims, who were not in connection with them: but at length Mr. Stone, a country gentleman, when following his hounds, came to a spot of ground which appeared to have been recently disturbed. The publicity of the circumstances of those men being missed, caused him to infer that they might have been buried there; and, upon digging nearly seven feet in the earth, the remains of Galley were found, but in so putrid a state as not to be known, except by the clothing. The search after Chater was now pursued with redoubled vigilance, till found in a well, six miles distant from Galley, in a wood, near Lady Holt's park, with a quantity of stones, wooden rails, and earth upon him.

Six of the culprits, named Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John Hammond, William Carter, Richard Mills the elder, and Richard Mills the younger, were indicted for the murder of Daniel Chater; the first three as principals, and the others as accessories before the fact: William Jackson and William Carter were indicted for the murder of William Galley.

B. Tapner was a native of Aldington, in Sussex, and worked, for some time, as a bricklayer; but being of an idle disposition, he soon quitted his business, and associated with a gang of smugglers, who had rendered themselves obnoxious to the neighbourhood by their lawless depredations.

J. Cobby was an illiterate country fellow, the son of J. Cobby, of the county of Sussex, labourer; and joined the smugglers a little before he was thirty years of age.

J. Hammond was a labouring man, born at Berstead, in Sussex, and had been a smuggler some time before he was apprehended for the abovementioned murders, which was when he was about forty years old.

W. Jackson was a native of Hampshire, and had a wife and a large family: he was brought up to the business of husbandry; but the hope of acquiring more money in an easier way, induced him to

engage with the smugglers, which at length ended in his ruin.

W. Carter, of Rowland's Castle, in Hampshire, was the son of W. Carter, of Eastmean, in the same county, thatcher: he was about the age of thirty-nine, and had practised smuggling a considerable time before the perpetration of the fact which led to his destruction.

R. Mills the elder was a native of Trotton, in Sussex, and had been a horse-dealer by profession; but, it is said, a failure in that business induced him to commence smuggler; and he had been long enough in that illicit practice to become one of the most hardened of the gang.

R. Mills the younger lived at Stedham, in Sussex, and, for some time, followed his father's profession of horse-dealing; but, unfortunately connecting himself with smugglers, he met an ignominious end in his thirty-seventh year.

Galley and Chater went on Sunday, the 14th of February, 1748, to Major Batten, a justice of the peace, at Stanstead, in Sussex, with a letter, written by Mr. Shearer, collector of the customs at Southampton, requesting him to examine Chater concerning one Diamond, or Dynar, who was committed to Chichester gaol, on suspicion of being one who broke into the King's warehouse at Poole. Chater was engaged to give evidence, but with some reluctance, having declared that he saw Diamond, and shook hands with him, when, with many others, he was coming from Poole, loaded with tea, of which he threw him a bag. Having passed Havant, and coming to the New Inn, at Leigh, they inquired their way, when G. Austin, his brother, and brother-in-law, said that they were going the same road, and would accompany them to Rowland's Castle, where they might get better directions, it being just by Stanfield Park.

A little before noon, they came to the White Hart, Rowland's Castle, kept by Mrs. Payne, a widow, who had two sons, blacksmiths, residing in the same village. After some time spent in conversation with G. Austin, she told him, privately, she was afraid that these two strangers were come to hurt the smugglers: he said, No, sure; they were only carrying a letter to Major Batten: upon which, she sent one of her sons for Jackson and Carter, who lived near her house. Meanwhile,

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Galley and Chater wanted to be going, and asked for their horses; but she told them, that the major was not at home, which, indeed, was true.

As soon as Jackson and Carter came, she told them her suspicions, with the circumstance of the letter. Soon after, she advised G. Austin to go away, lest he should come to some harm; he did so, leaving his brothers.

Payne's other son went and fetched in W. Steele, S. Downer (otherwise Little Samuel), E. Richards, and H. Shearman (otherwise Little Harry), all smugglers, and belonging to the same gang.

After they had drank a little while, Carter, who had some knowledge of Chater, called him into the yard, and asked him where Diamond was? Chater said, he believed he was in eustody, and he was going to appear against him, which he was sorry for, but he could not help it. Galley went into the yard to them, and asked Chater why he stayed there? Jackson, who followed him, said, with a horrid imprecation, "What is that to you?" and immediately struck him a blow in the face, which knocked him down, and caused blood to issue from his nose and mouth. Soon after, they all returned into the house, when Jackson, reviling Galley, offered to strike him again, but an individual who was present interposed.

Galley and Chater now began to be very uneasy, and wanted to be going; but Jackson, Carter, and the rest persuading them to stay and drink more rum, and make it up, for they were sorry for what had happened, they sat down again; young Austin and his brother-in-law being yet present. Jackson and Carter desired to see the letter in the possession of Galley and Chater, who refused to show it. The smugglers then passed about the drink plentifully, and made Galley and Chater fuddled; they then persuaded them to lie down on a bed, which they did; and on their falling asleep, the letter was taken away, and read: greatly exasperating them, it was destroyed.

A smuggler, named John Race, now came in; and Jackson and Carter told him the contents of the letter, saying they had got the old rogue, the shoemaker, of Fordingbridge, who was going to inform against Diamond, the shepherd, then in custody at Chichester. Here W. Steele proposed to take them both to a

well, about two hundred yards from the house, and, after murdering them, to throw them in: but this proposal was not entertained, as they had been seen in their company by the Messrs. Austin, Mr. Garnet, and Mr. Jenks, the latter of whom entered the house at a period subsequent to many of the transactions. It was next proposed to send them to France; but this was objected to, on the ground of the possibility of their returning. Jackson and Carter's wives being present, cried out, "Hang the dogs, for they are come here to hang you." It was then proposed to keep them confined till they could know Diamond's fate; and whatever it was, to treat them in the same manner; each of the smugglers to allow threepence a week towards keeping them.

Galley and Chater continuing asleep, Jackson went in, and began the first act of cruelty; for, having put on his spurs, he got upon the bed, and spurred their foreheads, to wake them, and afterwards whipped them with a horsewhip; so that when they came out, they were both bleeding. The smugglers then took them out of the house; but Richards returned with a pistol, and swore he would shoot any person who should mention what had passed.

Meanwhile, the rest put their victims on one horse, tying their legs first under the horse's belly, and then both their legs together; after which, they all set forward, excepting Race, who had no horse. They had not gone above two hundred yards before Jackson called out, "Whip 'em, cut 'em, slash 'em, d—n 'em!" upon which, all began to whip them, except Steele, who led the horse, the roads being very bad. They whipped them for half a mile, till they came to Woodash, where they fell off, with their heads under the horse's belly; and their legs, which were tied, appeared over the horse's back. Their tormentors soon set them upright again, and continued whipping them over the head, face, shoulders, and, indeed, any part of the body, till they came to Dean, upwards of half a mile farther; where they both fell again, as before, with their heads under the belly of the horse, which struck them, at every step, with his hoofs.

Upon placing them again on the saddle, they found them so weak that they could not sit; upon which, they separated them; and, putting Galley before Steele, and

Chater before Little Sam, they whipped Galley so severely, that, the lashes coming upon Steel, at his desire they desisted. They then went to Harris's Well, near Lady Holt's park, where they took Galley off the horse, and threatened to throw him into the well; upon which he desired them to despatch him at once, and put an end to his misery. "No," said Jackson, cursing, "if that's the case, we have more to say to you:" then, putting him on a horse again, they whipped him over the Downs, till he was so weak, that he fell off; when, placing him across the saddle, with his breast downward, Little Sam got up behind him; and, as they went on, he pinched Galley's testicles, till he groaned with agony, and again fell off. Being then put on astride, Richards got up behind him; but the poor man soon cried out, "I fall, I fall, I fall!" and Richards, pushing him, said, "Fall, and be d—d." Again he fell down; and the villains, thinking this fall had broken his neck, laid him once more upon the horse, and proposed to go to some suitable place, where Chater might be concealed till they heard the fate of Djiamond; for which purpose, Jackson and Carter called at the house of a man named Pescod, and desired admittance for two sick men, which was absolutely refused.

Being now one o'clock in the morning, they agreed to go to Scardefield's, at the Red Lion, in Rake, which was not far distant; where Carter and Jackson, after many refusals, got admittance. While Scardefield went to draw some liquor, he heard more company come in; but though they refused to admit him into the room, he saw one man standing up very bloody, and another lying as dead. They said they had engaged some officers, lost their tea, and several of them were wounded, if not killed.

Jackson and Little Harry now carried Chater down to old Mill's house, which was near at hand, and chained him in a turf-house; and Little Harry staying to watch him, Jackson returned to the company. After they had drank gin and rum, they all went out, taking Galley with them: Carter compelled Scardefield to show them the place where they used to bury their tea, and to lend them spades, and a candle and lantern. There they began to dig; and the weather being very cold, he helped to make a hole, in which

they buried something that lay across a horse, like a dead man.

They continued all that day at Scardefield's, drinking spiritous liquors; and at night they went to their own homes, in order to be seen on Tuesday, agreeing to meet again on Thursday at the same house, and bring more of their associates. They met accordingly, accompanied by old Richard Mills and his sons Richard and John, Thomas Stringer, John Cobby, Benjamin Tapner, and John Hammond; in all, fourteen. They now consulted what was to be done with Chater; and it was unanimously resolved that he must be destroyed. Richard Mills, jun., proposed to load a gun, clap the muzzle to his head, tie a long string to the trigger, then all to pull it, that all might be equally guilty of his murder; but this was rejected, because it would put him out of his pain too soon: and at length they came to a resolution to carry him to Harris's Well, at a short distance, and throw him in.

During the period of his confinement, Chater was in a continuous state of the utmost horror and misery, being repeatedly visited by one or other of the smugglers, who abused him with words, and bruised him with blows. At last, they all appeared before him, adding to his horrors, if possible, by renewed inflictions of cruelty, with bitter imprecations and foul language, the frenzies of the deepest impurity. Tapner and Cobby going into the turf-house, the former pulled out a clasp knife, and said, with a terrible oath, "Down on your knees, and go to prayers; for with this knife I'll be your butcher!" The poor man knelt down; and, as he was in prayer, Cobby kicked him, calling him an informing villain. Chater asking what they had done with Mr. Galley, Tapner slashed his knife across his eyes, almost cutting them out, and the gristle of his nose quite through: he bore it patiently, believing they were putting an end to his misery. Tapner struck at him again, and made a deep cut in his forehead: upon this, old Mills said, "Do not murder him here, but somewhere else." Accordingly they placed him upon a horse, and all set out together for Harris's Well, except Mills and his sons, they having no horses ready, and saying, in excuse, that there were enough, without them, to murder one man. Tapner whipped him all the way, till the blood came, when he swore, that if he

blooded the saddle he would torture him the more. When they were come within two hundred yards of the well, Jackson and Carter stopped, saying to Tapner, Cobby, Stringer, Steele, and Hammond, "Go on, and do your duty on Chater, as we have ours upon Galley."

In the dead of the night of the 18th of February, they brought him to the well, which was near thirty feet deep, but dry, and inclosed with a paling. Tapner having fastened a noose round Chater's neck, they bid him get over the pales to the well: he was, however, going through a broken place; but, though he was covered with blood, and fainting with the anguish of his wounds, they forced him to climb up, having the rope about his neck, one end of which was tied to the pales, when they pushed him into the well; and the rope being short, he hung no farther within it than his thighs, in which position, leaning against the edge, he hung above a quarter of an hour, and was not strangled. They then untied him, and threw him head foremost into the well; and tarrying some time, they heard him groan; upon which they went to William Comleah, a gardener, to borrow a rope and ladder, saying, they wanted to relieve one of their companions, who had fallen into Harris's Well. He said they might take them: but they could not manage the ladder in their confusion, it being a long one. They then returned to the well; and still finding him groan, and fearing that he might be heard, so as to make a discovery, the place being near the road, they threw upon him some of the rails and gate-posts fixed about the well, and some large stones; whereupon, having thus silenced him, they left him.

The next consultation was how to dispose of the two horses: to prevent discovery, they killed Galley's, which was grey, and, taking his hide off, cut it into small pieces, which they hid: but the other horse, a bay, which Chater rode on, got from them.

This daring gang being now broken, a number of witnesses came forward on their trial; and two of their accomplices, being pardoned, were admitted evidence against them. The charge, in all its horrors, was fully proved; upon which, the judge, Sir Michael Foster, pronounced sentence on the wretches, in one of the most pathetic addresses that was ever delivered; repre-

senting the enormity of their crime, and exhorting them to make immediate preparation for the awful fate that awaited them; adding, that "Christian charity obliges me to tell you, that your time in this world will be very short."

The heinousness of the crime of which these men had been convicted, rendering it necessary that their punishment should be exemplary, the judge ordered that they should be executed on the following day; and the sentence was accordingly carried into execution against all but Jackson, who died in prison on the evening that he was condemned. They were attended by two ministers; and all but Mills and his son (who took no notice of each other, and thought themselves not guilty, because they were not present at the finishing of the inhuman murder) showed great marks of penitence. Tapner and Carter gave good advice to the spectators, and desired diligence might be used to apprehend Richards, whom they charged as the cause of their being brought to this wretched end. Young Mills smiled several times at the executioner, who was a discharged marine, and having ropes too short for some of them was puzzled to fit them; and old Mills being forced to stand tip-toe to reach the halter, desired that he might not be hanged by inches. These two culprits were so rejoiced at being told that they were not to be hanged in chains after execution, that death seemed to excite in them no terror; while Jackson was so struck with horror, at being measured for his irons, that he soon expired, from the effects of the bare idea. They were hanged at Chichester on the 18th day of January, 1749, before a concourse of spectators such as had been seldom seen on any similar occasion.

Carter was hung in chains near Rake, in Sussex; Tapner, on Rook's Hill, near Chichester; and Cobby and Hammond, at Celsey Isle, on the beach where they sometimes landed their smuggled goods, and where they could be seen at a great distance, east and west.

In the pocket of Jackson, a Popish relie was found, in Latin and French, of which the following is a translation:

Ye three holy kings,

Gaspar, Melchior, Belthazar,

Pray for us now, and in the hour of death.

These papers

Have touched the three heads of the

Holy kings of Cologne :

They are to preserve travellers from accidents on the road, head-aches, falling-sickness, fevers, witchcraft, every kind of mischief, and from sudden death. Bene.

The body of Jackson was thrown into a hole, near the place of execution, with the bodies of old Mills and son, who had no friends to take them away; and at a brief distance from the spot a stone was erected, bearing the following inscription :

Near this place was buried

The body of William Jackson,
Who, upon a special commission of Oyer
and Terminer, held at Chichester on the
16th day of January, 1749, was, with
William Carter, attainted for the
murder of William Galley,
custom-house officer ;

And who likewise was, together with
Benjamin Tapner, John Cobby, John
Hammond, Richard Mills the elder,
Richard Mills the younger (his son),
attainted for the murder of
Daniel Chater ;

But, dying a few hours after sentence of
death was pronounced upon him, he
thereby escaped the punishment
which the heinousness of his
complicated crimes
deserved,

And which was, the next day, most
justly inflicted upon his
accomplices.

As a memorial to posterity, and a warning
to this and succeeding generations,
This stone is erected.

A. D. 1749.

THE FATE OF JAMES CALCLOUGH, FOR
ROBBERY.

THIS offender, the son of people of good character, was born in the city of Durham : having received a decent education, he was apprenticed to a shoemaker, with whom he lived about three years; but having contracted a habit of idleness, and being attached to bad company, he quitted his master, and enlisted in the second regiment of foot guards. He had not been long in London before he became acquainted with a fellow named Thomas, who offered to put him into an easy way of getting money: Calclough listened to his invitation, dined with him and some of his associates on a Sunday at a public-house; and afterwards attended them to

Newington Green, where they continued drinking for some time; and at the approach of evening they set out towards London, with a view of robbing such persons as they might meet. As they crossed the fields towards Hoxton, they stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of a watch and some silver; and, tying him to a gate, they retired to a public-house in Brick Lane, Old Street, where they spent the night in riot and drunkenness.

Calclough being a young fellow of genteel appearance, and remarkable spirit, his accomplices advised him to commence highwayman; but none of them having money to purchase horses and other necessaries to equip them in a decent manner, it was determined that two of the gang should commit a robbery which might put them in a way of committing others. With this view they went into Kent, and stole two horses, which they placed at a livery-stable near Moorfields; after which the gang went in a body to Welling, in Hertfordshire, where they broke open a house, and stole about 14*l.* in money, and some articles of value, which furnished them with clothes and other requisites for their intended expedition.

Thus provided, they rode to Enfield Chase, where they robbed some passengers in a stage coach of their watches and money; and soon afterwards stopped another coach on the road to Epping Forest, from which they got a large booty, which they divided at their place of meeting in Brick Lane, where they were wont to spend their nights in licentious revelry.

A short time after this robbery, Calclough and one of his companions rode to Epping Forest, where they stopped a coach in which were two gentlemen and a young lady: a servant that was behind the coach would have attacked the robbers, but the gentlemen desired him to desist, that the young lady might not be terrified. The gentlemen then gave the robbers their money, apologizing for the smallness of the sum, and saying that they should have been welcome to more had it been in their possession.

As they were riding towards London, after committing this robbery, they quitted their horses, and fastened them to a tree, in order to rob the Woodford stage coach, which they observed to be full of passengers: but the coachman suspecting their

intention, drove off with such expedition, that they could not overtake him. Disappointed in this attempt, they rode towards Wanstead, where they saw another stage coach, which they intended to have robbed: but as a number of butchers from London rode close behind it, they thought proper to desist from so dangerous an attempt. Thus disappointed, Calclough and Thomas, on the following day, Sunday, rode to Stamford Hill, where they robbed three persons of their watches, and about 4*l.* in cash. Flushed with this success, they determined to put every person they should meet under contribution; in consequence of which they robbed seven other persons before they reached London, from whom they obtained upwards of 10*l.*; with which they retired to their old place of resort in Brick Lane.

Soon after this they rode to Finchley Common, but having met with only empty carriages, they were returning to London, when they met the Barnet coach, near Islington, and robbed the company of about 15*s.* On the following day they collected 6*s.* 6*d.* from another of the Barnet coaches, and 9*s.* from the Highgate stage, on their return to town; which was the whole of the booty they obtained this day, at the imminent risk of their lives.

A few days afterwards, Calclough and another of the gang stopped a person of very decent appearance near Hackney, and demanded his money: but the gentleman, bursting into tears, said he was in circumstances of distress, and possessed only 1*s.* 6*d.*; on which, instead of robbing him, they made him a present of half a crown—a proof that humanity may not be utterly banished even from the breast of a thief. On their return to town, they robbed a man of 14*s.*

On the day after this transaction, they went to the Red Lion, in Aldersgate Street; where, having drank all day, and being unable to pay the reckoning, they called for more liquor, and then quitted the house, saying that they would soon return. Going immediately towards Islington, they met a gentleman, to whom they said that they wanted a small sum to pay their reckoning: on this the gentleman called out, Thieves! and made all possible resistance; notwithstanding which they robbed him of a gold watch, which they pawned, and then returning to the alehouse defrayed the expenses of the day.

A short time after this, one of the gang sold the horses which had been stolen, and, appropriating the money to his own use, went into the country, where he spent some time with his relations; but finding it difficult to abstain from his old practices, he wrote to Calclough, desiring he would meet him at Saint Alban's. Calclough obeyed the summons, and on his arrival received a proposal to rob the pack-horses belonging to the Coventry carrier. The man having stopped to drink at a house near Saint Alban's, permitted the horses to go forward, when Calclough and his accomplice, who had hid themselves behind a hedge, rushed out and stopped them; and having robbed the packages to the amount of 50*l.*, they carried their booty to London, where they disposed of it.

Having dissipated in extravagance the money acquired by this robbery, they went into Hertfordshire to rob a gentleman whom they had learned was possessed of a considerable sum of money. Getting into the yard near midnight, the owner of the house demanded what business they had there; to which they replied, "Only to go through the yard;" whereupon the gentleman fired a gun, which, though it was loaded with powder only, terrified them so much, that they decamped without committing the intended robbery.

Calclough and one of his accomplices, named Robinson, being reduced to circumstances of distress, determined to make depredations on the road between London and Kensington. While they were looking out for prey, two gentlemen, named Swaffard and Banks, were observed on the road behind them: Mr. Swaffard being at some distance before his companion, Calclough and Robinson, who were provided with swords, robbed him of some silver; but not till they had severely treated him. Mr. Banks coming up soon after, they robbed him of five guineas; then hurrying towards Kensington, they went over the fields to Chelsea, where they took a boat, and crossed the river; they then walked to Lambeth, and took another boat, which carried them to Westminster.

In the mean time, Mr. Banks, who had missed his friend, proceeded to Kensington, where he made inquiry for him; but finding that he had not reached that place, and being apprehensive that he

might have been murdered, he went back with a gentleman in search of him, and found him weltering in his blood, with his nose almost cut off. Mr. Swaffard was immediately removed to the house of a surgeon; he recovered his health, but his wounds were of such a kind as totally to disfigure him.

The villains were taken into custody the day following the perpetration of this horrid deed; and Robinson being admitted an evidence against his accomplice, the latter was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. He became a penitent, and suffered on the 2d of July, 1739.

THE BASTINADO OF THE EGYPTIANS.

[Abridged from "Observations on Egyptian Manners, &c." By J. Antes, Esq. Dublin, 1801.]

ON the 15th of November, 1779, Mr. Antes, returning from a short country excursion to Grand Cairo, was seized by some of the attendants of Osman Bey, a Mamaluke chief; and, after stripping him of his clothes, they demanded money, which he not having about him, they dragged him before the Bey, telling him that he was an European, from whom he might get something.

In order to extort money from him, the Bey ordered him to be bastinadoed. They first threw him flat on his face, and then bent up his legs, so that the soles of his feet were horizontal: they then brought a large staff, about six feet long, with an iron chain fixed to it at each end. This chain they threw round both feet above the ankles, and twisted them together; and two fellows on each side, provided with what they called a corbage, held up the soles of the feet by means of the stick. When thus placed, an officer whispered in his ear, "Do not suffer yourself to be beaten; give him a thousand dollars, and he will let you go." Mr. Antes, not willing to give up the money which he had received for the goods of other merchants, refused: the two men then began to beat the soles of his feet, at first moderately; but when a second application for money was refused, (the demand being increased to two thousand dollars,) they began to lay on more roughly, and every stroke felt as that of a red-hot poker.

Finding they could get no money, and supposing he might have some choice goods, a third application was made to him by the officer: he told them he had

a fine silver-mounted blunderbuss at his lodging, which he would give. The Bey asked what he offered: the officer sneered, and said, "*Bir carabina*"—that is, "One blunderbuss;" on which the Bey said, "*Ettrup il kulp*"—"Beat the dog!" They then began to lay on with all their might. "At first," says Mr. Antes, "the pain was excruciating, but after some time my feeling grew numb, and it was like beating a bag of wool."

Finding that nothing was to be got from him, and knowing that he had done nothing to deserve punishment, the Bey ordered them to let him go. One of the attendants anointed his feet, and bound them up with some rags, put him on an ass, and conducted him to a house in Cairo, and laid him on his bed, where he was confined for six weeks before he could walk even with crutches; and for more than three years his feet and ankles were very much swelled; and though twenty years had elapsed when he published this account, his feet and ankles were so affected that, on any strong exertion, they were accustomed to swell.

He mentions instances of the bastinado having been applied for three days successively; and, if the person survived, the feet were rendered useless for life: but in general, he observes, when the sufferer has received between five and six hundred strokes, the blood gushes from his mouth and nose, and he dies under the operation, or soon after.

How he felt his mind affected on this distressing occasion, he thus feelingly describes: "I at once gave up myself for lost, well knowing that my life depended on the caprice of a brute in human shape; and, having heard and seen such examples of unrelenting cruelty, I could not expect to fare better than others had done before me: I had therefore nothing left but to cast myself on the mercy of God, commending my soul to him; and, indeed, I must in gratitude confess, that I experienced his support most powerfully; so that all fear of death was taken from me; and if I could have bought my life for one halfpenny, I should, I believe, have hesitated to accept the offer."

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,
A NEW GATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

No. 2.

MARCH 9, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF MR. JOHN HAYES AT THE INSTIGATION OF HIS WIFE.



[THE MURDERERS PLOTTING THE RIDDANCE OF THE DEAD BODY.]

The dreadful crimes and severe punishment of Catherine Hayes have perhaps never been exceeded, if ever equalled. The bare recital of them cannot fail to make the deepest impression: we, therefore, present the same to our readers.

This diabolical creature was the daughter of a poor man of the name of Hall, who lived near Birmingham. She resided with her parents till she was about fifteen years old, when, having a dispute with her mother, she left her home, and set out with a view of visiting London. Her person being rather engaging, some officers in the army, meeting her on the road, prevailed upon her to accompany them to their quarters at Great Ombersley, Worcestershire, where she remained 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. She had been but a short time in this service, when Mr. Hayes's son fell violently in love with her, and a private marriage took place, which was thus managed: Catherine 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 it, he set out with Catherine, whom he met at a place previously agreed on, for Worcester, where the nuptial rites were celebrated.

It happened that the officers by whom she had been seduced were at Worcester at the time, 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 man immediately obtained his liberty.

The father, irritated at the imprudent conduct of his son, severely censured his proceedings; but, considering that what had passed could not be recalled, he had good sense enough to reconcile himself to those events which he inwardly deplored. He furnished his son with money to commence business; and the young couple soon thrived, appearing 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; but he had not been long there before his father procured his discharge, which, happening in time of war, was attended with an expense of 60*l*. On the return of young Hayes and his wife, the father gave them an estate of 10*l*. per annum, to which he afterwards added another of 16*l*., which, with the profit of their trade, would have been amply sufficient for their support. The husband bore the character of a honest, well-disposed man: he treated his wife very indulgently, though she constantly complained of the covetousness of his disposition; whilst he had much more reason to complain of her temper, for she was turbulent and quarrelsome, perpetually exciting disputes among her neighbours.

The elder Mr. Hayes, observing with concern how unfortunately his son was matched, advised him to leave her, and settle in some place where she might not find him. Such, however, was his attachment to her, that he could not comply with this advice; and she had the power of persuading him to repair 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 for lodgings, and opened a shop in the chandlery and coal-trade, in which he was as successful as he could have desired. Exclusive of his profit by shopkeeping, 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 amongst 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; whilst, at other times, she would represent him to her female associates as a compound of everything that was contemptible in human nature. On a particular occasion, she told a woman of her acquaintance, that she should think it no more sin to murder him than to kill a dog. At length, her husband finding she made perpetual disturbances in the neighbourhood, thought it prudent to remove to Tottenham Court Road, where he carried on his former business; but not being as successful here as he could have wished, he took another house in Tyburn Road, since called Oxford Street: here he continued his practice of lending small sums of money on pledges, till, having acquired a decent competency, he left off house-keeping, and hired lodgings near the same spot.

Thomas Billings, a journeyman tailor, and a supposed son of Mrs. Hayes's, by a former connection, lodged in the house with Mrs. Hayes; and Mr. Hayes 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 soon proceeded from words to blows. It was generally thought that she formed the resolution of murdering him at this time, as the quarrel happened only six weeks before that dreadful event. She now began to sound the disposition of Billings, to whom she said it was impossible for her to live any longer

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with her husband; and she urged all possible arguments to prevail on him to aid her in the commission of the murder, which Billings resisted for some time, but at length complied.

At this period, Thomas Wood, an acquaintance of Mr. Hayes, arrived from the country; and, as he was apprehensive of being impressed, Hayes kindly took him into his house, and promised to use his interest in procuring him employment. After a few days' residence, Mrs. Hayes proposed to him the murder of her husband; but the man was shocked at the thought of destroying his friend and benefactor, and told her he would have no concern in so atrocious a deed. However, she artfully urged, that he was an atheist, and it could be no crime to destroy a person who had no religion or goodness—that he was himself a murderer, having killed a man in the country, and likewise two of his own children, one of which he buried under a pear-tree, and the other under an apple-tree. She likewise said, that her husband's death would put her in possession of 1500*l.*, of the whole of which Wood should have the disposal, if he would assist her and Billings in the perpetration of the murder.

Wood went out of town a few days after this, and on his return found Mr. and Mrs. Hayes and Billings in company together, having drunk till they had put themselves into the utmost apparent good humour. Wood sitting down at Hayes's request, the latter said they had drank a guinea's worth of liquor, but, notwithstanding this, he was not drunk. A proposal was now made by Billings, that if Hayes could drink six bottles of Mountain without being drunk, he would pay for it; but that Hayes should be the paymaster if the liquor made him drunk, or if he failed of drinking the quantity.

This proposal being agreed to, Wood, Billings, and Mrs. Hayes went to a wine-vault to buy the wine, and on their way this wicked woman reminded the men that the present would be a good opportunity of committing the murder, as her husband would be perfectly intoxicated. The mind of Wood was not yet wrought up to a proper pitch for the commission of a crime so atrocious as the murder of a man who had sheltered and protected him; and this, too, at a time when his mind must necessarily be unprepared for

his launching into eternity. Mrs. Hayes had, therefore, recourse to her former arguments, urging, that it would be no sin to kill him; Billings seconded all she said, and declared he was ready to take a part in the horrid deed; and Wood was at length prevailed upon 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 plotting 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. After laying for some time in this condition, he got, with much difficulty, into another room, and threw himself on a bed. When he was asleep, his wife told her associates that now was the time to execute their plan, as there was no fear of any resistance on his part. Accordingly Billings went into the room with a hatchet, with which he struck Hayes so violently, that he fractured his skull.

At this time Hayes's feet hung off the bed, and the torture arising from the blow made him stamp repeatedly on the floor, which being heard by Wood, he also went into the room, and, taking the hatchet out of Billings's hand, gave the poor man two blows, which effectually despatched him. A woman, named Springate, who lodged in the room over that where the murder was committed, hearing the noise occasioned by Hayes's stamping, imagined that the parties might have quarrelled in consequence of their intoxication; and going down stairs, she told Mrs. Hayes that the noise had awakened her husband, her child, and herself. 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 were found whole it

would be more likely to be known. The villains agreeing to this proposition, she fetched a pail, lighted a candle, and all of them going into the room, the men drew the body partly off the bed, when Billings supported the head, while Wood, with his pocket knife, cut it off; and the infamous woman held the pail to receive it, being as careful as possible that the floor might not be stained with the blood.

This being done, they poured the blood out of the pail into a sink by the window, and poured several pails of water after it; but, notwithstanding all this care, Mrs. Springate observed some congealed blood the next morning; though at that time she did not in the least suspect what had passed. It was likewise observed, that the marks of the blood were visible on the floor for some weeks afterwards, though Mrs. Hayes had scraped it with a knife, and washed it.

When the head was cut off, this diabolical woman recommended the boiling it till the flesh should part from the bones; but the other parties thought this operation would take up too much time, and therefore advised the throwing it into the Thames, in expectation that it would be carried off by the tide and sink. This being agreed upon, the head was put into the pail, and Billings took it under his great coat, being accompanied by Wood: making a noise in going down stairs, Mrs. Springate called, and asked what was the matter; to which Mrs. Hayes answered, her husband was going a journey; and with incredible dissimulation she affected to take her leave of him, pretending great concern that he was under a necessity of going at so late an hour, being past eleven. By this artifice, Wood and Billings left 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 Horseferry, Westminster. Billings putting down the pail, Wood threw the head into the dock, expecting it would have been carried away by the stream: the tide, however, was ebbing. A lighterman, who was then in his vessel, heard something fall into the dock; but it was too dark for him to distinguish any objects. The murderers having disposed of the head, returned home, and were let in by Mrs. Hayes, without the knowledge of the other

lodgers. On the following morning, soon after daybreak, 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, which they concluded had been brought in the pail, bloody as it was, from some distant part.

The lighterman now said 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 for 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 small to contain it; on which she recommended the chopping off the legs and arms, which was done: the box still being too small, the thighs were likewise cut off, 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 Mary-labonne; which done, they returned to their lodging; and Mrs. Springate, who had still no suspicion of what had passed, opened the door to 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 churchyard of Saint Margaret, Westminster, to give the public an opportunity of viewing it. It was likewise ordered, that the parish officers should attend the exhibition of the head, to take into custody any person who might discover symptoms of guilt on the sight of it. The high-constable of Westminster, on a presumption that the body might on the following night be thrown where the head had been, gave private orders to the inferior constables, to attend during the night and stop all coaches, or other carriages, or persons with burdens, coming near the spot, and examine if they could find the body, or any of the limbs.

The head being exposed on the pole, so excited the curiosity of the public, that immense crowds of people, of all ranks,

went to view it; and among the rest was a young man named 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: whereupon he went to Mrs. Hayes, and, telling her his suspicions, desired she would go and take a view of the head; but she stated, that her husband was in good health, and advised him to be cautious in what he said, as such a declaration might occasion him a great deal of trouble: for a while, Mr. Bennet was silenced. A journeyman tailor, named Patrick, who worked in Monmouth Street, having likewise taken a view of the head, told his master 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 the 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, Mrs. Hayes gave Wood a suit of clothes which belonged to her husband, and sent him to Harrow-on-the-Hill: as Wood was going down stairs with the bundle of clothes, Mrs. Springate asked him what he had got; to which Mrs. Hayes readily replied, a suit of clothes he had borrowed of an acquaintance. Wood coming from Harrow-on-the-Hill, Catherine told him that the head was found: she said she would continue to supply him with money, giving him some other clothes that had belonged to her husband, and 5s.

After the head had been exhibited four days, without leading to a discovery, a surgeon, Mr. Westbrook, was desired to put it in spirits, and keep it for the farther inspection of all who chose to view it. Soon after this, Mrs. Hayes quitted her lodgings, and removed to the house of Mr. Jones, a distiller, paying Mrs. Springate's rent at the former lodgings, and taking her with her. Wood and Billings likewise removed with her: she continued to supply them 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 10*l.* in part of payment, and threatening a prosecution in case of refusal. Mr. Hayes's mother being still alive, Davies, unable to pay the money, applied to the old gentlewoman for assistance, when she 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.

Mr. Hayes not having been seen for a considerable time, his friends began to inquire after him. Mr. Ashby, in particular, who had been on the most intimate terms with him, called on Mrs. Hayes, and demanded what was become of him: Catherine pretended to account for his absence by a communication to 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." Ashby inquiring 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 Mr. Longmore, a near relative of Hayes's, and suggested that he should also call on Catherine, but not let her know that Ashby had seen him; for they supposed that, by comparing accounts, they might form some correct idea. Accordingly, Longmore went to Catherine, and inquired for 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 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 mur-

dered any one?" To this she answered in the affirmative, and, desiring him to walk into another room, told him almost the same story she had told to Mr. Ashby; but instead of saying he was gone to Portugal, said he was retired into Hertfordshire, and, in fear of being attacked, had taken four pistols to defend himself.

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 17s. in his pocket, and about 26 guineas sewed inside 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 Mr. 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. L. said, this must be false, for to his knowledge he was remarkably tender and indulgent to her.

Longmore went immediately to Ashby, and said he had little doubt, from the difference of the stories Catherine had told them, that poor Hayes had been murdered: upon which they determined to go to Eaton, a life-guards-man, another near relative of the deceased, and communicate their suspicions to him; but he not being at home, they agreed to go to Westminster once more; when, upon a second view of the head, they concurred in opinion, that it was certainly the head of Hayes. Subsequently finding Eaton, the three proceeded to Longmore's house, where they dined, and naturally discussed the supposed discovery.

A brother of Longmore's now joined them, who, upon its being proposed that Eaton should go to Mrs. Hayes at the expiration of two or three days, and make inquiries after her husband similar to those previously made by the others, urged his objections, observing, that, as they had reason to believe their suspicions to be so well founded, it would be ill policy to lose any time, since the murderers would certainly effect an escape if they should hear they were suspected; and, as Wood and Billings were drinking with Hayes the last time he was seen, he advised that they should be immediately taken into custody. This appeared so rational, that

it was unanimously agreed to act upon it; and all the parties going soon after to Justice Lambert, they told him their suspicions, with the ground thereof.

The magistrate thereupon granted a warrant for the apprehension of Catherine Hayes, Thomas Woods, Thomas Billings, and Mary Springate, on suspicion of their having been guilty of the murder of John Hayes; and Mr. Lambert, anxious that there should be no failure in the execution of the warrant, determined to attend in person. 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 Mrs. Hayes's lodgings at about nine o'clock at night. Proceeding up stairs without any ceremony, Mr. Jones, the landlord, demanded by what authority they made so free in his house; but, on Mr. Lambert informing him who he was, opposition was withdrawn.

The magistrate going to the door of Mrs. Hayes's room, rapped with his cane; on which she said, "Who's there?" when he commanded her to open the door, or it should be broke open. She replied, she would open it as soon as she had put on her clothes: she did open it in little more than a minute, and was taken into custody. Billings was sitting on the side of her bed barelegged; on which the magistrate asked if they had been sleeping together: Catherine replied, No; Billings had been mending his stockings: to which Mr. Lambert added, "His sight must be extremely good, as there was neither fire or candle-light in the room when we came to the door."

Some of the parties remaining below to secure Catherine and Billings, Longmore and the magistrate went up stairs and took Mrs. Springate into custody; when they were all conducted to the house of Mr. Lambert, who examined them separately, all persisting in their ignorance of anything respecting the murder. They were committed for re-examination, however, before a bench of magistrates on the following day. Mrs. Springate was sent to the Gate House; Billings, to the New Prison; and Mrs. Hayes, to Tothillfields Bridewell.

When the peace-officers, attended by Mr. Longmore, went the next day to fetch up Catherine for examination, she earnestly desired to see the head; and

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being thought prudent to grant her request, she was carried to the surgeon's: no sooner was the head shown her than she exclaimed, "Oh! it is my dear husband's head! it is my dear husband's head!" She now took the glass case that contained it in her arms, and shed many tears while she embraced it. Mr. Westbrook told her he would take the head out, that she might have a more perfect view of it; and on its being done, she seemed to be greatly affected, and, kissing it repeatedly, begged to be indulged with a lock of the hair. Mr. Westbrook expressing his apprehension that she had too much of his blood already, she fell into a fit; and on her recovery she was conducted to Mr. Lambert's for re-examination.

On the morning of this day, as a gentleman and his servant were crossing the fields near Mary-la-bonne, they observed something lying in a ditch, which, upon taking a nearer view of it, they found to consist of some of the parts of a human body. Shocked at the sight, the gentleman despatched his servant for assistance to investigate the affair farther; and some labourers being procured, they dragged the pond, and soon found other parts of the body wrapped up in a blanket; but no head was to be found. A constable brought intelligence of this fact while Mrs. Hayes was under examination before the justices, a circumstance that contributed to strengthen the idea conceived of her guilt. Notwithstanding this, she still persisted in her innocence; but the magistrates, paying no regard to her declarations, committed her to Newgate for trial. Wood being at this time out of town, it was thought prudent to defer the farther examination of Billings and Mrs. 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 resided when the murder was committed; when he was told that she had removed to Mr. Jones's. Accordingly he rode thither and inquired 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 on a visit

to the Green Dragon, in King Street, (kept by Mr. Longmore,) and sent a person 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; and, refusing to make any confession, he was sent to Tothillfields Bridewell for farther examination. At the prison he was informed that the body had been found; and not doubting 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. His commitment was made out for Newgate; but so exceedingly were the passions of the populace excited on the occasion, that it was feared he would be torn to pieces by the mob; and it was therefore 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 uniform 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 different answers, but frequently alleged that Mr. Hayes had been an

unkind husband to her, a circumstance which was contradicted by the report of every person to whom the deceased was known.

In the history of this woman there is a strange mystery. She called Billings her son; but he knew nothing of her being his mother, nor did her relations know anything of the birth of such a child. All that Billings knew of his childhood was, that he had lived with a country shoemaker who passed for his father, and who had sent him to school, and apprenticed him to a tailor. He was said to have been found in a basket near a farmhouse, where he must have been dropped by his unnatural mother.

Thomas Wood was born near Ludlow, in Shropshire, and brought up to the business of husbandry: he was so remarkable for his harmless and sober conduct when a boy, as to be very much esteemed. 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 affairs of the house were insufficient to employ him he worked for the farmers, by which he greatly contributed to the support of the family. On attaining years of maturity he engaged himself as waiter at an inn in the country, whence he removed to other inns, in all his places preserving a fair character. At length he came to London; and, fearful of being impressed, as already mentioned, he obtained the protection of Mr. Hayes, who behaved in a very friendly manner to him, till the arts of a vile woman prevailed upon him to imbrue his hands in the blood of his benefactor.

Mrs. Hayes having made no confession, flattered herself there was a chance of her being acquitted. The indictment being opened, and the witnesses heard, the jury, fully convinced of the commission of the fact, found her guilty.

The prisoners being brought to the bar to receive sentence, Mrs. Hayes entreated that she might not be burnt, according to the then law for petty treason, alleging that she was not guilty, as she did not strike the fatal blow; but she was informed by the court, that the sentence awarded by the law could not be dispensed with.

Billings and Wood also hoped that, as they had made so full and free a confession, they would escape the ignominy of being hung in chains.

After conviction, the behaviour of Wood was uncommonly penitent and devout: he confessed he was ready to suffer death under every mark of disgrace, as some atonement for the atrocious crime he had committed; but, being seized with a violent fever, he died in prison, defeating the final execution of the law.

Billings, who also fully confessed his guilt, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence, saying no punishment could be adequate to the excess of the crime of which he had been guilty, was executed in the usual manner, and hung in chains, not far from the pond in which Mr. Hayes's body was found, in Mary-la-bonne fields.

The behaviour of Mrs. Hayes was at first in no degree reformed: having an intention to destroy herself, she procured a phial of strong poison, which was casually tasted by another female delinquent, who, burning her lips, broke the phial, and thereby frustrated the design. On the 9th of May, 1726, however, she received the sacrament; after which she was drawn on a sledge to Tyburn, to undergo her tragic end.

The wretched woman having finished her devotions, an iron chain was put round her body, by which she was fixed to a post near the gallows. When women were burnt for petty treason, it was customary to strangle them, by means of a rope passed round the neck, and pulled by the executioner, so that they were dead before the flames reached the body: but Catherine Hayes 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 totally pulverised in less than three hours.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 3.

MARCH 16, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF MR. BIRD AND HIS HOUSEKEEPER, OF GREENWICH.



[VIEW OF THE TRANSACTION.]

THE 8th of February, 1818, brought to light the horrible murder of Mr. Bird and his housekeeper, who resided near the Mitre, at Greenwich; the particulars connected with which we purpose laying before our readers in three chapters, the second and third to be given in one or more of our future Numbers.

CHAPTER I.

WE first proceed to a description of facts respecting Mr. Bird, who reached eighty-eight years of age: he had resided many years in the town of Greenwich, where he carried on the trade of a tallow-chandler, in which he had acquired a sufficient property to enable him to retire from business, and live on his income, arising from houses, and money in the funds. Subsequent to the death of his wife, which

happened about two years previous to the occurrence of the event which forms the especial theme of our present tale of horror, no person had resided with him besides his housekeeper, Mary Simmons, who had invariably accompanied him to Greenwich church, at which place he was a regular attendant, being always in his pew at the commencement of the services. On the morning in question it was noticed that they were not in their seats as usual, and that the shutters of their dwelling had not been opened at the usual time; which circumstances afforded the firmest ground for suspecting something peculiar—if not dreadful—had occurred; and a determination was therefore formed of forcing an admission by the garden, at the back of the house. On the entrance of the parties into the passage, a most appalling

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spectacle presented itself: the body of the housekeeper was lying on its face in a shocking state, her skull driven in and fractured in a most inhuman manner. Proceeding from this frightful scene, another presented itself, equally calculated, from its similarity, to make the beholder's "knotty and combined locks to stand erect." In a parlour adjoining the passage, the body of Mr. Bird was lying on its back, with the arms stretched, and the head more fractured than that of his housekeeper: the forehead was driven in about an inch deep, and the wound was as large as a crown-piece. The wounds had no doubt been inflicted with a large blunt instrument, employed by a powerful man, who apparently must have been left-handed.

This horrid disclosure naturally created a very considerable degree of agitation and alarm in the town of Greenwich. Mr. Bignell, a solicitor, sent off an express to the public office, Bow Street; and two officers proceeded, with all possible speed, to examine the premises, and to endeavour to discover suspicious characters, but without finding any trace of the murderer. There was no doubt the object of the attack was plunder: the keys of the drawers and boxes had been procured evidently from the pockets of the deceased, as they were stained with blood. In a drawer which had not been opened were found 31*l.* in bank notes, which were ascertained to be the amount of a dividend Mr. Bird had received at the Bank on the 20th of January: the murderer also left four silver salts, several table and other spoons, and a soup-ladle.

On the dreadful and distressing intelligence being communicated to Mr. Bird's son, he hastened to the house, where the overwhelming grief and distraction with which he was agitated, on viewing the mangled body of his deceased father, was such as can be imagined better than related.

A coroner's inquest was held; and the jury, after being sworn, went to take a view of the bodies, which were found in the state already described. They next took a view of the premises: a brick wall, about eleven feet high, divided the deceased's garden from another in the rear, called Powis's garden, in which the marks of many footsteps were traced; the tile of a summer-house lay on the ground, and

appeared to be newly broken by some person in climbing over the wall, as the marks of footsteps appeared quite plain in the mould on the deceased's garden; in which the old gentleman chiefly passed the day, taking much delight in beautifying it. Two bottles, which appeared to have been recently emptied, and a tobacco-pipe, lay on the parlour table, having the marks of blood upon them; whence it was conjectured that the murderer or murderers had a regalement. The jury adjourned till seven o'clock in the evening, when evidence was adduced to the following effect.

Mr. Frederick Finch, surgeon, swore that the wounds, in his opinion, were inflicted with a bricklayer's hammer, or similar tool.

Mr. David Thomas sworn.—I reside next door to the deceased. The brother of Mr. Bird called at my house, and said he wished to get into his brother's house, which was locked up. He got over my yard, which leads to the deceased's back-door. Efforts had been previously made to get in at the front-door by knocking at it and ringing. I went round to the back of the house with some other persons, and opened the kitchen-window by forcing the shutters. I then entered at the window, and went to the back-door, unlatched and unbolted it, and let several persons in. We walked towards the stairs, and there I saw the body of Mary Simmons, lying at the bottom of the stairs, on her back, quite dead; her head beat in a most dreadful manner, and a vast quantity of blood on the floor which had issued from the wounds. In the front parlour I saw Mr. Bird lying on the floor; his wig was off; on one side of him lay his spectacles, which were broken. On the table lay a pocket-book, with some papers in it, and a lottery-ticket lying at the side of it. A candle and stick stood on the ground. A penknife lay on the floor by his right-hand breeches pocket. There was no watch in his fob-pocket. I remarked the fire which was in the kitchen; the coal on it appeared to have been put on within five hours; it was not burnt at all: the fire would have lasted an hour or two longer. The female, Simmons, lay with her head against the stairs, and her feet towards the front-door. The banister of the stairs was broken. I went up stairs; the beds appeared not to have been laid

in. Some of the bed furnitures were bloody. The drawers were all open, and the articles thrown out on the floor; some of them were also bloody. The face of Simmons was covered with blood; she appeared to have laid face downwards in a gore of blood, and had been turned afterwards face upwards: her pockets had not been rifled.

Mr. William Buer, butcher, who entered the house with the last witness, corroborated his evidence.

Mr. John Lawrence Bicknell, attorney, of Greenwich, went to the house of the deceased about half-past one o'clock on Sunday morning, and searched to find the weapon which the wounds had been inflicted with: he searched the house, but could not find anything like it. In the attic, he found lying on the floor a Bank of England 1*l.* note. There was a trunk on the floor, which had been rifled. It appeared that some person had sat on a chair which stood near the trunk, and had turned over every article in the trunk. There were also a number of letters lying about in confusion. A Bank stock receipt was lying on the bed. The bed had not been lain in since it had been made up; but there was an impression, which appeared to have been caused by some one sitting on it.

At this part of the investigation, the beadle informed the coroner that Sidney, the watchman of London Street, (the street in which the deceased resided,) had found a candle and stick in the cellar of the deceased's house, placed under a wooden utensil, apparently for the purpose of setting fire to the house; supposed to have been placed there after the murders were committed.

The brother of Mary Simmons stated, that his sister had in her box, to his certain knowledge, 7 guineas and some silver.

It was supposed that gold, silver, and bills, belonging to Mr. Bird, had been stolen, to a great amount.

The coroner said, that no evidence had been adduced to fix the murder on any particular person; and if the jury thought proper, as it was late, (eleven o'clock at night,) he would adjourn the inquest to a future day. The jury were of opinion such a proceeding would be best, and it was adjourned accordingly; the jury entering into recognizances, in the sum of

40*l.* each, to appear at the time appointed to renew the investigation.

The Gazette of the following night contained the promise of a pardon to any person concerned in the murders, except the actual perpetrators, who should lead to the apprehension of the murderer or murderers. A reward of 500 guineas, with the same exception, was added on behalf of the inhabitants of the parish of Greenwich.

On the 13th the inquest met again; but nothing important transpired; and their verdict was simply, "Wilful murder against some person or persons unknown." The coffins in which the bodies of the unfortunate persons were deposited were, after their relatives and friends had taken a last view of them, now screwed down; and at the time appointed for their burial, vast crowds assembled together to witness it: such a sight, indeed, was never before viewed in Greenwich. It was a considerable time before the procession could advance, in consequence, from the house of the deceased to Greenwich church, which was to find a shelter for them in their parent earth.

Notwithstanding the most active exertions in seeking the discovery and apprehension of the ferocious perpetrator or perpetrators of these shocking murders, no clue was obtained by which the dreadful mystery could be unravelled until the month of March, when the gradual development of certain accidental circumstances led to the tracing of some of the late Mr. Bird's property in the possession of Charles Hussey, who was therefore pointed out as the probable assassin, and ultimately arrested, tried, and convicted.

Hussey, it appeared, had been so far suspected, immediately after the inquest, as to be detained and questioned on the subject by one of the constables; but the account he then gave of himself, together with the explanation of a publican, in whose house he professed to spend the evening, was considered sufficiently satisfactory to prevent his being carried before a magistrate; and soon after being set at liberty he absconded.

Immediately after a hearing by the magistrates of the circumstances which involved Hussey in suspicion, all possible means were resorted to for effecting his apprehension: more than twenty of the most active metropolitan police-officers

were despatched in every direction—some into distant parts of the country; and advertisements were inserted in all the principal newspapers, describing his person, and repeating the offers of reward for his arrest.

In this instance, the exertions of the regular police-officers were not, however, crowned with their usual success, and the immediate circumstances of his apprehension may almost be considered as accidental. No intelligence was received of him till the 3d of April, when information was received at Bow Street office, from the agent of Mr. Field, attorney, of Deddington, who said he had a letter from Mr. Field, stating that Hussey was taken in that town, and that he would be immediately brought up to London. The letter also stated, that they should travel in the Woodstock coach till within the last stage of London, and then they should come from thence in a post-chaise to avoid bustle and confusion. This communication, which excited a considerable degree of interest, was sent to Greenwich; and Mr. Bicknell, solicitor, of that place, and other gentlemen, attended at the office to be present at his examination.

At four o'clock the magistrates and others were assembled, in anxious expectation of his arrival; and in that state of suspense they were kept for nearly three hours. At half-past five o'clock, a messenger was sent to the inn where the Woodstock coach stops, when it was ascertained that the coach had arrived, but had not brought the expected passengers: some little doubt then began to be entertained of the correctness of the information; but a second letter having been received from another person upon the same subject, it was concluded that something had happened to prevent their travelling in the way intended. In the midst of surmises, a little before seven o'clock, all suspense was relieved by a hackney coach driving to the door, in which were Mr. Field and a constable, with Hussey handcuffed to another man. All was bustle: curiosity was raised to a very high pitch, and a great pressure was made by all present to view the man who was charged with such heinous offences. He was delivered into the custody of Adkins and Vickery, who conveyed him into their room; and after he was released from his handcuffs, the officers proceeded to search

him very minutely: on taking off his boots, something dropped out of one of them, which proved to be a large ring, supposed to be set with diamonds. It was asked if he had been searched in the country? it was answered that he had; but it was admitted that his boots had not been taken off, that he had slept in them, and that they were cleaned on his feet that morning. The account Hussey gave of the ring being in his boot was, that when he went to the privy it fell out of his fob into his boot. "It was" (said he) "among the things—" "What things?" "In the bundle in which the things were that I found against a tree, in Mr. Smith's grounds, at Greenwich." "Is this the account you mean to give of the ring?" "Yes, it is; I have no other account to give."

Mr. Birnie entered the room, and the prisoner, who had dressed himself, after having been searched, was taken into the office, and placed at the bar, with Adkins and Vickery on each side of him. Mr. Birnie then commenced the examination of the prisoner.

John Poulton, the man who discovered and apprehended the prisoner, stated, that he keeps a public-house in Deddington, Oxfordshire, and is constable of the parish. On Tuesday night two men, one of them a lath-render, and the other a tradesman of Wolvercot, came to his house, and called for supper and beds, with which they were accommodated. They left his house about six o'clock on Wednesday morning: they told him their business in travelling was the pursuit of the prisoner, whose person they described very accurately to him, saying he had a gold ring upon his person, with this remarkable inscription on it—"To the memory of six children." The men did not say how they knew the prisoner was in that part of the country, or that he had such a ring as they described upon his person.

Connected with this part of the subject is the following information, though not given in evidence by Poulton.—When Hussey arrived at Wolvercot, a village but a short distance from the city of Oxford, he entered a public-house which is kept by one of the men who went to Deddington in pursuit of him, and gave the information respecting him to Mr. Poulton, and asked if he could have a bed: the landlady not being able to ac-

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commodate him, a butcher offered him one at his house, which he accepted, and slept at his house that night. The landlord and the butcher suspected Hussey to be a collegian from Oxford, he having a very respectable appearance, being dressed in black, &c. He returned to the public-house to breakfast on the Sunday morning, and remained there during that day; in the course of which he took out of his pocket a gold ring, which the landlord by chance happened to look at, and observed the inscription on it, "To the memory of six children." In the evening Hussey presented a 1*l.* bank-note to the landlord to pay the amount of his bill, which the landlord declined taking, having observed several of his acts and his conversation to be mysterious. Hussey then proposed to leave the ear-rings as a security for the payment of the amount of his bill, till he came there again on the Wednesday following, he being then going to Oxford, which the landlord agreed to; and Hussey left the house, saying he was going to Oxford. In consequence of these suspicious circumstances, the landlord was induced to consult a neighbour; and on referring to a newspaper, they were both convinced that this mysterious person was Hussey. The landlord then procured the lath-render to go with him. They heard of a man answering the description of Hussey having slept at the top of a bean-rick; and on continuing their journey, they were instrumental in the apprehension of Hussey, in the way described.

Poulton farther stated, that the two men left his house for Banbury, where they were going in pursuit of him. After the men had left his house, he went and read the Oxford newspaper, in which he saw the prisoner advertised as described by the men. Soon after nine o'clock he saw the prisoner pass by his house; and his person answering the description given by the men and the advertisement, he went out and followed him; he saw him go into the shop of Mr. William Ryman, a next-door neighbour, where he learnt that he had sold a waistcoat for 2*s.*, and had inquired for a painter at Deddington, saying that he was himself a painter. The prisoner went from Mr. Ryman's shop to the tap of the King's Arms inn, where he had some bread and cheese, and a cup of beer. The witness asked a neigh-

bour of the name of Churchill to accompany him: they watched and followed the prisoner from the tap of the King's Arms to a farm-yard, which he supposed was a thoroughfare, whence, finding it was not so, he returned. He was then convinced that the prisoner was a stranger; and he went up to him boldly, and said he must go with him, as he had strong suspicion he was the man advertised. The prisoner, after some hesitation, confessed his name was Charles Hussey. On his taking him to his house he proceeded to search him, and found a watch and a pocket-book, with a ring in it, part of the property stolen from the late Mr. Bird's house.

Mr. Birnie addressed the prisoner—"This constable has brought you here; I presume, you know the charges that are against you." The prisoner denied any knowledge thereof.

The magistrate informed him, he was charged with being the murderer, or one of the murderers, of Mr. Bird and his housekeeper, and with having robbed the house, at Greenwich. He replied, "I know no more about it than you do, your worship. I acted like a villain in not making it known when I had the things" (meaning the things which he said he found against a tree in Mr. Smith's grounds at Greenwich) "which were stolen from Mr. Bird's house."

When Poulton searched the prisoner at Deddington, he asked him for the ring which the men who had been at his house had described as having the inscription on it—"To the memory of six children." The prisoner admitted that he had such a ring, but had thrown it down the privy, at the tap of the King's Arms inn, at Deddington; where, on examination, the ring was found, wrapped up in a piece of rag. This was now produced to the magistrate, as the supposed property of Mr. Bird.

The magistrate called upon Mr. Bicknell, the solicitor, to swear that Charles Hussey was charged with the murder of Mr. Bird, and that he suspected the prisoner to be the man. Mr. Bignell did so, and the examination proceeded.

Mr. Poulton then stated, that the prisoner had been in Deddington about an hour and a half previous to his apprehending him: he had been at the Plough public-house, where he had two pints of beer. The prisoner denied to him any

knowledge of the murders or robbery, but admitted being in possession of the stolen property.

The watch found on him was numbered 343, and made by Miles Patrick, of Greenwich. A pawnbroker's duplicate was also found upon the prisoner, for a ring, dated a few days after the murder and robbery.

The magistrate told the prisoner that it would be necessary for him to account for being possessed of the things which had been stolen. In reply, he said, that between four and five o'clock on the Sunday afternoon, after the murders and robbery, he saw a man get over a wall into Mr. Smith's grounds, at Greenwich, and run; he followed him, and saw him put a bundle down against a large tree and leave it there, and then run again: curiosity led him to the spot, and he opened part of the bundle, and saw two watches and the handle of a silver soup-ladle: he left the bundle then as he found it. On the Saturday afternoon following he went to the spot again, and found the bundle against the tree exactly in the same state as when he left it. He denied that the waistcoat which he sold to Mr. Ryman was part of Mr. Bird's property, averring that he bought it a few miles beyond Oxford. The bundle, he said, did not contain the pocket-book found upon him; but its contents consisted, he believed, of three watches, a silver soup-ladle, a silver wine-strainer, four sheets, six or eight shirts, six rings, a quantity of old silver coins, two 2*l.* Bank of England notes, and three 1*l.* notes. The rings were wrapped up in rags. There was no wearing apparel in the bundle, and he did not recollect anything else that it contained. He put all the things which were in the bundle into his box, which was at Lutton's Greenwich academy.

Being asked what the bundle was wrapped in, he replied, in a spotted shawl; and being asked what had become of that, he answered, it might be there (in the box) now, for anything he knew. He said he had pledged one of the rings at a pawnbroker's in Tottenham Court Road, opposite the Southampton Arms public-house, for 5*s.*, in his own name. He said he had worn black since the time of his losing a relation. His motive for absenting himself was, that he was ashamed to return back, after having

such things in his possession, (meaning Mr. Bird's stolen property,) and not coming forward at the time to tell of it. He removed his box, containing the stolen property, from Lutton's academy to the house of Mrs. Goddard, No. 35, Hughes's Fields, Deptford. He said there was a stiek near the bundle when he found it, as if a man had been carrying it across his shoulder.

He was asked, if he went alone when he went to take some of the things out of the box: to which he replied, that while the box was at Lutton's academy he took the rings out and put them into his pocket; no person was present at the time. He took his box to Mrs. Goddard's on the Wednesday after the Saturday on which he removed the things from Mr. Smith's grounds; William Haslewood was present. It was inquired if he had anything to say respecting the charges made against him: he replied, he had nothing to say upon the subject. "You will be examined on a future day, when witnesses will attend against you; and it will be heard what they have to say," said the magistrate. "Very good, sir," said the prisoner.

Poulton, the constable that apprehended the prisoner, then marked the whole of the property found upon the said prisoner; after which he was bound over to give evidence at the prisoner's trial, at the next assizes for the county of Kent.

The prisoner, who betrayed no particular emotion during the examination, was strongly ironed at the conclusion, and conveyed to the House of Correction, where he remained till the 9th of April; when, it being known that on that day he would be removed to Greenwich for his final examination, a vast multitude collected to see him. At about a quarter before nine o'clock a glass coach drove out, containing the prisoner very heavily ironed, guarded by three police-officers inside, and three or four constables on the outside on foot, which set off for Greenwich. He did not appear to feel the least emotion; there was, in fact, an air of brutal carelessness—a seeming calmness about him. Two of the constables got up behind the coach, and another on the box with the coachman. At who drove on at a quick pace in order to get clear of the crowd. Proceeding

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towards Greenwich, a person mounted horse near Deptford, and rode before the coach, hallooing, Hussey, the murderer, is coming! so that the last part of the road leading into Greenwich was completely lined with spectators.

On their arrival at Greenwich, the coach drove up, amidst several thousands of spectators assembled on the occasion, to the door of the national school, near the church, which was purposely fitted up for the examination. When the coach stopped, the multitude assailed Hussey with horrid execrations of "Blackguard!" "Murderer!" "Drag him out!" "Tear him to pieces!" When the prisoner was conducted out of the coach, he saw his brother, whom he shook by the hand, and spoke to concerning a debt of 5s. He was then taken in and placed at the bar, and his examination proceeded. The prisoner's box being produced, was found to contain five shirts, three watches, a silver punch-ladle, and other articles, and likewise the ring and other things found on the prisoner when apprehended: the whole of the property was identified. The spotted shawl, in which the stolen property was tied up, was also produced, stained with blood.

The evidence adduced was calculated clearly to bring the murder home to the prisoner; upon which he made a similar defence to that made at Bow Street, with the addition that on the Saturday night of the murder he was at a free and easy club. The man whom he described as having seen running with the stolen property, wore a brown jacket and white trowsers. He said that, after the man had put the bundle, containing the stolen property, down against the tree and left it, he, after slightly examining it, covered it with a mat and some rubbish; thus accounting for its not having been discovered after leaving it there for seven days.

After the examination had closed, it was with great difficulty Hussey could be preserved from the rage of the populace: he was obliged to be conveyed through a private way in the churchyard, when he seeming was put into a coach, which conveyed him to Maidstone gaol, to be confined there till his trial.

At the Kent assizes, July 31, 1818, in order the prisoner was brought to the bar, and arraigned on two indictments; namely,

for the wilful murder of Mr. George Bird and his maid-servant, Mary Simmons. He was dressed in a good black coat and waistcoat, and mixed pantaloons; and he appeared composed, both in his manner of entering the court, and the mode of answering the questions put to him on his arraignment. When the clerk of the arraigns put to him the usual questions, "Guilty or Not guilty," and how he would be tried, he answered with a firm tone, and with something like a practised manner, "Not guilty;" and, he would be tried by God and his country.

A model of the premises was exhibited in court, representing the situation of Mr. Bird's house with respect to the academy, where Hussey deposited his box, and the other buildings mentioned in evidence. The plan was on a large scale, but the court remarked, that, if not necessary, it would rather tend to perplex and distract the minds of the Jury than to enlighten them.

Mr. Berens opened the pleadings; after which Mr. Serjeant Onslow, in a luminous statement, detailed the circumstances of the case, giving a connected view of the evidence which he was to bring forward, showing how it bore against the prisoner, examining the weight of every part of it, and laying it before the jury in a very methodical and distinct manner. He dwelt particularly on the discovery of a hammer in a pond near Vansittart's Place, Greenwich, the size and shape of which corresponded with the marks on the bodies of the murdered victims, which hammer it would be shown in evidence belonged to one of the witnesses, who had lost it a short time before the murder from a room to which Hussey had free and constant access. The learned serjeant also commented on the evidence which contradicted the statements made by Hussey in his own defence, both in his examination before the magistrates, and in two letters found on his person when apprehended—the one addressed to Mrs. Walmsley, the mistress of the Tiger's Head public-house, at Greenwich, and the other to his brother. These letters said that he had embarked for America, though he was then in Oxfordshire—in the heart of England; and that he had been all the Saturday night, from seven o'clock downwards, when the murder was committed, at the Tiger's Head, among the society

that met there, called the lodge of Odd Fellows: this last statement he would disprove by the evidence of persons who were there. The whole evidence, he reminded the jury, was circumstantial; but, according to a trite observation, circumstantial evidence was sometimes stronger than direct testimony, as circumstances could not be so easily falsified.

The remaining chapters will contain an ample account of the evidence brought forward at the trial, the judge's charge to the jury, with his summing up; concluding with an account of the prisoner's confession as to how far he was guilty of the crimes imputed to him, and for the commission of which he suffered the utmost penalty of the law, in the forfeit of his life.

A WISE JURY.

Our readers have doubtless heard of the jurymen who formed one of the inquest upon the body of a man who drowned himself in a canal somewhere in Lancashire, and who, upon his brother jurymen wishing to bring in a verdict of *Felo de se*, observed, "Fell in the sea be blowed! Didn't he fall in the canal?" A "round dozen" of wise men, at the Old Bailey, a few months ago, before whom two women were tried for stealing some mutton, after a long consultation, found the prisoners "Guilty, but not with a felonious intent." This hot-and-cold verdict somewhat posed the common serjeant, who at last observed, "Then they are not guilty; if guilty, the intent must be felonious." The foreman of the jury hereupon started up, as if some sudden light had just broken in upon him, and exclaimed, "O then, my lord, they are Not guilty." The Lancashire jurymen was a Solomon compared to the wiseacres at the Old Bailey.

CRIMINAL RETURNS FOR 1835: DECREASE OF CRIME.

An interesting document, showing the decrease of crime, has just been printed by order of the commissioners of the Metropolitan police. It is entitled "Criminal Returns for 1835; or, the number of persons taken into custody by the Metropolitan police, and the results of the charges in the year 1835, with comparative statements for the years 1831, 1832,

1833, 1834, and 1835." A copy of it has been forwarded to every magistrate acting in those divisions of the counties of Middlesex, Surrey, Kent, and Essex, within the commissioners' jurisdiction. The following is a synopsis of its contents.

Taken into custody during the year—Males, 41,255; Females, 22,219. Total, 63,474; being a decrease from the numbers taken during 1832, of no less than 14,069; and from the previous year, (1834,) of 795.

Of whom were discharged by the magistrates—Males, 19,987; Females, 12,557. Total, 32,544.

Summarily convicted, or held to bail—Males, 18,921; Females, 8,896. Total, 27,817.

Committed for trial—Males, 2,347; Females, 766. Total, 3,113; of which number, 1,736 Males, and 501 Females, were convicted and sentenced to the following punishments.

Death—Males, 51; and 1 Female. Total, 52.

Transportation for life—Males, 66; Females, 13. Total, 79.

Transportation for fourteen years—Males, 58; Females, 9. Total, 67.

Transportation for ten years—1 Female (for stealing from the person).

Transportation for seven years—Males, 518; Females, 89. Total, 607.

Imprisoned various periods—Males, 1,027; Females, 382. Total, 1,409.

Whipped and discharged—3 Males.

Fined and discharged—8 Males.

Acquitted—Males, 439; Females, 169. Total, 608.

Bills not found, or not prosecuted—Males, 171; Females, 96. Total, 267.

The greatest number of persons taken into custody during the year for any one offence was 21,794; namely, 14,271 Males, and 7,523 Females, who were charged with drunkenness: of whom the greatest number charged in one month was in October last; and the greatest number of charges received at the police stations in any one of the twelve months was in August last, when 3,704 Males and 2,124 Females (total 5,828) were taken into custody.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 4.

MARCH 23, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF MR. J. C. STEELE, ON HOUNSLOW HEATH.



[THE VICTIM IN THE CLUTCHES OF HIS DIABOLICAL ADVERSARIES.]

On the 6th of November, 1802, Mr. John Cole Steele, who kept the Lavender Warehouse, in Catherine Street, Strand, was murdered, with much barbarity, on Hounslow Heath, and his pockets rifled of their contents. The murderers escaped; and, though rewards were offered for their apprehension, no discovery was made. Every search had been made by the officers of the police after them; several loose characters, apprehended on suspicion, were discharged on examination; and all hopes had been given up of ever tracing the murderers, when a circumstance occurred about four years afterwards, which led to the apprehension of John Holloway and Owen Haggerty. A man of the name of Benjamin Hanfield, who had been convicted at the Old Bailey of grand larceny, was sentenced to seven years' transporta-

tion: he was conveyed on board a hulk at Portsmouth, to await his departure for New South Wales; but having been taken with a severe illness, and tortured in his mind by the recollection of the murder in question, about which he constantly raved, he said he wished to make a discovery before he died. A messenger was immediately despatched to the police magistrates at Bow Street, to communicate this circumstance; and an officer was sent to bring him before them. When he was brought on shore, they were obliged to wait several days, his illness not permitting his removal; but immediately upon his arrival in town, the magistrates sent him, in custody of an officer, to Hounslow Heath; when he pointed out the fatal spot where the murder was committed, and related all the circumstances which

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he alleged to have attended it: and as his evidence implicated Haggerty and Holloway, measures were taken to apprehend them. As soon as their apprehension was effected, several private examinations of all the parties took place; and, Hanfield being admitted king's evidence, the public once more cherished a hope that the murderers would at length meet the punishment they deserved.

Monday, the 9th of February, 1807, being the day appointed for the final and public examination of the reputed perpetrators of this atrocious murder, Holloway and Haggerty were brought up before Joseph Moser, Esq., the sitting magistrate at Worship Street police-office, charged with the wilful murder of Mr. John Cole Steele, on Saturday night, the 6th of November, 1802, on Hounslow Heath. There was a great body of evidence adduced, none of which tended materially to criminate the prisoners, except that of Hanfield, the accomplice, who, under the promise of pardon, had turned king's evidence: the prisoners, indeed, denied having any knowledge whatever of the crime laid to their charge, heartily expressing a hope that punishment would fall upon the guilty. The magistrates, however, after maturely considering the whole of the evidence adduced, thought proper to commit the prisoners fully for trial at the next Quarter Sessions at the Old Bailey, and bound over no less than twenty-four persons to appear and give evidence.

Such was the eager curiosity of the public to know the issue of this trial, which came on before Sir Simon Le Blanc, on the 20th of February, 1807, that the whole court and area of the Old Bailey was crowded to excess. When put to the bar, Holloway appeared to be about forty years of age, of great muscular strength, tall, and of savage, brutal, and ferocious countenance, with large thick lips, depressed nose, and high cheek-bones. Haggerty was a small man, reported twenty-four years of age.

The first witness called was Mr. Meyer, brother-in-law to the murdered Mr. Steele, who deposed, that the deceased left his house in London on the 5th of November, 1802, giving his family to understand that he should return on the next day. He proceeded to Feltham that night, where he had a house and garden, to

grow and distil lavender: he left Feltham on Saturday evening for the purpose of returning to London, which place he never reached. His long absence caused alarm in his family, and a number of persons were despatched in different directions in search of him: at length his body was found in a ditch, shockingly disfigured by wounds, and a leathern strap tied very tight round the neck; by the side of the body was found a large bludgeon, a pair of old shoes, and an old hat, trimmed with worsted binding. At some distance on the other side of the road, were discovered several marks of blood; and the body seemed to have been dragged some distance from the spot where the murder had been committed.

Mr. H. Manny was next called.—He stated that he was inspector to the works of the late Mr. Steele, at Feltham, at the time this transaction took place. He well recollected that Mr. Steele was there on Saturday, the 6th of November, and that he left Feltham about seven o'clock in the evening, with the intention of returning to town. This witness now entered into a description of his dress, which corresponded with the account given before the coroner.

William Pugh, who was next called, said, that in the month of November, 1802, in consequence of a report that the deceased was missing, he was employed to search for the body; that accordingly himself, with several others, entered upon a strict search, in which they were ultimately successful: the body was found lying at the bottom of a ditch near a clump of trees, at a short distance from the barracks. The witness described very minutely the position of the body, and the wounds that were first perceptible.

Mr. H. Frogley, a surgeon, of Hounslow, was employed to examine the body at the time it lay at the Ship public-house for the coroner's jury; and he gave it as his decided opinion that Mr. Steele certainly died in consequence of the violent bruises he had received. The witness examined the body of the deceased, and found not only an extensive fracture on the forehead, sufficient to occasion death, with laceration of the ligaments, but also a great laceration on the back part of the head, and some severe bruises on the upper part of the right arm. In fact, the horrid and in-

human perpetrator or perpetrators of this atrocious deed seemed to have exercised their utmost cruelty on the unfortunate victim, who must, for some considerable time after he was deserted, have been in a state of miserable suffering.

For the better illustration of the testimony adduced, a sketch of Hounslow Heath (by Mr. Kinnaird) was now produced in court; and the king's pardon, under the great seal, to Benjamin Hanfield, alias Enfield, remitting his sentence of transportation for seven years, for a larceny of which he had been convicted, and restoring him to the competency of a witness, being read, a deposition was made by him to the following effect. "I have known Haggerty eight or nine years, and Holloway six or seven. We were in the habit of meeting at the Black Horse and the Turk's Head public-houses, in Dyot Street. I was in their company in the month of November, 1802. Holloway, just before the murder, called me out from the Turk's Head, and asked me if I had any objection to be in a good thing? I replied, I had not. He said it was a *Low Toby*; meaning, it was a foot-pad robbery. I asked, when and where? and he said he would let me know. We parted, and two days after we met again, when Saturday, the 6th of November, was appointed for carrying our design into execution. I asked who was to go with us? He replied, that Haggerty had agreed to make one. We all three met on the Saturday, at the Black Horse, when Holloway said, Our business is to *serve* a gentleman on Hounslow Heath, who I understand travels that road with property. We then sat drinking about three or four hours, and near the middle of the day we set off for Hounslow. We stopped at the Bell public-house, and had some porter. We proceeded from thence upon the road towards Belfont, expressing a hope that we should get a good booty. We stopped near the eleventh mile-stone, and secreted ourselves in a clump of trees. While there, the moon got up, and Holloway said we had come too soon. After loitering about for a considerable time, Holloway said he heard a footstep, and we proceeded towards Belfont. We presently saw a man coming towards us; and, on approaching him, we ordered him to stop, which he immediately did. Holloway went round him, and told him

to deliver. He said, we should have his money, and he hoped we would not ill use him. The deceased put his hand in his pocket, and gave Haggerty his money. I demanded his pocket-book: he replied, he had none. Holloway insisted that he had a book, and if he did not deliver it he would knock him down. I then laid hold of his legs. Holloway stood at his head, and said, if he cried out he would knock out his brains. The deceased again said, he hoped we would not ill use him. Haggerty proceeded to search him, when the deceased made some resistance, and struggled so much, that we got across the road. He cried out terribly; and as a coach was coming up, Holloway said, 'Take care, I will silence the b——!' and immediately struck several violent blows on his head and body indiscriminately. The deceased heaved a heavy groan, and stretched himself out lifeless. I said, 'John, you have killed the man!' Holloway replied, it was a lie, for he was only stunned. I said I would stay no longer, and immediately set off towards London, leaving Holloway and Haggerty with the body. I came to Hounslow, and stopped at the end of the town for near an hour. Holloway and Haggerty then came up, and said they had done the trick, and, as a token, put deceased's hat into my hand. The hat Holloway went down in was like a soldier's hat. I told Holloway that it was a cruel piece of business, and that I was sorry I had any hand in it. We all turned down a lane, and returned to London. As we came along, I asked Holloway if he had the pocket-book: he replied, it was no matter, for as I had refused to share the danger I should not share the booty. We came to the Black Horse, in Dyot Street, had half-a-pint of gin, and parted. Haggerty went down in shoes, but I don't know if he came back in them. The next day I observed Holloway had a hat upon his head which was too small for him: I asked him if it was the same he got the preceding night: he said it was. We met again the following Monday, when I told Holloway that he acted imprudently in wearing the hat, as it might lead to a discovery: he put the hat into my hand, and I observed the name of Steele in it: I then repeated my fears more anxiously; and at night Holloway brought the hat in a handkerchief, on

which we went to Westminster bridge, where we filled the hat with stones, and, having tied the lining over them, threw it into the Thames."

This witness being cross-examined by counsel for the prisoners, said, he had made no other minutes of the transactions he had been detailing than what his conscience took cognizance of. It was accident that led to this disclosure. He was talking with other prisoners in Newgate of particular robberies that had taken place; and the Hounslow robbery and murder being mentioned among others, he inadvertently said, that there were only three persons who knew of that transaction. The remark was circulated and commented upon, and a rumour ran through the prison that he was about to turn nose; and he was obliged to hold his tongue, lest he should be ill-used. When at Portsmouth, on board the hulks, the compuncions of conscience came upon him, and he was obliged to dissipate his thoughts by drinking, to prevent him from divulging all he knew. He admitted that he had been concerned in several robberies, and had entered and deserted from several regiments. He had served in the East and West London militias, had enlisted in the 9th and 14th light dragoons, and had been in the army of reserve. He added, that he was ashamed and sorry at what he had been, and would endeavour to mend his life in future.

John Vickery stated, that he had been sent to Portsmouth to bring up Hanfield, who was then confined on board the hulks, waiting to be transported with others, pursuant to his sentence. He was immediately delivered into his custody, and they returned to London. As they passed across the heath of Hounslow, on the top of the coach, Hanfield pointed to a spot near a clump of trees, just at the eleventh mile-stone, which he said was the place where the murder had been committed; but they had then no farther conversation on the subject, as they were surrounded by people on the top of the coach. Hanfield, on his arrival in town, underwent an examination; in consequence of which he and the witness went together to Hounslow. They stopped at the Bell inn, whence they proceeded to the heath; when Hanfield again pointed out the place where the

crime was perpetrated, which the witness thought exactly the same as that pointed out by the former witness, detailing the circumstances of the murder previous to his escape from his companions, in almost the same words as he had described them to the court. Witness and he returned to town. Soon after, the witness apprehended Holloway at Brentford, during the last election, and brought him to town. When he was examined before the presiding magistrate of the Worship Street office, he declared he was perfectly innocent; but added, if they would let him go, he would down on his knees to the magistrates and the witness: when he was remanded for farther examination.

Witness likewise went down to Deal, and apprehended the prisoner Haggerty, whom he found on board the Shannon, serving as a marine.

Several witnesses were called, who proved that they had frequently seen Holloway and Haggerty in company with each other.

John Nares, Esq., the magistrate, said, that the prisoners were examined by him apart, when Hanfield was produced in evidence against them. He then read Haggerty's examination from a paper, in which he denied knowing anything of either Hanfield or Holloway, or being at the Turk's Head or the Black Horse public-houses. Haggerty acknowledged he had been in confinement in July, 1802, in Tothillfields. After his liberation, he said, he worked for some time with Mr. Smith, of Castle Street, as a plasterer; that his working-dress was usually a green velveteen jacket and small clothes; but Mr. Smith denied his having ever been employed by him. The same paper stated, that Holloway had acknowledged he knew Hanfield and Haggerty, but had never drank in their company; had never been at Hounslow in his life. He alleged he had worked for a Mr. Rose, and others, in November, 1802, which, on application, was found to be inaccurate, as he had not worked for them till March, 1803.

James Bishop, a police-officer, stated, that in the rear of the public-office in Worship Street are some strong rooms, for the safe keeping of prisoners during their successive examinations. In two of these rooms, adjacent to each other, and separated by a strong partition, the

prisoners were separately confined; and immediately behind these rooms is a privy. In this privy he took post regularly, after each successive day's examination; and as the privy went behind both rooms, he could distinctly overhear the conversation of the prisoners, as they spoke pretty audibly to each other from either side of the partition. Of this conversation he took notes, which were afterwards copied out fairly, and proved before the magistrates; and which he, on this occasion, read as his evidence in court.

Mr. Andrews, counsel for the prisoners, objected to this sort of evidence, it being impossible, he said, that the officers could overhear all that was said; and the conversations thus mutilated might be misconstrued; besides, the minds of officers, for the sake of reward, were always prejudiced against prisoners. These objections were, however, overruled by the court.

Those conversations ran to a very considerable length; but the material points were few. They showed, however, from the words of the prisoners' own conversation, that all they said before the magistrates, in the denial of any acquaintance with each other, or with Hanfield, was totally false, and was a mere stratagem to baffle the testimony of the latter, who they hoped had secured his own execution by confessing his guilt, without being able to prove theirs; for they were confident the magistrates would not believe his testimony; and that there was no other witness to prove any clue to the fact, or that saw them together near Hounslow, where, from the whole connected tenor of their conversation, it was clear they had been on the night of the murder. Haggerty asked Holloway after one of the latter examinations, "Where did Hanfield say we had the gin that night, after we came to town?" To which Holloway answered, "At the Black Horse, Dyot Street." Haggerty then replied, "It must be the Black Horse where we had the gin, sure enough."

John Smith, a coachman of the Gosport coach, in the month of November, 1802, near eight o'clock in the evening of the 6th day, heard, as he passed across Hounslow Heath, on the right-hand side of the road, near the eleven mile-stone, two groans, the last more faint than the other; on which he remarked to some

one on the outside of the coach, that there was something desperate carrying on there.

Isaac Clayton, beadle of Hounslow, said, he received a pair of shoes and a stick from some person he does not recollect, just after the murder of Mr. Steele: he recollected, near six years ago, seeing Holloway in company with a man of the same name, who had a wooden leg, about the town of Hounslow; and had seen him also at Brentford election and at other places. The prisoner acknowledged that he knew him, when examined in Worship Street.

Joseph Townsend, a police-officer of Worship Street, produced a huge knotty bludgeon, a pair of shoes, and a hat, which had been given several years ago to Clayton, by Hughes, and were delivered to him by Clayton.

J. Blackman, officer, knew Haggerty seven years, Hanfield five years, and Holloway a year and a half. About four years ago, he had often seen them together at the Turk's Head, where he conversed with Haggerty, and observed to him he had lately been in a good thing, as his dress was much improved: the prisoner said, he had left it all off now, as he was serving a plasterer, near Hounslow. He was dressed in a green velvet jacket and small clothes.

A hat was then produced in court, which had been the property of the deceased, by whom it was given to a servant-man, who had since worn it almost to rags. The hat had been very much widened in the wearing, and when placed on Holloway's head it appeared rather too large for him.

William Robinson, hatter to the deceased, stated, that the hat must have been enlarged by wearing, as he had Mr. Steele's measure in 1802, and could answer for it that the deceased's hat must nearly fit the prisoner Holloway, as their heads were nearly the same size.

William Britten, shoemaker, knew well the deceased's measure, and thought his boots would fit the prisoner Haggerty. The shoes produced in court, he said, he had tried on the prisoner, and found them rather too large; but added, that it was plain from the manner the hind quarter of the shoe had fallen inwards, that they were too large for their original wearer.

The case for the prosecution being

closed, the prisoners were called on to make their defence.

Haggerty protested he was completely innocent of the charge, and was totally ignorant of the witness Hanfield: he denied ever having been at Hounslow, and endeavoured to point out some inconsistencies in the evidence which had been adduced by Hanfield.

Holloway declared he was equally innocent of the charge; but admitted he had been at Hounslow more than once, and might have been in the company of the prisoners Haggerty and Hanfield, but was not acquainted with either of them.

The prisoners' counsel then produced, as a witness for the prisoners, John Shuter, one of the head turnkeys of the jail, in whose custody Hanfield had been for some time. He then proceeded to ask some questions, tending to invalidate Hanfield's evidence; but as the witness could state nothing from his own knowledge, he was not permitted to be farther examined.

Mr. Justice Le Blanc summed up the evidence in a very clear and perspicuous manner, making some very humane observations upon the nature of the testimony given by accomplices, recommending the jury to divest themselves of every feeling but that of strict justice, and to compare with precision the circumstantial evidence, (which was the only evidence we could arrive at in most cases of murder, on account of its usual secrecy,) with the direct and positive testimony of the witness Hanfield. He admitted that such testimony should be received with caution; yet such strong collateral evidence must have its due weight and influence on their verdict.

The jury retired for about a quarter of an hour, and returned with a verdict of Guilty against both the prisoners.

The recorder immediately passed sentence in the most solemn and impressive manner; and the unhappy men were ordered for execution on the following Monday morning. They went from the bar protesting their innocence, and apparently careless of the miserable and ignominious fate that awaited them. After their conviction, indeed, the prisoners conducted themselves with the most decided indifference.

On Saturday, the 20th of February, the cell-door No. 1, in which they were

both confined, was opened about half past two, when they were discovered reading the Prayer-book by candle-light, the cell being very dark.

On Sunday several magistrates interrogated them, but they still persisted in their innocence.

During the whole of Sunday night they were engaged in prayer; they slept not, but broke the awful stillness of midnight by frequent reciprocated protestations of innocence. At five they were called, dressed, and shaved; and about seven were brought into the press-yard. There was some difficulty in knocking off the irons of Haggerty; he voluntarily aided, though he seemed much dejected, but by no means pusillanimous. A message was then delivered to the sheriffs, purporting that Holloway wanted to speak with them in private. This excited very sanguine hopes of a confession; but the sheriffs, on their return, informed the gentlemen in the press-yard that Holloway wanted to address them publicly, and therefore requested they would form themselves into a circle, from the centre of which Holloway delivered, in the most solemn manner, the following energetic address: "Gentlemen, I am quite innocent of this affair. I never was with Hanfield, nor do I know the spot. I will kneel, and swear it." He then knelt down, and imprecated curses on his head if he were not innocent, and concluded, "By God, I am innocent."

Owen Haggerty then ascended the scaffold: his arms were pinioned, and the halter was round his neck: he wore a white cap, and a light olive shag great coat: he looked downwards, and was silent. He was attended by a Roman Catholic clergyman, who read to him, and to whom the unfortunate culprit seemed to pay great attention: he made no public acknowledgment of either guilt or innocence. After the executioner had tied the fatal noose, he brought up John Holloway, who wore a smock-frock and jacket, as it had been stated he did at the time of the murder: he had also a white cap on; was pinioned, and had a halter round his neck: he had a hat in his hand; and mounting the scaffold, he jumped and made an awkward bow, and said, "I am innocent, innocent, by God!" He then turned round, and bowing, made use incoherently, as it were, of the same

expressions, "Innocent, innocent, innocent! Gentlemen!—No verdict! No verdict! No verdict! Gentlemen—Innocent!" At this moment, and while in the act of saying more, the executioner proceeded to do his office, by placing the cap over the face of Holloway; to which he complied with apparent reluctance, at the same time uttering something. As soon as the rope was fixed round his neck, he continued quiet. He was attended in his devotions by an assistant at the Rev. Rowland Hill's chapel.

Holloway and Haggerty had a fellow-victim to the scaffold in the person of Elizabeth Godfrey, who had been a woman of the town, and had been capitally convicted of the wilful murder of Richard Prince, in Mary-la-bonne parish, on the 25th of December, 1806, by giving him a mortal wound with a pocket-knife in the left eye, of which wound he languished and died. Immediately on receiving sentence, the woman's firmness and recollection seemed to fail her, and she appeared bordering on a state of frenzy. At the place of execution she was dressed in white, with a close cap, and long sleeves; and was attended by the Rev. Mr. Ford, the ordinary of Newgate; but her feelings appeared to be so much overpowered, that, notwithstanding she bore the appearance of resignation in her countenance, her whole frame was so shaken by the terror of her situation, that she was incapable of showing any marks of actual devotion.

The unhappy beings were all launched into eternity together, about a quarter after eight. It was a long time before the body of the poor female seemed to have gone through its last suffering.

The fatal accident which happened on the spot, at the moment of the execution of these culprits, which took place on Monday, as before stated, the 22d of November, 1807, by which more than forty people lost their lives, and many more were terribly bruised, will cause their execution to remain more particularly conspicuous from generation to generation. The case of the supposed murderers, indeed, was attended with singular and awful circumstances: even of their guilt many entertained doubts, which are not entirely removed, though no farther discovery has been made respecting the horrid deed. Their con-

viction rested, certainly, on the evidence of a wretch as base as themselves, who admitted himself to have been their accomplice.

The crowd which assembled to witness this execution was unparalleled, comprising, according to the best calculation, nearly forty thousand persons; and the fatal catastrophe which happened in consequence was peculiarly appalling. By eight o'clock not an inch of ground was unoccupied in view of the platform: the pressure of the crowd was such, that before the criminals appeared, numbers of persons were crying out in vain to escape from it; the attempt only tended to increase the dilemma. Several females of low stature, who had been so imprudent as to venture among the mob, were in a truly pitiable situation: their cries were dreadful. Some, who could be no longer supported by the men, were suffered to fall, and were trampled to death. This also was the case with several men and boys. In all parts there were continued cries of Murder! Murder! particularly from children and the female part of the spectators, some of whom were seen expiring without the possibility of obtaining even the least assistance, every one being employed in endeavours to preserve his own life. The most affecting scene of distress was probably at Green Arbour Court, nearly opposite the debtor's door: the deplorable occurrence which took place near this spot was attributed to the circumstance of two pie-men attending there to dispose of their pies; and one of them having his basket overthrown, which stood upon a sort of stool with four legs, some of the mob, not being aware of what had happened, and at the same time severely pressed, fell over the basket and the man at the moment he was picking it up, together with its contents. Those for the most part who once fell were never more suffered to rise, such was the violence and uncontrollability of the mob. At this fatal place, a man of the name of Herrington was thrown down, who had in his hand his youngest son, a fine boy about twelve years of age: the youth was soon trampled to death; the father recovered, though much bruised, and was among the wounded in St. Bartholomew's hospital. A woman, who was so imprudent as to bring with her a child at the breast, was one of the number killed:

whilst in the act of falling, she forced the child into the arms of the man nearest to her, requesting him, for God's sake, to save its life: the man finding it required all his exertion to preserve himself, threw the infant from him, but it was fortunately caught at a distance by another man, who, finding it difficult to ensure its safety or his own, got rid of it in a similar way. The child was again caught by a person who contrived to struggle with it to a cart, under which he deposited it until the danger was over, by the mob having dispersed. In other parts the pressure was so great, that a horrible scene of confusion ensued, and seven persons lost their lives by suffocation alone. It was awfully frightful to behold a large body of the crowd, as for one convulsive effort to preserve life, fight with the fury of a fiend or a savage with each other; the direful consequence of which was, that the weakest, particularly the women, fell a sacrifice. A cart, which was overloaded with spectators, broke down, and some of the persons falling, trampled under foot, lost all power of recovery.

During the hour that the culprits were hanging, little assistance could be tendered to the unhappy sufferers; but after the bodies were cut down, and the gallows were removed to the Old Bailey yard, the marshals and constables cleared the street in which the catastrophe occurred, and, shocking to relate, there were nearly one hundred persons lying dead or in a state of insensibility, forming a spectacle the most overwhelming to the feelings and the sympathies of our nature imaginable. Twenty-seven dead bodies were taken to St. Bartholomew's hospital; four, to St. Sepulchre's church; one to the Swan inn, Snow Hill; one, to a public-house opposite St. Andrew's church, Holborn; one, an apprentice, to his master's: besides these, were Mr. Broadwood, piano-forte maker, in Golden Square; and a gentleman named Harrison, taken to his house at Holloway; a mother was also seen carrying away the dead body of her son: there was a sailor boy killed opposite Newgate, by suffocation; he carried a small bag, in which he had some bread and cheese; whence it is supposed he came from some distance to behold the execution. After the dead, dying, and wounded were carried away, there was a cart-load of shoes, hats, petticoats, and

other articles of wearing apparel picked up. Until four o'clock in the afternoon, most of the surrounding houses had some persons in a wounded state; they were afterwards taken away by their friends on shutters or in hackney-coaches. The doors of St. Bartholomew's hospital were for some time closed against the populace: but after the bodies of the dead were stripped and washed, they were ranged round a ward on the first floor, on the women's side; and placed on the floor with sheets over them, and their clothes put as pillows under their heads; their faces were uncovered: there was a rail along the centre of the room; and the persons who were admitted to see the shocking spectacle went up on one side, and returned out on the other. Until two o'clock, the entrances to the hospital were beset with mothers weeping for their sons—wives for their husbands—sisters for their brothers—various individuals for their respective relatives and friends!

Seldom has such a scene of distress and misery presented itself in this metropolis. When the gates were first opened, a great concourse was admitted; and when the yard was full, the gates were again closed, until the first visitors retired from the scene of woe: as soon as any of the deceased were recognised, the body was either put into a shell, or the face covered over, with the name of the party written on a paper, and pinned over the body.

The next day, Tuesday, a coroner's inquest sat in St. Bartholomew's hospital, and other places where the bodies were lying, on the remains of the sufferers. An examination of several witnesses with respect to the circumstances of the accident took place, which examination continued till Friday, when a verdict was returned, "That the several persons came by their death from compression and suffocation."

What another illustration of the fall of man beneath the level of the most degraded brute beast with which history has made us acquainted, do the details of the murder of Mr. Steele present to the mind of even the most degenerate: let them take warning ere it be too late!

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 5.

MARCH 30, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 1.

RICHARD TURPIN.



[TURPIN'S ENCOUNTER WITH KING, ANOTHER HIGHWAYMAN.]

UNDER the head of "History of the most notorious Highwaymen," it is intended to bring forward a series of villains of a distinct character from that which may be classed with criminals in general, from the numerous instances of their atrocities, many of which have been of the most horrifying and outrageous nature. The same plan will likewise be adopted with respect to "Pirates," the infamies of many of whom, in their extent and criminality combined, can scarcely be equalled by any other gang of delinquents than that comprising the most notorious Highwaymen; the delight of either of these gangs being in cold-blooded deeds of murder and torture, and a perpetual following-up

of plunder by wholesale, with the practice of every iniquity in the catalogue of desperate and diabolical adventures.

THE villain commonly called Dick Turpin must be regarded as one of the most distinguished public characters familiar to the country in which he figured; at all events, it is a happy circumstance that few "public characters" (a phrase to which individuals of a certain "order" have evinced strong attachment) have become so distinguished as the delinquent whose history we are about to relate in the following pages of our present Number; and it is no less fortunate that some of our public characters (using the term in

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the sense just referred to) have been equally distinguished for their virtues as Turpin and his compeers have been for their deeds of abomination; though the blackest crimes touch the public mind more forcibly, and not less transiently, than the brightest amiabilities, the latter being limited to the circle in which the possessor moves, while the former is rung in heavy numbers upon the listening ear of the populace at large, who catch the sounds as they vibrate with the tenest anxiety and perturbation.

Dick Turpin was for a long time the dread of travellers on the Essex road, on account of the daring robberies he daily committed; he was also a noted house-breaker; and though for a considerable time remarkably successful in his desperate course, he was at length brought to an ignominious end, by circumstances which, in themselves, may appear trifling: he was apprehended in consequence of shooting a fowl; and his brother refusing to pay 6*d.* for the postage of his letter occasioned his conviction. He was the son of a farmer and grazier at Thaxted, in Essex, the place of his birth; and, having received a common school education, he was apprenticed to a butcher in White-chapel, in whose house he was conspicuous for gross impropriety of behaviour, and brutality of manners. On the expiration of his apprenticeship, at the persuasion of his friends, who hoped such a course would restrain his evil pursuits, he wedded a young woman of East Ham, in Essex, named Hester Palmer, of a respectable family: but he had not been long married before he took to the practice of stealing his neighbours' cattle, which he used to kill and cut up for sale.

Having stolen two oxen belonging to Mr. Giles, of Plaistow, he drove them to his own house; but two of Giles's servants, suspecting who was the robber, went to Turpin's, where they saw two carcases corresponding with the beasts which had been lost: as the hides were stripped from them, it was impossible to say that they were the same; but learning that Turpin used to dispose of his hides at Waltham Abbey, they went thither, and saw the hides of the beasts that had been stolen; when, no doubt remaining as to who was the robber, a warrant was procured for the apprehension of Turpin, who, learning that the peace-officers were in search of

him, made his escape from the back window of his house at the very moment the others were entering the door. Having retreated to a place of security, he found means to inform his wife where he was concealed; on which she furnished him with money, when he travelled into the hundreds of Essex, where he joined a gang of smugglers, with whom he was for some time successful; till a set of the custom-house officers, by one successful stroke, deprived him of all his ill-acquired gains. His association with these smugglers commenced under strange circumstances: at a loss, in his retirement, to find means of replenishing his pocket, he hit upon the expedient of robbing the smugglers he might meet on the road, taking care not to attack a gang, but only a solitary traveller, as chance might throw such in his way; and even then his robbery was effected with a show of justice, as he represented himself to be deputed by the customs, and seized the property in the king's name.

Thrown out of this kind of business, he formed one of a gang of deer-stealers, the principal part of whose depredations were committed on Epping Forest and the parks in its neighbourhood; but this business not succeeding to the expectation of the robbers, they determined to commence housebreakers. Their plan was to fix on houses which they presumed contained any valuable property; and, while one of them knocked at the door, the others were to rush in, and seize whatever they might deem worthy of their notice. The first attack of this kind was at the house of Mr. Strype, an old man who kept a chandler's shop at Watford, whom they robbed of all the money and other valuables in his possession, but without offering the inmates any personal abuse.

In one night this gang robbed Chinkford and Barking Churches of all the movables left in the vestries; but the plate at both places being in the hands of the respective churchwardens, they got an indifferent booty. Turpin and some of his companions eluded the search that was made after them; three of the gang, however, were taken, one of whom turned evidence, and the other two were transported.

Turpin next acquainted his associates that there was an old woman at Leighton

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who was in possession of a great sum of money, which he was sure was hoarded in her house; whereupon, agreeing to rob her, they proceeded to her house, when one of them knocked at the door; and the rest forcing their way into the house, tied handkerchiefs over the eyes of the old woman and her maid, and fastened a boy, her son, to a bedstead. This being done, Turpin demanded what money was in the house; and the owner hesitating to tell him, he threatened to set her on the fire if she did not make an immediate discovery: still she declined to give them any information; on which the villains actually placed her on the fire, where she sat till anguish compelled her to discover her hidden treasure; when the robbers possessed themselves of above 400*l.* and decamped.

Some little time after this they agreed to rob the house of a farmer at Rippleside, near Barking; and knocking at the door, the people declined to open it; on which they broke it open; and having bound the farmer, his wife, his son-in-law, and the servant-maid, they robbed the house of about 700*l.*; which delighted Turpin so much that he exclaimed, "Ay, this will do! this is the thing, if it would but always be so!" and the robbers retired with their prize, which amounted to above 80*l.* a man.

This desperate gang, flushed with success, now determined to attack the house of Mr. Mason, keeper of Epping Forest; and the time was fixed for carrying the plan into execution; but Turpin having gone to London, to spend his share of the former booty, intoxicated himself to such a degree, that he totally neglected the appointment. Nevertheless, three of the gang (Fielder, Rose, and Rust) resolved that the absence of their companion should not frustrate the proposed design; and having taken a solemn oath to break every article of furniture in Mason's house, they set out on their expedition. Having gained admission, they beat and kicked the unhappy man with great severity: finding an old man sitting by the fire-side, they permitted him to remain uninjured; the daughter of Mr. Mason escaped their fury, by running out of the house, and taking shelter in a pig-sty. After ransacking the lower part of the house, and doing much mischief, they went up stairs, where

they broke everything that came in their way—among the rest a china punch-bowl, from which dropped 120 guineas, with which they immediately decamped. They set out for London, in search of Turpin, with whom they shared the booty, though he had not taken an active part in the execution of the villany.

On the 11th of January, 1735, Turpin and five of his companions went to the house of Mr. Saunders, a wealthy farmer of Charlton, in Kent. Arriving between seven and eight o'clock in the evening, they knocked at the door, and inquired if Mr. Saunders was at home. Being answered in the affirmative, they rushed into the house, and found Mr. Saunders, his wife, and a few friends playing at cards in the parlour. They told the company that they should remain uninjured, if they made no disturbance. Having made prize of a silver snuff-box which lay on the table, a part of the gang stood guard over the company, while the others compelled Mr. Saunders to accompany them through the house, whence they stole above 100*l.*, exclusive of plate and other articles, which amounted to a considerable value. During these transactions, the servant-maid ran up stairs, and, barring the door of her room, called out, "Thieves!" with a view of alarming the neighbourhood; but the robbers broke open the door of her room, secured her, and then robbed the house of all the valuable property they had not before taken. Finding some minced pies, and some bottles of wine, they sat down to regale themselves; and meeting with a bottle of brandy, they compelled each of the company to drink a glass of it; when, on Mrs. Saunders fainting through terror, they administered some drops in water to her, and recovered her to the use of her senses. Having stayed in the house a considerable time, they packed up their booty and departed; having first declared, that if any of the family gave the least alarm within two hours, or advertised the marks of the stolen plate, they would ere long return and murder them.

On the 18th of the same month, they went to the house of Mr. Sheldon, at Croydon, in Surrey, where they arrived about seven in the evening. Having got into the yard, they perceived a light in the stable, where they found the coachman attending his horses. Having bound

him, they quitted the stable, and met Mr. Sheldon in the yard, whom they compelled to conduct them into the house, whence they stole 11 guineas, and the jewels, plate, and other valuables, to a large amount. Having committed this robbery, they returned Mr. Sheldon a couple of guineas, and apologized for their conduct!

This being done, they hastened to the Black Horse, Broadway, Westminster, where they concerted the robbery of Mr. Lawrence, of Edgware, near Stanmore, in Middlesex. Their robberies had hitherto been carried on entirely on foot, with only the occasional assistance of a hackney coach; but now they aspired to appear on horseback, for which purpose they hired horses on the 4th of February following, at the Old Leaping Bar, in High Holborn, whence they set out about two o'clock in the afternoon, and arrived at the Queen's Head, near Stanmore, at four, where they stayed to regale themselves; by which means Mr. Wood, the landlord of the house, had so good an opportunity of observing the horses as to remember them when he saw them afterwards in King Street, Bloomsbury, where they were taken. Leaving the Queen's Head, they arrived at a public-house in the village of Stanmore about five o'clock in the evening. From hence they went to Mr. Lawrence's house, which they reached about seven o'clock, just after he had discharged some workmen. Having quitted their horses at the outer gate, one of the robbers going forward found a boy who had just returned from folding his sheep; the rest of the gang following, a pistol was presented, and instant destruction threatened if he made any noise. They then took off his garters, and tied his hands; bidding him to direct them to the door, and when they knocked, to answer, and bid the servants open it, in which case they would not hurt him: but when the boy came to the door, he was so terrified that he could not speak; on which one of the gang knocked, and a man-servant, imagining it was one of the neighbours, opened the door, whereupon they all rushed in, with their pistols in their hands; when one of them exclaimed to the servant, "D—— your blood! how long have you lived here?" Having seized Mr. Lawrence and the servant, they threw cloths over their faces; and

taking the boy into another room, they demanded what fire-arms were in the house; to which he replied, only an old gun, which they broke in pieces. They then bound Mr. Lawrence and his man, and made them sit by the boy; when Turpin commenced searching the master by cutting down his breeches, from the pockets of which they obtained a guinea, a Portugal piece of 36s. value, and about 15s. in silver: not being satisfied with this booty, they forced him to conduct them up stairs, where they broke open a closet, whence they stole some money and plate; but this not being yet sufficient to satisfy them, they threatened to murder Mr. Lawrence, each of them destining him to a different death, as the savageness of his own nature prompted him. At length one of them took a kettle of water from the fire, and threw it over him; but it providentially happened not to be hot enough to scald him. In the interim, the maid-servant, who was churning butter in the dairy, hearing a noise in the house, apprehended some mischief; on which she blew out her candle to screen herself; but being found in the course of their search, one of the miscreants forced her up stairs, where he insisted upon gratifying his brutal passion; at the same time endeavouring to prevail upon her, by alternate threats and promises, to divulge the secret hoard of money, though she persisted in her ignorance of any such hoard being in the house. Mr. Lawrence was ordered down stairs, when one of them took a chopping-bill, and threatened to cut off his leg: they then brutally fractured his head with their pistols, and dragged him about by the hair of his head, swearing they "would do for him," if he did not immediately inform them where the rest of his money was hid. They then ransacked every part of the house, and found 20*l.* in a box belonging to Mr. Lawrence, jun.; and robbing the house of all the valuable effects they could find, they locked the family in the parlour, threw the keys of the house into a water-closet, and took their plunder to London.

The particulars of this atrocious robbery being represented to the king, a proclamation was issued for the apprehension of the offenders, promising a pardon and a reward of 50*l.* to any one of them who would impeach his accomplices. This,

however, had no effect on the villains, who continued their depredations, and, flushed with their success, seemed to bid defiance to the laws.

On the 7th of February, six of them assembled at the White Bear inn, in Drury Lane, where they agreed to rob the house of Mr. Francis, a farmer, near Mary-la-bonne. Arriving at the place at dusk, they found a servant in the cow-house, whom they bound fast, and threatened to murder, if he was not perfectly silent: this being done, they led him into the stable, where they bound another. Mr. Francis now came home, and was instantly laid hold of; on which he said, unsuspectingly, "Methinks you're mighty funny, gentlemen!" when they presented their pistols, vowing his destruction if he made the least resistance. Having bound the master in the stable with his servants, they rushed into the house, and bound Mrs. Francis, her daughter, and the maid-servant, beating them in a most cruel manner. One of the thieves stood as a sentry, while the rest rifled the house, in which they found a silver tankard, a medal of Charles the First, a gold watch, several gold rings, a considerable sum of money, and a variety of valuable linen and other effects, which they conveyed to London.

Hereupon a reward of 100*l.* was offered for the apprehension of the offenders; in consequence of which two of them were taken into custody, tried, convicted on the evidence of an accomplice, and hanged.

The whole gang being now dispersed, Turpin went into the country to renew his depredations on the highway. On a journey toward Cambridge, he met a man genteelly dressed, and well mounted; and expecting a good booty, he presented a pistol to the supposed gentleman, and demanded his money. The party thus stopped happened to be King, a similar character, who knew Turpin; and when the latter threatened destruction if he did not deliver his money, King burst into a fit of laughter, and said, "What! dog eat dog? Come, come, brother Turpin; if you don't know me, I know you, and shall be glad of your company." These brethren in iniquity soon struck the bargain, and immediately entering on business, committed a number of robberies; till at length they were so well known, no public-house would receive them as

guests. Thus situated, they fixed on a spot between the King's Oak and the Loughton Road, on Epping Forest, where they found a cave large enough to provide shelter for themselves and horses. This cave was inclosed within a close thicket of bushes and brambles, through which, unobserved, they could look and see passengers on the road. From this station they used to issue, and rob such a number of persons, that at length the very pedlars who travelled the road carried fire-arms for their defence. While here, Turpin's wife supplied them with necessaries, and stayed with them for days together.

Having taken a ride as far as Bungay, in Suffolk, they observed two young women receive 14*l.* for corn, on which Turpin resolved to rob them of the money. King objected, saying it was a pity to rob such pretty girls; but Turpin was obstinate. Some state that King was the thief, and Turpin the objector.

Upon their return home the following day, they stopped a gentleman named Bradele, of London, who was riding in his chariot with his children; and who, seeing only one robber, was preparing to make resistance, when King called to Turpin to hold the horses. They took from him his watch, money, and an old mourning ring; but returned the latter, as he declared that, though its intrinsic value was trifling, he was very unwilling to part with it. Finding that they readily parted with the ring, he asked them what he must give for the watch: on which King said to Turpin, "What say ye, Jack? Here seems to be a good honest fellow; shall we let him have the watch?" Turpin replied, "Do as you please;" on which King said to the gentleman, "You must pay six guineas for it: we never sell for more, though the watch should be worth six and thirty." The gentleman promised that the money should be left at the Dial, in Birch Lane.

At length, on the 4th of May, 1737, Turpin was guilty of murder. A reward of 100*l.* having been offered for apprehending him, Thomas Morris, a servant of Mr. Thompson, one of the keepers of Epping Forest, accompanied by a higgler, set out in order to apprehend him. Turpin seeing them approach near his dwelling, Mr. Thompson's man having a gun, he mistook them for poachers; on which he said, there were no hares near that thicket.

"No," said Morris; "but I have found a Turpin;" and presenting his gun, required him to surrender. The other thereupon spoke to him, as in a friendly manner, and gradually retreated at the same time, till, having seized his own gun, he shot him dead upon the spot, and the higgler ran off with the utmost precipitation.

This murder being represented to the secretary of State, the following proclamation was issued by government.—"It having been represented to the King, that Richard Turpin did, on Wednesday, the 4th of May last, barbarously murder Thomas Morris, servant to Mr. Henry Thompson, one of the keepers of Epping Forest, and the said Richard Turpin continually committing notorious felonies and robberies near London, his Majesty is pleased to promise his most gracious pardon to any of his accomplices, and a reward of 200*l.* to any person or persons that shall discover him, so that he may be apprehended and convicted. Turpin was born at Thaxted, in Essex; he is about thirty, by trade a butcher, about five feet nine inches high, very much marked with the small-pox, his cheek-bones broad, his face thinner towards the bottom, his visage short; he stands nearly upright, and is broad about the shoulders."

Turpin, to avoid the proclamation, went farther into the country in search of his old companion, King; sending a letter to his wife, to meet him at a public-house at Hertford. She attended to this direction; and her husband coming into the house soon after she arrived, a butcher, to whom he owed 5*l.*, happened to see him, and assailed him with, "Come, Dick, I know you have money now; and if you will pay me, it will be of great service." Turpin told him his wife was in the next room; that she had money, and he should be paid immediately: but while the butcher was hinting to some of his acquaintance that the person present was Turpin, and that they might take him into custody after he had received his debt, the highwayman made his escape through a window, and rode off with great expedition.

Turpin having found King, and a man named Potter, who had lately connected himself with them, they set off towards London, in the dusk of the evening; and when they came near the Green Man, on Epping Forest, they overtook a gentleman

of the name of Major, riding on a very fine horse, which Turpin compelled the rider to dismount, his own beast being jaded, and exchange.

The robbers now pursued their journey towards London, and Mr. Major, going to the Green Man, gave an account of the affair; on which it was conjectured that Turpin had been the robber, and that the horse which he exchanged must have been stolen. Mr. Major being advised to print handbills immediately, notice was soon given to the landlord of the Green Man, that such a horse as Mr. Major had lost had been left at the Red Lion, in Whitechapel. The landlord going thither determined to wait till some person came for it; and, at about eleven at night, King's brother came to pay for the horse, and take him away; on which he was immediately seized, and conducted into the house. Being asked what right he had to the horse, he said he had bought it; but the landlord examining a whip which he had in his hand, found a button at the end of the handle half broken off, and the name of Major on the remaining half; whereupon he was given into the custody of a constable. As it was supposed, however, that he was not the actual robber, he was told he should have his liberty if he would discover his employer; on which he said, a stout man, in a white duffel coat, was waiting for the horse in Red Lion Street; and the company going thither saw King, who drew a pistol and attempted to fire it, but it flashed in the pan: he then endeavoured to draw out another pistol, but he could not, as it got entangled in his pocket. Turpin was watching at a small distance, and riding towards the spot, King cried out, "Shoot him, or we are taken;" when Turpin fired, and shot his companion, who called out, "Dick, you have killed me!" on which the other rode off at full speed. King lived a week after this affair, and gave information that Turpin might be found at a house near Hackney Marsh; and, on inquiry, it was discovered that Turpin had been there on the night that he rode off, lamenting he had killed King, who was his most faithful associate.

For a considerable time Turpin skulked about the forest, having been deprived of his retreat in the cave since he shot the servant of Mr. Thompson. Examining this cave, it was found to contain two

shirts, two pair of stockings, a piece of ham, and a part of a bottle of wine.

Mons. C—, a Frenchman, was surprised on the road to Newmarket by Turpin, who, having repeated in vain the word of command, "Stand!" fired a pistol at him; but the ball happily missed him: fearing a second summons of the same kind, Mons. C. resolved to obey; when Turpin took his money, his watch, and his snuff-box, leaving him only 2s. to continue his journey. Before he left him, he obtained his word of honour that he would not cause him to be pursued, nor inform against him before a justice, when they parted very courteously.

Some vain attempts were made to take this notorious offender into custody; and among the rest, the huntsman of a gentleman in the neighbourhood went in search of him with bloodhounds. Turpin perceiving them, and recollecting that the Second Charles evaded his pursuers under covert of the friendly branches of the oak, mounted one of those trees, under which the hounds passed, to his inexpressible terror, so that he determined to retreat into Yorkshire.

Going first to Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, he stole some horses, for which he was taken into custody; but he escaped from the constable as he was conducting him before a magistrate, and hastened to Welton, in Yorkshire, where he assumed the name of John Palmer, with the character of a gentleman. Hence he frequently went into Lincolnshire, where he stole horses, which he brought into Yorkshire, and either sold or exchanged them.

He often accompanied the neighbouring gentlemen on their parties of hunting and shooting; and one evening, on a return from an expedition of the latter kind, he wantonly shot a cock belonging to his landlord. On this, Mr. Hall, a neighbour, said, "You have done wrong in shooting your landlord's cock;" to which Turpin replied, that if he would stay while he loaded his gun, he would shoot him. Irritated by this insult, Mr. Hall informed the landlord of what had passed; and application being made to some magistrates, a warrant was granted for the apprehension of the offender, who was taken into custody, and carried before a bench of justices, then assembled at the Quarter Sessions, at Beverley, when security was demanded for his good

behaviour; but being unable or unwilling to give the same, he was committed to Bridewell.

On inquiry, it appeared that he made frequent journeys into Lincolnshire, and on his return always abounded in money, and was likewise in possession of several horses; so that it was conjectured he was a horse-stealer and highwayman. On this the magistrates went to him on the following day, and demanded who he was, where he lived, and what was his employment? He replied in substance, "that about two years ago he had lived at Long Sutton, in Lincolnshire, and was by trade a butcher, but that having contracted several debts, for sheep that proved rotten, he was obliged to abscond, and came to live in Yorkshire." The magistrates not being satisfied with this tale, commissioned the clerk of the peace to write into Lincolnshire, to make the necessary inquiries respecting the supposed John Palmer. The letter was carried by a special messenger, who brought an answer from a magistrate in the neighbourhood of Long Sutton, importing that John Palmer was well known, though he had never carried on trade there; that he had been accused of sheep-stealing, for which he had been in custody, but had made his escape from the peace-officers; and that there were several informations lodged against him for horse-stealing. The magistrates thereupon thought it prudent to remove him to York Castle, where he had not been more than a month, when two persons from Lincolnshire came and claimed a mare and foal, and a horse, which he had stolen in that county.

After he had been about four months in prison, he wrote the following letter to his brother in Essex.

"York, Feb. 6, 1739.

"Dear Brother—I am sorry to acquaint you, that I am now under confinement in York Castle, for horse-stealing. If I could procure an evidence from London to give me a character, that would go a great way towards my being acquitted. I had not been long in this county before my being apprehended, so that it would pass off the reader. For Heaven's sake, dear brother, do not neglect me. You will know what I mean, when I say,

"I am yours affectionately,

"JOHN PALMER."

This letter being returned, unopened,

to the post-office in Essex, because the brother would not pay the postage, it was accidentally seen by Mr. Smith, a school-master, who, having taught Turpin to write, immediately knew the hand, on which he carried the letter to a magistrate, who broke it open; and it was thereby discovered that the feigned John Palmer was the real Richard Turpin. The magistrates of Essex consequently despatched Mr. Smith to York, who immediately selected him from all the other prisoners in the Castle. This Mr. Smith and another gentleman afterwards proved his identity on his trial.

Among the claimants of stolen horses, was Capt. Dawson, of Farraby: his horse was that on which Turpin rode on his going to Beverley.

On the rumour that the noted Turpin was a prisoner in York Castle, persons flocked from all parts of the country to take a view of him, and debates ran very high whether he was the real person or not. Among the number that visited him, was a young fellow who pretended to know the famous Turpin: he regarded him a considerable time with looks of great attention, when he told the keeper he would bet him half-a-guinea that he was not Turpin; on which the prisoner, whispering the keeper, said, "Lay him the wager, and I'll go your halves."

Being brought to trial, this notorious malefactor was convicted on two indictments, upon which he received sentence of death. After conviction he wrote to his father, imploring him to intercede with a gentleman and lady of rank to make interest that his sentence might be remitted, and that he might be transported. The father did what was in his power; but the notoriety of his character was such, that no persons would exert themselves in his favour.

This man lived in the gayest and most thoughtless manner after conviction, reckless of all considerations of futurity, and affecting to make a jest of the dreadful fate that awaited him. Not many days before his execution, he purchased a new fustian frock and a pair of pumps, in order to wear them at the time of his death; and, on the day before, he hired five poor men, at 10s. each, to follow the cart as mourners: he likewise gave hatbands and gloves to several other persons; and left a ring, and some other articles, to

a married woman in Lincolnshire, with whom he had been acquainted.

On the morning of the 10th of April, 1739, this hero of highwaymen—for he was held to be the hero of any gang with which he connected himself—was put into a cart, and, followed by the mourners he had engaged, drawn to the place of execution; in his way to which he bowed to the spectators with an air of the most astonishing indifference and intrepidity. When he came to the fatal tree, on ascending the ladder, his right leg trembled, and he stamped it down with an air of assumed courage, as if ashamed of discovering any signs of fear. Having conversed with the executioner about half an hour, he threw himself off the ladder, and expired in a few minutes. The spectators of the execution were affected at his fate, as he was distinguished by the comeliness of his appearance. He had attained the thirty-third year of his age. At the execution he had a fellow-sufferer in the person of John Stead, who was also found guilty on a similar indictment—namely, horse-stealing.

Turpin's corpse was taken to the Blue Boar, in Castle Gate, York, where it remained till the next morning, when it was interred in the churchyard of St. George's parish, with an inscription on the coffin, the initials of his name, and his age. The grave was dug remarkably deep; but notwithstanding the people who acted as mourners took such measures as they thought would secure the body, it was carried off about three o'clock on the following morning: the populace, however, got intimation where it was conveyed, and found it in a garden belonging to one of the surgeons of the city. Gaining possession of it, they laid it on a board, and carried it through the streets in a kind of triumphal manner; after which they filled the coffin with unslackened lime, and buried it in the grave where it had been before deposited.

"The Turpin Addenda," in occasional subsequent Numbers, will comprise many adventures of this notorious character not now given, and with which the public generally are unacquainted.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 6.

APRIL 6, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 2.

WILLIAM SHELTON.



[SHELTON ROBBING THE NORTHAMPTON STAGE ON FINCHLEY COMMON.]

The culprit who is now brought to the notice of our readers was born of respectable parents near Cheshunt, in Hertfordshire, who provided him with a liberal education. At a proper age he was apprenticed to an apothecary in Enfield; but his master applied to his father to take him back at the end of two years, as his conduct was so irregular that he did not choose to have any farther connexion with him. In consequence of this he was placed with an apothecary at Stoke Newington; and though he still kept gay company, he served six years with a tolerably fair character. About this time he became violently enamoured of his mistress's sister, who was by no

means insensible to his addresses. She lived in the family; but no person suspected their intimacy, till the mistress accidentally heard her sister freely represent to Shelton the disagreeable consequence that must arise from keeping bad company and late hours.

Shelton's master and his wife both disapproved of the intended match, on account of his keeping too much gay company; and his own parents objected to it from the same reason, wishing him to acquire greater steadiness of mind before he married.

When his term of apprenticeship was completed, he took leave of the young lady with professions of lasting love; and

his father having supplied him with money, he embarked in business, in which he was for some time eminently successful; but his immoderate attachment to pleasure lost him many of his friends and much of his business. He had not been long in trade, however, before he became enamoured of a young lady, the daughter of a widow in his neighbourhood; and having made an acquaintance with her unknown to her mother, he conveyed her out of a back window of the house, and married her at the Fleet: so soon had he forgotten his vows to the lady of Stoke Newington, to whom he plighted unalterable attachment! The father of the bride having been a citizen of London, her fortune had been deposited in the hands of the chamberlain, who readily paid it to the husband.

Shelton was still in considerable business; but his attachment to company was such that his expenses exceeded his income; so that he daily grew poorer: his father likewise dying about this time, leaving his fortune to his widow for her life, Shelton had nothing to expect till after the death of his mother. He now made acquaintance with some people of abandoned character, and took to a habit of gaming, by which his circumstances became still more embarrassed, and he was obliged to decline business after he had followed it only two years. Thus distressed, he entered as surgeon on board a ship bound to Antigua, the inhabitants of which island received him with such singular tokens of respect that he resolved to settle there as a surgeon, and wrote to his wife to come over to him; but an unfortunate circumstance prevented the carrying this scheme into execution.

In the island of Antigua it is customary to exercise the militia weekly, when the officers on duty treat their brethren in rotation, and invite what company they please. Mr. Shelton being invited by Colonel Ker, the latter gave a generous treat, and urged his friends to drink freely. On the approach of night, some of them would have gone home; but the colonel prevailed on them to stay till the next day, hinting that it might be dangerous to meet some negroes who had quitted the plantation. Shelton agreed, among others, to stay; but he had not been long in bed, when the liquor he had

drank occasioned the most exasperating pain in his bowels. The next morning he took some medicines to abate the pain, and the end was answered for the time; but he determined to embark for England, as he imagined he felt the symptoms of approaching consumption. He therefore immediately sailed for his native country, where he arrived to the surprise of his friends, who had been taught to expect that he would continue in Antigua. They, however, advised him to settle at Buntingford, in Hertfordshire, where there was a vacancy occasioned by the death of an apothecary.

Shelton having inquired into the affair, and finding no prospect worth his notice, his wife's mother persuaded him to take a house at Brassiu, a village near Buntingford, intimating that she would live with him and be at the expense of house-keeping. This proposal was accepted; but when the leases were drawn, the old lady refused to execute them; so that Shelton, obliged to abandon this agreeable prospect, substituted one the practice in which was in no way reputable to himself. Distressed in mind, and not knowing how to support himself, he determined to commence highwayman; and having hired a horse, and furnished himself with pistols, he rode to Finchley Common; but after looking out some hours, and meeting with no booty there, he returned towards London, in his way to which he took about 30s. from four ladies, whom he stopped in a coach; and obtained 3s. 6d. from a gentleman he met on the road.

He now put on a mask; and, thus disguised, robbed the passengers in three stage coaches on Epping Forest of their watches and money. Some persons on horseback immediately pursued him, and were very near him at Waltham Abbey; but taking a very different road, he went round by Cheshunt, and escaped to London, where he, the next day, heard that his pursuers had galloped after him to Enfield. The watches he sold to a Jew; and having spent the money, he rode out to Hounslow Heath, where he demanded a gentleman's money, and, after some hesitation on the part of the latter, robbed him of 32 guineas and some silver. This done, he crossed the Thames at Richmond, where he dined; after which he stopped two ladies in a coach, on Putney

Common, but got no booty from them, as they had just before been robbed by another highwayman.

On the same evening he robbed a Quaker of 9*l.*; and early on the following morning he stopped the Northampton stage, and robbed the passengers of 27*l.* The reason for these rapid robberies was, that he had to discharge a debt he had contracted at the gaming-table; which being done, he appeared amongst his former companions as before.

Soon after this he rode towards Chiswick, in the hope of meeting a colonel in the army; but as the gentleman knew him, he was apprehensive of being recollected by his voice, though he wore a mask. The colonel seeing a man coming forward, produced a pistol, and, on the other coming up, fired at him, and grazed the skin of his horse's shoulder. Shelton now fired, and wounded the colonel's horse, on which the colonel discharged his other pistol, but without effect. The highwayman then demanded his money, which having received to the amount of about 50*l.*, he took a circuit round the country, and reached London at night.

On the week following this robbery, he obtained a booty of ten guineas, some silver, and two gold watches, on Finchley Common; but being pursued by some gentlemen on horseback, he concealed himself on Enfield Chase, and, having eluded his pursuers, rode to London; in his way to which place he robbed a gentleman and lady, on Muswell Hill, of between thirty and forty shillings.

On the following evening he took a ride, but did not rob any person: on his return, however, through Islington, he heard somebody cry out, "Stop the highwayman!" on which he rode hastily up a lane, where his horse had nearly stuck fast in a slough; but, getting through it, he stopped in a field, and saw his pursuers waiting in expectation of him. He, therefore, made a circle, and got down Goswell Street, to the end of Old Street, where he again heard the cry of "A highwayman!" on which he rode to Dog-house Bar, and escaped by the way of Moorfields.

Soon after this, he rode to Enfield Chase, and, putting on a mask, robbed one of the northern stages while the driver was watering his horses at a pond. Some men who were playing at skittles,

seeing this robbery, surrounded him; but they fled from him on his firing a pistol, and he journeyed to London.

Having one day committed a robbery on the Hertford road, he was returning to town, when he overtook two farmers who, having been drinking at an alehouse till they were valiant, were wishing they might meet Dr. Shelton, whom, in such case, they would certainly take: expressions of wonder rapidly escaped them, how people could allow him to proceed unmolested. Shelton, upon hearing this, presented his pistol, when they delivered their money to him with every sign of fear: it was but trifling, and he returned it, laughing at them for their assumed courage.

His next robbery was on Finchley Common, where he took 16*l.* and several watches from the passengers of the Northampton stage: on this occasion he wore a mask, which appears to have been his frequent custom.

The name of Shelton was now become so eminent, that many other robbers courted his acquaintance; among whom were two men who had formed a design of robbing the turnpike man on Stamford Hill, but had not resolution to carry their plan into execution. This design was no sooner mentioned to Shelton, than he agreed to be concerned: whereupon they went on foot from London at ten o'clock at night; but before they reached the spot, Shelton's companions relented, and would go no farther: on which they returned to town, in their way to which they robbed a gentleman of a few shillings. Shelton, however, determined to have no farther connexion with these irresolute dogs, as he termed them.

His next robbery was committed on two gentlemen in a chaise, both of them armed with pistols, on the road from Hounslow, from whom he took above 16*l.*; and soon after this, being destitute of cash, and determined to make a bold attempt, he robbed several coaches in one evening, acquiring a prize of about 90*l.* exclusive of rings and watches.

In consequence of these repeated robberies, a proclamation was issued for the apprehension of Shelton, whose person and customary plan of attack were most minutely described. He therefore concealed himself in Hertfordshire; but he had not been there long, before an indi-

vidual, upon recognising him, informed a neighbouring magistrate; upon which he was taken into custody, and conveyed to London.

He was tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for various robberies in the county of Middlesex; and being convicted, sentence of death was forthwith passed upon him.

While in prison he affected the greatest gaiety of disposition, and a fondness for entertaining his visitors with the history of his exploits. Occasionally he would be more serious; but his seriousness had no stability; unhappily, it was transient.

On the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he seemed greatly agitated; it was said, indeed, he shed tears; but the bottle, to which he had recourse, dissipated those ideas which conscience had more strongly kindled than for a long time past; and at the place of execution at Tyburn, to which he was removed on the 9th of October, 1732, he refused to evince any kind of devotion.

Shelton was truly a criminal moulded from a gentleman of great natural and acquired mental ability, affording a specimen of awful perversion from that path in which he might have shone with strong resplendency—in which he might have been, peradventure, “a burning and a shining light!”

MURDER OF MR. BIRD AND HIS HOUSE-KEEPER, AT GREENWICH.

(Continued from No. 3.)

CHAPTER II.

SERGEANT ONSLOW, having stated the circumstances of the case, proceeded to examine witnesses.

David Thomas lived next door to the late Mr. Bird, in London Street, Greenwich; was acquainted with Mr. Bird. He latterly kept only one servant, Mary Simmons. On the Sunday morning of the 8th, he observed the house of Mr. Bird shut, about twenty minutes before one o'clock at noon. Mr. Bird's brother gave him information of his alarm at the house being shut up. Mr. Bird asked him to go to the back part of his premises, and see if all was secure. All was secure; the windows close; and he recommended to Mr. Bird to pick the lock of the front door, which could not be done because the key was inside. They then tried a door

between Mr. Bird's house and witness's, and broke it open; a passage communicated from that door to the back part of the house. Through that passage witness and two or three others proceeded, raised up the sash of the kitchen window, and broke open the shutters. He then went through the window to the kitchen. When in the kitchen, he went to the hall through a passage. He opened the back door to let in light, and then saw the body of Mary Simmons lying in the passage, with her head towards the stairs, and her feet towards the street door. He stepped over her body, and opened the hall window, and then saw Mr. Bird lying dead on his back in the parlour. The door between the hall and parlour was open. Upon examining farther, he observed blood on the floor of the hall: it was near the body of Mary Simmons. There was a track of blood by drawing the body. The head was cut, the ear was slit in two; part of the banisters was broken by her; a candle was lying beside her, which was nearly a whole one. When he saw Mr. Bird, he saw a candle and candlestick near his knees; between his arms lay his spectacles, which were broken; on the table was a small pocket-book and a lottery-ticket. There was no watch in his fob. His pockets were searched, and nothing was in them. Witness afterwards went up stairs into the little room over the parlour, and observed there a large tin box and a padlock on it, and some papers lying loose on the floor. Some of the drawers of the secretary were open. Witness did not examine them. He went to Mr. Bird's bed-room, and found a double chest of drawers open; every drawer was half open: the things in them appeared to have been turned over, and left in disorder. On the bed there were two or three keys; and near them, on the counterpane, marks of blood. The bed was made and turned down, ready for sleeping in. He did not go into the servant's room. On the front door of the house there was a chain, which did not appear to have been on that night. The lock was a spring-lock, and had not been locked beyond the spring. Witness remarked in the kitchen the servant's needle-work on the table, and a penknife or two, and the table-cloth folded on one corner of it, as if for present use. There was a pair of slippers on the fender, and

in the oven roasted potatoes, and the teakettle was full of water. He looked into the bureau, and saw a gentleman take some plate out of the bureau, which was open.

Richard Smith, a magistrate, heard of the discovery of the murder about one o'clock, immediately after morning service, when he was in the vestry-room. He then went immediately to the house. He observed a woman lying on the floor in the passage. There was much blood on the floor, which was spread over it by the moving of the body. The body lay in the way to the front door. Her head lay just at the foot of the staircase. The lower banister was broken; and this was a part which could not be laid hold of by a person in an erect position. There was a candle lying near the body in the hall, which appeared new, only to have been lighted and then blown out. He then went into Mr. Bird's parlour, found Mr. Bird lying on his back evidently dead, his feet near the door, scarcely enough to let the door open, and his head near the fire-place, below a chair. There was a little table upset behind the door, and on the table, near his head, witness saw a pocket-book. The spectacles lay on the ground, and the pockets appeared to have been rifled. On searching about, he found below the door of the parlour the mark of a hammer, which had just grazed the lintel, and left a mark of blood. He marked several wounds on the bodies of both, apparently inflicted by the same instrument; some of the wounds being seemingly inflicted by a hammer-head, and the other a moderately sharp end. He saw the hammer afterwards, and such an instrument must have been employed to inflict the wounds, which were very numerous, on the heads of the woman and Mr. Bird: the skull of Mr. Bird was fractured. Witness went up stairs, first into the small reading-room, where Mr. Bird had a bureau desk. He thought that a person sitting near the window of the room, as he must do when the flap of the desk was down, might be seen from the Tiger's Head. The flap of the bureau was down when witness saw it. Many papers were scattered about on it, and some down on the floor: they appeared to have been scattered about, as if done in a hurry to inspect the drawers. The bureau had a secret drawer, from which

thirty-one 1*l.* bank-notes were taken out in the presence of witness. He afterward saw plate taken out in a bed-room, which had escaped the notice of the person who had plundered the other things. Mr. Bird's bed was made, and turned down. In that bed-room there had been the same search for articles of property, and the same confusion as in the other parts of the house. Witness then went to the attics, which exhibited the same scene of confusion. On the ground floor, the back parlour did not appear to have been entered at all: there was a sideboard there with some plate, which had not been disturbed. After that, witness went to the kitchen, where he saw the servant's work on the table, a tinderbox on the table, a tablecloth on a chair in the room, and Mr. Bird's slippers near the fender. Two watches were delivered to witness on the 13th of March, by Goodwyn, a tailor, at Peckham, who represented himself to be the prisoner's brother-in-law. Witness produced the watches, but he could not speak to their previous ownership. Was present at the final examination of the prisoner, who omitted a statement which was taken down from his lips by Mr. Bicknell, which he had refused to sign.

Frederick Finch, a surgeon, resided at Greenwich. Went to Mr. Bird's house on Sunday, the 7th of February last. He found Mr. Bird slaughtered in the most horrible manner. He observed two remarkable indentations on the forehead, about the size of a halfpenny; and a fracture from the front to the occiput. Any one of the wounds would have produced death, and from the parietal bone the brain had escaped. He had no doubt that the wounds were inflicted by an instrument like a hammer, with a blunt cutting edge, and a smooth. He observed also in the head of Mary Simmons a depression on the os frontis which would have produced death; besides other severe wounds. They were evidently produced by the same instrument; as the wounds were of the size of the cutting edge of a hammer. He had since seen the hammer, and he thought it would exactly produce the wounds he had described. He saw the hammer in the possession of Hodges, the constable. The servant was wounded in the jugular vein, and had evidently vomited from the sympathy between the head and the stomach.

Kesiah Bell, a washerwoman at Greenwich, used to go to Mr. Bird's to assist in cooking. Mr. Bird generally supped at nine o'clock, and went to bed at ten. He pulled off his shoes after supper, when the cloth was removed. Witness had been washing at Mr. Bird's on the Monday before the murder, and had washed eighteen shirts. She saw two shirts produced by Hodges, the constable, after the murders; and she was very sure she had washed them on the Monday mentioned. A handkerchief was likewise produced, which she thought Mr. Bird's.

John Litton, a cooper, was employed as a patrol when the murder happened. Used to leave his home at eight o'clock to go to the patrol. Has known the prisoner a year, who left a box at witness's house when he left his service. He carried the box up stairs. There were two pair of staircases up to the apartments occupied by witness. The box was placed in a room not occupied by witness, but only passed through when going to his bed-room. There was a front staircase and a back one. The back one could be used in going to the room where the prisoner's box was deposited, but witness did not know if the prisoner used it. Prisoner lived at the Tiger's Head, and frequented witness's house, and knew every part of it. There are two doors, one from the front and the other in the side. There are two privies, one in the front place, and another in a place leading into the lane, which has no top; there is a spot near it where the children used to play. He never saw any matting or rubbish in this place which could have concealed a bundle. There is a cellar near this, where a person might conceal anything he was disposed to conceal. The door of this cellar is always open. From this cellar one might get up to the room where the box was deposited: there is a cistern near the staircase that leads up to the room where the box was, always filled with water. There is a pump in the kitchen. The kitchen is not in use. Any person might enter it without being perceived by witness's family. Witness kept his cooper's tools in the lower part, close by the kitchen. He worked in that place, and had tools there as well as at the brewer's. He had a cooper's hammer in the place near the kitchen before the murder of Mr. Bird, which he missed

about ten days or fortnight before that event. He made inquiries about it, but could not find it. It was a pull-riveting hammer. It had a particular mark; its handle was split. Mr. Bicknell's clerk showed him it in the presence of the constable Hodges. He had previously described it to the magistrate, and when he saw it he was certain it was the same hammer. Witness had frequently seen prisoner come to the box in the room. He never saw the box open but once, and then it did not seem half filled. When prisoner brought it, it was only secured by some packthread. Witness, in consequence of what his wife said, took the box, which was secured by a stronger cord, to Mrs. Goddard, Deptford, who was a relation of the prisoner's. He removed it about ten days after the murder. It was heavier than when it came, which witness knew by taking it off prisoner's shoulder. He knew prisoner when he acted as groom, and took care of a gig, which the witness had seen him washing with water from the pond where the hammer was found. Witness knows Mr. Smith's ground, where the pond is. There was a tree in the corner next to the main road. Witness heard of the murder on Monday afternoon, when he saw the prisoner. He came with witness's nephew, and stayed till ten minutes past five; when he went by the coach, as he said, to his brother's at Peckham. Prisoner told witness that he had promised to "dine with his brother; and if not in time for dinner, he should be in time for tea." He told witness he had dined with his washerwoman, Mrs. Bennet. When he first came into witness's room, witness said, "Charles, where have you been? you are quite groggy." He said he had been at the Tiger's Head the night before, and had got more than he was used to take. He said, as he was going to the washerwoman's, he met a person of the name of Jesse, and had part of three pints of hot at the Ship and Last, and from that he went to his washerwoman's; that he had dined there, and that he could do no less, after having dined with her, than give her something to drink; that he came from her to witness's house. The prisoner, after remaining a short time with witness, went to his room, and remained there ten minutes; and on his return, asked for something to drink.

Maria Litton, wife of the last witness, deposed, that she remembered the box that Hussey, the prisoner, put into her husband's house. She remembered the prisoner asking her to procure a person to carry the box to Mrs. Goddard's. Her husband did so at her request. She saw no matting nor rubbish near the privy to conceal a bundle. She remembered the loss of the hammer, and the search made for it about ten days before the murder. Hussey came back to her husband's house about half-past three o'clock, and remained till past five. When she went out and heard of the murder, there were many people about. The pond was seen from the houses in Vansittart's Terrace.

William Litton, nephew of the last witness, recollected the Sunday when the murder was discovered. He knew the prisoner, and went into his uncle's house with him on that Sunday, about twenty minutes after three o'clock in the afternoon. Hussey came from the side of the house where the lane was.

Jane Goddard, related to the prisoner by marriage, was called: she appeared much agitated. She lived at Deptford; remembered a box being brought to her house on the Monday after the 14th of February. The box stood in the shop, and remained there three weeks before it was opened. Her husband opened it; and found, the first thing, the silver ladle and some sheets. There were old clothes in it, which she returned to the box. The box was again opened about two or three hours afterwards, in the presence of some gentlemen of Greenwich. Hussey came the next day after the box was brought, and opened it. She was present when the box was opened a second time, and should know the articles in it.

Joseph Goddard deposed to the contents of the box. He first saw a bundle with a silver ladle. There was a pair of loose pantaloons, with a wine-strainer in the pocket. He saw also a waistcoat with sleeves. He saw "G S B I" on one of the sheets. He then gave information, after having corded up the trunk. The constables, Larkin and Hodges, came; but he was not present.

Thomas Hussey, brother of the prisoner, exceedingly affected, deposed that he lived at Peckham; that he saw him about four or five o'clock on Sunday, when the murder was discovered. He had

asked him to come and dine with him on that day. He did not come to dinner, but afterwards. When he arrived, he said he had taken something that had turned on his stomach, and asked witness if he had heard of the horrid murders at Greenwich. Witness said, no. Prisoner then said, an old gentleman and his housekeeper had been murdered opposite where he lived. Witness asked why he did not come to dine; and he replied, it was owing to the shocking murder, which made Greenwich like a fair. Witness asked prisoner to go to London with him the following day; to which the latter objected, saying he had a person called William to meet with at the Red Bull, at Peckham. Witness pressed him to go to London, and he did. He did not return with witness; but witness saw him at his house that night, when his pantaloons were wet and dirty, he having fallen into a ditch. Prisoner, in turning out his coat pocket, took out broken pieces of buckle, like silver, which prisoner said was silver. His brother, who was by, proposed that witness should take the silver, which he did, paying him 5s. an ounce. He kept it till the watches were discovered, and then threw it into the fire, but took it out before it was melted. A part of this silver witness delivered to Mr. Smith, the magistrate. Prisoner received a legacy of 60*l.* on the Wednesday after the murder.

Elizabeth Goodwyn, sister of the prisoner, in deep grief, deposed that she lived at Peckham. The prisoner did not send her a box, but the box came about the 8th of February. It was full of her deceased mother's clothes. Afterwards the prisoner came, and had access to the box: he opened the box twice; the last time on the Tuesday, when he returned from the country, which was three weeks after the murder. She opened the box herself on the Thursday following, and found the two watches and the notes. Her husband and brother took them. There was on the watches the name of Bird. Her husband is James Goodwyn. She had not seen the box from the time it came with wearing apparel, and when it was found with the watches in it. Her deceased sister had no sheets.

James Goodwyn, tailor, of Peckham, husband of the last witness, saw watches which came from the box, but did not

see them in the box. He examined the watch-papers, and on one of them was the name of Bird. This was a month after the murder. He delivered them to Mr. Smith, the magistrate.

George W. Bird, son of the deceased, identified the watches to be his father's, which were afterwards shown to the jury. The one was a tortoise-shell watch, and the other a metal. Only one of them had a watch-paper. Mr. Bird said, the last time he saw it in his father's possession was ten days before his death. The tortoise-shell watch was his mother's: since her death it had been hung up in the little room in which his father's body was found. The metal watch he had seen in his father's possession about three months before his death.

Thomas Larkin, a constable, went to the house of Mrs. Goddard, at Deptford, on the 14th of March, and found the trunk now produced. He found in it two shirts, three sheets, a silver wine-strainer and soup-ladle, a pair of gaiters, and a cotton pocket-handkerchief; also a pensioner's ticket, with the name of Charles Hussey on it. Witness produced the articles, which were examined by the court and jury. One of the sheets was marked R B; another was marked B at top, S and G forming a kind of triangle; and the other sheet had no mark at all. Witness was at Mr. Bird's house about twenty minutes after the discovery of the murder. The gaiters had marks of blood and vomiting, and witness observed vomiting near the body of the house-keeper when he first went to the house on the Sunday of the murder.

Mrs. Litton being recalled, said, the gaiters appeared to be those of Charles Hussey; but on cross-examination she stated she could not say they certainly were his. She had sewn the strap on one of his gaiters, and remembered that the gaiters she had sewn were the same as those produced; but she could not swear that they were the same.

Kesiah Bell deposed to the sheet marked B G S being George Bird's; his wife's name being Sarah. She had washed the sheet many times. She had observed the marks when she hung them out to dry. She remembered the sheet marked R B, which belonged to the family; Rebecca being the grandmother's name. She knew the shirt likewise to be

one of those she washed on the Monday previous to the murder.

Richard Hodges, constable, deposed to the other articles contained in the box deposited at Goddard's, which had remained in his possession ever since.

John Poulton, the constable of Deddington, in Oxfordshire, deposed that he apprehended the prisoner on the 1st of April, at Deddington. He took from him a watch and a pocket-book, with two letters. After he had searched the prisoner, he asked him for the rings he had heard he possessed. Prisoner said he put one of them down the privy at the King's Arms. It was searched for, and found. It contained an inscription—"To the memory of six children." Mr. Bird, jun., identified the ring, together with the watch, seal, and chain.

John Vickery, Bow Street officer, deposed to the prisoner's being brought to Bow Street by the last witness, and to a ring being found in searching his person, which dropped from his boot or pantaloons, which Mr. Bird, jun., identified.

Mr. Serjeant Onslow now proceeded to another part of the case—namely, to read the examination and the letters.

John Bicknell was called. He is clerk to the magistrates of the district in which Greenwich is included. He took down a statement the prisoner made before the magistrates, and which prisoner allowed to be correct.

George Young, a servant at the Tiger's Head, knew Hussey, who came to the Tiger's Head three weeks before Christmas, and stayed a fortnight after the murder was committed. Witness recollected the Saturday when the murder was committed, but did not see Hussey till half-past ten at night. There was a club called Odd Fellows met at the Tiger's Head. He passed by the tap-room at half-past ten, and saw Hussey there.

Mrs. Walmsley, who kept the Tiger's Head—William Hallibone, secretary of the lodge of Odd Fellows—and Stephen Epsom and William Coulter, members of the Odd Fellows' club—gave evidence to the same effect.

(To be continued.)

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

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NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODIS OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 7.

APRIL 13, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 3.

JOHN TOON AND EDWARD BLASTOCK.



[THE FLIGHT AFTER ROBBING MR. BEECHER ON MAXWELL HILL.]

The parents of John Toon were respectable inhabitants of Shoreditch, who, having bestowed on their son a liberal education, apprenticed him to an ironmonger, in an extensive way of business, who had married his sister; but not being happy in this situation, his father sent him at the expiration of three years to sea. After two voyages to Barbadoes, he grew tired of the life of a seaman, which he quitted to live with a carman, who was his uncle, in whose service he behaved so unexceptionably that, on the death of the uncle, which happened soon afterwards, he took possession of 400*l.*, bequeathed him as a reward for his good conduct.

Soon after becoming possessed of this

property, he married the sister of Edward Blastock, who was a native of Sheffield, in Yorkshire, and was apprenticed to a peruke-maker in the Temple, in London: but his master dying when he had served about five years, his mistress declined trade, and gave the young fellow his indentures, on the representation of the gentlemen of the law that they wished him, rather than any other, to succeed her late husband. But the rent of the house being high, Blastock was afraid to enter on business so early in life, as he was at that time only eighteen years of age; on which he took two rooms in Whitefriars, where he began to practise in his business, and met with great success.

Coming by this means into the possession of money before he knew the value of it, he attached himself to the fashionable pleasures of the town, by which he soon incurred debts he could not discharge: obliged consequently to decline business, he had recourse to the wretched life of a strolling player, refusing to accept a good situation offered him by a gentleman of the Temple.

Toon, on being married, began to live in a most extravagant manner; and having dissipated half his little fortune, Blastock proposed that they should go into Yorkshire, and embark in public business. This proposal being accepted, they took an inn at Sheffield; but both the landlords being better calculated to spend than to get money, Toon soon found his circumstances embarrassed. Thus situated, he reflected on Blastock for advising him to take the inn; and the other recriminated, by recounting the faults of Toon. In consequence of this dissension, Blastock brought his wife to London, whither Toon and his wife soon followed, after selling off their effects.

Toon, who was now totally reduced in his circumstances, met his own elder brother one day in Cheapside, a dyer in Shoreditch, who took little notice of him; but as Toon imagined he was going out for the day, he went to his house, and found his wife, who entreated him to stay to dinner, to which he consented. In the mean time he went to see the men at work; and finding one among them of genteel appearance, whom he learnt was his brother's bookkeeper, he became extremely enraged that his brother should employ a stranger in that capacity in preference to himself, at a time when he was in circumstances of distress. In this agitation of mind he returned to the house; and whilst his sister-in-law was gone into another room, he stole a small quantity of silver plate and decamped: having soon spent the produce of this theft, he determined upon the dangerous and fatal resource of the highway.

His first expedition was to Epping Forest, where he waited a long time in expectation of a booty: at length observing a coach come from Lord Castlemain's seat, he used the most dreadful imprecations to compel the coachman to stop, and robbed two ladies of nearly 3*l*., with a gird-buckle, and an etwee case.

He now imagined that he had obtained a valuable prize; but he subsequently pawned the buckle and etwee case for 12*s*.; finding that the latter was base metal, though he had mistaken it for gold; and the former set with crystal stones, instead of diamonds, as they had appeared to his eye.

He soon spent his ill-gotten treasure; and going again on the highway, stopped and robbed several persons, among whom was a gentleman of the name of Currier, who earnestly exhorted him to decline his present course of life, not only from the immorality but the danger of it. The robber thanked the gentleman for his advice; but said he had no occasion for it, as he was sufficiently apprized of his danger; he must nevertheless have his money on pain of instant death. Having robbed him of three guineas, he decamped with the utmost expedition.

One of his next robberies was on Epping Forest, where he dispossessed a gentleman of his money and a gold watch, the latter of which he left in the hands of a receiver of stolen goods, to dispose of to the best advantage: but the watch being of value, and in high estimation with the owner, he advertised it, with a reward of eight guineas; on which the receiver delivered it, and took the money, but gave Toon only seven of them, pretending that was all he could obtain. Toon not having read the advertisement, was ignorant of the trick that had been put upon him; but being some days afterwards upon Epping Forest, and having in vain waited some time for a prize, he went to the Green Man, by Lord Castlemain's house, where he heard one of his lordship's footmen recounting the particulars of the robbery, and saying the watch had been recovered on giving eight guineas for it. Toon therefore determined not to lodge anything again with this man.

Blastock married shortly after taking to the stage, and became the father of several children previous to his going to Sheffield in conjoint business with Toon; on his return from which place he again engaged himself as a strolling player; and after some time, casually meeting with Toon, the latter represented the advantages to be made by the life of a highwayman, and wished him to embark in that business, which he declined on the double score of its danger and immorality.

Not long after this refusal, Blastock was seized with an indisposition, which threatened his life, and confined him so long that his wife was obliged to pawn almost all their effects for their support; and being visited by Toon during his illness, the latter again wished him to commence highwayman.

Blastock had no sooner recovered his health, than, depressed by want, he yielded to the dangerous solicitation, and went with his accomplice to Epping Forest, where they stopped the chariot of a gentleman, whom they robbed of a few shillings and a pocket-piece, and then returned to London.

On the following day they went again towards the forest; but in crossing Hackney Marsh Toon's horse sunk in a slough, in which he continued for so long a time that they found it impossible to achieve any profitable adventure for that night.

Thus disappointed, they returned to London, and on the 27th of February following set out on another expedition, which proved to be their last of the kind. While Toon was loading his pistols, he was prepossessed with the idea that an untimely fate was speedily approaching him: he nevertheless resolved to run every hazard: on which they rode as far as Muswell Hill, where they stopped a gentleman named Seabroke, from whom they demanded his money. The gentleman gave them 18s., saying it was all he had, and adding, "God bless you, gentlemen; you are welcome to it." Toon then demanded his watch, which Mr. Seabroke delivered, repeating, "God bless you, gentlemen, you are welcome to it."

This robbery being committed, they galloped hard towards Highgate; and their horses being almost tired, Blastock, stung with the guilt of his conscience, looked frequently behind him, in apprehension that he was pursued; and so strong was the terror that seized both of them, that they agreed to quit their horses, and make their escape on foot. They now ran through a farm-yard, and, taking the back road which leads from Highgate to Hampstead, they got to London; and Blastock now declared his determination never to embark in such another project, while he congratulated himself on his narrow escape.

They took a solemn oath that, if either

of them should be apprehended, neither would impeach the other; and the watch obtained in the last robbery being sold for two guineas, Blastock received his share, and went to join a company of strolling players at Chatham.

The watch last stolen by them being advertised, the purchaser carried it to Mr. Seabroke, telling him he knew Toon, and would assist in taking him into custody; the consequence of which was, that the offender was lodged in Newgate on the same day. Toon kept his oath in declining to give any information against his accomplice; but Blastock having agreed to go with the players to a greater distance from London than Chatham, returned to town to bid his wife and children adieu. When he arrived, which was about midnight, his wife and her sister were in bed; and the former having opened the door, he was informed that Toon was in custody, and advised to seek his safety by an immediate flight. This advice, however, he did not take; and in the morning, Toon's wife desired he would stay while she visited her husband, declaring that she would not mention his having returned to London. On her return from this visit she wept much, and expressed her wish for the approach of night, that he might retire in safety. In the evening, while supper was providing, she went out, under pretence of a visit to her husband; but she went to Toon's brother, who took her before a magistrate; on which peace-officers were sent to take Blastock into custody.

Mrs. Toon directed the officers to the room where Blastock was, in company with two men of his acquaintance, who were advising him on the emergency of his affairs. Blastock, suspecting some foul play, concealed himself in a closet; and when the officers came in, they first seized one, and then the other, of the persons present; but were soon convinced that neither of them was the person they were in search of. On this the officers made a stricter search, and found Blastock in the closet, whom they took into custody. Having taken leave of his wife and children, he was carried before a magistrate, who asked him if he had not a worse coat than that which he then wore. Blastock owned that he had, and actually sent for it; and it was kept to be produced in evidence against him.

While the officers were conducting him to Newgate, in a coach, they told him that Mrs. Toon had given the information against him; at which he was so shocked, that it was some time before he could recover his recollection, being absolutely insensible when he was lodged in prison.

These malefactors were tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, and, being capitally convicted, received sentence of death. After conviction, they were confined in the same cell; but being unhappy together, from their mutual recriminations of each other, the keeper afterwards caused them to be separated. They both exhibited an uncommon degree of unfeigned penitence and contrition.

They embraced each other at their execution, which took place at Tyburn on the 26th of May, 1738; and Blastock delivered the following speech to the surrounding multitude. "My dear friends, I do not come here to excuse myself, although I have been first led into the crime for which I suffer, and then basely betrayed; no, I am sensible of my guilt; nor should I have made the world acquainted with the barbarous treatment that I have met with, even from a near relation, had it not been with a view of preventing the ruin of many young persons. Let my fate be an example to them; and never let any man in trade think himself above his business, nor despise the offers of those who would serve him. Let them purchase wisdom at my cost, and never let slip any opportunity that bids fair to be of the least advantage to them; for experience tells me, that had I done as I now advise you I had never come to this end. The next thing is, never to trust your life in the hands of a near relation; for money will make those who pretend to be your dearest friends your most bitter enemies. Never be persuaded to do anything that you may be sorry for afterwards, nor believe the most solemn oaths, for there is no truth in imprecations; rather take a man's word, for those that will swear will lie: not but that I believe there are some in the world who would suffer the worst of deaths rather than betray the trust reposed in them. What I have here declared, as I am a dying man, I protest before God is true; and here, before God and the world, I freely forgive those who betrayed me, and die in

peace with all mankind. I implore the forgiveness of that God who has promised pardon and forgiveness to all those who sincerely repent; and I hope I have done my best, while in prison, to make my peace with a justly offended God: I hope, the moment I leave this troublesome world, my soul will be received into eternal happiness, through the merits of Jesus Christ. I conclude with my prayer for the welfare of my poor unhappy wife and children, who are now reduced to misery; and, taking a long farewell of the world, I commit my spirit into the hands of him who gave me being."

MURDER OF MR. BIRD AND HIS HOUSE-KEEPER, AT GREENWICH.

(Continued from No. 6.)

CHAPTER III.

The case for the prosecution of Hussey being closed, he was called on to make his defence; which he did, by declaring his innocence. He said, about seven o'clock on Saturday, the 7th of February, he went to sell some clothes at a woman's house, though she could not recollect anything of this. He then went to an eating-house, called Perret's. He stayed to hear some singing in the street, and went to the Tiger's Head about half-past eight o'clock. He then stated what happened in the lodge at the Tiger's Head, and related a long irrelevant story about his conduct on Sunday and subsequently. He repeated this string of incoherence with considerable fluency and composure. No look of terror appeared in his face; but he seemed fatigued by standing in a crowded court for so many hours, from ten in the morning till six in the afternoon. The prisoner then wished Hallibone to be called again, to be examined as to the time he entered the lodge on Saturday night.

Mr. Serjeant Lens, who sat as judge, then summed up. This was a case, he said, which deserved attention from the jury, and he was happy to see that it received it. The learned serjeant had said that the evidence of circumstances was stronger than testimony, but still it must depend upon testimony. Though the evidence was long, it might be brought within a narrow compass. The circumstances of the murder could not be doubted; but the question was, were they

brought home to the individual at the bar? The time within which the murder must have been perpetrated was nearly fixed: the murder must have been committed between the hours of eight and nine o'clock. The deceased was a man of regular habits, and went to bed before ten o'clock. The supper was prepared; the potatoes were in the oven; the water was boiling; and the tablecloth was about to be laid on the table. The jury had heard a circumstantial account of the state in which the bodies and the house were found; and it was not necessary to detail them. There was scarcely a doubt but that the woman was coming to the door when the crime was perpetrated, and that Mr. Bird was in the attitude conjectured. The learned judge then went over the evidence with great impartiality and discrimination; and towards the conclusion made a very solemn charge to the jury, desiring them to pronounce their conscientious conviction, however fatal it might be to the prisoner.

The jury, without retiring, after a consultation of a few minutes, returned a verdict of Guilty.

The prisoner, who had during the whole day maintained a firm and intrepid aspect, now became agitated and pale; and exclaimed, he was as innocent as the judge who sat on the bench, and with such a conviction he was ready to meet death to-morrow.

The learned judge then pronounced the awful sentence of the law with great solemnity and feeling, and expressed a wish that the prisoner had spared the declaration he had made of his innocence; hoping he would still be brought to repentance and contrition for his crime, of which there could remain no doubt in the mind of any reasonable man, and, in the few hours which yet remained, make his peace with God, from whom all disguise was ineffectual or impossible: in this way he might secure pardon above, while there was no chance of it here. Nothing now remained for him but to pronounce the sentence of the law, which was, that the prisoner be taken hence to the place from whence he came, and on Monday be carried to the place of execution, and there hung by the neck till dead, and his body given to be anatomized; and the Lord have mercy on his soul.

The trial had lasted for about twelve hours, and at the conclusion of the sentence the prisoner cast an anxious agonizing look towards the bench, apparently wishing again to address the judge. He did not do so, however, but retired under charge of the officers without speaking a word. His composure and firmness of nerve during the whole trial were remarkable, and could only be explained on the supposition of a confidence in his acquittal: indeed, he entertained and expressed such a hope up to the morning of the trial. If aught could have affected him, it was the conduct of his sisters and brothers, who were so overpowered by their feelings in giving their evidence, that they could neither look towards him or the court. His sister especially seemed overwhelmed, and wept bitterly: her voice was so stifled with her distress, that she could not be heard by the court. On her examination, a seat was ordered her, and her depositions were obliged to be repeated to the court and jury by a gentleman of the bar who sat near her.

On Monday, the 3d of August, 1818, this unhappy man suffered the awful penalty of his crimes on Pennenden Heath. A wish had been expressed by some of the inhabitants of Greenwich, that he should be executed before the house of the late Mr. Bird, where the atrocious deed was perpetrated; but no application, founded on this wish, was made to the court in time to be attended to. Up to the morning of his execution, both after as before his condemnation, he persisted in a systematic denial of his guilt, and in vehement protestations of innocence, though he joined with apparent sincerity in those exercises of devotion, and acknowledged with fervour those great truths of religion, by which he was taught that the confession of his crime and contrition for his guilt were the best means of securing his pardon. With this exception, his conduct after his conviction was not only becoming but exemplary—his manner not only resigned but composed—his devotion not only warm but ecstatic; so that the reverend gentlemen who attended him declared that in all their experience they never beheld a stronger instance of resigned piety and apparent religious confidence. Indeed, to have judged of his spiritual state by his external appearance, and by his ex-

pressions of religious feelings, one must have been led to believe that he supported his hope of future happiness on the consciousness of innocence, under a mistaken condemnation, rather than that he borrowed his obstinacy in resisting the confession of his crime from false shame and inveterate guilt.

It has been already stated, that on his conviction and sentence he was greatly agitated, and exhibited symptoms of a profound and overwhelming anguish, and that during all that night his restlessness and prostration of mind continued. On the Saturday morning he became tranquil and resigned, professing an ardent desire for the termination of life, as the commencement of his happiness in meeting his Maker. The only interruption to this state of composure and religious meditation, occurred in his taking leave of his friends and relations on the afternoon of Saturday. His brothers and sisters then visited his cell, to take their last farewell of him, and to beseech him, as the only legacy of consolation that he could leave them and society, for an open confession of his guilt. The scene was overpowering and heartrending: he fell upon his knees, and embraced them one by one, protesting before them and Heaven his innocence of the murders. He lay with his head on the lap of his sister for a considerable time in the greatest agitation, the rest of the family standing over him and her, and mingling their tears with his. In these interesting moments, while his soul was softened by affection and sorrow, they implored him by the most solemn sanctions of religion, and by every tender endearment of kindred, to confess; but he still persisted in his protestations of innocence as to the murders, and only assumed more calmness and firmness in calling Heaven to attest it. Such declarations he continued till his friends were torn from him, adding, with great emphasis, that of whatever crimes he was guilty, and he allowed their extent and enormity before God, his hands were never imbrued in blood. At parting, he grasped the knees and hands of his brothers and sisters, kissed them, clung to them, blessed them, wept with them, and exhibited every symptom of the most unquenchable affection in the most overpowering distress; but still protested his innocence. After this last interview with

them, he remained calm and resigned. During Saturday night and the whole of Sunday, he was employed in religious exercises, exhibiting at times an ecstatic rapture of devotion and hope. His mind, he said, was filled with "hope, peace, and joy in believing;" and he derived great consolation in the consciousness of not having the weight of blood upon his soul, however guilty it might otherwise appear to the pure eyes of his God. His declarations of innocence were not uttered with a dejected countenance, or with any marks of hesitation, but in a smiling confident manner, that might with less evidence against him have bespoken the truth of his statement.

Mr. Argles, the ordinary of the gaol, attended him; and the Rev. Mr. Rudge, of Limehouse, on a pressing invitation from himself, arrived on Saturday at Maidstone to administer to him those consolations which he anticipated with satisfaction. He had been a careful reader, ever since his apprehension, of the most esteemed religious publications; and the latter reverend gentleman supplied him with several tracts, from which he professed to have derived instruction and consolation. He slept soundly for the last two nights; and took the regular sustenance allowed him by the rules of the prison. His regular and composed manner, his apparent peace of mind, and his powerful sense of religion, excited the wonder and surprise of his attendants. In the course of Sunday, his most serious moments were embraced to draw from him an acknowledgement of his guilt. The reply was invariable in its substance, and always uttered in the most emphatic manner, "I did not commit the deed, so help me God. In thought, deed, and conscience, as to that, I am perfectly innocent." He acknowledged, however, that he deserved death for many crimes, but thanked Heaven that he had nothing to do with the murder of Mr. Bird.

At nine o'clock in the evening, the clergymen took their leave of him. He entreated that he might have the sacrament at eight o'clock next morning, and this arrangement being made, he wrote farewell letters to some of his friends.

A short time before eight o'clock on the morning of execution, the Rev. Mr. Argles and Mr. Rudge proceeded to visit him in his cell, and to administer to him

the holy sacrament. He joined them fervently in prayer before the solemn ceremony, and then declared his perfect readiness to engage in it; but before they proceeded, the latter gentleman, in the most impressive manner, thus addressed him: "And now, Hussey, before you communicate with your blessed Saviour, I request you to declare, as a dying man, for the satisfaction of the public in general, and of the inhabitants of Greenwich in particular, did you or did you not perpetrate this horrid murder? or if you did not, do you know who did? Tell me, as a matter of personal favour." His answer was, "As God is my Judge, and you are my witness, these uplifted hands were never stained with the blood of either Mr. Bird or his servant. I have my suspicions, but—more presently!"

The two reverend gentlemen were with him a considerable part of the morning, and left him finally in his cell, a little before eleven, to accompany the sheriff in his carriage to the place of execution. They paid the utmost attention to his wishes and his feelings during the whole of their attendance. At a quarter before eleven, the fatal waggon which was to convey him to the place of execution arrived before the prison, followed by several constables and headboroughs on horseback, and attended on each side by the sheriff's javelin-men. Great crowds had collected, but the utmost order and decorum prevailed. The prison bell began to toll, and the wretched culprit was ordered to prepare. As eleven o'clock struck, the clanking of chains was heard, and the unfortunate man was led forth to be placed on the waggon. The gaoler mounted a horse, with a black rod in his hand, and joined the peace-officers behind the waggon. All eyes were turned on the unfortunate man, who seemed to observe nothing. His dress was nearly the same as on his trial—a black coat and waistcoat, and grey pantaloons; but his person, his features, and general appearance were so altered, that he could scarcely be recognised as the same person; and instead of supposing him resigned, as he had been represented to be, one would have conceived that his frame had been shaken by some dreadful bodily or mental malady. He stepped forward with a feeble and tottering gait, and appeared scarcely able to support his chains. His

pale, haggard, and emaciated countenance seemed to have been a prey to the troubles of years: his eye was sunk and glassy, his lips colourless and parched, his strength prostrate, his person neglected; and he appeared altogether like a man just recovering from or falling into a fainting fit. From the state of feebleness and dejection into which he had sunk, it was likely that a few days more in prison would have terminated his sufferings, without the assistance of the executioner. His arms were pinioned, the cord with which he was to be suspended was slung around him, and his neck was open, without a handkerchief.

He ascended the waggon with considerable difficulty, but with no symptom of reluctance. The executioner sat close by his side, and the two turnkeys of the debtors' and criminals' gaols took their places opposite to him, with loaded blunderbusses. His arms, though pinioned, admitted of his holding a small tract in his hand, entitled, "The Visitation for the Prisoners." At this book he gazed with a kind of vacant stare, occasionally shutting his eyes, as if to reflect on the passage he had read; but as he appeared only to look at one place, it may be supposed that it was rather intended to prevent his eye from wandering on the immense crowd by which he was surrounded, than to supply topics of religious meditation. He never looked on the right or the left, and seemed to pay no attention to any visible object. Scarcely was he placed in the waggon when the sad procession began; and his countenance and frame became more feeble and ghastly than before. His confidence and firmness while in prison forsook him, and he appeared to fall into a lethargic stupor, in which we were only reminded that he was alive by the quivering of his lips, the raising of his eyelashes, or the muttering of a suppressed ejaculation. The distance between the gaol and the place of execution was upwards of a mile, and during all the time he seemed, but for having no sense or feeling, to be labouring under the most abject and indescribable anguish. When he had arrived near the place of execution, a friend of his in the crowd, anxious to bid him farewell, called out his name, "Charles," once or twice distinctly; but Hussey raised not his head; his mouth appeared quite dry, and his lips parched. An apple was

offered him, but he refused it. The crowd was immense on the Heath and round the gallows, but perfect order prevailed.

The procession arrived about a quarter before twelve o'clock. When turning towards the fatal spot, the unhappy man, as if by an involuntary instinct, cast one look on the apparatus of the execution, and again closed his eyes. His appearance showed a perfect decay and desolation of nature. The two clergymen, Messrs. Argles and Rudge, who had previously arrived in the carriage of Mr. Delmar, the under-sheriff, now ascended the waggon, and proceeded to read the appropriate prayers. To each of them Hussey, on his knees, with a sign of oppression and agony, pronounced distinctly "Amen." Mr. Argles, after these devotional exercises were concluded, for the last time asked him, "Do you know who did the deed?" to which he replied with eagerness, "I do, I do." Mr. Rudge then prayed with him, and he again asserted his innocence of the murder. He then rose from his knees, and the fatal preparations being made, he took farewell of the clergymen, exclaiming, "God bless you—the Lord bless you!" He now ascended the scaffold. When the fatal rope was adjusted, and the drop was ready to fall, he sent for Mr. Rudge, who was sitting in the under-sheriff's carriage. After taking leave of him, and on ascending the scaffold, he addressed him in these words: "Let me be considered as the only guilty person, and as alone deserving of what I am going to suffer." Mr. Rudge then said, "I hope you feel comfortable in your last moments. He replied, "I do feel happy, I assure you, sir;" and, having shaken hands with the reverend gentleman, who at his request drew the cap over his face, was launched into eternity without a struggle, exactly at twelve.

The unfortunate man was only twenty-five years of age. He had been in the navy, and was a Greenwich pensioner. His body, after hanging one hour, was cut down, and conveyed to the surgery of Messrs. Day and Watman, Maidstone.

The following are copies of two letters which Hussey wrote the night previous to his execution.

"My dearest and loving Sisters and Brothers,—I cannot help writing to you, to beg of you all not to lament nor grieve

concerning me, for I am going to a better place: I trust in the Almighty. I cannot but tell you how composed and happy I feel myself in my last moments. My time is very short now; I have had a very eminent gentleman with me, Mr. Rudge; he has afforded me every comfort under my circumstances. I shall receive the holy sacrament with him to-morrow morning. He has my most just thanks, and hope the Lord will bless him for his kind service he has done me. I shall trouble him with a few small books, which are for my sister Godwin, if she will accept of them in remembrance of me; which is the only thing I have, with my hope and blessing to her.

"My dear brother Thomas, I am perfectly satisfied and thankful to you, for your efforts towards me. I hope the Lord will reward you tenfold for them. I am quite resigned from the world. The Lord's will be done! I shall be happy and be at rest. Brother, I cannot help saying, that there were things that were not brought on in my trial that would be of service to me—but it is all done; so I shall say no more on the subject. You may get the papers from Mr. Price; there may be something that you may wish to know, if any one should be brought in question—this disquiets my peace of mind. I must conclude; wishing you all the grace of God, and comfort to your souls. Farewell!

"I remain your unfortunate but happy brother,

"CHARLES HUSSEY.

"Sunday evening, 11 o'clock,
August 2."

TO HIS WIFE.

"My dear and unhappy Jane,—I write my last farewell; but I hope you will put your trust in the Almighty, and he will be your comforter. Do not grieve for me, for I shall soon be happy. I hope, my dear Jane, you will bring up the dear little boy in the fear and love of God, and he will be a father to him. This is a painful task to be writing; therefore I can say but little. Adieu, my dear Jane! God bless you both, now and for evermore. I forgive every one."

(To be continued.)

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 8.

APRIL 20, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 4.

WILLIAM UDALL.



[ROBBING A PHYSICIAN IN THE STRAND.]

WILLIAM UDALL was the son of an eminent distiller in Clerkenwell, London. After having had a good education, he was apprenticed to a watch-maker, in Leadenhall Street. As an apprentice, he was very idle; but he soon learned from some abandoned journeymen the trick of scraping gold from the inside of watch-cases, which he sold, to give him money to squander away in dissipation. The master died before the delinquent was detected; and he was consequently turned over to another tradesman, whom he offended ere he had been three months in the employment; on which he went to live with Mr. Stanbridge, of Clerkenwell, who engaged to procure him his

freedom at the expiration of the term for which he was originally apprenticed. He had not been long in the service of Mr. Stanbridge, however, when he connected himself with a number of young pickpockets, who plotted together to steal watches, swords, hats, and anything they could lay their hands on, in their evening rambles, which they deposited with a man named Williams, in Hanging-sword Alley, Fleet Street, who disposed of the effects, and shared the profit with the juvenile pilferers.

Udall's father was apprized of his son living in an irregular manner; but he had no idea that he had proceeded to such lengths as to have become a robber.

Anxious, however, to reclaim him from his evil courses, he took a house for him, and put him into a very reputable way of business.

One of Udall's companions was a youth named Raby, who, having served his time to a barber, was likewise put into business by his friends; and for some months both Udall and Raby appeared to attend to the duties of their respective callings: but they had not quitted their old connexions; for they were still in the habit of going almost every night to Drury Lane, to a house of ill fame, kept by a woman of the name of Bird. Here they associated with several young fellows of abandoned character, who taught them the arts of gaming; so that in a short time Udall quitted his business, though he had therein an excellent prospect of success. Having possession of a number of watches belonging to his customers, he sold them to a Jew, and appropriated the produce to the purposes of his own extravagance. His resources being, however, quickly impoverished, his associates hinted to him, that as he was acquainted with a number of watch-makers he might easily take up work in the name of his late master, and sell the articles for his own emolument: he followed this pernicious advice, and was for some time a gainer by the project. He had likewise another artifice, by which he frequently obtained money: he would sell watches which he declared to be worth five or six guineas each, by taking only half the money till the purchasers were convinced of their being truly valuable articles; but, as he knew these watches would not perform well, so he knew that they must be returned to be rectified; and on receiving them for the purpose of rectifying, he sold them to other people, by which the original purchasers, and all purchasers in succession, were defrauded.

At length, Udall and Raby, agreeing to commence highwaymen, first committed a number of robberies in and near Epping Forest, Finchley Common, and other places, adjacent to the metropolis, one of which was attended with a circumstance of unusual barbarity. Having stopped the St. Alban's coach, these associates in wickedness robbed the passengers of about 5*l.*, and immediately put spurs to their horses; but they had not rode far before Udall said there was

a lady in the coach who had a remarkably fine ring on her finger. On this Raby rode back; and the lady being unwilling to part with the ring, the remorseless villain drew a knife, and cut off her finger for the sake of the paltry prize. They then rode to Hampstead; and, after robbing some other people the same evening, they repaired to Drury Lane, where they divided the spoil.

These companions in vice had another scheme, which was oftentimes successful. When the company was coming out of the theatre, one of them would accost a lady or gentleman, pretending to know the party, and in the interim the other seldom failed of making prize of a watch.

On one occasion Udall and two of his accomplices, named Baker and Wager, stopped a coach on the road to Uxbridge. A guard being at the back of the coach, with a blunderbuss, Baker threatened him with instant death if he did not throw it away; and the man obeyed. Wager and Udall then guarded the coachman and postilion, while Baker robbed the company; but this was no sooner done, than the guard drew a horse pistol he had by him, with which he fired at Udall, and brought him to the ground; when Baker, in return, shot the guard, who instantly expired. Udall was conveyed by his accomplices to a farm-house near Uxbridge, where he lay six weeks before he recovered; but soon afterwards they killed the guard of another coach, as it was proceeding over Turnham Green. In a short time after the commission of this atrocity, Udall knocked down a young woman in Feuchurch Street, whom he robbed of a cloak, a handkerchief, and her pocket, which contained only a few halfpence.

Udall's father, distressed at his son's proceedings, and wishing to save him from an ignominious end, caused him to be arrested and lodged in the Compter, hoping that when his companions were disposed of by the operation of the law he might be out of future danger; but it happened that Ramsey, one of his old associates, was confined in the same prison at the time, which came to the knowledge of Udall's father, who, in consequence, obtained his son's release.

Ramsey being enlarged soon afterwards, he met Udall at an ale-house; whence,

having resolved to go on the highway, they went to a livery-stable at London Wall, and hired horses; and going immediately on the Stratford road, they procured a considerable prize, from the passengers in several coaches, in money, watches, &c.

Udall cohabited with a woman named Margaret Young, who had been the companion of several other men. Being one day distressed for cash, he robbed this woman of five gold rings; in consequence of which she had him apprehended by a judge's warrant, when he was lodged in the house of a tip-staff, Mrs. Young swearing that the rings were the property of another man with whom she had been acquainted. During Udall's confinement, the supposed owner of the rings offered not to prosecute, if he would enter into a bond never again to live with Mrs. Young; but, as he rejected this offer, an order was made out for his commitment to the King's Bench; but he and another prisoner effected their escape from the house of the tip-staff, by forcing the keys from the maid-servant.

Not long after this adventure, Udall and some of his associates robbed a physician in the Strand, for which they were all apprehended; but Udall became an evidence against his accomplices, by which he escaped for a season the fate which he had so frequently merited, by his daring infractions on law and justice.

Soon after Udall had thus obtained his liberty, he casually met Margaret Young in company with the presumptive owner of the rings before mentioned, who threatened to arrest Udall for the value of them unless he would give him a note of hand for 4*l*. Udall complied with this demand; but, being unable to pay the note when it became due, he was arrested; and, standing trial, he was cast, and ordered to discharge both debt and costs.

Udall's friends, who had been put to great outlay on his account, refused to pay the expenses incurred by this transaction, so that he became a prisoner in the Marshalsea; but some of his acquaintance having furnished him with saws and ropes, he made his escape with another prisoner, named Mann: while they were escaping, a neighbour would have stopped them, but that they threatened his life with the most dreadful imprecations.

After this adventure, Udall went to see

his relations, whom he promised that he would go to Holland, if they would only supply him with money to pay for his passage. This they readily did, and agreed to remit him a sum annually towards his support, on the condition of his continuing abroad; but he had no sooner possessed himself of the present cash, than he went to a house of ill fame in Charter-house Lane, where he spent his money in riot and excess.

Being again impoverished, he and his scape-mate, Mann, resolved to go on the highway; and the woman of the house having furnished them with pistols, they procured horses and rode beyond Edmonton, where they robbed four ladies in a coach; on which they returned to London, and spent the profits of their ill-gained treasure in Charter-house Lane.

On the following day they took three gold watches, 5*l*., and some silver, from the passengers in a waggon on the western road, near Brentford; and soon afterwards they robbed two gentlemen near Epping Forest; on their return from which expedition Udall fell from his horse, by which he was so much bruised as to be compelled to keep his bed for several days. When his health was somewhat re-established, and his money expended, they went again on the road; and having supped at the Castle at Halloway, they robbed three gentlemen near Islington, and spent their money in their old place of resort in Charter-house Lane.

About this time information was given to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison of the place of their resort; on which he sent a number of men to take them into custody; but just as they were entering at the door, our adventurers, having a timely notice of their approach, escaped over the roof of the house. The runners of the prison being thus disappointed in getting possession of the men, took into custody the mistress of the house and her servant; but they were soon afterwards dismissed, on their engaging to assist in the apprehension of the prison-breakers; and subsequently, when Mann and Udall were strolling in the neighbourhood of Islington, in search of prey, they met their old landlady, in company with two of the runners of the Marshalsea; on which the robbers produced pistols, and vowed vengeance against the first person who should molest them. The woman

told them they had nothing to fear, for there was no intention of injuring them, and persuaded them to walk as far as Pancras with them, and have something to drink at a public-house. After having been some time drinking, one of the men spoke privately to Udall, and made him the offer of his liberty if he would consent to wink at the apprehension of his companion, who had been confined for a large debt. Udall said he was unwilling that Mann should be taken while in his company, lest he should be deemed to be treacherous to his trust; but he would leave him as soon as they reached town, and the others might then take him into custody. This, however, was only a trick of Udall's; for when they had got into the fields, he privately communicated to Mann what had passed; and both of the delinquents, turning simultaneously, presented their pistols, and threatend immediate death to their would-be entrappers unless they retired forthwith, which they thought it prudent to do for the sake of insuring their safety.

The two deluded wretches now committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of Epping Forest, and for a considerable time eluded the arm of justice; but Udall at length committed himself so far as to become powerless in the stratagem by which he was about to be handed over to the judicial authorities, through the treachery of the very individual he had so recently screened. He left his horse one night at a public-house on the forest, and went to Mann's lodgings completely intoxicated; and while he was in this state, Mann left home, locking the door under pretence that he was fearful the men from the Marshalsea might else suddenly come upon Udall and apprehend him, while he was unable to resist them. Mann, however, immediately delivered himself into custody, and gave the key to the runners, who, repairing to the house, entered it, and seized Udall in bed; and both were conveyed to their former place of confinement.

Mann now seriously reflected on his situation; and, being apprehensive that he might be seen by some person who might charge him with a capital offence, he begged to be conducted to a magistrate, before whom he was admitted an evidence against his companion, on a charge of having committed several rob-

beries on the highway. Udall was consequently sent to Newgate; and, being tried at the next Old Bailey sessions, he was convicted, almost wholly upon the evidence of Mann, and received sentence of death.

After conviction he seemed at once to give up all hopes of life, conscious that he had no reason to expect any extent of mercy in his favour, his offences having been so numerous and so flagrant. He acknowledged that from the time he was first apprenticed he had been a total stranger to common honesty, and that his father had expended upwards of 400*l.* in fruitless endeavours to reclaim him from the path of black iniquity.

On the 14th of March, 1738, William Udall was removed to Tyburn, where he paid his life as a sacrifice to mankind for the repeated villanies of which he had been guilty, having, it was hoped, become satisfactorily repentant.

MURDER OF MR. BIRD AND HIS HOUSE-KEEPER, AT GREENWICH.

(Conclusion of Chapter III. from No. 7.)

A FEW days after the execution of Hussey, the Rev. Mr. Rudge, of Limehouse, published a statement, of which the following is a correct copy. It is perhaps the most affecting part of Hussey's truly eventful history.

"A number of contradictory statements having appeared respecting Hussey's confession, it has been judged advisable to give, in an authentic shape, the whole of what really passed from his lips in his cell on the morning of his execution. It must be admitted that the situation in which I was placed, with respect to this wretched man, was one of great difficulty and of peculiar delicacy. I had been requested by a number of respectable persons to go down to Maidstone; and he had himself strongly urged me to see him. I was sensible, that if any confession acceptable to the people at large, and satisfactory to the inhabitants of Greenwich in particular, could be made, much would depend upon the manner in which the conversation was conducted, and the questions were put, on my part. That there was something which burdened and troubled his mind, I had every reason to conclude, from what I discovered at my first interview with him

on the day previous to his execution. I went, for the first time, accompanied by the chaplain and gaoler of the prison. When the humane and worthy clergyman had concluded the prayers and reading a sermon, he and the gaoler retired, leaving me alone with the prisoner. In the course of a long and interesting conversation, chiefly on religious topics, I saw enough to give force and strength to the conviction, that if he were not the actual perpetrator of this horrid deed, he was possessed of that which would be of the utmost importance to have communicated to the public. I had recourse to every means of persuasion; I pressed disclosure as a matter of religious duty—as one of personal favour; but they had no avail; and I saw the time was not yet arrived in which I should succeed in carrying my point. One observation which he made, in reference to the murder, was remarkable, and heightened extremely all my anxieties on the subject: ‘What good will it do for me to disclose anything I know of the murder, now I am going to suffer for it? The secret had better die with me. You must not—must not press me further. I am innocent of it!’ In the course of the day I was frequently with him, but in company with the chaplain and gaoler.

“On the Monday morning we settled with him to administer the sacrament of the Lord’s supper at an early hour. On some person coming into the cell, and entering into conversation, he told me he had slept little in the night, and that something so troubled him he could not compose himself to rest. It had a reference to the sacrament, for which he thought himself not duly prepared, though he said he was in charity with all men, and had made, he hoped, his peace with that God before whom he was shortly to be summoned. I thought it might now be productive of good, if, after having shortly explained the nature and pressed the importance of this duty enjoined by his dying Saviour, I was to avail myself of the opportunity of urging him to disclose the state of his mind, and make a frank confession of anything which either interrupted his peace or troubled his conscience. The words, as far as I can recollect, in which I addressed him were these: ‘And now, Hussey, before we communi-

cate and take this blessed sacrament to our comfort, I request you to declare, as a dying man, for the satisfaction of the public at large, and of the inhabitants of Greenwich in particular, did you or did you not perpetrate this horrid murder? or, if you did not, do you know who did? Tell me, as a matter of personal favour.’ His answer was, ‘As God is my judge, and you are my witnesses, these uplifted hands were never stained with the blood of Mr. Bird or his servant.’ He was now on his knees; and, giving me a keen and expressive look, he added, in a tone scarcely audible, ‘I know, but—more presently!’

“After the sacrament had been administered, which was done by the Rev. Mr. Argles with great solemnity, the chaplain and gaoler took their leave, and left me alone with him. We were together upwards of an hour. Immediately as the door was closed, I entered into a religious conversation with him, and discoursed on the state of the soul after death, on a future judgment, and on such other topics as were calculated to affect his heart, and to produce within him true repentance before God and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ! I thought that my endeavours seemed to be now pre-eminently successful. Hussey himself said that this was the happiest moment he had yet experienced. I seized the favourable symptom, for I saw that the heart was disposed to be communicative. After exhausting almost every other topic of address, I descended upon the comfort of possessing a true friend, to whom we could unbosom our heart and reveal our sorrows. ‘You,’ said he, ‘are that friend that I ought to conceal nothing from; I never can make you any return for all your goodness to me.’ ‘Yes, Hussey; there’s one return which you can, if you will, make; it will be a sufficient reward; tell me all you know!’ He cast a look at the door, and listened for a moment, and then began to address me in the following words, to which I have strictly adhered, giving the narrative, as far as my recollection will enable me, in the very same language in which it was related. The scene was a melting one; and he was occasionally so agonized, as to be obliged to take a little breath, and give vent to the feelings with which he was agitated. There was a moment, indeed,

in which I almost despaired of his being able to proceed, such was the difficulty he experienced in embodying in language the horrid narrative.

“All along have I resolved never, even to my dearest relations, to divulge the secret, but to let it die with me. Your letter staggered my resolution, but I got over the difficulty. I am not the murderer, but I planned and instigated the robbery. The Almighty gives me power to declare this, and to say, that in the blood of Mr. Bird, his servant, or any one else, my hands were never imbrued. A man of the name of A with one B did it. We had accidentally met at Greenwich, and we became intimate with each other. We had learned that Mr. Bird was very rich, and that he sometimes went to London to receive large sums of money. It happened the same day as I was sitting with A and drinking at the Tiger, we observed him sitting in one of his rooms at a table, whereon was a good deal of gold, and a number of what we thought were bank-notes. I observed, this would be a fine job. This led to something further being said, and I proposed the robbery, saying, let us meet this evening, and we will see what can be done. It happened, however, that nothing was attempted that night, nor was anything finally settled upon, we not being agreed as to the parts we should take in the robbery. We again met, it may be about a week after, and my advice was, that we should make an attempt that very evening; I had, indeed, purposely provided a hammer to open the door with. We went all three, about half-past eleven; but finding no answer was returned to our knocking, and as there were a great many people passing and repassing, we became disheartened; and recollecting what my washerwoman had said about Mr. Bird's early hours, we all agreed to meet in the park at a certain spot, and to go from thence to Mr. Bird's house, which we accordingly did, between eight and nine of the evening of the murder. The plan was this: It was, to knock at the front door, and B to get over, or break open the side door, and so proceed round to the back window. While this was doing, A was to engage the servant in conversation, until such time as he found B had got in. I understood afterwards B had great difficulty

in doing it, but he at last did, when A immediately knocked down and killed the servant with a mallet he had provided himself with, and B rushed through the passage, and strangled Mr. Bird, whom he soon did for with the hammer I had given him. While this was going on, I was standing out close to the Tiger's Head, and was to whistle if I saw any one was coming, which I did twice, as there were two persons that passed; but as the night was very foggy, and as it was a little before eight in the evening, they seemed to take no notice of the light of the candle which the servant had in her hand at Mr. Bird's door. I kept watch for about twenty minutes, and thinking them a long time, and that they might be discovered, I crossed the street, and gently tapped at the door. No one answered, nor did I hear any noise. Thinking this strange, I went to the side door, and tried to get in there, but found it quite fast. I then returned to the front door, but could not open it. I knocked again, and was at last let in. I forget now by which of the two; but he said, 'We were at the top of the house, looking over what we had found, and you alarmed us.' I went in, and, going up stairs, stumbled over the body of the servant, which we then moved out of our way. I was shocked to learn from them the fate of Mr. Bird and the (maid-servant; but B said it could not be helped, as they found them (and particularly the old man) so resolute. After being in the house about five minutes, it was agreed that I should go out; and in ten minutes after, they both came to me. I was then in the middle of the street, nearly opposite to Mr. Bird's house, and it was so dark that no one could see me. We now went into the park, and by the light from a dark lantern, which A had brought with him, we began dividing the property, which we tied up a sheet. There were a great many articles, but the smallest part fell to my lot. They said that in the bureau a great many guineas were found, which it was agreed they should have, and I the bank-notes and watches, &c. We then separated, and I went and changed myself. When I had done this, I came down privately, and went to a pond near Vansittart's Place, where I threw in both the mallet and hammer, which had been tied up in my bundle,

and which the other two men had requested me to take with me. I met A and B only once or twice afterwards. Their ship was at the time of the murders about to sail for the East Indies, and on going to look after them about four or five days afterwards I learned that the ship was gone. This was on the 11th or 12th of February last.'

"The above is, to the best of my recollection, a correct statement.

"JAMES RUDOE.

"Limehouse, August 8, 1818."

Many a reader of this statement has been induced to acquit Hussey of the perpetration of the crime for which he really suffered; but it must be borne in mind that he was at least an accessory in the affair, and that as such he was an equally guilty party in the eye of our law, and therefore still liable to its most extreme penalty.

HISTORY OF GEORGE CADDELL.

This individual was a native of Bromsgrove, Worcester, at which place he was apprenticed to an apothecary, with whom he served his time; at the expiration of which he repaired to London, where he attended several of the hospitals, to obtain an insight into the art of surgery. As soon as he became tolerably acquainted with the profession, he went to Worcester and practised under Mr. Randall, who was a surgeon of great reputation in that city; and in this situation he was equally admired for the extent of his abilities and the amiability of his disposition. He there married his employer's daughter, who died in labour of her first child.

After this melancholy occurrence he removed to Lichfield, where he continued upwards of two years at the surgery of Mr. Dean. During his residence here he evinced an attachment for Mr. Dean's daughter, to whom he would probably have been married but for the commission of that crime which righteously cost him his life, in accordance with the divine text-book.

Elizabeth Price, a young female of considerably attractive influence, resided near Mr. Caddell's place of abode: she had unhappily been the victim of seduction by a brute of an officer in the army; but after that misfortune she creditably supported herself by her skill and industry at needle-work. Her troubles were at last

about to be renewed by the formation of an acquaintance with Caddell, with whom an undue intimacy soon subsisted; and Miss Price, degraded as she was by the unfortunate step she had taken, was still inclined to think herself an equal match for one of Mr. Caddell's rank in life. As pregnancy was shortly the consequence of their intimacy, she repeatedly urged him to an agreement of marriage with her, which he as often resisted. Miss Price at length had an intimation of the dissembling culprit paying his addresses to Miss Dean; on which she became so importunate as, after much ineffectual persuasion on her part, to threaten him, in case of his non-compliance, to put an end to all his prospects with that young lady, by a full disclosure of what had passed between them. Caddell at that moment inwardly formed the horrid resolution of dying his conscience in the blood of his unfortunate victim, as he could by no possibility bear the thought either of forfeiting the esteem of a woman whose affections he had won, or of marrying one who had been as condescending to another as to himself.

This dreadful idea having entered his mind, 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 a house then known by the sign of the Nag's Head. Having accompanied her supposed lover into the fields, and walked about till towards evening, they sat down under a hedge, when, after a short conversation, Caddell suddenly pulled out a knife, cut her throat, and made his escape, but not before he was certain she was dead. In the distraction of his mind, however, he left behind him the knife with which he had perpetrated the deed, together with his case of instruments. On his return home it was observed that he appeared exceedingly confused, though the reason of his perturbation of mind could not even be guessed at.

The following morning, on Miss Price being found murdered in the field, a vast concourse of people went to take a view of the body, among whom was the woman of the house where she lodged, who recol-

lected that she had said she was going to walk with Mr. Caddell; on which the instruments were examined, and they were recognised as his property. He was consequently taken into custody, and committed to the gaol of Stafford; and being soon afterwards tried, he was found guilty and accordingly condemned; upon which he was executed at Stafford on the 21st of July, 1700.

CONVICTS IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The following are extracts from a letter received about eight months since from an intelligent convict, of respectable connexions, who was banished to the above colony for life in the year 1827. It is hoped that by its perusal "those whom it may more especially concern" will learn that transportation is not merely a removal from one country to another; but, on the contrary, a dreadful reality, and that its concomitants are severe and unremitting labour and rigid discipline, without mitigation and without hope.

"The discipline of this colony has now become dreadfully severe; every year has increased its severity since I have been in it. When I arrived, the weekly ration was one peck of wheat, seven pounds of beef, two ounces of tea, one pound of sugar, and two ounces of tobacco; the present rations is five pounds of second flour, seven pounds of maize or barley meal, and seven pounds of beef or, in lieu thereof, four pounds and a half of pork. This is the last government order; and any addition is to be considered only as an indulgence for good conduct. For the first act of disobedience or insolence, twenty-five lashes are inflicted; for the second, seventy-five or one hundred; and for the third, the offender is sent one year to an iron gang; and the same measure of punishment is inflicted upon those who abscond or take to 'the bush.'"

The writer states that the iron gangs are guarded both night and day by the military, so that escape is quite impossible, and the triangles are always at hand to punish both the indolent and the insolent. Supposing a convict has served half his term before he is sent to one of these gangs, he has to commence *de novo*, and becomes a *new hand*.

"It is to such a place, and to endure such punishment, that men are sent from the English bar of justice. Poor wretches!

did they but know their fate, surely they would stop in the way of transgression; otherwise it were better for them that they had never been born. I verily believe that no system ever adopted has become more perfect as a real punishment to the guilty, or that enforces stricter discipline as the means of gaining any indulgence from this government. The only chance which a convict has of ever doing well, is to entirely abandon his bad habits, and by faithfully and truly serving his employer; but if he is negligent, insolent, or pilfers, he is certain of being severely flogged, sent to an iron gang or a penal settlement, or of being shot or hung. Not one day of liberty will he thereafter enjoy; he will have all his sentences, in addition to his original sentence, to serve over again: but the man who is 'assigned' to a master, and chooses to be industrious and well-behaved, will be kindly used, and meet with many indulgences. In this remark I do not refer to those who are sent to the penal settlements or iron gangs. No; they are like the damned, they are doomed to 'weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth;' to a condition where 'hope, which comes to all, ne'er comes to them.' Our police system is now rendered so perfect that to escape and evade the terrors of the law for any time is utterly impossible.

"I have heard observations made of convicts making money in the colony; and I fear many are deceiving themselves with such an idea. I can only say, that during my eight years' severe labour and degrading toil I never had in my possession 10s. of my own earnings since my arrival here. No being can be more degraded than the convict in New South Wales. By a recent Act of Parliament the courts of law are closed against the prisoner, even after he has obtained a ticket of leave; he is not allowed to sue his employer for his lawful wages, should he refuse to pay him; and, by the same statute, he is not allowed to possess any property whatever—thus placing him in a worse condition than a common vagrant. I ask, then, can transportation be deemed a slight punishment?"

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 9.

APRIL 27, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES. N^o. 1.

MAJOR STEDE BONNET.



[CAPTURE OF THE MAJOR.]

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

Piracy is a capital offence by the civil

law, although by Act of Parliament it may be heard and determined according to the rules of common law, as if the offence had been committed on land. The mode of trial is regulated by Hen. 8, c. 15; and farther, by 11-12 Wm. 3, c. 7, and 39 Geo. 3, c. 37, which also extends to other offences committed on the high seas.

Having given this brief outline respecting the offence known by the name of Piracy, we proceed to furnish an account of one who followed the crime as a trade. Stede Bonnet was respectably descended, and was, in fact, a gentleman of considerable fortune in the island of Barbadoes; it was therefore surprising that he should embark in such a dishonourable and dan-

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gerous undertaking: but having formed his resolution, he equipped a small vessel of ten guns and seventy men at his own expense, and in the night commenced his voyage. Prior to this he had served as a major in the local army of the island on which he resided.

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

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

Black Beard some time after surrendered to a royal proclamation, and obtained pardon; upon which the major resumed the command of his own ships, and immediately sailed to Bathtown, in North Carolina, where he likewise discreetly surrendered to his majesty's proclamation.

The war now commenced between the triple allies and Spain, and Major Bonnet went to the island of St. Thomas to obtain leave of the emperor to privateer upon the Spaniards. Upon his return, he found that Black Beard had pillaged the great ships of money and arms, and set on shore seventeen of the men, on a desolate island; in consequence of which, Bonnet, after he had obtained the necessary information from two men who had made their

escape from the island, sent the long-boat to the assistance of the others, so that, after remaining two days without food, and in the prospect of a lingering death, they were taken on board the major's ships.

Bonnet then informed his men, that his intention was to take a commission to act against the Spaniards, and that he would take them along with him if they were inclined. To this they all readily complied. Just, however, as they were about to set sail, they received intelligence that Black Beard was not far off, with only eighteen or twenty men. The major pursued, but was too late, however, to apprehend him.

Disappointed in their pursuit, they directed their course to Virginia; and when off the Capes, they met a vessel, out of which they took twelve barrels of pork and four hundred-weight of bread, and, in return, gave them eight or ten casks of rice and an old cable. Two days after, he captured a vessel off Cape Henry; in which were several casks of rum, besides other articles of which they stood greatly in want.

Having availed himself of surrendering to the government, Major Bonnet might have reinstated himself in the community with honour to himself, and great advantage to the state. Indeed, one would infer that he should naturally have followed up this line of policy, having undertaken the capture of vessels from the enemy with whom the home-government was then at war; an undertaking by which he might have enriched himself, had he maintained the position in which he had volunteered, to say nothing of the service he would have rendered the allies: and the fact of his crew willingly agreeing to join him in this enterprise, was undoubtedly more than a double inducement. A piratic mania had, however, seized him, and he was not long attached to those powers for whose benefit he had vowed to use his utmost exertions.

Under the name of Captain Thomas, Major Bonnet suddenly resumed his old depredatory courses. Off Cape Henry, he took two ships bound from Virginia to Glasgow, which only supplied him with some hundreds of pounds of tobacco. The following day he seized a vessel bound to Bermuda, which supplied him with twenty barrels of pork; in return for which he

gave two barrels of rice and a hogshead of molasses: from this ship, two men entered into his service. The next prize was a Virginian bound for Glasgow, from which he received nothing of value. In the course of their cruising, several other vessels were captured, which, however, possessed no value worth consideration.

Our pirates next sailed for Cape Fier river, where they waited too long; for, their vessel becoming leaky, they could not proceed till she was refitted: for this purpose a small shallop soon afforded the materials.

Meanwhile, intelligence was received by the Council of South Carolina that a pirate, with her prizes, was discovered at no very great distance, which gave them great alarm, and caused them to exert themselves to the utmost to capture her; in pursuance of which intention they speedily equipped and manned two vessels, which they sent out on search, with instructions to the commanders to display the extent of their abilities in the prosecution of the task confided to them.

The two vessels in search were a long time at sea without meeting the object of their wish; but at last, on discovering her, they allowed no delay to take place in coming in contact with her, the result of which was a severe engagement, in which Bonnet and his crew were made prisoners, and their prizes seized, and taken into port, to the infinite satisfaction of the people of South Carolina, a state then comparatively in its infancy.

The pirates had been but a short time under arrest, when the major and one of his men, of the name of Herriott, made their escape; which excited the fears of the inhabitants, lest Bonnet should find the means of again obtaining a vessel which he might fit out, and seek his vengeance upon them for the part they had taken in endeavouring to put a termination to his lawless and depredatory pursuits, by which many of the colonists had sustained very heavy losses, and incalculable injury had been inflicted upon the coast.

After much consultation on the line of policy to be adopted, the Council agreed upon offering a reward of 700*l.* for Bonnet's apprehension, and sending a party in pursuit of him. Acting promptly upon their determination, an order in council

was issued, stating that the above reward should be paid to any person or persons who might apprehend the said Major Stede Bonnet, or give such information as might lead to his being apprehended by the officers of the state whence he had made his escape; and Col. Rhet was despatched at the head of a body of men, resolved to effect the purpose on which they had set out, if it were possible.

Col. Rhet and his party had been on their march about a fortnight, when they fell in with the major and his companion, who offered resistance, the consequence of which was, that Herriott was shot on the spot where they were found; when Bonnet thought it prudent to withdraw his individual resistance, and therefore surrendered himself. He was afterwards removed, with several others, to Charlestown; and upon being brought to trial he was found guilty of various capital offences alleged against him, for which he received sentence of death, which sentence was carried into effect in the month of May, 1701.

What could have induced Stede Bonnet, surrounded as he was with the comforts of life, to quit his fireside enjoyments, and range "the world of waters" with a spirit scarcely less turbulent than the waves which buffeted his adventurous bark? An evil impulse, which he had not sufficient strength to withstand; an impulse over which the true Christian is enabled to triumph, by rigid attention to the divine injunction—"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation!"

THE SINGULAR CASE OF JOHN SMITH.

Though the crimes committed by this individual were not marked with particular atrocity, some events of his life were so remarkable as to demand a place in these annals: the circumstances attending his fate at the place of execution are perhaps more singular than any others to be found on record. He was the son of a farmer at Malton, Yorkshire, who bound him an apprentice to a packer in London, with whom he served out his time and afterwards worked as a journeyman. He then went to sea in a merchantman; after which he entered on board a man of war, and was at the famous expedition against Vigo; but on returning from that expedition he was discharged.

He had not been long free from the naval service, when he enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of guards commanded by Lord Cutts; but in this station he soon formed bad connexions, with some of whom he engaged as a housebreaker, a calling which, for the present, he followed for a very short period.

On the 5th of December, 1705, he was arraigned on four different indictments, on two of which he was convicted, and he received sentence of death. While he lay under sentence, he seemed very little affected with his situation, absolutely depending on a reprieve, through the interest of his friends. An order, however, came for his execution on the 24th of the same month, in consequence of which he was carried to Tyburn, where he performed his devotions, and was turned off in the usual manner; but when he had been hanging nearly fifteen minutes, the people present cried out, "A reprieve!" The malefactor was therefore cut down, and conveyed to a house in the neighbourhood, where he soon recovered, through the application of the necessary means.

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

After this narrow escape from death, Smith pleaded to his pardon on the 20th of February following; but such was his subsequent propensity for evil practices, that he resumed the character of a housebreaker, by which he became amenable a second time to the offended laws of his country, but escaped their rigour, upon his being arraigned at the bar of the Old

Bailey for housebreaking, through some doubt or difficulty being connected with the case, which caused the jury to bring in a special verdict; and the matter being left for the opinion of the twelve judges, they determined the same in favour of the prisoner.

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

There is no account on record of what became of Smith after this third remarkable incident in his favour; but charity inclines us to hope that he made a proper use of the singular dispensations of Providence so repeatedly evidenced in his own person.

When once the mind has consented to the commission of sin, it is hard to be reclaimed: not even the recollection of the pangs of an ignominious death could deter this man from following the evil course he had begun. Thus, by giving way to small propensities, we imperceptibly go on to enormities, which lead us to a shameful fate. Let us, therefore, at once firmly resolve never to depart from the path of rectitude.

Naval and Military Torture. N^o 1.

ATROCIOUS CRUELTY TO AN IMPRESSED SEAMAN.

THE expectations of the public have been again violently disappointed in the conduct of the reformed Parliament, with regard to the perpetuation of flogging in the British army, a mode of punishment which none but the most depraved and unfeeling minds can adopt, unless fatally misguided—not to say prejudiced—by some fallacious ideas on the subject; a mode of punishment which none else can attempt to justify, in the present day, on any tenet of morality, justice, common prudence, or rationality. Majorities, of 212 to 95, and of 135 to 62, have decided upon its continuation, in disastrous opposition to the voice of the people—the voice of God; and it becomes a question whether it will not be the righteous duty of the oppressed henceforth to resist the barefaced, beastly, and merciless cruelty; a cruelty, the exercise of which is far worse than a national reproach, being an

infraction on the law and the testimony revealed in the volume of inspiration. A few manly resistances,—resistances even to death, if need be; for it is better to die struggling for freedom, than to die tamely submitting to the iron hand of oppression,—and the dire wretches who uphold the system (many of whom luxuriate in witnessing a victim's sufferings, laughing at "the sport" the scene affords *them*) would be driven from their purpose, overwhelmed with disgrace and discomfiture. "Who would be free, themselves must strike the blow!"

No one will deny the fact, that laws or regulations may be framed so harshly as to render it conscientiously imperative on the governed to oppose their enforcement: of such a character is the regulation respecting flogging in the army and navy of Britain, the vaunted land of the free—the refuge of the exiled alien! To the gallant defenders of our country, by land and by sea, we would fain say—Whether you encounter the enemy in the field, or meet the oppressor in the camp—whether you grapple with the foe whose banner waves upon the ocean, or locate with the tyrant whose fiat governs upon the tented deck—when prudence dictates fear, temerity is folly: let not your sense of honour be tarnished in one case more than in the other.

The Anti-slavery society was formed for the especial design of moving Heaven and earth to extinguish slavery—slavery in the unfortunate being in our colonies who has been known by the commonplace cognomen of *slave*; but that society (supposing it still in active operation) has work to do, of which its members are not ignorant, in our own country—our own home: to wit, the case of the soldier and sailor, while they are subject to the summary severity they have had so often to endure: to wit, likewise, the case of the factory child, from the slavery of whom many a purse-proud villain is bowed down to and worshiped; some religious hypocrite, perchance, in the character of a priest, juggling him for the love of his worldly effects, and teaching him, with Heaven-insulting flattery, to adopt as his language, "The silver is mine, and the gold is mine." To free these *white* slaves from their bondage, is as much the duty of this Anti-slavery Society as any duty it has hitherto acted upon: charity *must*

be performed at home, though it have not been commenced there. Let the friends of rational liberty look to these things, as it behoves them.

To the case of the factory child we shall again refer, by an article devoted to the subject, in which an illustration will be given of the homage which many an Egyptian task-master receives from some who minister in holy things; for, whilst we desire not to extenuate, we equally desire to set down naught in malice.

Amongst those who honoured the Ays on the occasions to which we have already alluded, (the questions being respectively, first, for the entire abolition of military flogging—secondly, for restricting military flogging to British troops in actual service abroad,) may be more particularly mentioned, as speakers, Major Fancourt, Capt. Boldero, Mr. Poulter, Col. Thompson, Mr. Hume, Mr. Robinson, Major Beauclerc, Mr. Lennard, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Serjeant Talfourd, Mr. Wakley, and Mr. T. S. Duncombe. On the other side stood forward, with equal prominence, as the callous and unblushing supporters of the baneful system, (notwithstanding the well-known reality that many of them have, in times past, denounced it in copious terms,) Mr. Cutlar Ferguson (the Judge Advocate), Lord Sandon, Lord Howick (Secretary at War), Mr. Hardy, Sir R. Fergusson, Dr. Baldwin, Col. Sibthorpe, Col. Thomas, Sir H. Hardinge, Mr. W. Cowper, Mr. Pemberton, and Mr. C. Berkeley; with the addition of one who referred to a statement made by Mr. T. S. Duncombe as being "a stigma on every officer in command of a regiment, until the charge was refuted:" that one was Sir Charles Dalbiac, the prosecutor—a word sometimes substituted for *persecutor*—of the highly honourable, noble-minded, and benignant Col. Brereton, the thought of whose untimely fate operates powerfully on the sympathetic breast, he having been hunted to death, as it were by bloodhounds, at the time of the fatal riot at Bristol in 1831; at least, he was driven to the point of a precipice, whence, his pursuers still goading him, he, much to be lamented, fell! The prominence of certain men is so obtrusive to the lover of honesty and worth, that bitter recollections of bygone days arise, and the cry of the orphan is in effect renewed—"My father! my father!" The charge, it may

be proper to state, to which Sir Charles alluded was to the effect, that a commanding officer had been known to cause the infliction of the lash to be repeated at minute or half-minute time!

It is probable that the pages of this work would not have entertained any records of this species of brutal treatment, but for the sanction it has farther openly received from the legislature—the reformed legislature: upon such consideration, however, instances of the revolting practice will occasionally be given, with the fond hope that the more such practice is brought to the notice of the public—the more the question is agitated, the more speedily will arrive the “consummation most devoutly to be wished” by the humane and the philanthropic—the discontinuance of flogging in the army and navy.

The following extract from a stirring work recently published by Effingham Wilson, affords a shocking example of the savage cruelties practised under the infernal system of impressment. The tale would be incredible, but for the numerous well-authenticated cases which have been published on unquestionable authority.

“In the course of a few years Tom Brookes became mate of a fine ship in the merchant service, and his efforts seemed crowned with success: he enjoyed the sweet satisfaction of seeing his mother comfortably situated, and his heart whispered to be the reward of virtue. But who can arraign the will of Heaven, or say to Omnipotence, ‘What doest thou?’ War with all its attendant horrors broke out, and the cruel system of impressment was adopted for the purpose of manning our fleets. At this critical juncture Tom received information that his parent was rapidly hastening to the mansions of immortality—‘where the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest.’ He had recently arrived in England full of joyous anticipation; but he found the silver cord of existence was loosened, and the golden bowl dashed from his lips—he reached his home just time enough to receive the last farewell benediction of his dying mother. Before the earth had closed over the remains of his parent—before she had become mingled with the clods of the valley, the press-gangs were actively on the alert, and poor Tom fell into their hands. No time was allowed

to lay his mother in the silent grave: he kissed the clay-cold bosom on which he had hung in infancy, and with stern serenity yielded himself a prisoner. He loved his country, and would not have shrunk from its service in the hour of battle; but at such a moment to be forced away!—it was draining the cup of anguish to the very dregs. At this period I had commenced my career as a sailor, and was then lying in a ship of war at Plymouth under sailing orders for a foreign station, but waiting for a full complement of hands: indeed, men were so scarce that some of the ablest felons had been selected from the gaols to make up the crews. I was walking the deck, when a party of these convicts came alongside with a draught of seamen from the flagship; and among the latter I recognised Tom Brookes: he was dressed in deep black, and his fine and manly countenance betrayed the indignation and agony that struggled in his heart. Surely it was impossible to mistake his character, for when called before the captain he behaved with a gentlemanly respect that commanded admiration. But Captain S—* was one of those who are tyrannical and brutal by nature; and when poor Tom approached, he exclaimed, ‘Well, fellow, whose pocket have you been picking?’ Surely this might have been spared, for Tom’s countenance was an index to an honest and an upright mind, his attire was most respectable, and every action bespoke the experienced seaman. Never shall I forget his look: it showed the conflicting struggles of a proud spirit; but it was only for a moment. He fixed his steady gaze upon the inquirer, who shrank before it. Captain S— seemed to read his thoughts: and he was a man that never forgave.

“A boatswain’s mate was directed to cut off the tails of his coat, so as to render it more like a seaman’s jacket. The man approached: but this coat was the mourning he wore for his mother, and, bitter recollections crossing his mind, he threw the boatswain’s mate from him to the opposite side of the deck. This was considered an act of mutiny, and poor Tom was put in irons, with his legs stapled to

* “He was afterwards dismissed the navy for cruelty.” How far short of the demerits of the miscreant scoundrel, who ought, at least, to have died the death of a murderer.

the deck. Being, however, a good scaman, his services were required; so that he was shortly afterwards released, and sent to do his duty on the fore-castle. We sailed in a few days; and after being some time at sea, the captain, remembering what had taken place in harbour, ordered poor Tom, by way of punishment, to perform most of the menial offices of his station, and at length insisted on his executing the most degrading duty in a ship of war—that of sweeping the decks. This he refused with a respectful firmness; and in that he certainly was wrong, for obedience is the first test of duty—no matter from what motive the order proceeds; and in refusing to obey, Tom acted improperly as a seaman; but who can condemn him, having the feelings of a man? His refusal, however, was of no avail; and the broom was lashed by small cords to his hands, and a boatswain's mate stood ready with a rope's end to enforce command. Tom obstinately declared that he would die rather than submit to unmerited oppression; the blows fell heavily on his back, but they could not change the purpose of his heart. In the moment of his anguish, whilst smarting from the stripes, but writhing still more with inward torture that bowed his spirit, he uttered some severe invectives on the tyranny of his commander. The hands were immediately turned up, the gratings were seized to the gangway, and poor Tom was ordered to strip for flogging. Resistance was useless; his outspread arms and extended legs were lashed to the gratings; and after reading the Articles of War for disobedience of orders, the captain directed the boatswain's mate to give him two dozen. This was not the first time I had witnessed punishment at the gangway, for scarcely a day had passed without it since my joining the ship. But poor Tom had been my early friend; I called to mind the happy hours we had passed together, and now to see him with his back lacerated and bleeding, the cat-o'-nine-tails cutting deep into his flesh—oh, it was too much for me to endure, and I fell at the captain's feet. He spurned me from him; and the first dozen having been given, a fresh boatswain's mate was called to give the second. Tom never flinched: he remained immovable as a rock, and the only indication of bodily

pain was occasionally a contraction of the muscles of his face: a deeper—an all-absorbing agony seemed to have triumphed over mere corporeal suffering; an agony arising from the desperate struggles of his soul. I looked at the men; but the generalty seemed to have sunk into a settled apathy, and only a few, who had recently joined us from the *Barfleur*, displayed the workings of determined minds. They gazed at each other, and tried to catch the sentiments of the crew; and it was plain, that had a corresponding feeling animated the whole, consequences the most fatal and desperate must have ensued. But the ship's company had not been long together, and mutual distrust prevented an open declaration of discontent. The flogging ceased, and poor Tom was consigned to the master-at-arms, and his legs once more fixed in the shackles. I tried to approach him, but was prevented by the marine who stood sentinel over him: my attempt was not, however, unnoticed, and the unfortunate victim gave me a look, and even a smile of grateful acknowledgment. Ah! then my heart sunk within me. I retired to the dark recess of the cable-tier, and gave vent to my tears—for what could a child in his twelfth year do to save the sufferer from the strong arm of power? I consoled myself with the idea that Tom would soon be released; but in this too I was mistaken, for on the following morning he persisted in his refusal to sweep the decks, was again seized up to the gangway, and two dozen lashes more were inflicted upon his already scored and mangled back. The torture was beyond human endurance; and though no shriek betrayed the anguish of the smart, yet a convulsive spasm too clearly indicated the rending of the wounds. Still his firmness did not forsake him; and whilst the cat fell heavily on his shoulders he remonstrated with his persecutor, and appealed to the officers whether he had not always performed his duty. No voice was raised in his behalf, though looks spoke, as forcibly as looks could speak, the detestation of every one for such merciless cruelty. At this moment, Will Scott stepped from among the assembled crew; he looked wildly upon his shipmates, particularly his old messmates, the *Barfleurs*; but all remained motionless as statues, and he resumed his

station. Again the lash descended, and again the instrument of punishment was stained with the blood of the wretched man. Imprecations on the captain burst from his lips, and madness seemed to dictate his wild incoherent ravings; he was no longer passive, his mind gave way, and at the last stroke he hung senseless by the cords which bound his wrists to the gratings. He was cast loose, and on his reviving was again shackled in the irons, with the promise of a renewal of punishment on the morrow if he still disobeyed. In fact, the captain found his authority was at stake; he saw that he had excited disaffection; he kne w what a principal portion of his crew (many of them desperate characters) were not to be trusted; and the very men on whom he placed reliance (the Barfleurs) were disgusted at his treatment. To have receded, he considered, would have been an acknowledgment of error; and one triumph of the people would have been the prelude to more humiliating concessions. Thus he argued, and his very existence seemed to depend upon the issue.

"It was one of those beautiful evenings in June, when the setting sun upon the verge of the horizon tinges the whole expanse of ocean with its golden brightness, that I stood upon the fore-castle contemplating the glories of creation, and presumptuously arraigning Divine Providence for what I foolishly deemed an unequal distribution of good and ill. The seamen were formed in groups along the gangway and waist, and the officers were pacing the larboard side to the captain, who walked sullenly and alone. The lieutenant of the watch stood on the gangway, and did not join him; and there he strode, pale discontent upon his cheek, and keen mistrust in the restless glancing of his eye. The evening was indeed lovely, and calculated to calm the raging passions of the soul. The sea was beautifully smooth; the sails slept deep and still; and though scarcely a breath was felt, yet the breeze upon the quarter was carrying the vessel almost imperceptibly at the rate of five knots (five miles) an hour. I was but a boy—a mere child, and whilst looking at the mild blue sky I thought of my home and of my mother. Poor Tom, too, he whose arms had cradled me in infancy! but what could I do?

Whilst my thoughts were thus occupied, a marine with his drawn bayonet appeared ascending the fore-ladder; close behind him came poor Tom Brookes, and every tongue was hushed. The captain caught the sight of him and stopped; the officers continued their walk, but their eager gaze alternately changed from the captain to the suffering victim of his austerity; but no voice gave utterance to thought. Poor Tom! I think I see him now! Ah! well do I remember the ghastly dolour of his look as he approached me; his eyes cast down, and his whole thoughts apparently riveted on one object alone—but it is impossible to describe it. I touched his arm, for nature spoke within me, and I could not help it. He paused for one moment, and a roseate flush suffused his cheeks; he seized my hand, and I felt that his was burning. I looked in his face, it was lighted up with a smile—but such a smile! It struck me he was thinking of his mother. 'Henry,' he said, whilst grasping my hand, 'Henry, your parents! Do me justice; I ask no more.' He drew his hand away, passed it over my face as he was wont to do when I was an infant, and as his features contracted with a long convulsive sob he added, 'Henry, your mother! Be good, be kind, be dutiful!' and turning round, he walked forward to the bows. I felt as if something was strangling me; my blood rushed to my head, and a dread of I knew not what sickened my very soul. A deathlike stupor pervaded my faculties; but I was aroused from this state by the voice of the marine shouting 'A man overboard! a man overboard!' The truth flashed upon my mind, and as the ship rounded-to (for the helm was instantly put down) I ran to the lee cat-head, and saw the dark body as it sank down in the gurgling eddy which the plunge had made. Yes, it was Tom Brookes—and he never rose again! Some heavy shot were missing from the place where he had been confined, and these he had no doubt concealed about his person to facilitate the work of destruction. Poor Tom, the waters closed above his head! and who can read his doom?"

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 10.

MAY 4, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES. N^o 2.

CAPTAIN SMITH AND OTHERS.



[WILLIAMS'S ATTACK ON GOW.]

The adventures which we are enabled to present to our readers as having occurred in the course of the piratical proceedings of John Gow and his accomplices, being more than sufficient to occupy a single Number of our work, we deem it advisable to divide the subject into two chapters; the first to comprise the general mass of events in the delinquents' career of crime, and the other a development of those circumstances having either a close or a sole relation to their final tragedy.

CHAPTER I.

CAPTAIN SMITH, whose proper name was John Gow, was a native of one of the Orkney Islands, in the north of Scotland; and being instructed in maritime affairs,

he became so expert that he received an appointment as second mate of a ship, called the George Galley, in which capacity he sailed on a voyage to Santa Cruz, though at the time a mere junior. When the vessel was ready to weigh anchor, for the purpose of proceeding on her return voyage, 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, agreeably to custom, entertained his company under an awning on the quarter-deck; and while they were discussing over the regalement, some of the sailors preferred a complaint of ill treatment they pretended to have received, particularly with regard to short allow-

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ance. The captain was irritated at so unmerciful a charge, which was seemingly designed to injure him in the estimation of his employers; but, conscious of the uprightness of his intentions, he did not reply in anger, but only said, there was a steward on board, who had the care of the provisions, and all reasonable complaints should be redressed; on which the men retired, professedly satisfied.

As soon as the merchants had quitted the vessel, the wind being fair, the captain gave directions for weighing anchor. It was observed that Paterson, one of the complainants, was dilatory in executing his orders; on which the captain desired to know why he did not exert himself to unfurl the sails; but though he made no direct answer, he was heard to mutter, "As we eat, so we shall work." The captain, however, passed over this insult, being unwilling to resort to the adoption of extremities.

The ship was on her course, and the captain seriously considered his situation to be very dangerous, on reflecting that his conduct had been complained of, and his orders at best but tardily obeyed on the part of the disaffected. Consulting the mate upon the subject, it was agreed that a number of small arms should be deposited in the cabin, in order to defend themselves in case of an attack; which precaution might have proved most salutary had it been secretly arranged; but the fact of its being made manifest by the unwise manner in which the captain and mate conducted their conference, in speaking so loud as to be overheard by two of the conspirators, who were on the quarter-deck, at once shows its uselessness. The captain likewise directed the mate to order Gow, who was second mate and gunner, to clean the arms; a circumstance, in itself, that plainly intimated to this chief of the conspirators that their machinations were at least suspected.

Those who had overheard the conversation between the captain and mate, communicated the substance of it to Gow and the other conspirators, who resolved to carry their plan into immediate execution; and Gow, who had previously contemplated leading the life of a pirate, considering the present an admirable opportunity, proposed to his companions that they should immediately embark in the enterprise; on which they determined to

murder the captain and some others, and to seize the ship, with the least possible delay.

Half of the ship's company were regularly called to prayers, in the great cabin, at eight o'clock in the evening, while the other half were doing duty on deck; and, after service, those who had been in the cabin retired to rest. The contrivance was, to execute the plot at this juncture. At the time of the attack two only of the conspirators were on duty, the rest being among those who had gone to their hammocks.

Between nine and ten at night a kind of watchword was given, which was—"Who fires first?" Some of the conspirators, quitting their hammocks, immediately proceeded to the cabins of the surgeon, chief mate, and supercargo, and cut their throats while they were asleep. The surgeon, on finding himself violently wounded, left his bed, 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 them; for the villains, perceiving that their blades had failed to accomplish their destruction, despatched them with pistols.

The captain, hearing a noise, demanded the occasion of it. The boatswain replied, he did not know; but he was apprehensive that some of the men had either fallen or been thrown overboard. The captain went to the ship's side, for the purpose of looking over, on which two of the murderers followed him, and tried to throw him off; but he disengaged himself, and turned about to take a view of them, when one of them cut his throat, but not so as to kill him: he now solicited mercy; but, instead of granting it, the other stabbed him in the back with a dagger, and would have repeated the blow but that he could not draw back the weapon, he had thrust it with such force. 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 existence.

The execrable enactors of these horrid villainies having thrown the dead bodies overboard, proceeded to the appointment of a commander, which was unanimously

assigned to Gow, who assumed the title of Captain Smith.

Those of the sailors who had not been engaged in the conspiracy secreted themselves, some in the shrouds, some under the stores, in dreadful apprehension of meeting as sanguinary a fate as either of their late companions had met.

Gow now assembled his associates on the quarter-deck, and appointed them to their different stations on board; when it was agreed to commence pirates.

The new captain then directed that the men who had concealed themselves should be informed, that no danger should happen to them if they would comply with the new government of the ship, and keep such stations as were assigned them, and faithfully perform the services required of them. Some, whose terrified minds had led them to expect immediate death, were glad to find terms of so mild a character proposed to them, and their present safety was instantly ratified: but the pirates, to enforce obedience to their orders, apprehensive that even these might be merely feigning, appointed two of their company to attend with drawn cutlasses, to frighten them into submission, as well as to overawe the professed nonconformists.

The next proceeding of the pirates was the division of the most valuable effects of the cabin; after which Gow ordered liquor to be brought on the quarter-deck, and they consumed the night in drinking, while the men not concerned in the conspiracy had the entire care of working the ship.

The crew originally comprised twenty-four men, including the officers; of whom four were murdered, and eight were conspirators; and before morning four of the others had approved of the proceedings of the pirates, or at least had engaged to act with them; so that there were only eight remaining in opposition to the new authorities. On the following day Gow summoned these eight men before him; and telling them he was determined to go on a cruising voyage, he said they should be well treated if they were disposed to act in concert with the rest of the crew. He said, every man should fare in the same manner, and good order or discipline was all that would be looked for. He said farther, that the captain's inhumanity had produced the lamentable events which had occurred; that those

who had had no hand in the conspiracy had no reason to fear any ill consequence from it—they had only to discharge their duty as seamen, and every man should be rewarded according to his merit.

To this harangue these honest-meaning but unfortunate men made no reply; and Gow interpreted their silence as an assent to act upon those principles which were beyond their power to counteract. These men were therefore permitted to range the ship at pleasure from this period; but as some of them appeared to prosecute their duties with great reluctance, a strict and vigilant eye was fixed upon them. Suspicion ever haunts the guilty mind; and upon this trisism the pirates were continually apprehensive of being brought to justice by means of one or other of these men.

A man of the name of Williams acted as lieutenant of the vessel under Gow, who, being distinguished by the ferocity of his disposition, had now an opportunity of exercising the cruelty which such ferocity suggested; and he took great delight in beating the unhappy seamen with a degree of severity most abhorrent and outrageous.

The pirates gave the *George Galley* the name of the *Revenge*, and, mounting several guns, steered their course toward Spain and Portugal, in the expectation of making a capture of wine, an article of which they were deficient.

They soon made prize of an English vessel, laden with fish, bound from Newfoundland to Cadiz; but having no use for the cargo, they took out the captain and four men, who navigated the ship, which they sunk.

James Belvin, one of the seamen whom they took out of the captured vessel, was a man admirably calculated for their purpose, as he was naturally cruel, and hardened in cruelty by practice. He told Gow he was willing to enter into all his schemes, for he had been accustomed to the exercise of brutality and such like. This man was therefore considered to be a valuable acquisition to the crew, several of the old hands having appeared to act from motives grounded on fear rather than inclination.

The next vessel taken by the pirates was a Scotchman, bound for Italy, with pickled herrings. But this cargo, like the former, being of no use to them, they

sunk the vessel, after taking out the men, arms, ammunition, and stores.

After cruising eight or ten days, they saw a vessel about the size of their own, to which they gave chase. She hoisted French colours, and crowded all her sail in order to get clear of them; and after a chase of three days and three nights they lost the French vessel in a fog.

Being distressed for water, they now steered for the Madeira islands, of which they came in sight in two days; but not thinking it prudent to enter the harbour they steered off and on for several days, in anticipation of making prize of some Portuguese or Spanish vessel; but in this they were disappointed, much to their mortification.

Their distress increasing, they stood in for the harbour, and came 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 the seizure of wine and water, conveying it to the ship in boats. Neither of these schemes, however, was successful, as it was well known by the distance at which they lay that they were pirates.

When they had cruised off for some days subsequent to the futile enterprise just recorded, they found themselves in such distress that it became absolutely necessary to seek immediate relief; on which they sailed to Port Santa, a Portuguese settlement, at the distance of about ten leagues. Upon 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 professed 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 with the greatest politeness, and entertained him and his company in the most hospitable manner; but the boat belonging to the pirates not returning to the ship with some provisions they had expected, and the governor and his attendants preparing to depart, Gow and some of the men who remained with him 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, showing all the symptoms of extreme terror, earnestly implored that their lives might be spared. Gow being peremptory in his demands, the governor sent a boat repeatedly on shore, till the pirates were furnished with such articles as they wanted.

This business being ended, the Portuguese were permitted to depart; and the pirates determined to steer towards the coast of Spain, where they soon arrived. After cruising a few days off Cape St. Vincent, they fell in with an English vessel, bound from the coast of Guinea to America with slaves; but she had been compelled to put into the port of Lisbon. However useless on their part to capture such a vessel, in a pecuniary point of view, they did capture her, and put on board her the captain and men, excepting Belvin, whom they had first taken; and, clearing out all the provisions, and some of the sails, they left the ship to proceed on her voyage.

Falling in with a French ship, laden with wine, oil, and fruit, they took out the lading, and gave the vessel to the Scotch captain, in return for the ship they had sunk. The Scotchman likewise had some valuable articles presented to him, and he was allowed to take his men to sail with him; all of whom did so, except one, who chose rather to remain with the pirates.

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, perceiving that the vessel mounted two-and-thirty guns, and seemed proportionably full of men, he remarked that it would be madness in them to think of engaging so superior a force. The crew in general were of this opinion; but Williams, the lieutenant, in an impudent manner, said Gow was a ——— coward, and unworthy to command the vessel. The fact is, Gow possessed a calm courage, which would have brought him honour if exerted in a good cause, while Williams was carried away by an impetuosity marked with excessive outrage and brutality. The latter, after a display of the grossest abuse, insisted that the former should give orders for fighting the vessel; but Gow refusing to comply, Williams presented his pistol with the

intention of shooting him, but it flashed in the pan. This being observed by two of the crew, named Winter and Paterson, they both fired at Williams, when one of them wounded him in the arm, and the other in the abdomen. 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 sprung upon his feet, and jumped into the hold, swearing he would set fire to the powder-room; and as his pistol was yet loaded, there was strong reason for supposing he would actually have done so, if he had not been instantly seized, and had his hands chained behind him; in which condition he was put among the French prisoners, who were terrified at the sight of him; for his savage ferocity and barbarity were beyond description: it was a common practice with him to beat the prisoners in the severest manner for his diversion, as he called it, continually threatening to murder them, by cutting their — throats. What a most admirable officer would he have made in the British service!

No engagement happened with the Frenchman, which held on her way; and two days afterwards the pirates took a ship belonging to Bristol, which was laden with salt fish, and bound from Newfoundland to Oporto. Having taken out the provisions and many of the stores, they compelled two of the crew to sail with them, and then put the French prisoners on board the newly-captured vessel, which was just on the point of sailing, when they began to reflect in what manner that execrable villain Williams, who had out-villained themselves, should be disposed of. At length it was determined to put him on board the Bristol ship, the commander of which was desired to turn him over to the first English man of war he should meet with, that he should experience the justice (these fellows could prate of justice, forsooth) due to his crimes; and in the mean time to keep him in the strictest confinement.

The cruelty of Williams's disposition has been already mentioned; the following is probably the most striking instance of it. Among the arguments used by Gow against engaging the French ship, one was, that they had already more prisoners than they had proper accommodation for; on which Williams pro-

posed, that those in their possession might be brought up singly, their throats cut, and their bodies thrown overboard; but Gow said there had been too much blood spilt already: this was too horrid a proposal for any other pirate to consent to; few men, however wicked, who have committed murder, are so completely hardened as not to feel at times some remorse for it.

The fact is, Williams would have been hanged at the yard-arm, if an opportunity had not offered of putting him on board the Bristol ship. When he learnt their intention respecting him, he earnestly besought a reconciliation; but this being refused him, on his being brought on deck in irons, he begged to be thrown overboard, as he was certain of an ignominious death on his arrival in England; but even this poor favour was denied him; his companions only wished him "a good voyage to the gallows!"

When the captain of the Bristol ship reached the port of Lisbon, he delivered the prisoner on board an English man of war, which conveyed him to England, where he had afterwards the fate of being hanged with his companions, as the sequel will show.

As soon as the Bristol ship had left them, Gow and his crew began to reflect on their situation. They were apprehensive that, as soon as intelligence of their proceedings reached Portugal, some ships would be sent in pursuit of them: they therefore called a kind of general council, in which every one gave his opinion, as dictated by his hopes of profit or by his fears. Some of them advised going to the coast of Guinea, and others again to the West Indies; but Gow proposed to sail to the Orkney Islands, where he said they might dispose of their effects, and retire, and live on the produce. To induce his people to comply with this proposal, Gow represented that they were much in want of water, and provisions of every kind; that their danger would be great, if they continued longer on the high seas; and that, above all, it was highly necessary 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 despatched in quest of them, they would not think of searching for them in a northern latitude, so that their voyage

that way would be safe; and, if they would follow his directions, much booty might be obtained by plundering the houses of the gentlemen residing near the sea-coast. The danger of alarming the country was objected to these proposals; but Gow said, that they should be able to despatch 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 Orkneys, Gow assembled his crew, and instructed them what tale they should tell to the country people, to prevent suspicion; and it is probable that they might, for this time, have escaped detection, if his instructions had been literally attended to; which instructions were, that they should say they were bound from Cadiz to Stockholm; but contrary winds driving them past the Sound till it was filled with ice, they were under the necessity of putting in to clean their ship, and that they would pay ready money for such articles as they stood in need of.

It happened that a smuggling-vessel lay at this time in the bay: she belonged to the Isle of Man; and, being laden with brandy and wine from France, had come north-about, to steer clear of the custom-house cutters. In their present situation, Gow thought it prudent to exchange goods with the commander of the vessel; though, in any other, he would hardly have been so ceremonious. A Swedish vessel entering the bay two days afterwards, Gow likewise exchanged some goods with the captain.

Now it was that the ultimate fate of the pirates was more especially approaching; for such of the men as had been forced into the service began to think how they should effect their escape, and secure themselves, by becoming evidence against their dissolute companions. When the boat went ashore one evening, a young fellow, who had been compelled to take part with the pirates, got away from the rest of the boat's crew, and, after laying concealed sometime at a farm-house, hired a person to show him the road to Kirkwall, the principal place on the islands, about twelve miles distant from the bay where the ship lay at anchor. Here he applied to a magistrate, to whom he detailed the circumstances with which he

had been connected as a party; but, having been forced into the service, he begged that he might be entitled to the protection of the law; the fear of death alone, in fact, had induced him to act with the pirates. Having given full information of what he knew of their diabolical proceedings, the sheriff issued his precepts to the constables, and other peace-officers, to call in the aid of the people to assist in bringing such villains to justice.

About this juncture ten of Gow's men, 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 piracy.

Notwithstanding these alarming circumstances, Gow was so careless of his safety that he did not immediately put to sea, but resolved to plunder the houses of gentlemen on the coast, to furnish himself with fresh provisions; in pursuance of which 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 the utmost terror to Mrs. Honeyman and her daughter, who shrieked with dreadful apprehensions for their personal safety; but the pirates, solely employed in the search of plunder, had no idea of molesting the ladies, by maltreatment.

Mrs. Honeyman running to the door, saw the man who stood guard there, whom she asked what could be the meaning of the outrage? to which he calmly replied that they were pirates, and had come thither only to ransack the house. Recollecting that she had a considerable quantity of gold in a bag, she returned and put it in her lap, and ran by the man at the door, who had no other idea but that the wish to preserve her life occasioned her haste. The boatswain missing this part of the expected treasure, declared that he would destroy the family writings; but this being overheard by Miss Honeyman, she threw the writings out of the window, and jumped out after them, escaping unhurt, and carried them off. In the interim, the pirates

seized the linen, plate, and other valuable articles, and then walked off in triumph to their boat, compelling one of the servants to accompany them playing on the bagpipes.

On the following day they weighed anchor; but on the evening of the same day came to anchor near another island; where the boatswain and several others were sent on shore in search of plunder, which they did not succeed in obtaining. They, however, met two young women, whom they conveyed to the ship, where they detained them three days, treating them in so inhuman a manner, that one of them expired soon after being put on shore.

(Conclusion of Chapter I.)

HISTORY OF GEORGE GRIFFITHS.

This young man received the education of a gentleman, was articled as clerk to an attorney of London, of high repute, and enjoyed the utmost confidence in his master; but a course of dissipation on his part speedily destroyed that confidence, and finally brought him to an untimely fate. His misfortune may prove a lesson to those intended for the learned professions; while the danger into which a young lady, his master's daughter, had, through him, nearly fallen, may be a caution to females against engaging their affections without mature reflection or the sanction of their parents.

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

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

This old gentleman being frequently from home, the business of the office was committed to the care of Mr. Griffiths; and an intimacy soon ensued between him and the young lady, in whose company he spent all those evenings in which he had not particular engagements with his old associates. The consequence was, their acquaintance ripened into esteem, their esteem into love; a reciprocal declaration of which soon took place, and the young lady considered Mr. Griffiths as the man who was to be her future husband.

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

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

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

His master, for a considerable time

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

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

About this period the old gentleman and his daughter went to Tunbridge; and during their stay at that place of fashionable resort Griffiths procured a key that would unlock his employer's bureau, whence he again took money to a considerable amount. The master of course, on his return, missed the sum; but still he did not suspect Griffiths, as the drawer was found locked: he, however, deposited his jewels in the bureau, and locked up his money elsewhere.

The amorous suit of Griffiths and the young lady still continued, and they would soon have been married at the Fleet, but that a fatal circumstance now arose, which, happily for her perhaps, brought their connexion to a termination. Griffiths, possessed, as already stated, of a key that would open his employer's bureau, being disposed to go out one evening and spend a cheerful hour or two with his old associates, during their absence, opened the drawer, but was disappointed as to money: finding jewels, however, in its stead, he stole a diamond ring, which he carried to a jeweller, and sold for 12*l.*; after which he went to spend his evening as he had intended.

The old lawyer came home about ten o'clock at night, and, casually looking into his drawer, found that the ring was gone; and, being enraged at this renewed robbery, he had every person in the house carefully searched.

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

The discovery of the delinquent was made at last in the most singular way. The purchaser of the ring, who knew the solicitor well, though unacquainted with the clerk, mentioned the case of the purchase at a public room frequented by the most influential of the neighbourhood; when the solicitor, being present, begged a sight of the ring, which, on inspection, he instantly declared to be his.

Griffiths, confessing his crimes on being apprehended, was consequently committed to Newgate; and on being arraigned at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty to the indictment, and sentence of death was accordingly passed.

When Mr. Griffiths found that he had nothing to hope for in the intervention of the royal mercy, and consequently that all the views with which he had flattered himself, with respect to a state of wedlock, were vanished, he began seriously to reflect on his eternal welfare, and to prepare himself for that state in which persons "neither marry nor are given in marriage." He very justly attributed his misfortunes to the circumstance of associating with persons who were his superiors, in point of condition in life, as well as to that of making an appearance he was not able honestly to maintain, in order to secure the object of his desires, grounded, as he said, on pure and unalterable affection.

This ill-fated man, in the bloom and freshness of manhood, received the final award of the law at Tyburn on the 1st of August, 1700; but not till he had shown himself a sincere penitent.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 11.

MAY 11, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES. N^o. 3.
CAPTAIN SMITH AND OTHERS.



[MR. FEA SEIZING THE BOATSWAIN.]

CHAPTER II.

THE abominable offence upon the persons of the two unfortunate women whom the pirates forced on board, detailed at the close of the preceding chapter, in our last Number, was no sooner brought to an end, than they sailed to Calf Sound Island, with an intention of robbing the house of Mr. Fea, who had been a school-fellow of Gow's. This house was the rather fixed on, because Gow supposed that Mr. Fea could not have heard of the transaction at Mr. Honeyman's; but in this he was mistaken; though Fea could not oppose the pirates on that occasion, on account of the indisposition of his wife.

Mr. Fea's house was situated near the sea-shore: he had only six men-servants

at home when the pirates appeared off the coast; and these were by no means equal to a contest with the plunderers. It may not be improper to remark, that the tide runs so high among these islands, and beats with such force against the rocks, that the navigation is frequently attended with great danger.

Gow, who had not boats to assist 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.

M

Gow having cast his anchor too near the shore, so that the wind could not bring him off, sent a boat with a letter to Mr. Fea, requesting that he would lend him another boat, to assist him in heaving off the ship, by carrying out another anchor; and assuring him he would not do the least injury to any individual on the island.

As Gow's messenger did not see Mr. Fea's boat, the latter gave him an evasive answer; and, on the approach of night, ordered his servants to sink his boat, and hide the sails and rigging.

While they were obeying this order, five of Gow's men came ashore in the boat, and proceeded, doubly armed, towards Mr. Fea's house; on which Fea advanced towards them with an assurance of friendship, and begged they would not enter the house, because his wife was exceedingly ill, and the idea of their approach had greatly alarmed her; 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 alchouse, and they accepted the invitation, seeing he had no company. While the pirates were within drinking, Mr. Fea ordered his servants to destroy their boats, and, having done so, to call him hastily out of the company, and inform him of it.

These orders were strictly 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 in company with the boatswain only, instantly to seize the latter; but if he came with the whole five desperadoes, he would walk forward, so as to give them an opportunity of firing upon them without wounding himself.

After giving these orders, Fea returned to the company, whom he invited to his house, on promise of their behaving peaceably, and said he would make them most heartily welcome. They all expressed a readiness to attend him, in the hope of getting the boat; but he told them he would rather have the boatswain's com-

pany only, and afterwards send for his companions.

This being agreed to, the boatswain set forward with two brace of pistols, and, on arriving at the hedge where the men were concealed, Mr. Fea seized him by the collar, and the others secured him before he had time to make any defence. The boatswain called aloud for his party; but Mr. Fea, forcing a handkerchief into his mouth, had him bound hand and foot, and then left one of his people to guard him, while himself and the rest went back to the public-house. Being two doors to the house, they went some to one, and some to the other, and, rushing in at the same moment, made prisoners of the other four ere they could have recourse to their fire-arms.

The five pirates, being thus in custody, were sent to an adjacent village, where they were separately confined; and in the interim Mr. Fea sent messengers round the island, to acquaint the inhabitants of the events which had transpired; to desire them to haul their boats on the beach, that the pirates should not swim to them and steal them; and to suggest the propriety of not rowing 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 man employed to cut the cable missing some of his strokes, the ship's way was checked, when she turned round and, the cable parting, drove upon Calf Island with great violence.

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 whole gang, wrote to Gow, informing him that he had been compelled to make prisoners of his men on account of their insolent behaviour. He likewise told him, that, as the whole country was alarmed, the most probable chance of securing his own person would be in surrendering and becoming an evidence against his accomplices.

Four armed men, in an open boat, conveyed 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 proposition met with a refusal, he would set fire to the

ship rather than become a prisoner. He even said he would trust to the mercy of the waves, if Mr. Fea would indulge him with a boat.

On reading this letter, Fea determined upon persuading him to submit, and for that purpose took four men well armed, in a boat, and rowed towards the ship; but previously placed a man with a flag in his hand at the top of his house, to make such signals as might be proper to prevent his falling a sacrifice to any artifice of the pirates.

The instructions given to the servant were, that he should wave the flag once if he saw one of the pirates swim towards the shore; but if he beheld three or four, or more, doing so, he should wave it constantly till his master got out of danger. Mr. Fea, rowing forward, spoke through a trumpet, inviting Gow to come on shore and speak with him, which the latter said he would do; when Fea lay to, waiting for him. A man was now seen swimming from the ship, with a white flag in his hand; on which the man on the house waved his flag: presently the one on the look out was seen to wave his flag repeatedly, which caused Mr. Fea to retire; and five other pirates, who had begun to swim towards the boat, returned to the ship on discovering that the persons treating with them were aware of their design.

The first pirate, who carried a white flag, now reached a corner of the island, and saluted Mr. Fea, informing him that "the captain had sent him a bottle of brandy." Mr. Fea replied, that he hoped to see Gow hanged, and that he was very much inclined to shoot the messenger for his insolence; on which the fellow set off with the utmost precipitation.

Soon after this, Gow sent a humble letter to Mrs. Fea, imploring the favour of her interference in his behalf; and notwithstanding her refusal to comply with his request, he resolved upon going on shore. He took a white flag in his hand, and on gaining the island made a signal for a parley; on which Mr. Fea sent an armed party to capture him whether alive or dead.

On the party coming up to Gow, he insisted upon one of them being left with him as a hostage. This circumstance was observed by Mr. Fea, from the windows of his house, and he instantly sailed over to the island on which Gow had landed,

and reprimanded his people for delivering the hostage, promptly telling Gow he was his prisoner; to which the other replied, that could not be, since a hostage had been delivered for him.

Mr. Fea said, he issued no orders for such a line of proceeding, and the man, therefore, who had foolishly engaged himself as hostage must submit to the consequence; but he advised Gow, if he wished to benefit himself, to make signal that the man might obtain his liberty. This Gow refused to do; on which Mr. Fea made signals that deceived the pirates, two of whom came on shore with the man, and were taken into custody. Gow was now disarmed of his sword, and made prisoner, after begging to be shot with the sword in his possession.

The leader of the gang being secured, Mr. Fea had recourse to farther stratagem to get all the rest into his power, by compelling Gow to make signals for some of them to come on shore, which they very readily attended to; those who ventured being apprehended by men concealed to take them as they arrived.

Mr. Fea now intimated to Gow that he would let him have a boat to escape, if he would send for his carpenter to repair it, who might bring two or three hands to assist him. Gow complied; so that the men came off to the number applied for, and were severally seized. More people being yet on board, Mr. Fea's object was to get them all into his power; for which purpose he directed some of his attendants to provide themselves with some tools and material, and make a pretence of repairing the boat; and while this was doing he told Gow to send for his men, as he must have possession of the ship before giving up the boat.

The pirates, on receiving their captain's orders to come on shore, were doubtful how to act; but, after a short debate, sharing what money they possessed, they came on shore and were all taken into custody.

Thus, by an equal exertion of courage and dexterity on the part of Mr. Fea, the whole of these dangerous characters were secured, twenty-eight in number, without a single man being killed or wounded; and only with the aid of a few countrymen; a force which one would, without hesitation, have pronounced incompetent to the task.

When all the prisoners were properly secured, Mr. Fea sent an express off to Edinburgh, requesting that fit persons might be despatched to remove them to that city; and in the interim Mr. Fea took an inventory of all the effects in the ship, which he gave up to the government for appropriation according to whatever directions they might issue.

Six articles, for the regulation of the ship's company, drawn up, it was conjectured, while they were entangled among the rocks off the Orkneys, were found on board: they were written by Gow, and were no doubt hastily drawn up, being the result of the distressed situation in which they had been suddenly and indeed fatally placed. A copy of these articles is subjoined.

I. That every man shall obey his commander in all respects, as if the ship were his own, and as if he received monthly wages.

II. That no man shall give or dispose of the ship's provisions; but every one shall have an equal share.

III. That no man shall open or declare to any person or persons who they are, or what designs they are upon; and any persons so offending shall be punished with immediate death.

IV. That no man shall go on shore till the ship is off the ground, and in readiness to put to sea.

V. That every man shall keep his watch night and day; and at the hour of eight in the evening every one shall retire from gaming and drinking, in order to attend his respective station.

VI. That every person who shall offend against any of these articles shall be punished with death, or in such other manner as the ship's company shall think proper.

On the express from Mr. Fea arriving at Edinburgh, another was despatched, with all expedition, to London, to learn the royal will and 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 especially convened for that purpose.

These orders no sooner reached Edinburgh than a guard of soldiers was sent to fetch them to that city; whence they were put on board the Greyhound frigate,

which immediately sailed for the Thames, in accordance with the instructions which had been issued respecting the course to be pursued.

At length the pirates arrived in the river, and a detachment of the Guards, from the Tower, attended their landing, and conducted them to the Marshalsea prison, where they met their old lieutenant, Williams, whom they had so cheerfully wished a good voyage to the gallows; a destination to which they little thought, at the time of expressing such wish, some of themselves were as rapidly hastening as their hell-black companion was, who had been conveyed to England by the man of war that received him from the Bristol captain, at Lisbon, as mentioned in the former part of our narrative. This fellow, in pure keeping with his character, though certain that nothing could save him from the ignominious end to which his demerits entitled him, took excessive delight, feeding his malignant breast, at seeing his iniquitous comrades in like circumstances of peril and disgrace, though disgrace it were not to one grown callous in the conceit and practice of crimes in the lowest depths of villany.

A commission was now made out for the trial of this gang of pirates, including Williams; and soon after their commitment each of them underwent a separate examination before the sitting judge of the Admiralty Court, Doctors' Commons; when five, who were considered to be less criminal than their colleagues, were pardoned, for the purpose of being admitted evidence.

Being removed from the Marshalsea to Newgate, their trials came on at the Old Bailey, and Gow, Williams, and six others were convicted and sentenced to death; while all the rest were acquitted, from a firm belief that circumstances which they could not set aside had compelled them to co-operate with the pirates.

The behaviour of Gow, from the time of his committal, was reserved and morose. He considered himself a certain victim to the justice of the laws, entertaining no hope of being admitted an evidence for the prosecution, as Mr. Fea had hinted to him he should be. When brought to trial he refused to plead; in consequence of which he was sentenced to be pressed to death, according to the custom of the day. His reason for refusing to plead was, that

he had an estate, and he was anxious it should descend to his kin in succession; which would have been the case had he died under pressure for contumacy. But when this punishment was about to be carried into effect, all the necessary preparations having been completed, except fixing the victim, he begged permission to return to the court to plead; to which the judge, on receiving an intimation of his wish, willingly consented. The culprit was consequently convicted, as previously stated, and sentenced to death. Prior to his execution he was visited by some Presbyterian ministers, who laboured to convince him of the enormity of his guilt; but he seemed deaf to all their admonitions and exhortations, however ardent or pathetic.

Williams's depravity of mind, to the last, exceeds all powers of description. He appeared equally insensible to the hope of joys above, or the dread of woes beneath; and it was his continual boast, while incarcerated, that he was always advising "the — fool, Gow, to tie the prisoners back to back, and throw them into the sea, that they might never be able to split upon them."

The day of final retribution at length arrived; Gow, Williams, and the six who had been condemned with them, forfeited their lives at Execution Dock on the 11th of August, 1729; whence the bodies were conveyed a short distance down the river, and hung in chains.

At the execution a remarkable circumstance happened to Gow, through what may be considered the kindness of his friends; who, 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 the awful scene soon carried him beyond the influence of the things which perish.

Shall the warning in the tragic end of these delinquents, of Gow more particularly, be given in vain? Forbid it, every virtue, which can alone make life a blessing, and be productive of mutual sympathy, and kindred enjoyments, and social happiness. Enough, it may be presumed, has been detailed in the foregoing narrative, to convince us that Gow, at least, from the decent education he had, and the ability he displayed, might have been a valuable member of society in his

day and generation, had his energies been directed in the paths of rectitude. From his frightful end may every reader of his criminal actions and ultimate judgment be happily preserved, by a constant feeling of disgust and loathing at the base deeds unfolded in his example; knowing that "as they sow, so shall they reap."

Slavery in England! The Factory System. N^o 1.

PROSPECT OF A PERPETUATION OF THE EVILS, ETC.

(From the Christian Advocate of May 2, 1836.)

THE great struggle will soon come on, but will not soon be over. A few days, however, will decide how far the present Parliament is either able or willing to legislate for the children of the poor—at least so far as to secure them, for a few years, from the murderous consequences of a system which has been shown to be more destructive to human life, than any other curse that has hitherto fallen upon the human race. We are too far pressed by the urgent circumstances of the case, to enter upon anything like an outline of the history of the origin and progress of the Factory Economy in this country, where it has established itself in greater power, and exerts a more extended sway over the freedom—the happiness—the very life of hundreds of thousands, than many of the most ancient and despotic sovereignties of Europe ever attained, or were ever known to exercise upon the most abject of their vassals. We blush for ourselves—we burn with shame for the land of our fathers—we are well nigh ready to forswear our very manhood, when we are driven to acknowledge it to be a fact, that the assembled Senate of this illustrious nation of free-men and of Christians, is about to deliberate upon the advantages of consigning little children to a pestilential drudgery of FIFTEEN HOURS A-DAY. Yes, the proud Parliament of England is going to investigate again, and again decree, the extreme extremity of endurance to which the tender limbs of our juvenile population can be injured, without dropping down dead on the spot, and thereby rendering it necessary to summon a coroner's inquest upon the corpse of the murdered victim. *Fifteen hours out of the twenty-four* in dry dead work, with the time

required to recruit exhausted nature, is the award for the poor children of Englishmen in the Bill already read a first time, and set down for its second reading on Friday next. Negro slavery has been abolished in our colonies, because the people of England could not bear the thought of so revolting and remote an infringement upon the rights and liberties of man; but this selfsame people—these most ardent and enthusiastic abolitionists of *slavery abroad*, are now found to be the most inveterate and implacably resolute and determined abettors of an incomparably more destructive and detestable *slavery at home*. These very men are holding—and say they must hold, and will hold—the bodies of their *work-children* (what a word to become a part of the English language!) in a wretched and disgusting bondage, which leaves them no hope at all of ever arriving at a healthy and happy manhood. They have got them within their unhallowed grasps, and have made up their minds to keep them there, in spite of the most undeniable evidence of the wholesale sacrifice of life which is the result of this bloody and reckless selfishness! Evidence, did we say? Why, there is now in the Home Office a mountain heap of testimony in proof of the cannibalism of the factory system—more than enough to hand over its upholders and abettors to the lasting execration, if not to the infuriate vengeance, of the most deeply injured and insulted populace in the world. These documents *ought* to be laid upon the table of the House of Commons without further loss of time. Justice sternly calls for them, and will not be appeased until they be brought forward, and the sad truths they tell be borne by the winds of heaven to the very ends of the earth. It is too bad to do these things, and say they are not done at all—to mock the wretches who groan under their heavy burdens, and deceive the public who look on, by asserting again and again what they know to be a barefaced *lie*, that this employment is a healthy one, that the people engaged in it are satisfied with their situation, and that the mean duration of life in factory districts is greater than in the agricultural counties. We know the men we have to deal with so well, that we shall not be surprised to see a pelting shower of affidavits, declara-

tions, and certificates from all sorts of surgeons, parsons, parish officers, and other *accessible* individuals, in support of the present system, by which so many millions can easily be made, by the trifling immolation of perhaps as many thousand *superfluous* little children. Should this be the case, we give these bloody butchers timely warning that we are fully ready for them. What they have done, and what they are about to do, shall be held up before the sun; and the name of every one of them shall be sent to the neighbourhood whence they have come up to accomplish their base purposes, and whither they will go back to perpetrate in detail what they hope to have thus guaranteed to them by law. These things shall no longer be done in a corner, or lie concealed by the darkness that has been drawn around them. If men, women, and children are to share an indiscriminate destruction, the trumpet shall be sounded, and the nation shall be summoned to the sacrifice. We shall then know—and other countries will know—the offering we have religiously vowed and rigorously paid to the STEAM GOD, before whom we bow the head in token of our hearty homage. We will never suffer *one* FACT to remain unknown, or by any artifice to be prevented, or by negligence to be forgotten. Let everything else be buried in oblivion, never more to be made the subject of controversy between us. But we never can—and we never will—forget that we have now the dying seal of Sadler, “*that all is true*”—“*that factory labour does, of a truth, cause as many to die UNDER TWENTY YEARS OF AGE, as, without its labour, would die UNDER FORTY YEARS OF AGE!!!*” Let this *one fact* be kept before the mind, and we will waive all other witnessses, and withdraw their corroborative evidence, valuable and important though it be. All that has been adduced on the part of friends, or extorted from enemies, can be dispensed with; the varied evidence of mill-owners, factory-workers, doctors, clergymen, school-masters, or of any other persons or parties, shall slumber—at least for us; we will not awaken it: but we will not cease to ring in the ears of the Government, Parliament, the country, and the whole civilised world, that the steam-engine, whilst, by his own worshippers, he is declared to be the salvation of this empire, is now proved to

be adding such strength to the shoulders, arms, and sinews of DEATH, as to enable him to move his scythe, in factory districts, in double quick time. Can this—ought this—to be forgotten? We will say no more of the crime and misery—the drunkenness and prostitution—the poverty and want induced by the unrestricted powers of the STEAM GOD: we will say no more of the statement made by Mr. Poor-law Commissioner Kay, the apologist of this very factory system, that “more than one half of the inhabitants of Manchester are either so destitute or so degraded as to require the assistance of public charity in bringing their offspring into the world;” but we will not conceal the fact mentioned by this selfsame Mr. Kay, that “MORE THAN ONE HALF of the children of the poor in Manchester die before they have completed their FIFTH year!” Let this statement of the appointed apologist of this state of things be set side by side with the truth which the immortal Sadler—the martyred Sadler—just lived long enough to establish, and to leave as a legacy to his deluded and ungrateful countrymen: “MORE persons have died before their TWENTIETH YEAR, WHERE THE FACTORY SYSTEM EXTENSIVELY PREVAILS, THAN BEFORE THEIR TWENTIETH YEAR ELSEWHERE.”

THE REV. THOMAS HUNTER.

WE deeply regret that an opportunity is given of bringing before the reader a murderer, in a character which ever should be held most sacred. A crime more premeditated, and more fraught with cruelty, never, perhaps, stained the annals of history. Ambition has often impelled tyrants to shed innocent blood; revenge has stimulated men to kill each other; jealousy with “jaundiced eye” destroys the object of its love; but that we should have to record the fact of a tutor, who ministered in holy things, premeditatedly murdering his pupils—the sons of his benefactor! is woful in the extreme. When we add, too, that this most miserable sinner expiated his offense in avowing himself an Atheist, we arrive at once at the very depth of human depravity.

This monster was born in the county of Fife, in Scotland, and was the son of a rich farmer, who sent him to the Univer-

sity of St. Andrew for education. When he had acquired a sufficient share of classical learning, he was admitted to the degree of Master of Arts; and he began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no ordinary success.

It is common for the younger clergymen to act as tutors to wealthy and distinguished families, till a proper period arrives for their entering into orders, which they never do till they obtain a benefice; and while in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains. In this station Hunter lived about two years, in the house of Mr. Gordon, a very eminent merchant, and one of the bailies of Edinburgh, a rank equal to that of alderman of London. Mr. Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, his two sons, a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in question, some clerks, and menials. To the care of Hunter was committed the education of the two sons, and for a considerable time he discharged his duty in a manner highly satisfactory to the parents, who considered him as a young man of a superior genius and an enlarged goodness of heart.

Unfortunately a connexion took place between Hunter and the young woman which soon increased to criminality, in which they indulged themselves for a considerable time without the knowledge of the family. One day, however, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a visit, Hunter and the girl met in their chamber as usual; and, they having been so incautious as not to make the door fast, the children went into the room, and found them in such a situation as could not admit of any doubt of the nature of their intercourse. No suspicion was entertained that these children would mention the affair, the eldest boy being not quite ten years of age; but when at supper with their parents, they disclosed so much as left no room to doubt of what had passed. The female was consequently directed to quit the house on the following day; but Hunter was continued in the family, after making a proper apology for the crime of which he had been guilty, attributing it to the thoughtlessness of youth, and promising never to offend in the same way again. From this period he entertained the most inveterate hatred towards all the children, on whom he determined in his

own mind to wreak his utmost vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention; but it was a long time after he had formed his horrid design before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution. Whenever it was a fine day, he was accustomed to walk into the fields with his pupils an hour before dinner; and in these excursions the young lady generally attended her brothers. At the period immediately preceding the commission of the fatal act, Mr. Gordon and his family were at their country retreat, near Edinburgh; and having received an invitation to dine in that city, he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time Hunter usually took his noontide walk with the children. Mrs. Gordon was very anxious for all the children to accompany them on this visit; but this was strenuously opposed by her husband, who would consent that the little girl only should accompany them. By this circumstance Hunter's intention of murdering the three children was frustrated; but he held the resolution of destroying the boys while they were yet in his power; and with this view he took them into the fields, and sat down as if to repose himself on the grass, when he prepared his knife to put a period to the lives of the children, at the very moment they were busied in catching butterflies and gathering wild-flowers. Having called the lads to him, he first reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother with the scene between him and the late female attendant which they had witnessed, and then said he would kill them. They fled, affrighted; but he soon overtook them, and accomplished his hellish purpose by cutting their throats.

These horrid deeds were committed within half a mile of the castle of Edinburgh; and as they were perpetrated in the middle of the day, and in the open fields, it would have been very wonderful indeed, if the murderer had not been directly taken into custody. At the very time, a gentleman was walking on the Castle-hill of Edinburgh, who had a tolerably perfect view of what passed; and alarmed by the incident, he called some people, who ran with him to the place where the children were lying dead; on which Hunter advanced towards a river, with the view of drowning himself. Those who pursued came up with him just as

he reached the brink of the river; and his person being instantly recognised, a messenger was forthwith despatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon.

According to an old Scottish law it was decreed, that "if a murderer should be taken with the blood of the murdered person on his clothes, he should be prosecuted in the Sheriff's Court, and executed within three days after the commission of the fact." It was not common to execute this sentence with rigour; but this offender's crime was of so aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit anything of the utmost severity of the law; and the prisoner was therefore committed to the gaol, and chained down to the floor all night. On the following day, the sheriff issued his precept for the jury to meet; and, in consequence of their verdict, Hunter was brought to his trial, when he pleaded guilty; and added to the offence he had already committed the horrid crime of declaring, that he lamented only the not having murdered the daughter as well as the sons!

The sheriff now passed the sentence—that "on the succeeding day he should be executed on a gibbet, erected for that purpose on the spot where he had committed the murders, but that, previous to his execution, his right hand should be cut off with a hatchet, near the wrist; that then he should be drawn up to the gibbet by a rope, and, when he was dead, hung in chains between Edinburgh and Leith, the knife with which he committed the murders being stuck through his hand, which should be advanced over his head, and both fixed to the top of the gibbet."

In strict conformity with the above sentence, the Reverend Thomas Hunter was executed on the 22d of August, 1700. But to accommodate the feelings of Mr. Gordon, the body was afterwards removed to the skirts of a small village near Edinburgh, named Broughton.

Horrid to relate, Hunter closed his life with a declaration that "There is no God—I do not believe that there is any; or if there is, I hold him in defiance." Yet this infidel had professed himself a minister of the Gospel!

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

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ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 12.

MAY 18, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES. N^o. 4.

PHILIP ROCHE.



[ROCHE AND HIS COMPANIONS DESPATCHING THEIR MASTER AND MATE.]

THE tale of this monster of iniquity is soon told: his career was short, or comparatively so; but the deeds of darkness in which he revelled with intense hardihood and zest were of a description awfully sanguinary and diabolical, outstripping those even of many tremendous delinquents who have practised their atrocities for much longer periods. The mind would fain forget such abominations; but it reverts to them, without ceremony, as if convinced of their commission against the will; scarcely crediting the dreadful reality, being of so deep a hue and so malignant an aspect, and yet assured it is no fiction, though there be a hankering hope it were no other. But we have already expressed an opinion

of those who become either highwaymen or pirates, which may be considered synonymous—the one being robbers and murderers on the highways, though murder may not be adopted till they find it necessary to remove any obstacle in the prosecution of their designs; and the other, robbers and murderers on the high seas: we have recorded an opinion that among such classes of criminals will be found every shade or tint of every species of villanous delinquency concentrated in one breast; and the few characters in each department which we have already introduced to the notice of our readers, give incontrovertible proof of the correctness of the same; while the present subject will still farther elucidate it.

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The bedevilled monster named Philip Roche was a native of Ireland, who, having been brought up to a seafaring life, served for a considerable time on board some coasting vessels, and then sailed to Barbadoes in a West Indiaman. He endeavoured while abroad to procure a situation as clerk to a factor; but, failing in this, he again went to sea, advanced to the rank of first mate.

He now became acquainted with a fisherman named Neale, who suggested to him that large sums of money might be acquired by insuring ships, and then having them sunk to defraud the insurance. Roche was sufficiently hardened in his nature to listen to this infamous intimation with a warmth of attention, such as induced him to entertain a hope of meeting with a favourable opportunity of carrying it into practice; and gaining the friendship of a gentleman who had a ship bound to Cape Breton, he got a station on board next in command to the captain, who, having a high opinion of him, gave up the ship's management to him, directing the seamen to obey his orders.

The idea of sinking the ship, which Roche had previously contemplated, was now apparently abandoned; but the delinquent performed the leading part in a tragedy of the foulest degree, having five other Irishmen, whom he had brought on board the ship with him, to assist him. They had been only a few days at sea, when one night, the captain and most of the crew being asleep, Roche gave orders to two of the seamen to furl the sails, which they immediately did; and the poor fellows no sooner descended to the deck, than Roche and his hellish associates murdered them and threw them overboard. At this instant, a man and a boy, at the yard-arm, observing the transactions, and dreading a similar fate, hurried towards the topmast-head, when one of the Irishmen, named Cullen, followed them, and, seizing the boy, threw him into the sea. The man, thinking to effect at least an escape for the present, returned to the main deck, when Roche, laying violent hands upon him, murdered him and cast him overboard, so that none of the dead bodies remained to become stumbling-blocks.

The noise occasioned by these proceedings alarming the sailors below, they hurried up with all possible haste; but they

were severally murdered as they reached the deck, being first knocked on the head and then precipitated into the sea. At length the master and mate came on the quarter-deck, when Roche and his atrocious coadjutors seized them, tied them back to back, and committed them in this manner to the restless waters of the deep.

These execrable murders being perpetrated, the bloody butchers ransacked the chests of their victims, and then sat down to a debauch of wines and spirits; during which they determined upon commencing pirates, and Roche was chosen as the captain, in reward for his *superior* villainy!

They had intended to have sailed up the Gulf of St. Lawrence; but as they were within a few days' sail of the British Channel when their appalling tragedy was enacted, finding themselves short of provisions, they put into Portsmouth, and painted the vessel afresh, having given her a fictitious name; after which they sailed for Rotterdam. At this city they disposed of their cargo, and took in a fresh one; which, from their being supposed to be honourable characters, comprised extensive property belonging to an English gentleman named Annesley, who took his passage with them for the port of London; but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard when they had been only one day at sea.

Upon the ship arriving in the river Thames, the friends of Mr. Annesley proceeded on board and made inquiries after him, in consequence of his having sent letters to England, describing the ship in which he was about to embark; but Roche denied having any knowledge of the gentleman, and even disclaimed his own name. Notwithstanding his confident assertions, however, it was rightly presumed who he was; and a letter he had sent to his wife having been stopped, he was taken into custody.

When carried before the secretary of state for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche; he knew no person of that name. The intercepted letter was consequently shown him, and he instantly confessed his crimes; upon which he was committed for trial at the next Admiralty sessions.

It was intimated to Roche, that he might expect a pardon if he would only

impeach three persons who were more culpable than himself, so that they might be prosecuted to conviction; but not being able to do this, he was brought to trial, and found guilty; on which judgment of death was passed upon him in the usual form, the culprit being apparently much affected.

After conviction, he professed to be of the Roman Catholic faith; but he was no bigot to that religion, since his devotions were according to the Protestant form. He was hanged at Execution Dock on the 5th of August, 1723, but was so ill at the time that he could not make a public declaration of his penitence, or of his abhorrence of the crimes for which he felt he justly suffered.

GAMBLING MURDERS IN AMERICA.

OF all the towns in the Southern States, I know none so uncomfortable as Montgomery: its exterior has nothing to induce a stranger to stay there, and the manners of the inhabitants betoken the lowest state of civilization. The life of man has very little value in this lately erected place: the mixed composition of the population gives rise to many frightful deeds, which in other towns would be severely punished by the authorities, but are here perpetrated without any ultimate serious consequences. A few days before my arrival, a misunderstanding had taken place between two gamblers. One of the parties attacked the other in the middle of the street, and wounded him very dangerously: the adversary, prepared for the aggression, drew his poniard, and pierced the heart of his opponent. Both expired amidst the struggle, clasped in each other's arms. Their friends lost no time in applying for redress to the authorities of the town, and appealed to the protection of the laws in similar cases; but they were answered, that gamblers were not within the pale of the law, and that as long as murders were exclusively committed upon persons of that class, without disturbing any of the peaceable inhabitants of the city, the assassins were at liberty to use their poniards or any other weapons. From that hour there were no bounds to scenes of blood and vengeance: every day added to the catalogue of murders in Alabama. Any man is considered imprudent who does not continually carry

a dagger about him, to fight for his life at any moment.

The above description of the state of society in so important a place as Montgomery, is extracted from "The United States and Canada, in 1832-3-4." It is certainly a matter of the deepest regret, that the object of the law authorities, which was evidently to exterminate gambling in their province, should have been so seriously frustrated. But it is a proof that extreme severity is counter-operative.

RUSSIAN FUNERAL CEREMONIES.

As soon as a Russian dies, the corpse is immediately washed with lukewarm water; the members of the body are all placed in their natural position, the eyelids and lips carefully closed, his best wearing-apparel is put on, and the body is placed upon a bier, in an empty room, among the rich—and below the sacred pictures, in the huts of the poor. The Psalms are read over it night and day; until it is removed to the church on the day of interment, accompanied by the clergy, carrying pictures of the saints in their hands, and by the nearest friends, and a chorus of singers, who chant Psalms as the procession moves slowly along the streets. At the church, the burial-service, some parts of which are most pathetic and beautiful, is read over the body; after which, the relatives and friends embrace the corpse, and, asking forgiveness (as they express themselves), take their last farewell. During the whole ceremony and service in the church, the countenance is uncovered, and the head decorated with a crown made of gilt paper, or some more costly material, according to the condition of the deceased. At the shutting of the coffin, that which has been ridiculously styled the passport, after being read over the corpse by the officiating priest, is put into the hand of the deceased. It consists of a form of absolution, the conclusion of which is highly characteristic. "And on account of the weakness of nature, may his sins be cast into oblivion, and all forgiven him for the sake of his love to man, and through the prayers of our most holy and blessed Queen, Mother of God, and immaculate Virgin Mary, the holy, glorious, and ever-to-be-praised Apostles, and all saints. Amen!—Price 20 hopiks."

HISTORY OF RICHARD NOBLE.

WE forbear a lengthened comment upon that part of this shocking transaction which relates to the female sex; happy, indeed, should we be, if our duty permitted us to consign it to oblivion, were it possible.

Richard Noble, who was an attorney-at-law, was the paramour of Mrs. Sayer, wife of John Sayer, Esq., who was lord of the manor of Biddlesden, in Buckinghamshire, and possessed of 1000*l.* a-year. Mr. Sayer does not appear to have been a man of any great abilities; but he was remarkable for his good nature and his inoffensive disposition. Mrs. Sayer, to whom he was married in 1699, was the daughter of Admiral Nevil, a woman of an agreeable person and brilliant wit; but of such an abandoned character as to have been a disgrace to her sex. Soon after Mr. Sayer's wedding, Colonel Salisbury married the young lady's mother, who had become a widow; but there was such a vicious similarity in the conduct of the mother and daughter, that the two husbands had early occasion to be disgusted with the objects of their choice. Mr. Sayer's nuptials had not been celebrated many days before the bride took the liberty of kicking him, and hinted that she would procure a lover more agreeable to her mind. Sayer, who was distractedly fond of her, bore this treatment with patience; and at the end of a twelvemonth she presented him a daughter, which soon died; but he became still more fond of her after she had made him a father, and was continually loading her with presents. Mr. Sayer now took a house in Lisle Street, Leicester Fields, kept a coach, and did everything which he thought might gratify his wife: but her unhappy disposition was the occasion of temporary separations. At times, however, she behaved with more complaisance to her husband, who had, after a while, the honour of being deemed father of another child of which she was delivered; and subsequent to this circumstance she indulged herself in still greater liberties than before; her mother, who was almost constantly with her, encouraging her in this shameful conduct. At length a scheme was concerted, which would probably have ended in the destruction of Mr. Sayer, and Colonel Salisbury, if it had not been happily prevented by the

prudence and foresight of the latter. The colonel taking an opportunity to represent to Mrs. Sayer the ill consequences that must attend her infidelity to her husband, she immediately attacked him with the most outrageous language, and insulted him to that degree that he threw the remainder of a cup of tea at her. The mother and daughter immediately laid hold of this circumstance to inflame the passions of Mr. Sayer, on whom they at length prevailed to demand satisfaction of the colonel. The challenge is said to have been written by Mr. Sayer; and when the colonel received it he conjectured it was a plan concerted between the ladies to get rid of their husbands. He, however, obeyed the summons; and, going in a coach with Mr. Sayer towards Montague House, he addressed him as follows: "Son Sayer, let us come to a right understanding of this business. 'Tis very well known that I am a swordsman, and I should be very far from getting any honour by killing you. But to come nearer to the point in hand: thou shouldst know, Jack, for all the world knows, that thy wife and mine are both what they should not be. They want to get rid of us at once: if thou shouldst drop, they'll have me hanged for it after." There was so much of obvious truth in this remark, that Mr. Sayer immediately felt its force; and the gentlemen drove home together, to the mortification of the ladies.

Soon after this affair Mr. Sayer went to his house in Buckinghamshire, where an improper intimacy was formed between his wife and the curate of the parish; and their amour was conducted with so little reserve, that all the servants saw that the parson had more influence in the house than their master. How disgraceful are the numerous instances on record of the flagitious conduct of clergymen!

Mrs. Sayer, on coming to London, was speedily followed by the young clergyman, who was seized with the small-pox, which terminated his life. When he found there was no hope of his recovery, he sent to Mr. Sayer, earnestly requesting to see him; but Mrs. Sayer, who judged what he wanted, said that her husband had not had the small-pox, and such a visit might cost him his life: she therefore insisted that her husband should not go; and the passive man tamely submitted to this injunction, though his wife daily sent a foot-

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man to inquire after the clergyman, who died without being visited by Mr. Sayer. This gentleman had not been long dead before his place was supplied by an officer of the guards; but he was soon dismissed in favour of a man of great distinction, who presented her with some valuable china, which it was pretended was won at Astrop Wells.

About this time Mr. Sayer found his affairs considerably deranged by his wife's extravagance; on which a gentleman with whom he was friendly recommended him to Mr. Richard Noble, the primary subject of our present narrative, as a man capable of being very servicable to him. His father kept a very reputable coffee-house at Bath; and the virtuous mind of his mother, it is said, was exemplified in the fact, that when the son went on a visit to her in company with Mrs. Sayer in a coach and six, after having become criminally acquainted with her, she shut the door against them. Richard had been well educated, and articled to an attorney of eminence in New Inn, where he afterwards took chambers for himself; but he had not been in any considerable degree of practice when he was introduced to Mr. Sayer; soon after which he became too intimate with Mrs. Sayer, and, if report said true, with her mother likewise! These two abandoned women, however, had other prospects besides mere gallantry; and viewing Noble in the light of a man of the world as well as a lover they concerted a scheme to deprive Mr. Sayer of a considerable part of his estate. The unhappy gentleman, being perpetually teased by the women, at length consented to execute a deed of separation, in which he assigned some lands in Buckinghamshire, to the amount of about 150*l.* a-year, to his wife, exclusive of 50*l.* a-year for pin-money; and by this deed he likewise covenanted that Mrs. Sayer might live with whom she pleased, and that he would never molest any person on account of harbouring her. Mr. Sayer was even so weak as to sign this deed without having counsel of his own to examine it; and, indeed, it is probable he signed it without examining it himself! Not long after, Mrs. Sayer was delivered of a child at Bath; but that the husband might not take alarm at this circumstance, Noble sent him a letter informing him that he was to be pricked down for high sheriff

of Buckinghamshire; and Mrs. Salisbury urged him to go to Holland to be out of the way, and supplied him with some money on the occasion. It seems probable that Mr. Sayer had no suspicion of Noble's criminal intercourse with his wife, for the night before he set out he presented him with a pair of saddle-pistols and furniture worth above 40*l.* Shortly after he was gone, on Mrs. Sayer's maid speaking of the danger her master might be in at sea, the mistress said, she should be sorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow, should come to any harm; but she should be glad to hear, and heartily wished, that Mr. Sayer had sunk to the bottom of the sea, and that the bottom of the ship had come out!

Not long after the husband was gone abroad, Noble began to assume airs of greater consequence than he had hitherto done; and being solicitor in a cause in the Court of Chancery, in which the much injured Mr. Sayer was plaintiff, having obtained a decree, he forced the trustees nominated in the marriage articles to relinquish, and took upon him the authority of a sole trustee.

Mr. Sayer remained in Holland nearly a year, during which time Noble publicly cohabited with his wife, who refused to live with her husband on his return; but having robbed him of above 1000*l.* in Exchequer bills and other effects, she went with Noble to private lodgings, and was shortly afterward delivered of another child.

Mr. Sayer, immediately upon his wife's elopement, caused an advertisement to be inserted in the leading newspapers, a copy of which is subjoined. "Whereas Mary, the wife of John Sayer, Esq., late of Lisle Street, St. Anne's, went away from her dwelling-house, on or about the 23d day of May last, in company with Elizabeth Nevil, sister to the said Mary, and carried away nearly 1000*l.* in money, beside other things of considerable value; and whereas she is supposed to go by some other name; he, the said John Sayer, desires all tradesmen and others not to give her any credit as his wife, for that he will not pay the same."

While Mrs. Sayer cohabited with Noble he was constantly supplied with money; but he was not her only associate at that time, for, during his occasional absence, she received the visits of other lovers.

Noble now procured an order from the Court of Chancery, to take Mr. Sayer in execution for 400*l.*, at the suit of Mrs. Salisbury, the consequence of a judgment confessed by him for form's sake, to protect his goods from his creditors while he was in Holland. Mr. Sayer declared that the real debt was not more than 70*l.*, though artful management and legal expenses had swelled it to the abovementioned sum. Sayer consequently took refuge within the rules of the Fleet Prison, and exhibited his suit in Chancery for relief against those suits, and the deed of separation, which he obtained. In the mean time, Mrs. Sayer finding herself liable to be exposed by the advertisement her husband had caused to be inserted in the newspapers, she, with her mother and Noble, took lodgings in the Mint, Southwark, which was at that time a place of refuge for great numbers of persons of desperate circumstances and abandoned characters. Mr. Sayer, having been informed of this, wrote several letters to her, promising that he would forgive all her crimes, if she would return to her duty; but she treated his letters with as much contempt as she had done his person; on which he determined to seize her by force, presuming that he should recover some of his effects if he could get her into his custody. He therefore obtained a warrant of a justice of the peace, and taking with him two constables, and six assistants, went to the house of George Twyford in the Mint; the constables intimating that they had a warrant to search for a suspicious person; for if it had been thought that they were bailiffs, their lives would have been in danger. Having entered the house, they went to a back room, where Noble, Mrs. Sayer, and Mrs. Salisbury were at dinner; the door was no sooner opened than Noble drew his sword, and stabbed Sayer in the left breast, who died on the spot. The constables immediately apprehended the murderer and the two women; but the latter were so abandoned, that while the peace officers were conveying them to the house of a magistrate, they did little else than lament the ill fate of poor Noble. Apprehensive that the mob would rise, from a supposition that the prisoners were debtors, a constable was directed to carry the bloody sword before them, in testimony that murder had been commit-

ted, which produced the desired effect by maintaining the preservation of perfect peace.

The prisoners begged to send for counsel, which was granted; and Noble was committed for trial after an examination of two hours; but the counsel urged so many arguments in favour of the women, that it was ten o'clock at night before they were committed. Soon afterwards this worthless mother and daughter applied to the Court of King's Bench, to be admitted to bail, which was refused them. The coroner's inquest having viewed Mr. Sayer's body, it was removed to his lodgings within the rules of the Fleet, in order for interment; and three days afterwards they gave a verdict finding Noble guilty of wilful murder, and the women of having aided and assisted him in that murder.

On the evening of the 12th of March, 1713, they were put to the bar at Kingston, Surrey; and having been arraigned on the several indictments, to which they pleaded not guilty, they were told to prepare for their trials by six o'clock on the following morning. Being brought down for trial at the appointed time, they moved the court that their trials might be deferred till the afternoon, on the plea that some material witnesses were absent: but the court not believing their allegations, refused to comply with their request. It was imagined that this motion to put off their trials was founded in the expectation that when the business at the Nisi Prius bar was despatched, many of the jurymen might go home, so that when the prisoners had made their challenges, there might not be a sufficient number left to try them, by which they might escape till the next assizes; and in the mean time they hoped some circumstances would happen in their favour. It being ordered that the trials should commence, Mr. Noble and Mrs. Salisbury each challenged twenty of the jury, and Mrs. Sayer challenged thirty-five. Here it should be observed, that all persons indicted for felony have a right to challenge twenty jurors, and those indicted for petit treason thirty-five; which may be done without alleging any cause. Happily, however, the sheriff had summoned so great a number of jurors, that the ends of public justice were not for the present defeated. Noble's counsel urged that some of the persons who broke into the

house might have murdered Mr. Sayer, or, if they had not, the provocation he had received might be such as would warrant the jury in bringing him in guilty of manslaughter only. As the court had sat from six o'clock in the morning till one o'clock the next morning, the jury were indulged with some refreshment before they left the box; and, after being out nine hours, they gave their verdict that Mr. Noble was Guilty, and Mrs. Salisbury and Mrs. Sayer were Not guilty.

When Mr. Noble was brought to the bar to receive sentence, he addressed the court in the following words. "My lord, I am soon to appear and render an account of my sins to Almighty God. If your lordship should think me guilty of those crimes I have been accused and convicted of by my jury, I am then sure your lordship will think that I stand in need of such a separation, such a humiliation for my great offences, such an abhorrence of my past life, to give me a prospect of a future one, that I entertain a hope that it will be a motive to your lordship's goodness, that after you have judged and sentenced my body to execution, you will charitably assist me with a little time for the preservation of my soul. If I had nothing to answer for but killing Mr. Sayer with precedent malice, I should have no need to address myself to your lordship in this manner. It is now too late to take advantage by denying it to your lordship, and too near my end to dissemble it before God. I know, my lord, the danger, the hell that I should plunge myself headlong into; I know I shall soon answer for the truth I am about to say, before a higher tribunal, and a more discerning judge than your lordship, which only is in heaven: I did not take the advantage to kill Mr. Sayer, by the thought or apprehension that I could do it under the umbrage of the laws, or with impunity; nothing was more distant from my thoughts, than to remove him out of the world to enjoy his wife, as was suggested, without molestation. Nor could any one have greater reluctance or remorse, from the time of the fact to the hour of my trial, than I have had, though the prosecutors reported to the contrary; for which I heartily forgive them.

"My counsel obliged me to say, on

my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer's voice before he broke open the door; I told them, as I now tell your lordship, that I did not know it was he till he was breaking in at the door; and then, and not before, was my sword drawn, and the wound given, which wound, as Dr. Garth informed me, was so slight that it was a thousand to one he died of it. When I gave the wound, I insensibly quitted the sword, by which means I left myself open for him to have done what was proved he attempted, and was so likely for him to have effected—namely, to have stabbed me; and his failure in the attempt has not a little excited my surprise. When I heard the company running up stairs, I was alarmed and in fear: the landlord telling me immediately upon the same that the house was beset either for me or himself, added to my confusion. I never thought or intended to do mischief; but first bolted the foredoor, and then bolted and padlocked the backdoor, which was glazed, and began to fasten the shutters belonging to it, designing only to screen myself from the violence of the tumult. When he broke open the door, and not till then, I perceived and knew he was present: and his former threats and attempts, which I so fully proved on my trial, and could have proved much fuller, had not Mrs. Salisbury's evidence been taken from me, made my fear so great, and the apprehension of my danger so near, that what I did was the natural motion of self-defence, and was too sudden to be the result of precedent malice; and I solemnly declare, that I did not hear or know from Twyford the landlord, or otherwise, that any constable attended the deceased, till after the catastrophe had happened.

"It was my misfortune, that what I said as to hearing the deceased's voice was turned to my disadvantage by the counsel against me; which I doubt not would have fully satisfied your lordship and the jury, that what happened was more my misfortune, than my design or intention. If I had been able, under the concern, to remark upon the evidence against me, that Mr. Sayer was but the tenth part of a minute in breaking open the door, it could not then well be supposed by the jury that I was preparing myself or putting myself in order to do mischief, which are acts of forethought

and consideration; which require much more time than is pretended I could have had from the time I discovered Mr. Sayer; for even from his entry into the house, to the time of the accident, did not amount, as I am informed, to more than the space of three minutes. But I did not discover him before the door gave way. I wish it had been my good fortune, that the jury had applied that to me which your lordship remarked in favour of the *ladies*, that the matter was so very sudden, so very accidental and unexpected, that it was impossible to be a contrivance and confederacy, and unlikely that they could come to a resolution in so short a time. I don't remember that your lordship distinguished my case, as to that particular, to be different from theirs, nor was there room for it; for it is impossible for your lordship to believe that I dreamt of Mr. Sayer coming there at that time; but, on the contrary, I fully proved to your lordship that I went to him on another occasion, that was lawful and beneficial to the deceased; and I had no more time to think or contrive, than the ladies had to agree or consent.

If anything could be construed favourably on the behalf of such an unfortunate wretch as myself, I think the design I had sometime before begun, and was about finishing that day, might have removed all suspicion of malice against Mr. Sayer. Must it be thought, my lord, that I only am such a sinner that I cannot repent and make reparation to the persons I have injured? It was denied; but I strongly solicited a reconciliation between Mr. Sayer and his lady; and if this had tended to procure me an easier access to Mrs. Sayer, it would have been such a matter of aggravation to me, that it could not have escaped the remark of the counsel against me, nor the sharpness of the prosecutors present in court: with both I transacted, and to both I appealed, particularly to Mr. Nott, to whom but the day before this accident I manifested my desire of having them live together again; and therefore, my lord, it should be presumed I laboured to be reconciled to, and not revenge myself on, Mr. Sayer.

"Your lordship, I hope, will observe thus much in my favour, that it was so far from being a clear fact, in the opinion

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

The last request that Noble made was granted: he was allowed some time to settle his spiritual and temporal concerns, and at length suffered at Kingston on the 28th of March, 1713, exhibiting marks of genuine repentance.

As to the women, they were no sooner acquitted, than they set out for London, taking one of the turnkeys with them, to protect them from the assaults of the populace, who were incensed in the highest degree at the singular enormity of their crimes.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 13.

MAY 25, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF MR. SPURLING, TURNKEY OF NEWGATE.



[JOHNSON IN THE ACT OF SHOOTING SPURLING.]

The details of the criminal career of the delinquents concerned in the murder of Mr. Spurling exhibit, at their close, such an extraordinary audacity and awful want of correct feeling as scarcely any other case on record presents to us: notwithstanding the clearest evidence possible of their guilt, they died with the strongest protestations of innocence on their lips; a circumstance which, it is to be feared, is too common, though our criminal chronology will not supply us perhaps with a case so flagrant as the one which is now before us.

William Johnson, one of the unrelenting sinners, was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time to a butcher. Removing to London, he opened a shop in Newport Market; but business

not succeeding to his expectation, he took a house and shop in Long Acre, and commenced corn-chandler: in this business he was likewise unsuccessful, on which he sold his stock in trade, and took a public-house near Christchurch, in Surrey. Being equally unsuccessful as a victualler, he sailed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the garrison—a singular promotion, from a butcher to a surgeon! but he appears to have possessed a genius for a variety of employments, of which he frequently availed himself.

Having saved some money at Gibraltar, he came back to his native country, where he soon spent it, and then had recourse to the highway for a supply; and being apprehended in consequence

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of a robbery, he was convicted, but received a pardon.

Previous to this he had been acquainted with Jane Housden, the other hardened wretch concerned in the murder of Mr. Spurling, who had been tried and cast for coining, but also obtained a pardon. It was not long after this pardon, (which was procured by great interest,) before Housden was again in custody for a similar offence. On the day on which she was to be tried, just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old Bailey, Johnson called to see her; and on Mr. Spurling, the head turnkey, telling him that he could not speak to her till her trial was ended, he instantly drew a pistol, and shot Spurling dead upon the spot, in the presence of the court and all the persons attending to hear the trials; Mrs. Housden at the same time encouraging him in the perpetration of the impudent proceeding.

The event had no sooner happened, than the judges, thinking it unnecessary to proceed on the trial of the woman for coining, ordered both the parties to be tried for the murder; and there being such a number of witnesses to the deed, they were almost immediately convicted, and received sentence of death. From this time to that of their execution, and even at the place of their death, they behaved as if they were wholly insensible of the enormity of the crime which they had committed; and notwithstanding the publicity of their offence, to which there were so many witnesses, they had the hardihood to deny it to the last moment of their lives: nor did they show any signs of compunction for any of their former sins.

These culprits were executed opposite the Old Bailey on the 19th of September, 1712; and after hanging the usual time, Johnson was hung in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

KINGSMILL, FAIRALL, AND PERIN.

THE culprits whose names are given above formed part of the gang of smugglers introduced to the notice of our readers in the opening Number of our work. We have never had occasion to notice a more daring crime than that for which these men were executed; nor shall we find many other instances of the

same offence in the course of our whole history.

The practice of smuggling is now very trifling, compared to what it was in the middle of the last century; when it was carried on to such an alarming extent, by large bodies of associated villains, who threatened all who opposed them with death, that the inhabitants of the towns and villages on the coasts of Hampshire, Kent, Essex, and Sussex, lived in constant dread of their depredations and cruelty.

Kingsmill was a native of Goodhurst, in Kent, and passed some part of his life as a husbandman; but, having associated with the smugglers, he made no scruple of entering into the most hazardous enterprises; and he became so distinguished for his courageous—or rather ferocious disposition, that he was chosen captain of the gang; an honour of which he was so proud, that he sought every opportunity of exhibiting specimens of his courage or ferocity, and put himself foremost in every service of danger.

Fairall was a native of Horsendowngreen, in Kent, and the son of poor parents, who were unable even to educate him, or to give him any regular employment by which he might obtain a livelihood. He began to associate with the smugglers while quite a boy, and was frequently employed by them to hold their horses; and when he grew up to man's estate he was admitted as one of the fraternity. He was so remarkable for the brutality and rancour of his nature, that it was not thought safe to offend him. Having been taken into custody, and lodged in the New Gaol, Southwark, he made his escape from thence, and vowed vengeance against the magistrate who had granted the warrant for his apprehension; in consequence of which, he, with Kingsmill and others of the gang, laid wait for the gentleman one morning when he left his house; but not meeting with him then they hid themselves under his park wall, till his usual time of returning in the evening: it happened fortunately that, on his return, he heard the voices of men; and the night being very dark he turned his horse and went into his house by a private door, by which he avoided the dangerous snare that was laid for him.

Perin was a native of Chichester, in Sussex. Having served his time to a

carpenter, he carried on that business some years on his own account, and was successful; but a stroke of the palsy depriving him of the use of his right hand, he became connected with the smugglers, on whose behalf he used to sail to the coast of France and purchase goods, which he brought to England; and in this capacity he proved very serviceable to the gang.

It is evident that these men must have greatly injured the revenue and the fair trader; for they had a number of warehouses in different parts of Sussex, for the concealment of their goods; and they kept not less than fifty horses, some of which they sent loaded to London, and others to the fairs round the country.

Perin, being in France in the year 1747, bought a large quantity of goods, which he stowed on board a cutter, with a view of landing them on the coast of Sussex; but, as several smuggling vessels were expected at this juncture, Captain Johnson, who commanded a cutter in the government service, received orders to sail in search of them; in consequence of which he sailed from Poole, and took the smuggling cutter on the following day; but Perin and his accomplices escaped, by taking to their boat. Captain Johnson found the cargo to consist of brandy and tea to a very large amount, which he carried safe into the harbour of Poole.

Soon after this transaction, which happened in the month of September, the whole body of smugglers assembled in Charlton Park, to consult if there was any possibility of recovering the goods, of which they had thus been deprived. After many schemes had been proposed and rejected, Perin recommended that they should go in a body, armed, and break open the custom-house at Poole; and this proposal being acceded to, a paper was drawn up, by way of bond, that they should support each other, which was signed by all the parties.

This agreement, which was filled with dreadful curses on each other in case of failure to execute it, was signed on the 6th of October: having provided themselves with swords and fire-arms, they met on the following day; and concealing themselves in a wood till the evening, they then proceeded towards Poole, where they arrived about eleven at night.

As soon as they got to Poole, they sent

Willis and Stringer, two of the gang, to observe if there were any persons watching near the custom-house. Willis soon came back, and informed them that he thought it would not be safe to make the attempt, as a sloop of war lay opposite the quay, so that she could point her guns against the door of the custom-house. On this the body of the smugglers were for desisting from the enterprise; when Kingsmill and Fairall addressed them, saying, "If you will not do it, we will do it ourselves;" but these words were no sooner spoken, than Stringer came back, and told them that it would be impossible for the sloop to bring her guns to bear, on account of the ebb tide.

Animated by this intelligence, they rode to the sea-coast, where Perin and another of the gang took care of their horses, while the main body of them went back to the custom-house; in their way to which, they met with a boy, whom they took with them, to prevent his alarming the inhabitants.

Having forced the door open with hatchets and other instruments, they carried off the smuggled goods, with which they loaded their horses; and, after travelling all night, stopped at a place named Fordingbridge.

The number of smugglers were thirty, and their horses thirty-one. Continuing their journey to a place named Brook, they divided the booty into equal shares, and departed, each to his own house.

This daring transaction being represented to the secretary of state, George the Second gave orders for issuing a proclamation with a reward for the apprehension of the offenders; but it was a considerable time before any of them were taken into custody.

At length two of the smugglers, who had been evidences against those hanged at Chichester, gave intelligence of the usual place of meeting of the others; in consequence of which, Fairall, Kingsmill, Perin, and another, named Glover, were taken into custody, and conducted to Newgate.

When they were brought to trial, the evidences, whose names were Race (alias Raise, alias Royce) and Steel, confirmed the particulars which we have above recited; in consequence of which the prisoners, who could not disprove the testimony, were capitally convicted, and

received sentence of death; but the jury recommended Glover as an object of the royal clemency.

Fairall behaved most insolently on his trial, and threatened one of the witnesses who swore against him. After conviction, Glover exhibited every proof of penitence; but the rest were totally hardened in their guilt, and insisted that they had not been guilty of any robbery, because they only took goods that had once belonged to them.

Orders were given that Fairall and Kingsmill should be hung in chains; but it was permitted that the body of Perin should be delivered to his friends; and on the latter lamenting the fate of his associates, Fairall said, "We shall be hanging up in the sweet air, when you are rotting in your grave;" so hardened and unfeeling was the heart of this man!

Their friends being permitted to see them on the night before they suffered, a pardon was brought for Glover while they were in discourse together, and a few days afterwards he obtained his liberty. Fairall kept smoking with his acquaintances, till he was ordered by his keeper to retire to his cell; a circumstance that much enraged him, and caused him to exclaim, "Why in such a hurry? can't you let me stay a little longer with my friends?—I shall not be able to drink with them to-morrow night."

On the following day, Perin was carried to the place of execution in a mourning-coach, and the two others in a cart, with a party of horse and foot guards. Fairall and Kingsmill appeared remarkably firm; but they all joined in devotion with the ordinary of Newgate, when they came to the fatal tree.

The bodies of Kingsmill and Fairall were hung in chains in the county of Kent, in accordance with the sentence.

JOHN MILLS.

THIS villain, another of the infamous gang of smugglers already treated of, whose father and brother were both executed, was concerned in the murder of the custom-house officers and in breaking open the custom-house; but he escaped for a short time the hand of justice.

Travelling with some associates over Hind Heath, he saw the judges on their road to Chichester, to try the murderers

of Chater and Galley, on which young Mills proposed to rob them; but the other parties refused to have any concern in such an affair.

Soon after his father, brother, and their accomplices were hanged, John Mills thought of going to Bristol, with a view of embarking for France; and, having hinted his intentions to some others, they resolved on accompanying him. Stopping at a house on the road, they met with a man named Richard Hawkins, whom they asked to go with them; but the poor fellow hesitating, they put him on horseback behind Mills, and carried him to the Dog and Partridge on Slendon common, kept by John Reynolds.

They had not been long in the house, when complaint was made that two bags of tea had been stolen, and Hawkins was charged with the robbery. He steadfastly denied any knowledge of the affair; but this not satisfying the villains, they obliged him to pull off his clothes, and, having likewise stripped themselves, they began to whip him with the most unrelenting barbarity; and Curtis, one of the gang, said he did know of the robbery, and if he would not confess he would whip him till he did, for he had whipped many a rogue and washed his hands in his blood.

These blood-thirsty villains continued whipping the poor wretch till their breath was almost exhausted, while he begged them to spare his life, on account of his wife and child. Hawkins drawing up his legs, to defend himself in some measure from their blows, they kicked him desperately on the groin; continually asking him what was become of the tea. At length the unfortunate man mentioned something of his father and brother; on which Mills and Curtis said they would go and fetch them; but Hawkins expired soon after they had left the house.

Rowland, one of the accomplices, now locked the door; and, putting the key in his pocket, he and Thomas Winter (who was afterwards admitted evidence) went out to meet Curtis and Mills, whom they saw riding up a lane leading from an adjacent village, having each a man behind him. Winter desiring to speak with his companions, the other men stood at a distance, while he asked Curtis what he meant to do with them, and he said to confront them with Hawkins.

Winter now said that Hawkins was dead, and begged no more mischief might be done; but Curtis replied, "By G—, we will go through it now;" but at length they permitted them to go home, telling them that when they were wanted they should be sent for.

They murderers' now coming back to the public-house, Reynolds said, "You have ruined me;" but Curtis replied, he would make him amends. Having consulted how they should dispose of the body, it was proposed to throw it into a well in an adjacent park; but this being objected to, they carried it twelve miles, and, having tied stones to it, in order to sink it, they threw it into a pond in Parham Park, belonging to Sir Cecil Bishop; in which place it lay more than two months before it was discovered.

This horrid and unprovoked murder gave rise to a royal proclamation, in which a pardon was offered to any persons, even outlawed smugglers, except those who had been guilty of murder or concerned in the breaking open the custom-house at Poole, on the conditions of discovering the persons who had murdered Hawkins, particularly John Mills, who was charged with having had a concern in the horrid transaction.

In consequence, William Pring, an outlawed smuggler, who had no share in either of the crimes excepted in the proclamation, went to the secretary of state and informed him that he would find Mills if he could be assured of his own pardon; and added, that he believed he was either at Bath or Bristol.

Being instructed that he need not doubt of his pardon, he set out for Bristol, where he found Mills, and with him Thomas and Lawrence Kemp, brothers, the former of whom had broke out of Newgate, and the other had been outlawed by proclamation. Consulting on their desperate situation, Pring offered them a retreat at his house, near Beckenham, in Kent, whence they might make excursions and commit robberies on the highway.

Pleased with this proposal, they set out with Pring, and arrived in safety at his house, where they had not been long before he pretended that his horse being an indifferent one, and theirs remarkably good, he would go and procure another, and then they would proceed on the intended expeditions.

Thus saying, he set out, and they agreed to wait for his return; but instead of going to procure a horse, he went to the house of Mr. Rackster, an officer of the excise at Horsham, who, taking with him seven or eight armed men, went to Beckenham at night, where they found Mills and the two brothers Kemp just going to supper on a breast of veal. They immediately secured the brothers, by tying their arms; but Mills, making resistance, was cut with a hanger before he would submit.

The offenders, on being taken, were conducted to the county gaol of Sussex; and being secured till the assizes, they were removed to East Grinstead, when the brothers Kemp were tried for highway robberies, convicted, sentenced, and executed.

John Mills, being tried for the murder of Richard Hawkins, was capitally convicted, on which he received sentence of death, and that he should be hung in chains near the place where the murder was committed.

After conviction he mentioned several robberies in which he had been concerned, but refused to tell the names of any of his accomplices; declaring, he thought he should merit damnation if he made any discoveries by means of which any of his companions might be apprehended and convicted.

The country being at that time filled with smugglers, a rescue was feared; and he was therefore conducted to the place of execution on Slendon Common, Sussex, by a guard of soldiers: this was on the 12th of August, 1749. When there, he prayed with a clergyman, confessed that he had led a bad life, acknowledged the murder of Hawkins, desired that all young people would take warning by his untimely end, humbly implored the forgiveness of God, and professed to die in charity with all mankind.

After execution he was hung in chains on Slendon Common.

STEPHEN GARDENER.

THIS malefactor was born in Moorfields, of poor parents, who apprenticed him to a weaver; but his behaviour soon became so bad, that his master was obliged to correct him severely; on which he ran away and associated with blackguard boys

in the streets, but was at length driven home through mere hunger.

His friends were determined to send him to sea, and accordingly put him on board a corn vessel, the master of which traded to France and Holland. But being an idle and useless hand on board, he was treated so roughly by his shipmates that he grew heartily tired of a seafaring life, and on his return from the first voyage he promised the utmost obedience if his friends would permit him to remain at home. This request was readily complied with, in the hope of his reformation, and he was now put to a waterman; but being impatient of restraint he soon quitted this service, and associated with dissolute fellows in the neighbourhood of Moorfields, with whom he played at cards, dice, &c., till he was stripped of what little money he had, when he commenced pickpocket.

His first attempt of this kind was at Guildhall, during the drawing of the lottery, when he took a wig out of a man's pocket; but though he was detected in the offence, the humanity of the surrounding multitude permitted his escape. This circumstance encouraged him to continue his practice, and about a month afterwards he was detected in picking another pocket, and, notwithstanding his protestations of innocence, underwent the discipline of the horsepond.

He was now determined to give over a business which was necessarily attended with so much hazard, and afforded so little prospect of advantage; but soon afterwards he became acquainted with two notorious housebreakers, named Garraway and Sly, who offered to take him as a partner; but he rejected their proposals, till, one night, when he had lost all his money and most of his clothes at cards, 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 was immediately agreed to; and they broke open his house, and stole most of his and his wife's wearing apparel, which they sold, and spent the money gained thereby in extravagance.

They, in the next place, robbed Garraway's uncle of a considerable quantity of plate, which they sold to a woman named Gill, who disposed of the plate, and never

accounted to them for the produce. Gardener, provoked at being thus defrauded of his share of the ill-got booty, informed Jonathan Wild of the robbery, who got him admitted an evidence against the other men, who were convicted, though they were respited on condition of being transported.

Gardener having now been some time acquainted with a woman who kept a public-house in Fleet Lane, and who was possessed of some money, he proposed to marry her, with a view of obtaining her property; and the woman listening to his offer, they were married by one of the Fleet parsons. The money Gardener obtained with his spouse was soon spent in extravagance; and not long afterwards they were apprehended on suspicion of felony, and conducted to St. Sepulchre's watch-house; however, the charge against them not being validated, it was necessary to dismiss them: but before they were set at liberty, the constable said to Gardener, "Beware how you come here again, or this bellman will certainly say his verses over you," for the bellman happened to be at that time in the watch-house.

It has been a very ancient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned criminals, for the bellman of the parish of St. Sepulchre to go under Newgate, and, ringing his bell, to repeat the following verses, as a piece of friendly advice, to the unhappy wretches under sentence of death:

"All you that in the condemn'd hold do lie,
Prepare you, for to-morrow you shall die,
Watch all, and pray; the hour is drawing near,

That you before th' Almighty must appear.
Examine well yourselves, in time repent,
That you may not to eternal flames be sent.
And when St. Sepulchre's bell to-morrow tolls,

The Lord above have mercy on your souls!
Past twelve o'clock!"

Gardener was much affected when the constable told him the bellman would say his verses over him; but the impression it made on his mind soon wore off, and he quickly returned to his vicious practices.

In a short time after this adventure, Gardener fell into the company of a petty thief named Rice Jones, with whom he agreed to go on the "Passing lay," an

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artifice frequently practised in modern times; and though the sharpers are often taken into custody, and their tricks exposed in the newspapers, yet people are repeatedly found weak enough to submit to the imposition.

The following description of this trick is from an old work. "The rogues having concerted their plan, one of them takes a countryman into a public-house, under pretence of any business they can think of; then the other comes in as a stranger, and in a little time finds a pack of cards, which his companion had designedly laid on some shelf in the room; on which the two sharpers begin to play. At length one of them offers a wager on the game, and puts down his money: the other 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 was evidently the mode of tricking formerly: but it seems to have been improved upon of late years; for the sharpers generally game with the countryman till he has lost all his money; and then he has only to execrate his own folly for suffering himself to be duped by a couple of rascals.

In this practice our adventurers were very successful at different places, particularly at Bristol; but in this last place Jones bilked Gardener in such a manner as to prove there is no truth in the observation of "Honour among thieves;" for Jones defrauded a country gentleman of a gold watch and chain, a suit of laced clothes, and about a hundred guineas, and gave no share of the booty to Gardener. This induced the latter to think of revenge; but he disguised his sentiments, and they went together to Bath, where they remained some time, and then proceeded on their journey; but in the morning of their setting out, Gardener stole an iron pestle from the inn where they lay, and concealed it in his boot, with an intention of murdering his companion when they should come to an unfrequented place. On their journey, Gardener generally kept behind Jones, and twice took out the pestle with an intention of perpetrating the murder; but his resolution failing him he at length

dropped it on the road, unperceived by the other.

In a few days afterwards these companions in iniquity parted; and on this occasion Jones said, "Hark ye, Gardener; whither are you going?" "To London," said he. "Why, then," said Jones, "you are going to be hanged."

We find that this was not the first intimation that Gardener received of the fatal consequences that must attend his illicit practices; but it appeared to have no good effect upon him, for soon after he quitted Jones he broke open a house between Abergavenny and Monmouth, whence, finding no money, he took only a gown, with which he decamped.

Soon after his arrival in London, he robbed a house in Addle Hill, but was not apprehended for it: in a short time after, however, he broke open the house of a Mrs. Roberts, and carried off linen to the value of 25*l*. In this robbery he was assisted by a man of the name of John Martin; and both the offenders being soon afterwards taken into custody, they were brought to trial, capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; but Martin was subsequently reprieved, on condition of his being transported for fourteen years.

After sentence of death Gardener became as sincere a penitent as he had been a notorious offender. He resigned himself to his fate with the utmost submission; and before he quitted Newgate, to proceed to Tyburn, on the day of execution, the 3d of February, 1724, he dressed himself in a shroud, in which he was executed, refusing to wear any other clothes though the weather was intensely cold.

At the fatal tree he saw some of his old companions, whom he desired to take warning by his calamitous fate, to avoid bad company, and embrace a life of sobriety, as the most certain road to happiness in this world and the next.

JOHN COWLAND.

THE crime for which this man suffered will show the danger to be apprehended from an indiscriminate connexion with females, and serve as a caution against intemperance. He was the son of reputable parents, who apprenticed him to a goldsmith; but he was of a vicious, iras-

cible disposition. He and some other *bon vivants* had followed Sir Andrew Slanning, Bart., who had made a temporary acquaintance with an orange-woman, while in the pit at Drury Lane theatre, and retired with her as soon as the play was ended. They had gone but a few yards before 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 Captain Wagget having there used his utmost endeavours to reconcile both parties, it appeared that his mediation was attended with success; but as they were going up stairs to drink a glass of wine Cowland drew his sword, and stabbed Sir Andrew in the abdomen, who, on being wounded, cried out "Murder." One of Lord Warwick's servants, and two other persons who were in the house, ran up immediately and disarmed Cowland of his sword, which was bloody to the depth of five inches, and took him into custody.

Cowland was instantly conducted before a justice of peace, who committed him; and on the 5th of December, 1700, he was tried at the Old Bailey on three indictments—the first at common law, the second on the statute of stabbing, and the third on the coroner's inquest for the murder. Every fact was fully proved on the trial; and, among other things, it was deposed that the deceased had possessed an estate of 20,000*l.* a-year, and that 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 of December, 1700.

PUNISHMENT OF A MURDERER IN SPAIN.

[From "Spain Revisited."]

At the moment that Valladolid broke full upon our view, we came in sight of a very remarkable object, placed at the junction of the high road to Madrid with that by which we were approaching. It was the

right arm of a man, nailed to the extremity of a tall post, which had been removed from the body a little above the shoulder, bringing away part of it. It was shrivelled by exposure to the weather, so as to have lost something of its original size; and the colour had become livid and sallow. The hand, the skin of which resembled a glove, grasped the hilt of a dagger; the arm being raised and contracted, as if to deal a death-blow. This in some measure set forth the cause of this horrid exposition, which was further explained to me by a shepherd, who happened to pass with his flock, and whose peaceful occupation gave him a right to express becoming horror at the crimes which the owner of that hand had committed. He had been a robber, and had murdered many of his fellow-men; but that would not have been enough to entitle him to such a distinction, or indeed to death at all! he had raised the sacrilegious hand, now exposed to detestation, against a minister of God. The robber had gone to confess himself to the curate of a village in the neighbourhood of Valladolid, who, being shocked at the recital of so many and such atrocious crimes, refused absolution entirely, or proposed such conditions of penance as the sinner was unwilling to fulfil. In a fit of rage he stabbed the uncomplying curate to the heart. Such an offence excited universal horror: the murderer was pursued, taken, convicted, and condemned; and the full rigour of the law was adjudged to him. He was therefore quartered; and his limbs were distributed to be thus exhibited in the most exposed situations, as an example of terror to such as might hereafter be tempted to raise an impious hand against a priest. Pepe told me he had seen the limb thus exposed, at each successive visit he had made to Valladolid, during the last five months. The friar, who seemed to be highly delighted with the way the robber's crime had been requited to him, remarked, that the limbs must all be taken down and collected for Christian burial before Palm Sunday, as no exhibition of that sort could continue during the Holy Week.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 14.

JUNE 1, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF A FEMALE BY MATTHEW CLARKE.



[MATTHEW CLARKE BETRAYING HIS VICTIM.]

This most unmanly offender was the son of poor persons of St. Alban's: he was brought up as a plough-boy; but, being too idle to follow his business, he sauntered about the country and committed frequent robberies, spending the money thereby obtained amongst women.

It appears that Matthew Clarke had sufficient art to engage the affections of a number of young women in his travels, to some of whom he promised marriage; and he made a show towards keeping his word with one of them, whom he accompanied to London to tie the nuptial knot; but, going into a goldsmith's shop to buy the ring, he said he had forgot to supply himself with money, which he would go into the country and fetch.

The young woman stayed in town, sup-

posing that Clarke would speedily return: he, however, proceeded to Wilsden Green, with an intention to commit a robbery, for the purpose of replenishing his pocket. It was hay-making season, nor would he tell the reason why he at so busy a period was idle, when a farmer whom he met required him to assign one. But the farmer gave him employment, by which means he had an opportunity of renewing his acquaintance with a female in the service of the employer, who, in addition to the farming business, kept a public-house. The villain, being at work in the field, left his fellow-labourers and went to the house, where he found the girl alone, with whom he conversed some time: but having determined to rob his employer, he thought he could not do it securely

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without murdering her; and while she was gone to draw him some beer he pulled out his knife for this horrid purpose. On her entering the room, he got up to kiss her, thinking to have then perpetrated the deed, but his conscience prevented him; and he sat down again, and entered into farther conversation with her. He at length rose a second time, and at the same moment kissed her on the cheek and pierced his knife into her throat: the poor girl fell down, on which she made an attempt to crawl to the door, while the blood flowed copiously; but the scoundrel promptly despatched her by cutting her neck to the bone; after which he robbed the house of a small sum, and ran off towards London, under all the agonizing tortures of a guilty mind.

Tyburn lay on the road to town, and the sight of the gallows so terrified him that he retraced his steps a considerable distance, till he met a waggon, when he tendered his services at driving, thinking that his being in employment might prevent his being suspected in case of a pursuit. But he had not gone far before some persons rode up, and asked him if he had seen a man who might be suspected of having committed a murder; which so stung him that the parties could not but notice his agitation; and upon an investigation some spots of congealed blood were found on his clothes, for which he accounted by stating that he had quarrelled and fought with a soldier on the road, but his falsehoods happily availed him nothing.

Being taken into custody, he very soon acknowledged himself guilty of the crime imputed to him, and, on undergoing an examination before a magistrate, he was committed for trial; upon the proceeding of which he pleaded guilty to the charge preferred against him in the indictment, and was consequently sentenced to death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 28th of July, 1721. He was afterwards hung in chains near the spot where the murder was committed.

What a variety of plans do we find adopted to effect the purposes of crime! Like the surgeon of whom we read, who wrapped up his lance in a sponge, with which, while he professed to do good to his patient by laving his side, he made a deep incision—the villain whose horrible deed we have now detailed, under the

pretension of entertaining feelings of an exalted affection for a female, kisses her, and embraces the opportunity of consigning her to the world of spirits! O, awful work! O, deed resembling hell!

Naval and Military Torture. N^o 2.

FLOGGING AT SEA AND ON SHORE.

[From an article on "Courts-martial and the Cat o'-nine-tails," by Ensign O'Donoghue, in the May Number of "Fraser's Magazine."]

FLOGGING is unquestionably a detestable punishment, and forty years ago this detestable punishment was as certainly carried to a detestable extent. In the army, any court-martial could award a corporal punishment to any amount of lashes short of a thousand; and five, six, seven, and eight hundred were by no means unfrequently given. Indeed, I have more than once heard it argued whether a strong man could bear more than nine hundred lashes without being taken from the halberts. The punishment, too, did not necessarily cease when the delinquent's sufferings overcame his physical endurance, and nature could bear no longer; but if the entire sentence was not carried into execution the first time, he was tied up, a second, and possibly a third time, after allowing a sufficient interval for the cure of his back in the hospital, was he brought out to receive the residue. Thus, as the first two hundred and fifty or three hundred lashes gave the greatest pain (after which the flesh becomes numbed to further blows), the strong man took the whole of his punishment at once, without, comparatively speaking, feeling the last half of it; while the weaker man, though guilty of the same crime only as the strong one, was twice or thrice made to endure the acute torture attending the first strokes of a fresh flogging: I say nothing of his moments passed during the interval, or intervals, in dwelling upon what was yet before him. In many regiments, too, it was the custom to flog by tap of drum—that was, for a drummer to stand by and give the time to him who wielded the cat, by tapping on the drum-head with a single drumstick, at measured intervals of about two seconds. Sometimes these intervals were longer; and I have heard of half-minute time being practised, though I never saw it, which must have

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prolonged the torture to a most unnecessarily cruel extent.

At the period I am about to speak of, Albany Barracks, in the Isle of Wight, where I was quartered, held the dépôts of most of the line regiments on foreign service. Here recruits for those regiments were sent, preparatory to being forwarded, as opportunities offered, to the different head-quarters abroad; and as desertion was a matter of almost everyday occurrence, it at last became absolutely necessary to make some severe examples; otherwise the young soldiers would have departed nearly as rapidly as they came, carrying off the regimental necessaries with which they had been supplied. The cat was resorted to—not unadvisedly; and each soldier that deserted well knew the penalty which, if retaken, he was likely to pay. I was one day lounging along the strand under West Cowes, watching a transport, with troops on board for America, that was getting slowly under weigh about a quarter of a mile from the shore, when a private soldier, and a woman with him, both in deep grief, came down to the sea-side, to a ship's boat, which, loaded heavily with vegetables and fresh meat, was evidently about to push off to the transport. The soldier (a recruit, I thought) and his wife, as she appeared to be, got into the boat; and I heard one of the two seamen belonging to her say that they were only waiting for the captain's coming to go off. In a minute or two afterwards he came; and as he was stepping aft to the stern sheets he asked who the woman was. The soldier said she was his wife. The captain inquired if a passage was provided for her in his ship. The reply was in the negative; and consequently the woman was kindly but peremptorily desired to quit the boat. Her tears and entreaties to be allowed to go on board, and to remain with her husband till the ship should be fairly off, were in vain. But the captain, a rough but kind hand, said to the soldier, "'Tis impossible, my man—your wife can not come with us; but 'tis a pity to separate you two. Here, I'll manage it—do you remain with her: the wind has fallen to a calm; we shan't move before the first of the morning's tide: stay on shore to-night, and I'll speak to your commanding officer. But be sure to come off to us quite by four

o'clock, or you will lose your passage. Come, bear a hand, and bundle yourselves out of the boat." The ill-judged boon was gladly received; the boat pushed off to the transport. Soon after they reached her, the sails, which had been cast loose from the yards, were again furled; and the soldier walked away with his wife, to enjoy his few hours' reprieve.

It was full a week afterwards that, one morning, instead of being dismissed from parade, in the usual manner, as soon as inspection was over, the troops were moved to the rear of the barracks, and formed into a hollow square; the triangles were erected; a prisoner in undress uniform was brought out between two file of the guard; the minutes of a court-martial were read: "Strip, sir," said the lieutenant-colonel commanding the parade; and the culprit was tied up. It happened, from my being placed in one corner of the square, which was considerably larger than would have been formed under similar circumstances by one single battalion, I did not perceive his features: and, as there was a good deal of wind blowing in an opposite direction, I could only gather, from the few words of the court-martial proceedings I heard read, that desertion was the crime laid to his charge. The sentence was two hundred lashes: he received only one hundred, when he was commanded to be taken down, the remainder of the punishment being excused: and I was ordered to wheel back half a dozen of my right files, to let him out of the square on his way to the hospital. The poor fellow nearly brushed my elbow as he passed, and I instantly recognized the features of the man whom the captain of the transport had given permission to remain on shore. Now that the punishment had been undergone, there was but one course to pursue; which was, to acquaint the officer commanding of what I had seen, the moment parade should be dismissed. I did so. He was exceedingly shocked, and exclaimed that the man ought never to have been flogged. But where lay the blame? The soldier had marched with his detachment to Cowes, and there embarked. Four days after the ship had sailed, he was found in a public-house by a party of the piquet, and brought in. Desertion was manifest to the court-martial that tried him, as the transport was

gone and he was not. In his defence, he said that a gentleman, whom he believed to be the captain of the ship, gave him leave to remain on shore for the night; that when he wanted to go off at day-break, next morning, no vessel was to be seen, as a breeze sprang up soon after dark, and she had sailed: and he was so afraid of being punished, that he skulked about the island, yet without any intention of absconding. But as the keystone of this defence was the alleged permission granted by the captain of a transport, and as neither of the five individual officers composing the court could believe that a captain of a transport would take upon himself to give any such permission, it entirely fell to the ground—particularly as he could not produce any one to speak to the fact—his wife, if I recollect right, not appearing before the court. He was sentenced, and, as I have said, punished. The officer who commanded us, however, stated to me that he would send a detail of the facts to the colonel of his regiment, so that no stigma should attach to his character. Alas! all the ink that ever was spilt could not obliterate the marks on his back—they are there to this instant, if he lives.

In the naval service, the system of corporal punishment was immeasurably worse, because the captains of his Majesty's ships were judges and jury in their own persons—that down to a late date, too; and though the lashes were numbered by dozens instead of hundreds, a dozen afloat was fully equal to a hundred on shore. The cat used on board men-of-war, instead of being formed of ends of whipcord, fastened to a wooden handle about fifteen inches long, as in the army, was altogether made out of a piece of rope thicker than a man's wrist, five feet in length, three of which were stiff and solid stuff, and the remaining two feet ravelled into ends that were afterwards hard twisted and knotted. At present, however, wooden handles are substituted for the old rope ones; but whether of rope or wood, upon the length of the handle depends the severity of the stroke. In the army, too, the drummer who flogs stands on one spot, and delivers the lash without moving his position, his arm alone giving force to the blow; but in the navy, the boatswain's mate, who has this duty to perform, stands full two strides from

the delinquent; he "combs out the cat," as it is termed, by running his fingers through the strands, and separating them from each other, after every lash; then waving it over his head, he makes a step forward, and, with an inflexion of his body that gives his whole strength to the operation, delivers the stroke at the full sweep of his arm. 'Tis a severe punishment this; and I do not think any man could stand nine dozen as I have seen it "laid in." An unhallowed torture is it—bad as the rack of bygone times; and to the man that deserved such a punishment, hanging would be a more merciful dispensation—supposing, always, that any suffering, short of cutting the line that binds us to a life in which repentance may yet be found, can be preferable. Yet while Britain's monarch, on his throne, had not the power of injuring a hair of one of his people, the fiat that awarded these stripes went forth from the lips of a petty captain of even the smallest craft in the navy, and was at once acted upon without question or hesitation. Nor did it signify in what state of mind the orderer of such punishment was in. Whether calm or infuriated, whether schooled to examine warily, and punish justly, or biased by previous dislike, and predetermined to flog, guilty or innocent, whether before dinner or after, the epauletted lord of the quarter-deck was empowered to scarify the backs of his fellow-liegers as much as it pleased him, without a soul under his command, except the surgeon, who might save the sufferer by certifying that he was not in a sufficiently robust state of health to bear it—without an individual to say him nay. A case in point I happen to be particularly acquainted with. Admiral Cornwallis—perhaps better known in the navy by the nickname of Billy Blue, which he acquired from hoisting a "Blue Peter" (signal for sailing) the moment after he cast anchor in any port—had once been severely wounded in the head, so severely that at times he lost his reason; and, though a taut hand, a perfect officer, as good a seaman as ever trod a plank, and a humane man withal, if by accident he was induced to swallow one additional glass of wine beyond his prescribed *modicum*, the control of his mind vanished, and his brains, *pro tem.*, were in the region where Astolpho sought those of

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Orlando Furioso. In this unfortunate state, one evening, he came out of his cabin while the ship was at sea; and his eye alighting upon one of the officers for whom it was supposed he entertained a dislike, he instantly ordered the hands to be turned up for punishment. A grating was rigged, the ship's company mustered aft, and each looked at his messmate to learn who was to suffer. When all was prepared, the admiral, who pourtrayed scarce any outward signs of his inward derangement, pointed out the individual whom he intended to have punished. Every body hesitated at first to obey an order for seizing a commissioned officer. But the maxim on board ship, "To obey orders, though you break owners," tallies with the eastern one of "To hear is to obey;" so, without much ceremony, the astonished officer found himself naked from the waist upwards, firmly lashed by wrist and ankle to the grating, and a boatswain's mate, cat in hand, ready to flog him. The officers were entirely taken aback at these unlooked for proceedings, and had not time to remonstrate, even if such was their intention, before Admiral Cornwallis himself gave the signal to the boatswain's mate, and two dozen were soundly laid in, Billy Blue looking on all the while as if he was doing the most natural thing in the world. At the end of the two dozen the seizings were cast loose, the bleeding shoulders of the punished gentleman were submitted to the surgeon, the watch was called, and back to his cabin hied the admiral as sedately as a judge. If the ship's company were astonished, the aggregate of their astonishment could scarcely equal the wonder of Admiral Cornwallis, when, next morning, he was informed of his over-night's freak. He refused to believe it, till the fact was brought so circumstantially before him, that it was impossible longer to doubt. Then all hands were again turned up for punishment; and the officer who had been flogged was brought from below, still in arrest, from which he refused to be released. When the crew were wondering what next was to happen—some of them, perhaps, thinking he was to be flogged again—the admiral appeared on the quarter-deck with a cane in his hand, and walking up to the punished officer, addressed him nearly as follows: "I am

told that yesterday evening I ordered you, sir, to be flogged, and that my orders were carried into execution on this quarter-deck; but, upon my word of honour, I have not the remotest recollection of the circumstance. It appears to be true, however; and therefore, this morning, I have assembled together those who saw you punished. Now, in their presence I have to tell you that I don't come here to make an apology for what I have done, because no British officer could receive an apology from any one after being struck; if I did not strike you myself, I caused another to do so. I won't ask your pardon, sir, because, as a man of honour, you could not in this way pardon an unpardonable offence. Nor, sir, will I wave my rank to give you personal satisfaction on shore, because, by receiving your fire, or by firing at you, I could not obliterate the stain I have laid upon your shoulders. But I ask a favour of you before the ship's company; which is, that you will take this cane and use it on my back as long as it will hold together. By —! I would do so to any one that served me as I did you. Mr. —, you may thrash me if you please, and as much as you like, and, as I am a living man, it shall not interfere with your future promotion." Here he presented the handle of the cane to Mr. —. Now every man there knew Cornwallis was true as steel, and brave as a lion: and if he thus humbled himself to his inferior officer, it was not through fear of fighting a duel, nor yet from apprehension of being brought to a court-martial; but they saw that, in the keenest spirit of the most bitter self-condemnation, their gallant old chief took the only step which could heal the honour he had wounded; and, however unused to the melting mood, many a broad eye, set in the weather-beaten faces that thronged round the mainmast, glistened with moisture on witnessing the penance which Billy Blue inflicted upon himself. Mr. — behaved very properly. He took the cane, snapped it in two across his knee, flung the pieces overboard, and extending his hand towards the admiral, told him he forgave him with all his heart. The ship's company burst into an involuntary cheer when they saw them shake hands, notwithstanding the usual sanctity of a line-of-battle ship's quarter-deck; and

more than one among them would have kissed the gunner's daughter himself, to the tune of a similar two dozen, for the pleasure of being afterwards rewarded by grasping old Billy's "flipper." I will conclude the last half of my story—which may be looked upon somewhat in the light of an episode, as it has nothing to say to the previous question of the power to flog resting in the hands of a superior officer at sea—by stating, that Mr. — finished his naval career with that same voyage, and commenced another one on shore under the patronage of the Marquis Cornwallis, brother to the admiral, which, if less venturesome, was more profitable far. He lived to see himself collector of customs in a northern sea-port; a snug berth, for which he might have sighed and sought in vain, but for his good luck in tasting Billy Blue's discipline. It is said that Billy himself was never afterwards known to be in the slightest degree inebriated. But however the old trite and true saying, "'tis an ill wind that blows nobody good," might have been exemplified in this instance, the system that could by any possibility have permitted such a breach of the laws was insufferably bad; and the corner-stone of this system was the power of inflicting punishment laying solely in the hands of any one individual. Why was the fact so well known? Because Admiral Cornwallis flogged an *officer*. Suppose he had given two dozen to a man before the mast; the circumstance would have been entered on the log, and but little said about the matter, while the infamy of the one act could not have surpassed that of the other.

The foregoing statement of facts is from the pen of a Tory writer, a contributor to the thorough-paced Tory publication whence it emanated. Though the writer admits that horrible cruelties have been perpetrated in the flogging of soldiers and sailors, he maintains that it cannot be altogether avoided without destroying discipline; but he declares it to be necessary to restrict the use of the lash. With respect to the assertion that it must be perpetuated on the score of preserving discipline, the editor of "The Weekly Dispatch" observes, "This is the consistent, but we think mistaken, Tory view of the subject: it is manly, and even

amiable, when contrasted with the disgusting apostacy of the Whigs with regard to military torture." Give the private a specific chance of promotion for meritorious services and good conduct, and it is not probable that he would so far infringe upon the requisite disciplinary regulations as to incur the risk of being drummed out, provided such were to be the certain issue of any crime hitherto deemed worthy of flogging. On some such moral adjustment the matter ought unquestionably to be settled.

HISTORY OF LEWIS HOUSSART.

THIS malefactor was born at Sedan, in France; but his parents, being Protestants, quitted that kingdom, in consequence of an edict of Louis the Fourteenth, and settled in Dutch Brabant. Young Houssart's father placed him with a barber-surgeon at Amsterdam, with whom he lived a considerable time, and then served as a surgeon on board a Dutch ship, which he quitted through want of health, and came to England.

He had been a considerable time in this country, when he became acquainted with Ann Rondeau, whom he married at the French church in Spitalfields. Having lived about three years with his wife at Hoxton, he left her with disgust, and going into the city passed for a single man, working as barber and hair-dresser; where he soon became acquainted with a Mrs. Hern, of Princess Street, Lothbury, whom he married at St. Antholin's church. No sooner was the ceremony performed, than the company went to drink wine at an adjacent tavern, when the parish-clerk observed that Houssart changed countenance, and some of the company asked him if he repented his bargain; to which he replied in the negative. It appears as if, even at this time, he had come to a resolution of murdering his first wife; for he had not been long married before his second charged him with a former matrimonial connexion; on which he desired her to be easy, for she would be convinced, in a short time, that he had no wife but herself. During this interval his first wife lived with her mother in Swan Alley, Shoreditch, and Mrs. Houssart being in an ill state of health, her husband called upon her about a fortnight before the perpetration of the murder,

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and told her he would bring her something to relieve her; and the next day he gave her a medicine that had the appearance of conserve of roses, which threw her into such severe convulsions that her life was despaired of for some hours; but she at length recovered.

This scheme failing, Houssart determined to murder her, to effect which, and conceal the crime, he directed his second wife to meet him at the Turk's Head, in Bishopsgate Street, whither she went, and waited for him. In the mean time he dressed himself in a white great coat, and walked out with a cane in his hand, and a sword by his side. Going to the end of Swan Alley, Shoreditch, he gave a boy a penny to go into the lodgings of his first wife, and her mother, Mrs. Rondeau, and tell the old woman that a gentleman wanted to speak with her at the Black Dog, in Bishopsgate Street. Mrs. Rondeau saying she would wait on the gentleman, Houssart hid himself in the alley till the boy told him she was gone out, and then went to his wife's room, and cut her throat with a razor; and, thus murdered, she was found by her mother on her return from the Black Dog, after inquiring in vain for the gentleman who was said to be waiting for her. In the interim Houssart went to his other wife, at the Turk's Head, where he appeared much dejected, and had some sudden starts of passion. The landlady of the house, who was at supper with his wife, expressing some surprise at his behaviour, he became more calm, and said he was only uneasy lest her husband should return, and find him so meanly dressed; and soon after this Houssart and his wife went home.

Mrs. Rondeau having found her daughter murdered, as above mentioned, went to her son, and communicated the affair; and he, having heard that Houssart lodged in Lothbury, took a constable thither, and said he was come to apprehend him on suspicion of having murdered his wife; on which he laughed loudly, and asked if anything in his looks indicated that he could be guilty of such a crime.

Being committed to Newgate, he was tried at the Old Bailey, but acquitted, for want of the evidence of the boy, who was not found till a considerable time afterwards; but the court ordered the prisoner to remain in Newgate, to take his trial for

bigamy; in consequence of which he was indicted at the next sessions, when full proof was brought of both his marriages; but an objection was made by his counsel, on a point of law, "Whether he could be guilty of bigamy, as the first marriage was performed by a French minister; and he was only once married according to the form of the church of England."

On this the jury brought in a special verdict, subject to the determination of the twelve judges.

While Houssart lay in Newgate waiting this solemn award, the boy whom he had employed to go into the house of Mrs. Rondeau, and who had until now kept secret the whole transaction, being in conversation with his mother, asked her what would become of the boy if he should be apprehended? The mother told him, he would only be sworn to tell the truth. "Why," said he, "I thought they would hang him." But the mother satisfying him that there was no danger of any such consequence, and talking farther with him on the subject, he confessed that he was the boy who went with the message. He was consequently taken to Solomon Rondeau, brother of the deceased, who went with him to a justice of the peace; and the latter ordered a constable to attend him to Newgate, where he fixed on Houssart as the person who had employed him in the way already detailed.

Solomon Rondeau immediately lodged an appeal against the prisoner; but no proceedings could be had thereon, it appearing that there was some bad Latin in it; and another appeal was therefore lodged the next sessions, when the prisoner urged that he was not prepared for his trial, and he was indulged till another sessions. The appeal was brought in the name of Solomon Rondeau, as heir to the deceased; and the names of John Doe and Richard Doe were entered in the common form, as pledges to prosecute.

When the trial came on, the counsel for the prisoner stated the following pleas in bar to, and in abatement of, the proceedings. 1, That, besides the appeal to which he now pleaded, there was another yet depending, and so undetermined. 2, That there was a misnomer; because his name was not Lewis, but Louis. 3, That the addition of labourer was wrong; for he was not a labourer, but a barber-sur-

geon. 4, That there were no such persons as John Doe and Richard Doe, who were mentioned as pledges in the appeal. 5, That Henry Rondeau was the brother and heir to the deceased; that Solomon Rondeau was not her brother and heir, and therefore was not the proper appellant. 6, That defendant was not guilty of the facts charged in the appeal.

The counsel for the appellant replied to these several pleas, in substance—to the first, that the former appeal was already quashed. To the second, that it appeared that the prisoner had owned to the name of Lewis, by pleading to it on two indictments; the one for bigamy, the other for murder; and his hand-writing was produced, in which he had spelt his name Lewis; and it was likewise proved that he had usually answered to that name. To the third, it was urged that on the two former indictments he had pleaded to the addition of labourer; and a person swore that the prisoner had worked as a journeyman or servant, and did not carry on his business as a master. To the fourth, it was urged that there were two such persons in Middlesex as John Doe and Richard Doe, the one a weaver, and the other a soldier; which fact was sworn to. In answer to the fifth, Ann Rondeau, the mother of the deceased, swore that she had no children except the murdered party, and Solomon Rondeau the appellant; that Solomon was brother and heir to the deceased, which Henry Rondeau was not, being only the son of her husband by a former wife. With regard to the last article or plea, respecting his being not guilty, that was left to be determined by the opinion of the jury.

The trial was brought on, and the same witnesses being examined as on the former trial, with the addition of the boy, the jury found the prisoner guilty; in consequence of which he received sentence of death.

His conduct after conviction was very improper for one in his melancholy situation; and as the day of execution drew nearer, he became more thoughtless and more hardened, frequently declaring that he would cut his throat, as the jury had found him guilty of cutting that of his wife; but it does not appear that he ever attempted it.

At the place of execution his behaviour

was equally hardened. He treated every species of devotion with scorn, and suffered in this wretched state of mind at Swan Alley, Shoreditch, on the 7th of December, 1724; a pitiable example of the deep depravity to which the heart of man is liable, losing even the slightest touch of remorse at the commission of the foulest and most abhorrent crime.

CHINESE JUSTICE.

THE Canton Register of the 1st of December, contains a proclamation issued by Ke, "Guardian of the Prince, and acting Governor and Fooynen of Kiranbung," by which it appears that the last conflagration was supposed to have been the work of incendiaries; and it proposes to make short work with them. We subjoin a copy of the document.

"It is known that the provincial city is thickly crowded with dwellings, and there are always vagabonds ready to seize every opportunity of setting fire [to houses], scheming to steal money and goods, regardless of the bodies and lives of men; craftiness and wickedness dwell in their hearts, they are altogether devoid of heavenly principles, and their depravity is carried to the very extreme point. The law must cut them utterly off. Let all civil and military officers, soldiers, people, and police make themselves fully acquainted with this proclamation. If these fire-spreading villains are found, seize them immediately, and take them before the magistrate; let them be tried, and the royal order [to put them to death] be respectfully requested, and forthwith cut off their heads. Let all tremblingly obey without opposition. A special edict.

~ "Tenth moon, ninth day."

A HINT TO CERTAIN LEGISLATORS

HE who dislikes the correction of social abuses, as far as it is practicable, is either a villain or a fool; but he who in his desire to remove them acts with cruelty is equally mad or wicked, if not even to a greater degree so.

London: Printed, for the Proprietor, by Thomas Foale, 2, Upper Southampton Street, Pentonville, and Published by WILLIAM MARK CLARK, 19, Warwick Lane; and J. PATTIE, High Street, Bloomsbury: and to be had of all Booksellers.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 15.

JUNE 8, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

LIFE OF JOSEPH POWIS, A BURGLAR.



[THE CULPRIT AFFRIGHTED IN HIS SLEEP.]

THERE have been few thieves who have individually committed more depredations than the subject of the following narrative: he appears to have possessed considerable talent; and had it not been for his unsteady disposition, and the dissolute company into which he fell, he might have been a credit to society. He was a native of St. Martin in the Fields; and his father dying while he was an infant, his mother married a smith in St. Martin's Lane, who was remarkable for his ingenuity.

The father-in-law going to Harfleur, in Normandy, with many other skilful artists, to be concerned in an iron manufactory, took Powis with him when he was only eight years of age. They had not been long there before the father-in-law received a letter, acquainting him of

the death of his wife: on which he left the boy to the care of an Englishman, and set off to London in order to settle his affairs, whence he soon returned to Normandy.

But the scheme in which they had embarked failing, they soon came back to England, and the man marrying a second wife, took a shop in Chancery Lane, London, and sent young Powis to school, where he made such progress, that a little time gave hope of his becoming a good Latin scholar: he had not been long at school, however, before his father-in-law took him home, to instruct him in his own business; and hence his misfortunes appear to have arisen; for such was his attachment to literature, that when he was sent on an errand, he constantly loitered away his time reading

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at the stall of some bookseller. When he had been about four years with his father, two lads of his acquaintance persuaded him to take a stroll into the country; and they wandered through the villages adjacent to London, for about a week, in a condition almost starving; and sometimes begging food to relieve the extremities of hunger; but distress at length compelled them to return to town.

The father-in-law of Powis received him kindly, and forgave his fault, after which he continued about a year longer with him; but having read a number of plays, he imbibed such romantic notions as disqualified him for business. Inspired with an idea of going on the stage, he offered his service to Mr. Rich, manager of Covent Garden Theatre at the time; but having repeated some parts of the tragedy of "Julius Cæsar," Mr. Rich told him he was not competent for the stage, and advised him to attend to his trade.

Soon after this Powis again quitted his father-in-law, and rambled some days through the country; but he returned on a Sunday, in the absence of the family, and broke open a chest, whence he took out his best clothes, and again decamped. Powis's father, finding that nothing had been taken except the boy's clothes, easily judged who must be the thief; in consequence of which he went with a constable in search of the youth, whom he found and took before a magistrate, in the hope of making him sensible of his folly. The justice threatening to commit him unless he made a proper submission, he promised to go home and do so; but dropping his father-in-law in the street, he went to an acquaintance, to whom he communicated his situation, and asked his advice how to act. His friend advised him to go home and discharge his duty; but this not suiting his inclination, and it being now the time of Bartholomew fair, he engaged with Miller, a strolling player, to act a part in a farce exhibited in Smithfield.

His next adventure was going to Dorking, Surrey, with another strolling player, named Dutton, by whom he was taught to expect great things: but Dutton, having previously offended the inhabitants, met with no encouragement; on which they proceeded to Horsham, in Sussex, where they were equally unsuccessful.

At the latter place Powis slept in a hay-loft, near the kitchen of an inn; and

being almost starved, he used to get in at the window and steal victuals, while the family were in bed: He likewise stole a new pair of shoes belonging to the landlord; but the latter, discovering the thief, took the shoes from him, and gave him an old pair instead. About this time Dutton took Powis's clothes from him, and gave him others that were little better than rags.

Having left this place, they put up at an inn, where the landlord obliged the company to sleep in the hay-loft, admitting none into his house but the manager. At night Powis crept into the kitchen and devoured the remains of a cold pie, besides which, he stole a pair of boots and a pair of stockings, with which he retreated to the hay-loft. He continued to steal provisions several nights, till the landlord and Dutton watched, with loaded guns, in expectation of the thief, who, however, did not come that night.

Powis having obtained a few halfpence by one of his petty thefts, stole out from the hay-loft to drink at a public-house; but the landlord happening to be there, knew the boots to be his; on which our unfortunate adventurer hastily retreated to the hay-loft, where he expected to be secure; but the landlord, Dutton, and others, following him, seized him, and took him into the kitchen for examination. He readily confessed he had stolen the victuals; on which he was delivered into the custody of two countrymen, to guard him till the next day, when he was proposed to take him before a magistrate.

The family having retired to bed, Powis pretended to fall fast asleep; on which one of his guard said, "How the poor fellow sleeps, notwithstanding his misfortunes;" to which the other said, "Let me sleep an hour, and then I will wake while you sleep." In a few minutes both the men were asleep; on which Powis, thinking to escape, attempted to put on the boots; but making some noise, the landlord heard him, and on his coming down stairs, Powis affected to sleep before: the landlord awoke the guard, and bid them take more care of their prisoner; which they promised to do, but soon fell asleep again.

Powis now took the boots in his hands, and getting out of the inn-yard ran on the utmost expedition till he had got

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of the town, and then drawing on the boots he proceeded on his journey to London. He, however, missed his way, and, getting on a common, knew not how to proceed; but going into a cow-house, in which was a quantity of flax, he lay down to rest. In the morning the owner of the flax found him, and inquiring what business he had there, Powis said that, being intoxicated, he had lost his way; on which the other directed him in the right road, in which he hastened forward, in the apprehension of being pursued.

Towards evening he arrived near Dorking, but did not enter the town till it was dark; and as he was going through the street, he heard a door open; and turning round, a woman, who had a candle in her hand, called him; and on his demanding what she wanted, she said to another woman, "Sure enough, it is he." This woman, who had washed the players' linen, said that two men had been in pursuit of him, and that the best way would be to avoid the high road, and get to London some other way, with all possible expedition. Powis, taking this advice, quitted the turnpike road, and got to a farm-house, where he stole three books and some other trifles, eat some provisions, and then proceeded towards London, stopping at Stockwell at a house kept by the mother of his father-in-law's wife. All this happened in the night; but, knowing the place, he went into the back yard, and lay down to sleep on some straw. Observing some thrashers come to work in the morning, he concealed himself under some straw till night, when he crept out, went to a public-house, drank some beer, and returned to his former lodgings. Inspired by the liquor he had drunk, he began to sing, by which he drew some people round him, who conducted him into the house; his mother-in-law happening to be there on a visit, spoke with great kindness to him, and advised him to remain there till she had communicated the affair to her husband. In a few days the father-in-law came to him, and expressed his readiness to take him home, if he would but attend to business, and decline his present vagrant course of life: this he readily agreed to, and he continued steady during the winter; but on the approach of summer he again left his friends, and rambled about nearly a

month subsisting on the casual bounty of his acquaintance.

Falling into company with Joseph Patterson, whom he had known among the strolling players, Patterson engaged him to perform a part in the tragedy of "The Earl of Essex," at Windmill Hill, near Moorfields, then a place of resort for the lower class of spouters in and near London. The part of Lord Burleigh being assigned to Powis, and it being intimated in the printed bills that this part was to be performed by a young gentleman, being his first appearance on the stage, the curiosity of the public was somewhat excited, so that there was a full house. Unfortunately Lord Burleigh was dressed in the shabbiest manner; and being little better than a compound of rags and dirt, it was with some difficulty the minister of state went through his part, amidst the laughter and ridicule of the spectators. Returning home through Ludgate Street, after the play, he saw a gentleman who said he had dropped three guineas, but had picked up one of them. Powis happening to find the other two, kept one for himself, and gave the other to the owner, who, not knowing that he had retained one, insisted on his drinking a glass of wine, and thanked him for his civility.

Soon afterwards, Powis being stopped one night in Chancery Lane by a violent shower of rain, climbed over a gate, and got under the shelter of a pent-house belonging to the Six Clerks' Office, where he remained till morning, when the clerks came to their business; and he was then afraid to appear, lest he should be taken for a thief from the shabbiness of his dress. Leaning against a plastered wall, part of it broke; but as the place he stood in was very dark, no one observed it, on which he resolved to profit by the accident; in consequence of which he, at night, made the breach wider, and got into the office, whence he stole six guineas, and about fifty shillings in silver. Having spent this money, he determined to join his old companions on Windmill Hill; and in his way thither he observed a fellow pick a countryman's pocket of a bag of money, in Smithfield. A cry of "Stop thief," being immediately raised, the pickpocket dropped the bag, which Powis picked up unobserved; and, retiring to a public-house, he examined the

contents of the bag, which he found to amount to above 50*l*. Having put the money in his pocket, he threw away the bag, and retired to his lodgings. This money, a greater sum than he had ever before possessed, was soon spent in extravagance, and he was again reduced to great extremities.

Thus distressed he got into the area of a coffee-house, in Chancery Lane, and attempted to force the kitchen-window; but not succeeding, he secreted himself in the coal-cellar till the following evening, when he got into the house, and hid himself in a hole behind the chimney. When the family were gone to rest, he stole some silver spoons, and about 3*s*. of halfpence from the bar; and having now fasted thirty hours he ate and drank heartily; but hearing a person come down stairs, he pulled off his shoes, and, retiring hastily, got into a hole where broken glass was kept, by which his feet were cut in a dreadful manner. It happened to be only the maid-servant that came down stairs; and going into the kitchen, Powis put on his shoes, and ran through the coffee-room into the street.

Being again reduced, he broke into the Chancery Office, whence he stole about 4*l*. 10*s*.: this sum being very quickly spent, he looked out for a fresh supply. Going to St. Dunstan's Church, at the time of morning prayers, he hid himself in the gallery till night, and then stole some of the prayer-books, which he proposed to have carried off the next morning, when the sexton, more terrified than the thief, appeared, and ran to procure the assistance of another man; but in the mean time Powis had so secreted himself that they could not find him after a search of two hours; which they at length gave up, concluding that he had got out through one of the windows. He, however, remained in the church all that day, and at the hour of prayer the next morning went off with as many books as produced him a guinea.

On the following night he visited an acquaintance in Ram Alley, Fleet Street, where he observed a woman deposit some goods in a room, the door of which she fastened with a padlock. On this he concealed himself in the cellar, till towards morning, when he opened the padlock with a crooked nail, and stole two gold rings and a guinea, being balked in his

expectation of a much more valuable prize.

One of the prayer-books which he had stolen from St. Dunstan's Church, he sold to a bookseller in the Strand; and while the lady who had lost it was inquiring at the bookseller's if such a book had fallen into his hands, Powis happened to stop to speak with a gentleman at the door, on which the bookseller said, "There is the man who sold it me;" and the lady replied, "He is a thief, and has stolen it." The bookseller calling Powis into shop, asked him if he had sold him that book, which he acknowledged; and being desired to recollect how he had obtained it, he said he could not; on which the bookseller threatened to have him committed to prison; but the lady now earnestly looking at him, asked him if his name was Powis. He said it was; on which she burst into tears, and said, "I am sorry for you, and for your poor father: you are the cause of all his unhappiness." The bookseller, happening likewise to know Powis's father, delivered the book to the lady, and permitted the young thief to depart, on promise to pay for it on the following day; but the day of payment never came.

A few nights after this he climbed up the sign-post belonging to a pastry-cook in Fleet Street, and got in at a chamber-window, whence he descended into the shop; but not finding any money in the till, he stole only two or three old books, and filled his pockets with tarts, with which he decamped. Calling some days afterwards at the same shop to buy a tart, he found the people of the house entertaining themselves with the idea of the disappointment the thief had met with; and a lady who lodged in the house produced her gold watch, saying she supposed that had been the object of his search. This circumstance encouraged him to make another attempt; and on the following night he again ascended the sign-post, and got in at the window; but hearing a person coming down stairs without shoes, he got back to the sign-post, descended, and ran off. He was instantly pursued; but he escaped through the darkness of the night.

Chagrined at this disappointment, he sauntered into the fields, and lay down under a hay-rick. He slumbered awhile; but being distressed in mind, he imagined

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he heard a voice crying, "Run, run, fly, for your life; for you are pursued; and if you are taken, you will be hanged!" He started with wild affright, and large drops of sweat ran down his face, occasioned by the agitation of his mind. Finding that he had only been disturbed by a dream, he again lay down; but the stings of his conscience again haunting him, he dreamed that a person came to him, saying, "Young man, you must go away from hence; for were I to suffer you to remain here, I should expect a judgment to fall upon me; so, go away, or I will fetch a constable who will oblige you to go." Being again terrified, he walked round the hay-rick, calling out, "Who is there?" but, receiving no answer, he lay down again, and dreamed that his father-in-law stood by him, and addressed him—"O, son! will you never take warning till justice overtakes you? The time will come when you will wish, but too late, that you had been warned by me." Unable now to sleep, through the agonies of his mind, he wandered about till morning, and had formed a resolution of returning to his father-in-law; but, as he was going to him, he met an old acquaintance, who paid him a debt of a few shillings; and going to drink with him, Powis soon forgot the virtuous resolves he had so recently formed. On parting from this acquaintance, he went to the house of another, where he slept five hours; and then, being extremely hungry, he went to a public-house, where he supped, and spent all his moncy, except eightpence. Thus reduced, he resolved to make a fresh attempt on the Chancery Office, for which purpose he broke through the wall, but he found no booty.

In the mean time his father-in-law exerted his utmost endeavours to find him, to consult with him for his safety; and having met with him, the youngster was told that it would be imprudent for him to stay longer in London, as people began to be suspicious of him: he was therefore advised to go to Cambridge, and work as journeyman with a smith of his father-in-law's acquaintance. Young Powis consenting, the father bought him new clothes, furnished him with some good books, and gave him money to proceed on his journey. He left his kind-hearted and generous adviser; and soon

afterwards meeting with six strolling players, one of whom he had formerly known, he sat down drinking with them, and continued to do so, till all his money was spent, when he sold his new clothes.

Our young adventurer now became so hardened in guilt, that there appeared no prospect of his reformation. One Sunday morning early he attempted to break open the house of a baker in Chancery Lane; but the family being alarmed, he was obliged to decamp without his booty, though not without being known. This affair coming to the knowledge of the father, he commissioned some friends to tell the boy, if they should meet him, that he was still ready to receive him with kindness, if he would mend his conduct.

Powis, being now very much distressed, applied to his still generous and anxious friend, who advised him to go to the West Indies, as the most effectual method of being out of danger; and he promised to furnish him with necessaries for the voyage. Powis, accepting the offer, was properly fitted out and sent on board a ship in the river, where he was confined in the hold to prevent his escaping. In a day or two afterwards he was allowed the liberty of the ship; and most of the seamen now going on shore to take leave of their friends, he resolved to seize the opportunity of making his escape, and of taking something of value with him. Waiting till it was night, he broke open a chest belonging to a passenger; and having stolen a handsome suit of clothes, he took the opportunity of the people on watch going to call others to relieve them, and, dropping down the side of the ship, got into a boat; but having only a single oar, he was unable to steer her; and after striving a considerable time, he was obliged to let her drive; the consequence of which was that she ran on shore below Woolwich. Quitting the boat he set off towards London; but near Deptford he met with two men, who asked him to sell his wig, on which he went into a public-house with them, where they told him that a friend of theirs had been robbed of such a wig, and they suspected him to be the robber. Powis saw through the artifice, and, calling the landlord, desired that a constable might be sent for, to take the villains into custody; but the

men immediately threw down their reckoning, and ran off in the utmost haste.

Our adventurer, proceeding to London, changed his clothes, and took to his old practice of housebreaking, in which, however, he was remarkably unsuccessful and unfortunate. Strolling one night to the house at Stockwell where he had formerly been, he got in at the window, and stole a bottle of brandy, a great coat, and some other articles; but the family becoming alarmed, he was pursued and taken. As he was known by the people of the house, they threatened to convey him to the ship; but he expressed so much dread at the consequence, the theft which he had committed on board recurring to his burdened mind, though burdened to no purpose, that they conducted him again to his father-in-law, whose humanity once more induced him to receive the returned prodigal with kindness.

Powis now lived regularly at home for about nine weeks, when, having received about a guinea as Christmas-box gatherings, he got into company, and spent the whole; after which he again resumed his former bad practices. Having concealed himself under some hay in a stable in Chancery Lane, he broke into a boarding-school adjoining it, whence he stole some books and a quantity of linen.

Soon after this he broke into the house of an attorney, and, getting into the garret, struck a light, when some of the inmates, being alarmed, raised an outcry of "Thieves! thieves!" A man ascended a ladder, and Powis, on observing him, attempted to break through the tiling; but, failing in this, he got into a gutter, whence he dropped down into a carpenter's yard adjoining, but could get no farther. While he was in this situation the carpenter, furnishing himself with a light and going into the yard, took him into custody, and he was lodged in the round-house; but the following day his father-in-law exerted himself so effectually, that the offence was forgiven; and he was again taken home to the house of his ever-indulgent relation.

After he had been three months at home, the father-in-law was employed on some business for Mr. Williams, a Welsh gentleman of large fortune, whose lady, having been brought to London to lie in, died in childbed, and it was determined she should be buried in Wales. Powis's

father-in-law was sent for, to examine all the locks, &c., that the effects might be safe in the absence of Mr. Williams; and Powis, who was employed as a journeyman in this business, found a box of linen that was too full, on which he took out some articles. In removing the linen, he came to a small box remarkably heavy; which, on examination, appeared to contain diamonds, jewels, rings, a gold watch, and other articles, to the value of upwards of 200*l.*; all which he stole, and put the box in its place. This being done, he called the maid to see that all was safe, and delivered her the key of the large or outer box.

Possessed of this capital booty, Powis consulted an acquaintance as to the best method of disposing of it; who advised him to melt the gold, and throw the jewels into the river Thames. This being agreed upon, the acquaintance kept the jewels; and the gold being sold for eleven guineas, Powis had seven of them, which he soon squandered away.

About a fortnight after the effects were stolen, Powis was apprehended on suspicion of the robbery, and committed to Newgate; and, being tried at the next sessions, he was sentenced to be transported for seven years, the jury having given a verdict stating that he was guilty of stealing to the value of 3*9s.* He lay in Newgate a considerable time; till at length his father-in-law, after repeated entreaties, and a promise of a total reformation of manners and conduct, made such interest that he was burnt in the hand, and set at large.

Yet once more did the father-in-law take this ungracious youngster into his house, where he continued about seven months, at the end of which time, meeting with one of the dissolute companions of his evil days, he spent all the money he had about him, and was "afraid" to return home, as if the generous master of the house had been as notorious for his severity towards him as he had been for his leniency.

He now refrained for some time from acts of theft, and took lodgings in an alley in Fleet Street, subsisting by borrowing money of his acquaintance. Soon afterwards, however, he broke open a trunk at his lodgings, and stole some linen, which he pawned for 5*s. 6d.* On the next day the landlord charged him

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with the robbery; but not intending to prosecute him, he was content with the recovery of his linen from the hands of the pawnbroker, taking Powis's word for making good the deficient money.

In less than a week after the adjustment of this affair, the young but hardened culprit broke open the coffee-house in Chancery Lane, on which he had before made an attempt, and stole a few articles, which produced him about 30s.; and soon afterwards he broke into the Chancery Office, whence he stole two books, which he sold for 2s. 6d.

On the following evening, he again went to the Chancery Office, and hid himself under the staircase; but, being heard to cough by a man who had been left on the premises to watch, he was taken into custody, and conveyed to a tavern in the neighbourhood; where his father-in-law attended, and pleaded so forcibly in his behalf, that he was permitted to go home with him for the night. On the following day some gentlemen went thither to examine him, when he denied the commission of a variety of crimes with which he had been charged; but the gentlemen having consented to his escape for this time, advised him not to appear again in that neighbourhood, as the masters in Chancery had given strict orders for prosecuting him.

After receiving some good advice from his father-in-law, he was recommended to work with a smith in Milford Lane, in the Strand; but Powis had a brother who called upon him a few days afterwards, and told him a warrant was issued to apprehend him for robbing the Chancery Office; which obliged him to abscond.

Strolling one evening into the Spadfields, near Islington, some constables apprehended him as a vagrant, and lodged him, with several others, in the New Prison; and on the following day most of the prisoners were discharged by a magistrate, and Powis was ordered to be set at liberty; but not having money to pay his fees, he was taken back to the prison, where he remained a few days longer, and was then set at liberty by the charity of a gentleman, who bid him "Thank God, and take care never to get into trouble again."

In a short time after his discharge, he broke into the Earl of Peterborough's

house at Chelsea, and stole some trifling articles from the kitchen, which he sold for 4s.; and on the following night he robbed another house in the same neighbourhood of some effects, which he sold for 10s.

This trifling sum being soon spent, he broke open a house in Lincoln's Inn Fields, where he got a considerable sum of money; and to prevent persons who knew him suspecting that he was the thief, he forged a letter, as coming from his grandfather in Yorkshire, purporting that he had sent him such a sum.

In a short time afterwards, at a kind of ball given by one of his companions, to celebrate his birthday, Powis fell in love with a girl who made one of the company: the girl paying no attention to his addresses, Powis waited on her mother, and, after some conversation with her, was permitted to pay his personal respects to the daughter, to whom he pretended that his grandfather in Yorkshire would leave him a large sum of money; and in proof of what he said, he showed her some counterfeit letters, appearing to have the post-mark on them. The girl made no objection to him as a husband; but said it would be prudent in him to visit his grandfather, and ask his consent to the match, which would contribute to her peace of mind. On this he left her, and broke open a house the same evening, whence he stole a few things, which he sold for 15s.; and calling on her the next day, took his leave, as if preparing for his journey.

His plan was to commit some robbery, by which he might obtain a considerable sum, and then, concealing himself for some time, return to his mistress, and pretend that his grandfather had given him the money.

Going to see "The Beggar's Opera," he was greatly shocked at the appearance of Macheath on the stage in his fetters, and could not forbear reflecting what might be his own future fate; yet, about a week afterwards, he broke open a cook-shop, and stole some articles, the sale of which produced him a guinea.

On the following day he called at Newgate, and treated the prisoners to the amount of 7s.; and on his quitting the prison, he met two girls whom he knew, with whom he went to Hampstead, where he treated them to the

amount of 12s. 6d.; so that only 1s. 6d. remained of his last ill-got guinea.

On the following day he went to the Black Raven, in Fetter Lane, where he observed the landlord put some gold into a drawer, of which he determined, if possible, to possess himself. About midnight he went away, having first stolen the pin that fastened the cellar-window.

Returning at two in the morning, he got into the cellar, and attempted to open the door of the tap-room; but failing in this, he was about to return by the way he had entered, when a watchman coming by, and seeing the window open, alarmed the family.

Powis now escaped into a carpenter's yard, and hid himself; but the landlord coming down, and several persons attending, he was apprehended, though not till one person had run a sword through his leg, and another had struck him a blow on the head that almost deprived him of his senses; circumstances of severity which could not be justified, as the offender made no resistance. He was now lodged in the Compter; and, on being removed to Newgate, he was brought to trial at the Old Bailey, convicted of the burglary, and consequently received sentence of death; but the jury, considering the cruelty with which he had been treated, recommended him to mercy: the royal favour, however, was not extended to him, as he had before been sentenced to transportation. When brought up to receive sentence, he begged to be represented as an object worthy of the royal favour; but he was told not to expect such an indulgence. He likewise wrote to his sweetheart, to exert her influence, which she promised; but she could do nothing to serve him.

He was hanged at Tyburn, at the age of twenty-two years, on the 9th of October, 1732, with William Shelton, (whose career is detailed in No. 6,) after admonishing the spectators to take warning by his fatal end, and expressing the utmost detestation of the irregularities of his life.

BURMESE CRIMINAL JURISPRUDENCE.

In the Burman territories, to the present day, the utmost venality and perversion of justice prevail in the native courts of civil and criminal law; and the perpet-

trator of any crime — treason, perhaps, excepted — may buy himself off, if he be able to furnish the sum requisite for such purpose.

Murder is punished with death: the culprit has his head struck off with a sword. If the victim of murder is a man of rank, the whole family of the murderer suffer the same penalty with him, in order, as the Burmans allege, that the children of the criminal may not have an opportunity of avenging his death.

A traitor and a conspirator against the king, or a man of rank, is blown up with gunpowder, and his near relatives suffer the same fate. They are all shut up in a house filled with straw and gunpowder, and other combustibles, and the whole is fired by a fusee.

Adultery, theft, and minor offences are commutable by fine; incestuous intercourse is punished by banishment.

There is a privilege in the fact, that if a priest rescue a condemned person on his way to execution, and convey him to a pagoda, his life is spared.

Whatever laws and rules were made on the subject of inheritance were seldom very strictly adhered to; and unless the deceased individual was a man of rank, the local chief of any Burman government in Tenasserim used his discretion in apportioning it, taking care to pay himself handsomely for his self-constituted post of executor.

ARISTOCRATS.

THERE is a set of men in all the states of Europe who assume from their infancy a pre-eminence, independent of their moral character. The attention paid them from the moment of their birth, gives them the idea that they are formed for command; they soon learn to distinguish themselves as a distinct species, and, being secure of a certain rank and station, take no pains to make themselves worthy of it. To this institution we owe so many indifferent ministers of state, ignorant magistrates, and unskillful generals.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 16.

JUNE 15, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

EXECUTION OF A CRIMINAL BY A MOB.



[PORTEOUS'S ATTACK ON MR. DAWSON.]

The case of John Porteous excited more than ordinary attention: he was convicted of murder, and sentenced to death; but, having rendered himself obnoxious to the people, he was dragged out of prison, and killed by an infuriated mob. The victim of this ungovernable fury was the son of a poor working man, near Edinburgh, who gave him a good education, and apprenticed him to a tailor, with whom he served his time, and then worked as a journeyman. Being a young man of fine accomplishments and genteel address, he was soon taken notice of by several gentlemen of character and reputation, who took him under their protection, and promised to make what provision they could for him. Amongst them was a gentleman who had been lord provost of Edinburgh, who kept a mistress, above

forty years of age, whom he was anxious to part with, so that he could do it in a decent manner—by giving her a sum of money, and getting one who was in want of it to take her off his hands. Porteous was exceedingly poor; and this gentleman, who had known him some time, thought he could not embrace a better opportunity of disposing of his kept mistress than by making her his wife. When the proposal was first made to the woman she rejected it with disdain, because Mr. Porteous was no more than a journeyman tailor; but her master having assured her that he would make some provision for her, besides a fortune of 500*l.*, she readily consented, and they were married.

Porteous now became a master, and had good success in business for some time; but being addicted to company,

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he at length neglected his business, and many of his customers forsook him; so that his wife was obliged to apply to the provost to make good his promise.

In the city of Edinburgh are three companies of men, twenty-five each in number, who keep the peace and take up all sorts of offenders, whom they keep in custody till they are examined by a magistrate. Each of these companies has an officer, called captain, whose salary is 80*l.* a-year, besides a coat of scarlet uniform, which in those days was considered very honourable. These places are generally given to decayed tradesmen; but then it must be remembered, that in cities, as well as courts, places are frequently obtained more by interest than merit. A man may be entitled to the highest respect from the society of which he is a member; but for all that he may be left to starve, while one who is destitute of every virtuous quality may ascend to the highest posts of favour and authority: much in this way was it with Porteous. A vacancy happening by the death of one of these captains, the provost immediately appointed Porteous to fill up the place, who, being thus advanced, forgot all his former politeness, for which he was so much esteemed when a tradesman, and assumed all the consequence of a man having servants under him.

If a riot happened in the city, Porteous was generally made choice of by the magistrates to suppress it, he being a man of a resolute and undaunted spirit. On these occasions he would generally exceed the bounds of his commission, and would treat the delinquents with the utmost cruelty, by knocking them down with his musket, and tumbling them into cellars, frequently breaking legs and arms. If sent to quell a disturbance in a house of ill fame, though he was a most abandoned debauchee himself, he would take pleasure in exposing all those he found there, thereby destroying the peace of many families; and he would treat the unhappy prostitutes with the greatest inhumanity, and even drag them to a prison, many of them, at the same time, having been seduced by himself!

Amongst the many instances of cruelty he committed, the following may serve as a specimen: it procured him the universal hatred of the people of his city. A vacancy occurring in the lectureship of

a neighbouring church, two young gentlemen were candidates, who had each an equal number of votes, through which the dispute was referred to the presbytery, who declared in favour of Mr. Dawson, but the other candidate, Mr. Wotherspoon, appealed to the synod, who reversed the order of the presbytery. As the parishioners were much exasperated, and a tumult was apprehended at the church on the day Mr. Wotherspoon was to preach his first sermon, Porteous was ordered there to keep the peace; and finding, on his arrival, that Mr. Dawson had taken possession of the pulpit, he went up the steps without the least ceremony, seized him by the collar, and dragged him down like a thief: and such were the wounds the unfortunate gentleman received, that he died a few weeks after. Mr. Wotherspoon coming in at the time of the affray, Mr. Dawson's friends were so enraged, that they immediately fell on him, and beat him in such a dreadful manner that he also died about the same time as his opponent. Thus the lives of two amiable young gentlemen were sacrificed to the brutality of this inhuman monster. Both were much esteemed by all who knew them; and had Porteous acted with moderation, the affair might have been easily accommodated; but instead of that, he ordered his men to knock down all who came in their way, whether men, women, or children: so that many of them were dangerously wounded, and he was never called to any account.

Nothing gave more pleasure to this fellow than his being employed to quell riots, in which, to the disgrace of the magistrates, he was too much encouraged; and on these occasions he never wanted an opportunity of exercising his savage disposition.

Smuggling was so much practised in Scotland at this period, that no laws could restrain it. The smugglers assembled in large bodies, so that the revenue officers could not attack them without endangering their lives. Amongst the most active persons in striving to suppress the unlawful practice of smuggling, was Mr. Stank-collector for the county of Fife; who, being informed that a smuggler named Andrew Wilson had a large quantity of contraband goods at his house, persuaded a number of men to accompany him; and

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they seized the goods, and safely lodged them, as they thought, in the custom-house: but Wilson, being a man of an enterprising spirit, went in company with one Robertson, and some others of his gang, to the custom-house, and, breaking open the doors, they recovered their goods, which they brought off in carts in defiance of all opposition on the part of the civil power.

Mr. Stark, on hearing that such a daring insult had been committed, despatched an account thereof to the barons of the Exchequer at Edinburgh, who immediately applied to the Lord Justice Clark, when his lordship issued his warrant to the sheriff of Fife, commanding him to assemble all the people in his jurisdiction to seize the delinquents, and replace the goods; and in consequence of this order, many were apprehended, but all discharged again for want of evidence, except Wilson and Robertson, who were both found guilty and sentenced to death.

A custom prevailed in Scotland, at the time, of taking the condemned criminals to church every Sunday, under the care of three or four of the city guards. The above two criminals were accordingly taken to one of the churches on the Sunday before they were to suffer; when, just getting within the door, Wilson, though handcuffed, assisted in his companion's escape, by seizing hold of one soldier with his teeth, and keeping the others from turning upon him, while he cried out to Robertson to run. Robertson accordingly took to his heels; and the streets being crowded with people going to church, he passed uninterrupted, and got out of one of the city gates just as they were going to shut it; a custom constantly observed during divine service. The city being now alarmed, Porteous was immediately despatched in search of him, but all in vain, as Robertson met with a friend who knocked off his handcuffs, and procured him a horse; and the same evening he got on board a vessel at Dunbar, which soon landed him safely in Holland, where he lived many years, and as recently as 1756 kept a public-house, with great credit, near the bridge at Rotterdam. Indeed, the smugglers generally in Scotland were, in most respects, worthy men, only that nothing could persuade them that it was necessary to pay such duties as would support

the government. The heroic action of Wilson in helping Robertson to escape, because he had led him into the snare, would have done honour to one of the greatest heroes of antiquity: it shows the man to have been possessed of a noble disinterestedness of spirit such as is seldom to be met with.

On the following Wednesday a temporary gallows was erected in the Grass Market, for the execution of Wilson, who was ordered to be conducted there by fifty men, under the command of Porteous; who, being apprehensive that an attempt would be made to rescue the prisoner, represented to the provost the necessity there was for soldiers to be drawn up ready to preserve the peace; on which five companies of the Welsh fuzileers, commanded by a major, were ordered to be in readiness in the Lawn Market, near the place of execution.

No disturbance taking place, the prisoner finished his devotions, ascended the ladder, was turned off, and continued suspended the usual time; at the expiration of which the hangman went up the ladder to cut him down, when a stone struck him on the nose, and caused it to bleed. This stone was immediately followed by many others; at which Porteous was so much exasperated, that he instantly called out to his men, "Fire, and be damned!" discharging his own piece at the same time, and shooting a young man, an apprentice to a confectioner, dead on the spot. Of the men over whom he was ruler, some more humanely fired over the heads of the people, but unfortunately killed two or three who were looking out at the windows; whilst others of them as wantonly fired low amongst the mob, through which many were so crippled and otherwise disabled as to be obliged forthwith to suffer amputation.

Porteous now endeavoured to draw off his men, as the mob grew exceedingly outrageous, throwing stones, with everything else they could lay their hands on, and continuing to press on "the guardians of the peace;" on which Porteous and two of his men turned about and fired, killing three more of the people, which made the number left dead on the spot amount to nine, besides many severely wounded.

A serjeant was sent by the major of the Welsh fuzileers to inquire into the

cause of the disturbance; but the mob was so violent that he could gain no intelligence. Porteous, being assisted by the Welsh fuzileers, at last conducted his men to the guard; when, being sent for by the provost, he underwent a long examination, and was committed to prison in order to take his trial for murder.

On the 6th of July, 1736, the trial came on before the lords of the justiciary, previous to which Porteous had made a judicial confession that the people were killed as mentioned in the indictment, but pleaded self-defence, on which plea he now rested. His counsel then stated the following point of law to be determined by the judges, prior to the jury being charged with the prisoner: "Whether a military officer, with soldiers under his command, who fires, or orders his men to fire, when assaulted by the populace, is not acting consistently with the nature of self-defence, according to the laws or the usages of civilized nations?"

Counsel being ordered to plead to the question by the court, they pronounced their opinion, "that if it was proved that the prisoner at the bar either fired a gun, or caused one or more to be fired, by which any person or persons was or were killed, and that such firing occurred without an order from a magistrate duly and properly authorized, then would murder have been committed in the eye of the law."

The question being thus decided contrary to his favour, the jury was impaneled, and as many as forty-four witnesses were examined for and against the prosecution.

The prisoner being called on for his defence, his counsel insisted that he had acted under the authority of the magistrates, who ordered him to support the execution of Wilson, and repel force by force, being apprehensive of a rescue; that powder and ball had been given to them for the said purpose, with orders to load their pieces. They insisted also, that he only meant to intimidate the people by threats, and actually knocked down one of his own men for presenting his piece; that, finding the men would not obey his orders, he drew off as many as he could; that he afterwards heard a firing in the rear, contrary to his orders; that, in order to know who had fired, he would not suffer their pieces to be cleaned

till properly inspected; and that he never attempted to escape, though he had the opportunity, and might have effected such a proceeding with the utmost ease. They farther insisted, that, admitting some sort of excess had been committed, it could not amount to murder, as he was in the lawful discharge of his duty; and that it could not be supposed to be done with premeditated malice.

In answer to this the counsel for the crown argued, that the trust reposed in the prisoner ceased when the execution was over; that he was then no longer an officer employed for the purpose for which the fire-arms had been loaded; and that reading the Riot Act only could justify their firing, in case a rescue had actually been attempted.

The prisoner's counsel replied, that the magistrates whose duty it was to have read the act, had deserted the soldiery, and took refuge in a house for their own security; and that it was hard for men to suffer themselves to be knocked on the head when they had lawful weapons put into their hands with which to defend themselves.

The charge being delivered to the jury, they retired for a considerable time, when they brought him in guilty, and he received sentence of death.

The King being then at Hanover, and much interest being made to save the prisoner, the Queen, by the advice of the council, granted a respite till his Majesty's return to England. The respite was only procured one week before his sentence was to be put into effect; and when the populace were informed thereof, such a scheme of revenge was meditated as is perhaps unprecedented.

When the messenger arrived at Edinburgh with the respite, it should have been the care of the magistrates to have concealed it from the populace, and removed Porteous to the castle: but in everything they acted wrong; neither regarding the dignity of government, nor using proper methods to preserve the peace of the city.

On the 7th of September, 1736, between nine and ten in the evening, a large body of men entered the city of Edinburgh, and seized the arms belonging to the guard; they then patrolled the streets, crying out, "all those who dare avenger innocent blood, let them come here."

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They then shut the gates, and placed guards at each.

The main body of the mob, all disguised, marched in the mean time to the prison; when, finding some difficulty in breaking open the doors with hammers, they immediately set fire to it; taking great care that the flames should not spread beyond their proper bounds. The outer door was hardly consumed before they rushed in, and, ordering the keeper to open the door of the captain's apartment, cried out, "Where is the villain Porteous?" He replied, "Here I am; what do you want with me?" To which they answered, that they meant to hang him in the Grass Market, the place where he had shed so much innocent blood. His expostulations were all in vain; they seized him by the legs and arms, and dragged him instantly to the place of execution.

On their arrival, they broke open a shop to find a rope suitable to their purpose, which they immediately fixed round his neck, and then, throwing the other end over a dyer's pole, hoisted him up; when he, endeavouring to save himself, fixed his hands between the halter and his neck, which, on being observed by some of the mob, caused one of them to strike him with an axe; and thus obliging him to quit his hold, they soon put an end to his life.

When they were satisfied he was dead, they immediately dispersed to their several habitations, unmolested themselves, and without molesting any one else.

The particulars of this affair being transmitted to London, a proclamation was issued, offering a reward of 200*l.* to any of the mob who would discover their accomplices; but, although a few were taken up on suspicion, no evidence appeared against them; so that they were discharged. The magistrates of Edinburgh were ordered to London, fined for neglect of their duty, and rendered incapable of acting in any judicial capacity whatever.

We can scarcely meet with an instance in history, where the magistrates of a great city acted so inconsistently with their duty as those of Edinburgh, both in the case of Wilson and Porteous. One would think that, like some corrupt ministers of the state, they first connived at the crime, and then suffered the law

to be relaxed, in order to bring the acting delinquent to punishment in a clandestine manner.

Such was the fate of Captain John Porteous, a man possessed of qualifications which, had they been properly applied, might have rendered him an honourable and useful servant of his country. His undaunted spirit and invincible courage would have done honour, it has been said, to the greatest hero of antiquity: but being advanced to power, he became intoxicated with pride; and, instead of being the admiration of his fellow-citizens, he was despised and hated by all who knew him.

The fate of this unhappy man, it is hoped, will be a caution to those who are in power not to abuse it; but, by a humane as well as diligent discharge of their duty, to render themselves worthy members of society.

FRAUDULENT BANKRUPTCY OF RICHARD TOWN.

NOTWITHSTANDING the law makes it death to any bankrupt who shall be convicted of concealing, embezzling, or making away with any goods or money to the value of 20*l.*, offences of this nature are constantly committed in the most clandestine manner, so as too often to escape detection.

It may be briefly stated, that a bankrupt is one who, from having committed one of the various acts designated "acts of bankruptcy," (such as, shutting himself up in his house in a kind of concealment, running away from his creditors, &c.,) is obliged by law to yield up all his estate, his property, debts, and entire effects, to his creditors, for their use and disposal, till their respective claims are satisfied, as far as the said estate will allow.

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

On the trial of this unhappy man, who was the first that suffered under this Act of Parliament, which passed only five years before his execution, a number of

witnesses were called to prove his being a regular trader, and make it appear that he had committed an act of bankruptcy; but the principal of these was Mr. Hodgson, who deposed, that, being sent after the prisoner by the commissioners of bankrupts, he apprehended him at Sandwich; and on searching him, by virtue of his warrant, he found in his pocket 20 guineas in gold, and about *5l. 7s. 6d.* in silver, and that he had three gold rings on his fingers; that he took from him the gold, and *5l.* in silver, and left him the odd silver.

Town had intended to have sailed in a ship which was bound to Amsterdam; but, being too late, he went on board a packet-boat bound to Ostend. The boat had not proceeded far when, being taken sea-sick, he went to the side of the vessel, and, stooping down, dropped 800 guineas, which were in two bags between his coat and waistcoat, into the sea.

A storm arising, the packet-boat was driven back, and obliged to put into Sandwich; which was the means of the apprehension of Town by Hodgson, as already stated.

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

The counsel for Town insisted, that, as Norris was a joint agent with him, the act of one was the act of both; and that he could not legally be convicted till the other, who was then abroad, could be apprehended, and tried with him. But, in order to frustrate this argument, it was proved that Town had shipped off large quantities of goods on his own account: besides, the circumstance of his being taken at Sandwich, by Hodgson, with more than 20*l.* of his creditors' money in his possession, was a sufficient proof of his guilt. The jury, therefore, did not hesitate on his case, and he received sentence of death.

Before his conviction, he was indulged with a chamber to himself in the press-yard; but, after sentence of death was passed on him, he was put into the condemned hole with the other prisoners. Here he caught a violent cold, which brought on deafness, a disorder to which

he had been subject; and, on complaining of this circumstance, he was removed to his former apartments.

While under sentence, he refused to acknowledge the justice of it, declaring that a person whom he had relieved and preserved from ruin had occasioned the destruction of himself. He attended the devotional services of the place, asserted that he forgave his enemies, and begged that God would forgive them. He was exactly forty-one years of age on the day of his execution, the 23d of December, 1712; a circumstance which he mentioned to the ordinary of Newgate, with great composure, on his way to Tyburn.

HISTORY OF EDWARD BELLAMY.

THIS malefactor was a native of London, and served his time to a tailor; but his apprenticeship was no sooner expired than he associated regularly with some women of ill fame, and became a thief in order to support their extravagance. He began his career as a thief by acting with a number of young pickpockets, in whose line he soon became an adept. From this pursuit they advanced a step farther, by three or four of them going in company to the shops of silversmiths in the evening, and while one cheapened an article of small value the others contrived, if possible, 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 chisel, run off with any property that was within their reach.

Having followed these courses about three years, Bellamy forged a note, (an offence not then capital,) by which he defrauded a linen-draper of money to a considerable amount. Being taken into custody for this forgery, he was lodged in Newgate; whence he was, however, discharged without being brought to trial, his friends having found means to accommodate the matter.

In a short time after he left Newgate he formed a connexion with the notorious Jonathan Wild, who used frequently to borrow money of Mr. Wildgoose, an inn-keeper, of Smithfield; and Bellamy, wishing to become acquainted with a man whom he thought he could make subservient to his interest, applied to Jonathan to recommend him to Wildgoose; but

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Having often gone with messages and notes from Jonathan to Wildgoose, and being intimately acquainted with the handwriting of the former, he forged a draft on the other for ten guineas, which was paid without hesitation; and as soon as Bellamy obtained this money, he gave up his customary visits to Wild. A few days after this transaction, Wild went to his acquaintance to borrow some money, when the latter told him he had paid his draft for the abovementioned sum; and, on producing the note, Jonathan could not be certain that it was not his own handwriting otherwise than by recollecting, to his entire satisfaction, that he had never given such a draft. Wildgoose was unacquainted with Bellamy's name, but by the description of the person Jonathan soon found who had committed the fraud, on which he ordered his myrmidons to be careful to apprehend the offender, who was shortly afterwards traced to a lodging at Whitefriars; and Jonathan's men sent word to their master that they had him in custody, and begged he would give orders how he should be disposed of. In the interim, Bellamy, who expected no mercy from the old thief-taker, seized the advantage given by the casual absence of his attendants from the room, fixed a rope to the bar of the window, and lowered 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 again apprehended; but before he had proceeded in this negotiation, he was seized at a gin-shop in Chancery Lane by Wild's men, who sent to their master, as before, 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 his office, and adjust the business with himself. Bellamy was consequently discharged; but, knowing how dangerous it would be to affront Wild, he went the following morning to a public-house in the Old Bailey, where he sent for Wild to breakfast with him; and, on the latter sending for Wildgoose, Bellamy gave him a note for the money received, and thus the affair was quashed.

As soon as this business was adjusted,

Bellamy renewed his former plan of making depredations on the public, and committed an immense number of robberies. He and one of his gang, having broken the sash of a silversmith's shop in Russell Court, Drury Lane, a person, who lay under the counter, fired a blunderbuss at them, which obliged them to decamp without their booty. This attempt failing, they went to the house of another silversmith, which they broke open; and finding the servant-maid sitting up for her master, they terrified her into silence, and carried off effects to a large amount.

Not long after this robbery, they broke open the shop of a grocer near Shore-ditch, in expectation of finding cash to a great amount; but the proprietor having previously secured it, they got only about 10 lbs. of tea, and some loose money.

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 on the following day to some Jews.

From the shop of a silversmith in Bride Lane, they carried off plate to the value of 50*l.*; and from the house of a haberdasher in Bishopsgate Street, a load of various articles, the whole of which they disposed of to the Jews.

On another occasion, they broke open a tea-shop near Gray's Inn Lane: having removed the shutters, by cutting away part of them with chisels, they were going to lift up the sash, when a person from within, hearing them, cried out "Thieves!" on which they ran off.

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. Having gone into the yard, she returned, without knowing that they were in the house; but when she came into the shop, Bellamy seized her, and obliged her to lie on the floor, while they went off with their booty; and the same night they broke open the shop of a mercer in Bishopsgate Street, whence they carried off goods to a large amount.

Their next robbery was at the house of a grocer in Thames Street. The watchman passing by as they were packing up their booty, Bellamy seized him and obliged him to put out his candle, to prevent any alarm being given. Having kept him till they were ready to go off

with their plunder, they took him to the side of the Thames, and threatened to throw him in, if he would not throw in his lantern and staff: and the man felt himself 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 in Aldersgate Street, having broken into it. A neighbour saw this robbery from his window, but was too much frightened to take any measures for the detection of the villains.

The next exploit was at an old clothes-shop, kept by a woman in Shadwell, whence they carried off every valuable article; after which they robbed the shop of a hosier in Coleman Street, and took away goods to the value of 70*l.*, which the thieves divided into shares, and sold 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 completed their operations, they were obliged forthwith to decamp.

On the evening after this transaction, observing the door of a shop shut in St. Clement's Church-yard, they made it fast with a cord on the outside, and throwing up the sash, stole a number of silk handkerchiefs, while the woman in the shop made many fruitless attempts to open the door; and they stole a variety of plate, wearing apparel, and other effects, the same night, from two houses in Holborn.

Soon after this they stole 20*l.* worth of goods from a house which they broke open in Red Lion Street; and breaking open another the same night in Fulwood's Rents, obtained booty of about the same value.

While they were thus rendering themselves the pests of society, they became intimate with an old woman who had opened an office near Leicester Fields, for the reception of stolen goods, something on the plan of that of Jonathan Wild. To this woman Bellamy and his companions used to sell much of their 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 very large amount.

His next adventures were the breaking open of a house in Petticoat Lane, and another in Grocer's Alley, in the Poultry, at both of which places he made large prizes; and soon afterwards he stopped a man near Houndsditch, and robbed him of his money.

At length he robbed a shop in Monmouth Street; but by this time he had rendered himself so conspicuous for his daring villainies, that a reward of 100*l.* was offered for his apprehension, in consequence of which he was taken, near the Seven Dials, on the following day, and committed to Newgate: he was tried, convicted, and sentenced to death. From this time, till the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he affected a cheerfulness of behaviour, and said, that he would be hanged in his shroud. But the certainty that he should suffer, and the sight of his coffin, excited more serious ideas in his mind; and he received the sacrament a few days before his death, with evident marks of repentance for the many crimes of which he had been guilty. He was executed at Tyburn on the 27th of March, 1728; and just before he was turned off made a speech to the surrounding multitude, in which he confessed his numerous offences, and acknowledged the justice of his sentence.

THE JOURNEY OF LIFE.

MAN's life is a journey through motley prospects and changing scenes; a pilgrimage whose commencement is in ignorance and helplessness, and its termination in decay and death. And as the traveller, when he has attained some projecting eminence, will pause and look back with busy remembrance on the landscape that stretches behind him, then turn with eye of curiosity to trace through distant regions his yet untrodden pathway—so are there times and seasons when the pilgrim, man, casting aside for the moment the bustling cares of existence, ought to sit down to review the past and anticipate the future.

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OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 17.

JUNE 22, 1836.

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THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 5.
JOHN HAWKINS AND JAMES SIMPSON.



[THE DELINQUENTS ATTACKING THE POST-BOY AND COUNTRYMAN.]

JOHN HAWKINS was born of poor but honest parents, at Staines, in Middlesex, and for some time lived as waiter at the Red Lion, Brentford; which place he left for the purpose of engaging himself as a gentleman's servant. Having been in different families, he at length became butler to Sir Dennis Drury, in whose service he was distinguished as a servant of very creditable appearance and reputation. His person was graceful, of which he was remarkably vain. Unfortunately he became a frequenter of the gaming-table two or three nights in a week; a practice which led to that ruin which finally befell him.

At length Sir Dennis lost a considerable quantity of plate; and as Hawkins's mode of life was very expensive, it was suspected

that he had stolen it, for which reason he was discharged without the advantage of a good character. Being thus destitute of the means of subsistence, he had recourse to the highway, and his first expedition was to Hounslow Heath, where he took about 11*l.* from the passengers in a coach; but such was his attachment to gaming, that he repaired directly to London and lost it all. He continued to rob alone for some time, and then engaged with other highwaymen; but the same fate still attended him: he lost at gaming what he acquired at so much risk, and was frequently so reduced as to dine at an eating-house and sneak off without paying his reckoning.

Though several of the old companions

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of Hawkins, in his career of delinquency, had met their fate at the hands of the executioner, this criminal was in no way deterred from the pursuit of his malpractices; but, on the contrary, for the purpose of carrying out his guilty designs to a more profitable extent, he formed an acquaintance 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, who committed several robberies in conjunction, were at length tried for one of them, but acquitted for want of evidence. After this Wilson went down to his mother, who lived at Whitby, in Yorkshire, and continued with her for about a year; and then, coming to London again, lived with a gentleman of the law; but having lost all his money in gaming, he renewed his acquaintance with Hawkins, who was now connected with a new gang of villains; one of whom, however, being apprehended, impeached the rest, which soon dispersed the whole, but not until some of them had made their exit at Tyburn. Hawkins was obliged to conceal himself on this account for a considerable time; but he at length ventured to rob a gentleman on Finchley Common, and shot one of his servants dead on the spot.

His next attack was on the Earl of Burlington and Lord Bruce, in Richmond Lane, from whom he took about 20*l.*, two gold watches, and a sapphire ring. For this ring a reward of 100*l.* was offered to the notorious Jonathan Wild; but Hawkins sailed to Holland with it, and there sold it for 40*l.* On his return to England he joined his old companions, of whom Wilson was one, and robbed Sir David Dalrymple of about 3*l.*, a snuff-box, and a pocket-book; for which last article Sir David offered 60*l.* reward to Wild; but Hawkins's gang having no connexion 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 10*l.* and his watch, but missed 300*l.* which that gentleman then had in his possession. After this they stopped the Earl of Westmoreland's coach, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, and robbed him of a considerable sum of money, though there were three footmen behind the carriage. The footmen called

the watch; but the robbers firing a pistol over their heads, the "guardians" of life and property decamped.

Hawkins had now resolved to carry the booty obtained in several late robberies to Holland; but Jonathan Wild, having obtained some information of the gang, caused some of them to be apprehended; on which the rest went into the country for concealment. 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 100*l.* reward was offered to discover the offender; when a poor tailor, having been taken up on suspicion, narrowly escaped being whipped merely because he was a kind of politician, and of what were then held to be Whiggish principles!

Hawkins and his friend now returned to London, and the latter, coming of age at the time, succeeded to a little estate his father had left him, which he sold for 350*l.*, a small part of which he lent to his companions to buy horses, and soon squandered the rest at the gaming-table. These boon companions now stopped two gentlemen in a chariot on the Hampstead Road, who both fired at once, by which three slugs were lodged in Hawkins's shoulder, and the highwaymen got to London with some difficulty.

On Hawkins's recovery they attempted to stop a gentleman's coach in Hyde Park, but the coachman drove off smartly; when Wilson fired, and, wounding himself in the hand, found it difficult to scale the park wall to effect his escape. This circumstance occasioned serious thoughts in his mind, in consequence of which he set out for his mother's house in Yorkshire, where he was kindly received, and fully determined never to recur to his former practices. While he was engaged in his mother's business, and planning schemes for domestic happiness, he was sent for to a public-house, where he found his old acquaintance, Hawkins, in company with George Simpson, another associate, and the one who forms an equally prominent feature with Hawkins in the present details, being a fellow-victim to the laws and vengeance of his country. Simpson was a native of Putney, in Surrey, where his father was a wine-merchant; but being reduced in circumstances, he removed into Lincolnshire. Young Simp-

son kept a public-house at Lincoln, and acted as a sheriff's officer; but quitting the country, he came to London, and engaged himself as butler to Lord Castle-main; after leaving whose service he lived in several other places with great credit, till he became acquainted with Hawkins. Wilson was shocked at seeing them, and asked what could induce them to take such a journey? Hawkins thereupon swore violently, and 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 connexions 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 not only took money, but portmanteaus, &c., and divided the booty with Carter, the master of the livery-stable.

On this plan they continued their depredations on the public, till one of their associates, named Child, was executed at Salisbury, and hung in chains, for robbing the mail; which incensed them to such a degree, that they determined to avenge the deed which had been so offensive to their feelings, by committing a similar crime. Having mentioned their design in the presence of Carter, the stable-keeper, he advised them to stop the mail from Harwich; but this they declined, because the changing of the wind must render the time of its arrival uncertain. At length it was agreed 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 short distance, and then pulled their wigs over their foreheads, and, holding handkerchiefs to their mouths, came up with them, and commanded the post-boy and the countryman to come down a lane, when they ordered them to quit their horses; and then Hawkins, Simp-

son, and Wilson tied them back to back, and fastened them to a tree in a wet ditch, so that they were obliged to stand in the water. This being done, they took such papers as they liked out of the Bath and Bristol bags, and hid the rest in a hedge. They now crossed the Thames, and, riding a little way into Surrey, put up their horses at an inn in Bermondsey Street, at which time it was about six o'clock in the morning; when they parted, and went different ways to a public-house in the Minories, where they proposed to divide their treasure. The landlord being well acquainted with their persons, and knowing the profession of his guests, showed them into a private room, and supplied them with pen and ink: having equally divided the bank-notes, they threw the letters into the fire, and then went to their lodgings in Green Arbour Court, in the Old Bailey.

A few days after this, information was given at the post-office that suspicious people frequented the house of Carter, the stable-keeper, at London Wall; and some persons were accordingly sent thither to make the necessary discoveries. Wilson, happening to be there at the time, suspected their business; on which he abruptly retired, and by slipping through some by-alleys got into the Moorgate coffee-house, which he had occasionally used for two years before, on account of its being frequented by reputable company, and therefore less liable to be searched for suspicious people. He had not been long in the house before a Quaker mentioned the search that was making in the neighbourhood for the men who had robbed the mail; which so shocked him 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 was anxious for his safety, that he and his companions were the parties sus-

pected 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 an intention on his part. Wilson neglected this advice, and held his resolution of going to Newcastle, for which purpose he quitted Bedlam; but by Moorgate coffee-house he met the men he had seen at Carter's house. They turned, and followed him; yet, unperceived by them, he entered the coffee-house, while they went under the arch of the gate; and if he had returned by the door at which he entered, he would again have escaped them; but going out of the front door of the house, they took him into custody, and conducted him to the post-office. On his first examination, he refused to make any confession; and on the following day he seemed equally determined to conceal the truth, till two circumstances induced him to reveal it. In the first place, the postmaster-general promised that he should be admitted an evidence, if he would discover his accomplices; and one of the clerks, calling him aside, showed him a letter, without any name to it, of which the following is a copy: "Sir—I am one of those persons who robbed the mail, which I am very sorry for; and to make amends, I will secure my two companions as soon as may be. He whose hand this shall appear to be, will, I hope, be entitled to the reward of his pardon."

As Wilson knew this letter to be 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 Green Arbour Court, two days afterwards. At first they made an appearance of resistance, and threatened to shoot the peace-officers; but on 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 prove this, Fuller produced a receipt for 30s., which he said Hawkins then paid him for horseshire. The judge requested a sight of this

receipt, when he observed that the body of it was written with an ink of a different colour from that of the name at the bottom; on which he ordered the note to be handed to the jury, and remarked that Fuller's testimony deserved no kind of credit. After examining some other witnesses, the judge proceeded to sum up the evidence, in which he was interrupted by the following singular occurrence, as stated by the short-hand writer.

"My ink, as it happened, was very bad, being thick at bottom, and thin and waterish at top; so that, according as I dipped my pen, the writing appeared very pale or pretty black. Now, just as the court was remarking on the difference of the ink in Fuller's receipt, a gentleman who stood by me, perceiving something of the same kind in my writing, desired to look at my notes for a minute. As I was not aware of any ill consequences, I let him take the book out of my hand; when presently showing it to his friend, 'See here,' said he, 'what difference there is in the colour of the same ink!' His friend took it, and showed 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 seized one of the jurymen who sat just by, and he too begged a sight of the book; which, notwithstanding my importunity, was immediately handed to him. He viewed it, and gave it to the next; and so it passed from one to the other, till the judge, perceiving them very busy, called to them—'Gentlemen, what are you doing? what book is that?' They told him it was the writer's book, and they were observing how the ink appeared pale in one place, and black in another. 'You ought not, gentlemen,' says he, 'to take notice of anything but what is produced in evidence;' and then turning to me, demanded what I meant by showing 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 resumed his charge to the jury, which being ended, they withdrew to consider their verdict."

After an absence of about an hour, the jury returned into court without agreeing on a verdict; saying they could not be

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convinced that Fuller's receipt was not genuine, merely on account of the different colours of the ink. The court intimated how many witnesses had sworn that Hawkins was absent from London; to contradict all of whom there was only the evidence of Fuller, which was at least rendered doubtful by the ink appearing of two colours; and it submitted, whether Fuller's testimony ought to be held of equal validity with that of all the opposing parties. The jury again retired from the court, and, on their return, gave a verdict of Guilty against both the prisoners.

They suffered at Tyburn on the 21st of May, 1722, and were hung in chains on Hounslow Heath. At the place of execution, Hawkins addressed the surrounding multitude, acknowledging his sins, professing to die in charity with all mankind, and begging the prayers of those who were witnesses of his melancholy exit. He died with great difficulty; but Simpson was out of his pain almost without a struggle.

HISTORY OF JOHN STANLEY.

In the following details we shall find that a father's ill-judged or redundant fondness, in following up a course of unrestrained indulgence, laid the foundation of ruin and disgrace for his son.

John Stanley, the subject of the present treatise, was the son of an officer in the army, and born in the year 1690, at Duce Hall, in Essex, a seat belonging to Mr. Palmer, who was his uncle by the mother's side. Young Stanley was the over-esteemed favourite of his father, who began to teach him the art of fencing when he was no more than five years of age; and other officers likewise practising the same art with him, he became a kind of master of the sword when he was but a mere boy; for, to stimulate his courage, it was common for those who fenced with him to give him wine or some other liquor of a spiritous quality. In consequence of this treatment the boy grew daring and insolent beyond expression, and at length behaved with so uncommon a degree of audacity, that his father deemed him a singularly brave character. While he was very young, Mr. Stanley was ordered to join his regiment, then in Spain, to which country the youthful swordsman accom-

panied him. There he was the spectator of several engagements; and his principal delight was in trampling on the bodies of the slaughtered dead after the battles were ended!

From Spain the father was ordered to Ireland, whither he took his son, and there procured for him an ensign's commission; but the young gentleman, by habituating himself to extravagant company, spent much more money than the produce of his commission, which he soon sold, and then returned to England. The father was greatly mortified at this proceeding, and advised him to make application to General Stanhope, who had been a warm friend to the family. But this advice was lost on the young gentleman, who abandoned himself to the most dissolute course of life, borrowing money of his acquaintance, which he soon squandered at the gaming-tables, when he procured farther supplies from women with whom he made illicit connexions.

He was so vain of his acquaintance with the ladies, that he boasted of their favours as an argument in proof of his own accomplishments; though what he would obtain from the weakness of one woman, he commonly squandered on others of more abandoned character.

One mode which he adopted to supply his extravagance, was to introduce himself into the company of young gentlemen who were but little acquainted with the vices of the age, whom he assisted in wasting their fortunes in every species of scandalous dissipation.

At length, after a scene of riot in London, he went with one of his associates to Flanders, and thence to Paris; which gave Stanley an opportunity of boasting, in no narrow terms, of the favours he received among the French ladies, and of the improvements he had made in the science of fencing.

On his return to England, the opinion he conceived of his skill in the use of the sword made him insufferably vain and presuming. He would very frequently intrude himself into company at a tavern, and, saying he was come to make himself welcome, would sit down at the table without farther ceremony. The company would sometimes bear with his insolence for the sake of peace; but when this was the case, it was a chance if he did not pretend to have received some affront, and

walk off while the company was in confusion. It was not always, however, the matter thus ended; for sometimes a gentleman of spirit would take the liberty of kicking our hero out of the house.

It will now be proper to mention something of his connexion with Mrs. Maycock, the murder of whom cost him his life. When returning from a gaming-house which he frequented in Covent Garden, he met Mr. Bryan, of Newgate Street, and his sister, Mrs. Maycock, the wife of a mereer on Ludgate Hill. Stanley rudely ran against the man, and embraced the woman; on which a quarrel arose; but this subsiding, Stanley insisted on seeing the parties home: this he did, and spent the evening with them; and from this circumstance arose a fatal connexion on the part of Mrs. Maycock and the intruder.

Stanley having made an acquaintance with the family, soon afterwards met Mrs. Maycock at the house of a relation, in Red Lion Street, Holborn. In a short time Mr. Maycock removed into Southwark, where the visits of our captain were admitted on the footing of intimacy.

The husband dying soon after this connexion, Stanley became more at liberty to pay his addresses to the widow; and it appears that some considerable intimacy subsisted between them, from the following verbatim copy of a letter, which is not more a proof of the absurd vanity of the man that could write it, than of the woman that could keep him company after receiving it. The egregious coxcomb, detestable fool, and supercilious flatterer — each character is visible in every line. "I am to-morrow to be at the opera; O that I could add with her I love! the opera, where beauties, less beaux than thou, sit panting, admired, and taste the sweet barbarian sounds. On Friday I shall be at the masquerade at Somerset House, where modest pleasure hides itself before it can be touched: but though it is uncertain in the shape, 'tis real in the sense; for masks scorn to steal, and not repay: therefore, as they conceal the face, they oft make the body better known. At this end of the town, many faded beauties bid the oleos and the brush kiss their cheeks and lips, till their charms only glimmer with a borrowed grace; so that a city beauty, rich in her native spring of simplicity and

loveliness, will doubly shine with us, shine like the innocent morning blush of light that glitters untainted on the garden."

This exquisite sally of nonsense flattered the vanity of the lady, so that the licentious scoundrel was allowed to repeat his visits at his own convenience. About this period a young man, who had served his term of apprenticeship with the late Mr. Maycock, and who was possessed of a decent fortune with which to begin the world, probably unacquainted with the guilty proceedings which were being carried on, paid his addresses to the young widow; but she wantonly preferred a disgraceful intercourse with Stanley, to a connexion at once honourable and pure. Soon after this she quitted her house in Southwark, and the lovers (such lovers!) spent much of their time at balls, plays, and assemblies, till her money was dissipated, when he did not scruple to insinuate that she had been too liberal of her favours to other persons. In the mean time she bare him three children, one of whom was living at the time of the father's execution.

Stanley continuing his dissolute course of life, his parents became very uneasy, fearful of the fatal consequences that might ensue; and his father, who saw too late the wrong bias he had given to his education, procured him the commission of a lieutenant, to go to Cape Coast Castle, in the service of the African Company. The young fellow seemed so pleased with this appointment, that his friends entertained great hopes that he would reform. Preparations being made for his voyage, and the company having advanced a considerable sum, he went to Portsmouth, in order to embark; but he had been only a few days in that town, when he was followed by Mrs. Maycock, with her infant child. She reproached him with baseness, in first debauching her, and then leaving her to starve; and employing all the arts she was mistress of to alter his resolution, she prevailed upon him to give her half the money which belonged to the company, and to follow her to London with the rest. Shocked with the news of this dishonourable and treacherous action, the father took to his bed, and died of grief. Young Stanley was apparently much affected at this event, and to divert the bitterness of his reflect-

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tions he went to Flanders, where he stayed a considerable time; when he returned to England, and lived in an abandoned manner as before.

Soon after his return, having drunk freely with two tradesmen, he took a walk with them towards Hampstead. Meeting a Mr. Dawson, with five other gentlemen, a quarrel ensued; and one of the gentlemen fired a pistol, the ball from which grazed Stanley's skin. Enraged at this, the latter drew his sword, and thrust it into the body of Mr. Dawson, through the lower part of his belly, to his backbone. The poor wounded man was conveyed to a neighbouring house, where he lay six weeks before he was perfectly recovered. As Dawson happened to know Stanley, he took out a writ for damages, to recover the expense of the cure; but the writ was never executed; for Stanley was so celebrated for his skill in the use of the sword, and his daring disposition, that the bailiffs were afraid to arrest him.

Not long after this, quarrelling with Capt. Chickley, at a cider-cellar in Covent Garden, Stanley challenged the captain to fight him in a dark room. They shut themselves in; but a constable being sent for, broke open the door, and probably saved Stanley's life; for Chickley had then ran his sword through his body, while he himself had received only two slight wounds.

It appears that Stanley paid occasional visits to Mrs. Maycock; and he had the insolence to pretend anger at her receiving the visits of other persons, though he was not able to support her; for he had the vanity to think, that a woman whom he had debauched ought for ever to pay true allegiance to him, as a wife to her husband. Mrs. Maycock having been to visit a gentleman, was returning one night through Chancery Lane, accompanied with another woman, and Mr. Hammond, of the Old Bailey. Stanley, in company with another man, met the parties, and he and his companion insisted on going with the women. Hammond hereupon said the ladies belonged to him; but Mrs. Maycock now recognizing Stanley, said, "What, captain, is it you?" He asked her where she was going; she said, to Mr. Hammond's, in the Old Bailey. He replied that he was glad to meet her, and would go with her.

As they walked down Fleet Street, Stanley desired his companion to go back, and wait for him at an appointed place; and as the company was going forward Stanley struck a man who happened to be in his way, and kicked a woman on the same account.

Being arrived at Hammond's house, the company desired Stanley to go home, but this he refused; and Mrs. Maycock going into the kitchen, he pushed in after her; when, some words passing between them, he stabbed her, so that she died in about an hour and a half. Other company going into the kitchen, saw Stanley flourishing his sword, while the deceased was fainting with loss of blood, and crying out, "I am stabbed! I am murdered!" Stanley's sword being taken from him, he threw himself down by Mrs. Maycock, and said, "My dear Hannah, will you not speak to me?"

The offender being taken into custody, was brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, when some witnesses endeavoured to prove that he was a lunatic; but the jury considering his extravagant conduct as the effect of his vices, and the evidence against him being positive, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death.

Before his conviction, he had behaved in a very inconsiderate manner; nor was his conduct much altered afterwards, only that when he heard the name of Mrs. Maycock mentioned he was seized with violent tremblings, and drops of cold sweat fell from his face.

He was carried to the place of execution at Tyburn, in a mourning-coach, on the 23d of December, 1723, in the twenty-sixth year of his age; and on being put into the cart under the gallows he turned quite pale, and was so weak that he could not stand without support. He made no speech to the people; but only said, that as a hearse was provided to take away his body, he hoped no one would prevent its receiving Christian burial. It was observed that he wept bitterly after the cap was drawn over his eyes.

EXECUTION AND RECOVERY OF A CRIMINAL.

THE case of this criminal is remarkable on account of the extraordinary circumstance of her recovery after execution: doubts arose as to her being guilty of the

unnatural and inhuman crime with which she was charged; but this is certain, that, being condemned, she suffered the sentence of the law, and, after being suspended the usual time, was completely restored, and lived thirty years after the event.

Margaret Dixon 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 was then almost entirely inhabited by gardeners, fishermen, and persons employed in making salt. The husbands having prepared the several articles for sale, the wives carried them to Edinburgh, and procured a subsistence by crying them through the streets of that city. When Margaret Dixon had attained years of maturity, she was married to a fisherman, by whom she had several children; but there being a want of seamen, her husband was impressed into the naval service; and during his absence from Scotland his wife had an illicit connexion with a man at Musselburgh, by whom she became pregnant.

At this period it was the law of Scotland, that a woman known to have been unchaste should sit in a distinguished place in the church, on three successive Sundays, to be publicly rebuked by the minister; and many poor infants have been destroyed, because the mother so much dreaded this public exposure, particularly as many females went to church to be witnesses of the frailty of a sister, who were never seen there on any other occasion.

The neighbours of Mrs. Dixon averred that she was with child, which she denied. At length, however, she was delivered; but whether the child was stillborn or not is uncertain. Be this as it may, she was taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Edinburgh: when her trial came on several witnesses deposed to her pregnancy at a certain time, and others proved the signs of her delivery and the discovery of a new-born infant near her residence.

The jury giving credit to the evidence against her, brought in a verdict of Guilty, in consequence of which she was doomed to death.

After her condemnation she behaved in

the most penitent manner, confessed that she had been guilty of many sins, and even owned the dereliction of her duty to her husband; but she constantly and steadily denied that she had murdered her child, or even formed the idea of so horrible a crime. She said she denied her pregnancy through fear of being publicly exposed to every ridicule; and being suddenly seized with the pains of childbirth she could not procure assistance, insensibility ensued, and she knew not the fate of the infant.

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 Peppermill, about two miles from Edinburgh. While they were refreshing themselves, one of them perceived the lid of the coffin move, and, uncovering it, the woman immediately sat up, and most of the spectators ran off, with every sign of trepidation. It happened that a person who was then drinking in the public-house, had recollection enough to bleed her: in about an hour she was put to bed, and by the following morning she was so far recovered as to be able to walk to her own house.

By the Scottish law, which is in part founded on that of the Romish, 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 marriage is dissolved by the execution of a convicted party. Mrs. Dixon, having been convicted and executed, the King's advocate could consequently 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 crime for which she suffered.

This singular transaction took place in the year 1728, and the woman survived it about thirty years.

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No. 18.

JUNE 29, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. No. 6.

EDWARD WHITNEY.



[WHITNEY AND MR. HULL.]

This notorious malefactor was born at Stevenage, in Hertfordshire, where he was apprenticed to a butcher as soon as his age fitted him for servitude. He served his time, it appears, very faithfully; but he was not long his own master before he took to the irregular courses that brought destruction upon him, and branded his name with infamy.

In the first grand piece of knavery he contrived, he was disappointed, as he would himself frequently confess. Going with another butcher to Romford, Essex, in order to buy calves, they met with one to which they had a particular fancy; but the owner demanded what they thought an extravagant price, so that they could not strike a bargain. As the man kept

a public-house, however, our companions agreed to go and drink with him. They were much vexed in their minds, to think that they could not have their wish, and were contriving how to be revenged on their landlord; when Whitney suddenly whispered these words to his comrade, "What business have we to give so much money out of our pockets, for what we may by-and-by get for nothing? we know where the calf is, and what should hinder our taking him, when we have an opportunity?" The other came directly into measures, and so they sat boozing till night.

In the evening there came a fellow into the town with a great sic bear, which he carried about for a show, and

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it was his fortune to put up where our butchers were drinking in an inner room. It was some time before the landlord concluded where to put the bear; but at last he resolved to move the calf to another outhouse, and tie madam Bruin up in his place, which was done accordingly without the knowledge of Whitney and his friend, who continued drinking until they were told it was high time to go to bed. Upon this warning, they paid the reckoning, and went out, staying in the fields, near the town, till they imagined the time favoured their design. The night was very dark, and they came to the stall without making any disturbance or noise. Whitney was to go in and fetch out their prey, while the other watched without: when he entered, he groped about for the calf, till he got hold of the bear, which was lying in the sluggish manner peculiar to these creatures, and he began to tickle it to make it rise. At last the poor beast awaked, being muzzled and blind, rose up on her hind legs, not knowing but it was her master going to show her. Whitney still continued feeling about, wondering at the length of the calf's hair, and that he should stand in such a posture, till the bear caught hold of him, and hugged him fast between her fore feet. In this grasp he remained, unable to move, and afraid to cry out, till the other butcher, wondering at his long stay, put his head in at the door, and said with a loud voice, "What a pox! will you be all night stealing a calf?" "A calf," quoth Whitney; "I believe it is the Devil that I am going to steal; for he hugs me so closely as he does the witch in the statue." "Let it be the Devil," says the other; "bring him out, however, that we may see what he is like, which is something that I should be glad to know." Whitney was too much surprised to be pleased with the jesting of his companion, so that he replied with some choler, "Come and fetch him yourself; for may I be poked if I half like him!" The other entered, and, after a little examination, found how he was bit. By his assistance, Whitney got loose, and they both swore they would never attempt to steal calves any more for this trick.

Whitney, after this, took the George Inn, Cheshunt, Hertfordshire, where he entertained all sorts of bad company; but

not thriving in this way, he was in a little time obliged to shut up, and entirely give over the occupation. He now came to London, the common sanctuary of such men, where he lived very irregularly, and at last, when necessitous circumstances came on apace, wholly gave himself up to villany.

It was still some time before he took to the highway, following only the common tricks practised by the sharpers of the town, in which he was the more successful, from always dressing like a gentleman; it being easier to impose upon mankind with a good suit of clothes than by any other way whatever; for the world is governed by appearances, and always will be, unless Providence should see fit to make the character of virtue and vice more visible. A poor man, endowed with ever so honest and generous a soul, is avoided by everybody; so that he can hardly in his life find an opportunity to discover himself, and let a mistaken world see what he possesses; while the greatest villain ever born may be creased by all companies, if he has but credit enough to get good apparel, and impudence enough to thrust himself forward.

One morning, Whitney stood on Ludgate Hill, at a mercer's door, waiting for a friend whom he expected to come by, when two misses of the town, well habited, came along. These ladies took our gentleman to be the master of the shop; and supposing him by his looks to be an amorous young bachelor, one of them in order to begin a little conversation, asked him, "If he had got any fine silks of the newest fashion." Whitney readily replied, that he had none at present, but in a day or two's time he should have a choice; several weavers having to bring him in pieces made from the last patterns. "Then, ladies," said he, "I shall be glad to supply you with what you want; and there is no man in England will use you better: only please to leave your names, and where you live, that I may do myself the honour of waiting on you." The courtesans were now put to it for an answer; but looking a little one upon another, one of them told him, that being newly come to town they did not remember the name of the street where they lodged; but it was not far off, and he pleased to go with them they would

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show him their habitation, such as it was. Whitney consented, and to make the affair appear with a better face he stepped into the shop, as if he went to give orders to the apprentice, to whom he only put some impertinent questions, and came out unsuspected. Away trudge the ladies and their squire, who, when they told him they were come to the door, very civilly offered to take his leave of them. "Nay, sir," says one of them, "but you shall walk in, and take a glass of wine with us since you have been so good as to give yourself all this trouble!" Whitney thanked them, and with abundant complaisance accepted the favour.

Hitherto both parties were deceived. Whitney really took them for gentlewomen of fortune, and went home with them only to learn something that might enable him to make a prey of them; and they as confidently believed him to be the mercer who owned the shop at which they picked him up. Their designs were to get his money out of his pocket, and, if they could, a suit or two of clothes into the bargain. What confirmed them in this opinion was, the notice he took of several gentlemen as he passed along the street, by pulling off his hat to them; and their returning the same compliment. Whitney did it for the very purpose of deceiving them; for it is natural and common for men of fashion to re-salute those who salute them, whether they know them or not, because a man may be known by one whom he cannot remember on a sudden to have ever seen before.

The ladies introduced their supposed cully into an apartment splendidly furnished, where a table was instantly spread with a fine cold collation. This being over, the maid and one of the mistresses withdrew, leaving the other to manage Whitney. She immediately fell into amorous discourse, and soon proceeded to great freedoms, telling him he was bashful, and offering to teach him a soft love lesson. Whitney now began to understand his company; yet, as he hoped to get a little love by the bargain, he was willing to keep the mask, and professed himself her slave, devoted to her service, and willing to fulfil her pleasure, promising, after a great many mutual endearments, to give her as much silk as would make her a suit of clothes. This was all she required of him before she granted

him the last favour, and upon this promise she suffered him to play over the *jeu d'amour* as often as he pleased, entertaining him, after all, with two or three more bottles at free cost.

Whitney was so well pleased with his reception at this place, that he resolved, if possible, to have a little more of the same sport; and to that end went to a mercer, and told him that such a lady had sent him to desire that he would let one of his men carry two or three pieces of the richest silk in his shop, for her to choose a gown and petticoat. The mercer knew the person of quality whom he named, she having been his customer before, and, without mistrusting anything, sent a youth who was newly apprenticed to him, telling him the prices in Whitney's hearing. Our adventurer led the lad through as many by-streets as he could, in order to carry him out of his knowledge, till, observing a house in Suffolk Street, which had a thoroughfare into Hedge Lane, he desired the young man to stay at the door, while he carried in the silks to show them to the lady, who lodged there. The youth obeyed very readily, and Whitney went into the house, and asked the people for somebody whom they did not know: upon their telling him no such person lived in that neighbourhood, he desired leave to go through, which was granted.

Now, good-night, Mr. Mercer! you may wait till you are weary, and go back lighter by all your load. In a word, Whitney went to his mistresses, and distributed the prize between them; after which he revelled in all manner of excess for several days, till he was glad to retire of himself.

He resolved, however, that nobody but himself should enjoy the fruit of his industry, since he could not have the profit of his cheat; it would be a piece of honesty in him, he thought, to restore the mercer's goods again. To this end he writes a letter where the women lived, and the shopkeeper getting a warrant, and a constable, went and found the silks in their custody. To be sure, they were enough frightened to find themselves apprehended for having in their possession what they thought had been given them by the right owner; but all their excuses were in vain; they were hurried before a magistrate, who committed them to Tothill-fields, Bridewell, where they were taught

the discipline of the place, by that celebrated lictor, Mr. Redding; and their backs were covered with stripes of the cat-and-nine-tails instead of the eleemosynary silks, of which they thought themselves the secure holders.

When Whitney was grown a confirmed highwayman, he one day met a gentleman on Bagshot Heath, whom he commanded to stand and deliver. The gentleman replied, "Sir, it is well you spoke first; for I was just going to say the same thing to you." "Why, are you a gentleman thief then?" quoth Whitney. "Yes," said the stranger, "but I have had very bad success to-day; for I have been riding up and down all this morning without meeting with any prize." Whitney, upon this, wished him better luck, and took his leave, really supposing him what he pretended.

At night it was the fortune of Whitney and this impostor to put up at the same inn, when our gentlemen told some other travellers by what a stratagem he had escaped being robbed on the road. Whitney had so altered his habit and speech, that the gentleman did not know him again; so that he heard all the story without being taken notice of. Among other things, he heard him tell one of the company softly, that he had saved 100*l.* by his contrivance. The person to whom he whispered this, was going the same way the next morning, and said he had also a considerable sum about him, and, if he pleased, should be glad to travel with him for security. It was agreed between them, and Whitney at the same time resolved to make one of them. When morning came, our fellow-travellers set out, and Whitney about a quarter of an hour after them. All the discourse of the gentlemen was about cheating the highwaymen, if they should meet with any; and all Whitney's thoughts were upon being revenged for the abuse which had been practised on him the day before. At a convenient place, having got before them, he bid them stand; and the gentleman whom he met before not knowing him, he having disguised himself after another manner, briskly cried out, "We were just going to say the same to you, sir." "Were you so?" quoth Whitney; "and are you of my profession then?" "Yes," said they both. "If you are," replied Whitney, "I suppose you remem-

ber the old proverb, 'Two of a trade can never agree'; so that you must not expect any favour on that score; but, to be plain, gentlemen, the trick will do no longer. I know you very well, and must have your hundred pounds, sir; and your considerable sum," turning to the other, "let it be what it will; or I shall make bold to send a brace of bullets through each of your heads. You, Mr. Highwayman, should have kept your secret a little longer, and not have boasted so soon of having outwitted a thief. There is now nothing for you to do but deliver or die." These terrible words put them both into a sad consternation: they were loath to lose their money, but more loath to lose their lives; so, of two evils, they chose the least; the telltale coxcomb disbursing him 100*l.*, and the other a somewhat larger sum, protesting that they would be careful for the future not to count without their host.

Another time Whitney met with Mr. Hull, an old usurer in the Strand, as he was riding across Hounslow Heath. He could hardly have chosen a wretch more in love with money, and consequently who would have been more unwilling to part with it. When the dreadful words were spoken, he trembled like a paralytic, and fell to expostulating the case in the most moving expressions he was master of, professing he was a very poor man, had a large family of children, and should be utterly ruined if he was so hard-hearted as to take his money from him. He added, moreover, a great deal concerning the illegality of such an action, and how dangerous it was to engage in such evil courses. Whitney, who knew him, cried out in a great passion, "Sirrah, do you pretend to preach morality to an honest man than yourself? Is it not much more generous to take a man's money from him bravely, than to grind him to death with eight or ten per cent. under colour of serving him? You make a prey of all mankind, and necessity in an honest man often is the means of his falling into your clutches, who are quite certain to undo him. I am a man of more honour than to show any regard to one whom I esteem an enemy to the whole human species. This once, sir, I shall oblige you to lend me what you have without bond, and consequently without interest; so make no words."

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Old Hull, thereupon, pulled out about 187, which he gave with a pretty deal of grumbling; telling him withal, that he should see him, one time or another, ride up Holborn Hill backwards. Whitney was about to leave him; but on hearing these words, he pulled the old gentleman off his horse, put him on again with his face towards the horse's tail, and tied his legs. "Now," says he, "you old rogue, let me see what a figure a man makes when he rides backwards; and let me have the pleasure, at least, of beholding you first in that posture." So giving the horse three or four lieks with his whip, he set him running so fast, that he never stopped till he came to Hounslow town, where the people loosed our gentleman, after they had made themselves a little merry with the sight.

Whitney, like a great many others of the same profession, affected always to appear generous and noble. There is one instance of this temper in him, which it may not be amiss to relate. Meeting one day with a gentleman on Newmarket Heath, whose name was Long, having robbed him of 100*l.* in silver, which was in his portmanteau, tied up in a bag; the gentleman told him, that he had a great way to go, and as he was unknown upon the road, should meet with many difficulties, if he did not restore as much as would bear his expenses. Whitney, upon this, opened the mouth of the bag, and, holding it to Mr. Long, "Here," says he, "take what you have occasion for." Mr. Long put in his hand, and took out as much as he could hold; to which Whitney made no opposition, but only said cheerfully, "I thought you would have had more conscience, sir."

Doubtless, it must make some of our readers smile, when they observe how often the heroes of misdeed are introduced as talking of conscience, honour, virtue, &c.; and it must be confessed, that they have reason for their mirth. This may, however, prove the beauty of those perfections of human nature, that even those who have least of them discover a sort of secret value for them, and would affect to possess that which they are of all men the farthest from having.

Our dexterous butcher came once to Doncaster, in Yorkshire, where he put up at the Red Lion inn, and made a very great figure, having a pretty round sum

in his possession. While he resided here, he was informed that the landlord of the house was reputed rich; but that he was withal so covetous, as that he would do nothing to help a relation or neighbour in distress; and so very sharp in his business, that it was next to impossible for any one to impose on him in the least particular. Nothing could be so pleasing to such a man as Whitney as outwitting one who was esteemed able to outwit all the world; in consequence of which he was resolved to attempt this master-stroke of invention, as he supposed it must be, if he succeeded. He therefore gave out that he had a good estate, that he travelled about the country merely for his pleasure, and that he had his money remitted to him as his rents came in: continuing to pay for everything he had, till, supposing his host sufficiently satisfied that he was really what he pretended, he one day took an opportunity to tell him that his money ran short, till he could have returns. "O, my dear sir," says my landlord, "you need not give yourself the least uneasiness about such an affair as this. Everything I have is at your service, and I shall think myself honoured if you please to make use of me as a friend." Whitney returned the compliment with many thanks and expressions of esteem, eating and drinking, from day to day, at the good man's table; his horse also, all the while, being fed plentifully with the best corn and hay. The better to colour the matter, too, and to prove that he really came out of curiosity to see the country, there was seldom a day passed but he rode out to some of the neighbouring villages, sometimes getting Mr. Innkeeper, sometimes other gentlemen in the town, to bear him company, they being all proud of the honour. It happened, that while he remained there, there was a fair, according to the annual custom. Upon the fair-day, in the morning, a small box, carefully sealed, and very weighty, came directed to him. He opened it, and took out a letter, which he read; then locked it up, and gave it to his landlady, desiring her to keep it in her custody for the present, because it would be safer than in his own hands; and ordering the landlord, at the same time, to write out his bill, that he might pay him next morning. As soon as he had done this, he went out to the fair.

In the afternoon he returned in a great hurry, and desired his horse might be dressed and saddled, he having a mind to show him in the fair, and, if he could, to exchange him for one which he had seen, and which he thought was the finest he had ever fixed his eyes on. "I will have him," says he, "if possible, whether the owner will buy nine or no, and though he cost me forty guineas." He then asked for his landlady to help him to his box, but was told she was gone to the fair; upon which he swore like a madman, and stated, that he supposed she had locked up what he gave her, and taken the keys with her. "If she has," said he, "I had rather have given ten guineas; for I have no money at all, but what is in your possession." Inquiry was made, and it was found to be as he said, which put him into a still greater passion, though it was what he desired, and even expected, the whole comedy having been invented for the sake of this single scene. The landlord quickly has notice of our gentleman's anger, and the occasion of it; upon which he repairs to him, and begs him to be easy, offering to lend him the sum he wanted, till his wife came home. Whitney seemed to resent it highly, that he must be obliged to borrow money when he had so much of his own. However, as there was no other way, he condescended, with much reluctance, to accept the proposal, adding, that he desired an account of all he was indebted as soon as possible, for it was not his custom to run hand over head! Having received forty guineas, the sum he pretended to want, he mounts his horse, and rides towards the fair; but, instead of dealing there for another horse, he spurred through the crowd, as fast as he could conveniently, and made the best of his way to London. At night the people of the inn sat up very late for his coming home, nor did they suspect anything the first or even the second night, when they saw nothing of him, he having been out before a day or two together in his progress round the country, which they concluded was now the case. But at the end of two or three days, the landlord was a little uneasy; and after he had waited a week to no purpose, it came into his head to break open the box, in order to examine it. With this view he goes to the magistrate of the place, procures his warrant for so doing, and a constable, with proper

witnesses to be present. We need not tell the reader he was cheated, for every one will naturally conclude so; nor need we say, he was ready to hang himself, when he found only sand and stones covered over; his character may give an idea of his temper at this time. But Whitney did not care for his landlord's passion, so long as he got safe off with the money.

This was, however, the last of his adventures in the country; for not long after his arrival in town, he was apprehended in Whitefriars, upon the information of a notorious woman called Mother Cozens, who kept a house of ill fame, in Milford Lane, over against St. Clement's Church. The magistrate who took the information, committed him to Newgate, where he remained till the next Sessions at the Old Bailey.

After his conviction, Sir Samuel Lawrence, recorder of London, made an excellent speech before he passed sentence of death on him and the other malefactors, setting forth the nature of their several offences in very strong expressions, and addressing himself to Whitney in particular, whom he exhorted to a sincere repentance, as it was impossible for him to hope for any reprieve after such a course of villainies as he had practised; vindicating the justice of the law, and urging the certainty of a Providence, which pursues such as him, and at last takes vengeance on them for their crimes.

On Wednesday, the 19th of December, 1694, Whitney was carried to the place of execution, at Porter's Block, near Smithfield; where, having spent a few moments in private devotion, he was turned off, being about thirty-four years of age.

CRUELTY OF CAPTAIN JAMES LOWRY.

This cruel man was a native of Scotland: after receiving a good school education, he was, at his own earnest request, bound apprentice to a master mariner, to whom he served his time faithfully; and from his privity of conduct he soon became himself master of a ship. He had just returned from Jamaica, with the freight of a West India trader, about the middle of the month of June, 1751, when there appeared in the daily papers a remarkable advertisement, with ten signatures thereto, offering a reward of ten guineas for the

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apprehension of James Lowry, late master of the *Molly*, a merchant-ship, last from Jamaica, who was charged by ten of his crew with the cruel murder of Kenith Hossack, foremast-man, in his passage home, on the 24th of December previous, by ordering his two wrists to be tied to the main shrouds, and then whipping him till he expired. To this Captain Lowry replied, by charging his crew with depriving him of the command of the said ship, on the 29th of the month, and carrying her into Lisbon, where the British consul reinstated him in his command, and he sent the ten subscribing men home prisoners; and he stated that he was ready to surrender when a court should be appointed for his trial, which nothing prevented him from doing immediately but the thoughts of lying in a gaol under the detestable stigma of inhumanity. The crew rejoined, in another advertisement, that Lowry did not only murder the said Hossack, as appears by the affidavits of the ten subscribers, sworn before John Russell, Esq., the British consul at Lisbon, to be by him transmitted to the lords of the Admiralty, but in the said passage did also use Peter Bright and John Grace so cruelly that they died; and, still continuing his barbarity to every man in the ship, broke the jaw-bone and a finger of William Dwight, and fractured the skull of William Wham. They admitted that they, the subscribers, had been sent from Lisbon to England, by the said British consul; but this was done in consequence of a pretended charge of piracy sworn against them by Lowry, as the only means he had to screen himself from justice; for the sake of which, and to deter other masters of ships from exercising the like barbarities at sea, they repeated their reward, which they deposited in proper hands for apprehending the murderer. These advertisements naturally excited public curiosity, and Lowry was apprehended and brought to trial at the Admiralty sessions at the Old Bailey, on the 18th of February, 1752, for the wilful murder of Kenith Hossack.

James Gatherah, mate of the vessel, deposed, that they left Jamaica on the 28th of October, 1750, having on board fourteen hands; that, on the 24th of December, he came on deck between four and five in the afternoon, and saw the deceased tied up, one arm to the halliards, and the other to the main shrouds, when the pri-

soner was beating him with a rope, about an inch and a half in thickness. This deponent returning again in half an hour, the deceased begged to be let down on a call of nature: the captain being now below, Gatherah obtained his permission to release him for the present, but he was to tie him up again: when let down, however, he was unable to stand; which being made known to Lowry, he said, "D—the rascal, he shams Abraham!" and ordered him again to be tied up. This was done; but he was not made so fast as before, which the captain observed, and ordered his arms to be extended to the full stretch, and then, taking the rope, beat him on the back, breast, head, shoulders, face, and temples, for about half an hour, occasionally walking about to take breath. About six he hung back his head, and appeared motionless; on which Lowry ordered him to be cut down, and said to Gatherah, "I am afraid Kenny is dead." Gatherah replied, "I am sorry for it, but hope not." Gatherah then felt his pulse; but finding no motion there, or at his heart, said, "I am afraid he is dead, indeed;" on which the captain gave the deceased a slap on the face, and exclaimed, "D—him, he is only shamming Abraham now!" On this the deceased was wrapped up in a sail, and carried to the steerage, where Lowry whetted a penknife, and Gatherah attempted to bleed him, but without effect. Gatherah deposed farther, that the deceased had been ill of a fever, but was then recovering, and, though not well enough to go aloft, was able to do many parts of his duty. Gatherah likewise deposed to the tyranny and cruelty of the captain to the whole ship's company, except one James Stuart; and gave several instances of his inhumanity, particularly that of his beating them with a stick which he called "the royal oak's foremast."

It was asked of Gatherah, why Lowry was not confined till the 29th of December, as the murder took place on the 24th? to which he answered, that the ship's crew had been uneasy, and proposed to confine the captain; but that he, Gatherah, represented the leaky condition of the ship, which made it necessary that two pumps should be kept going night and day; and the ship's crew were so sickly, that not a hand could be conveniently spared; that he believed the captain would be warned by what he had done, and treat the rest

better; that Lowry could not escape while on the voyage, and that, on their arrival in England, he might be charged with the murder before any magistrate.

The seamen were satisfied by these arguments; but Lowry continuing his severities, it was determined to confine him to his cabin. At length the ship became so leaky, that they did not expect to live from night till morning; and the men quitted the pumps, and took a solemn farewell of each other: but Gatherah advised them to renew their efforts to save the vessel, and to steer for Lisbon. This advice was followed; and having arrived off the rock of Lisbon, they hoisted a signal for a pilot; and one coming off in a fishing-boat, found that they had no produce, (that is, they had no effects to dispose of,) on which he declined taking them into port: but by this pilot the captain sent a letter to the British consul, informing him that the crew had mutinied; on which the consul came on board, put ten of the seamen under arrest, and sent them to England.

The account given by Gatherah to the consul corresponded with that he had given in evidence at the Old Bailey. During the voyage, the crew of Lowry's ship worked their passage; and, on their arrival in England, though they were committed to the keeper of the Marshalsea prison, yet they had liberty to go out when they pleased, and considered themselves only as evidences against Lowry. The rest of the crew, who were examined on the trial, gave testimony corresponding with that of Gatherah, and declared that the deceased was sober and honest. Some questions were asked, if they thought Lowry's ill treatment was the occasion of Hossack's death. They replied, there was no doubt of it; that it would have killed him had he been in good health and strength, or the stoutest man living.

Lowry, having taken men on board to work his ship to England, arrived soon after his accusers; but they having given previous information to the lords of the Admiralty, a reward was offered for apprehending him: he remained some time concealed; but at length he was discovered by a thief-taker, who had him apprehended, and received ten guineas from the marshal of the Admiralty.

The prisoner in his defence said, that

his crew were a drunken set of fellows; that they altered the ship's course and were mutinous; that the deceased had stolen a bottle of rum and drank it, whereby he became intoxicated; that he tied him up to the rails to sober him, and that he flourished a rope three times round, and gave him a few strokes which could not hurt him; that he fell through drunkenness, and that he did all he could to recover him.

After the evidence was recapitulated by the judge, the jury retired about half an hour, and then delivered their verdict, that the prisoner was guilty; on which he received sentence of death, and orders were given for his being hung in chains.

After conviction, Lowry behaved with great apparent courage and resolution, till a smith came to take measure of him for his chains, when he fainted away, and fell on his bed, and was measured while insensible. On recovering, he said it was the disgrace of a public exposure that had affected him, and not the fear of death.

On the 25th of March, at half-past nine in the morning, the unfortunate convict was brought out of Newgate, to undergo the sentence of the law: on seeing the cart which was to convey him to the gallows, he became pale; but he soon recovered a degree of serenity in his countenance; and his behaviour was quite composed and undaunted.

The awful procession had not moved many yards, before the populace began to express their indignation at the culprit. Some sailors cried out, "Where is your royal oak's foremast?" others vociferated, "He is shamming Abraham!" and with such tauntings and revilings was he drawn to Execution Dock.

He was then taken out of the cart, and placed upon a scaffold under the gallows, where he put on a white cap. He prayed very devoutly with the ordinary of Newgate about a quarter of an hour; then giving the executioner his money and watch, the platform fell. After hanging twenty minutes, the body was cut down, put into a boat, and carried to Blackwall, and there hung in chains, on the bank of the Thames.

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NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 19.

JULY 6, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 7.

JOHN EVERETT.



[ENCOUNTER OF EVERETT AND THE WIDOW'S SON.]

This aggressor was a native of Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, who had been well educated, his father possessing 300*l.* per annum. He was apprenticed to a salesman; but running away from his master he entered into the army, and served in Flanders, where he behaved so well that he was promoted to the rank of serjeant. On the return of his regiment to England, he purchased his discharge, and repairing to London bought the place of an officer in Whitechapel debt-court, in which he continued about seven years; but having given liberty to some persons whom he had arrested, Mr. 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 inconsider-

ate good nature had liberated. To evade imprisonment, Everett enlisted in Lord Albemarle's company of foot-guards; and soon after his return to the army he fell into the company of 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. Setting out on their expedition, they robbed several stages in the counties adjacent to London, from which they obtained considerable prizes, in jewels, money, and valuable effects.

Thus successful in their first exploits,

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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 20 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, 2 guineas, his sword, and some writings; but they returned the writings at the earnest request of the injured party.

They also made a practice of robbing the butchers and higglers on Epping Forest, on their way to London; and one, at least, of these robberies was singular. Meeting with an old woman, a higgler, they searched the lining of a high-crowned hat, which she said had been her mother's, in which they found about 3*l*.

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 remarkably good wig, snatched it from his head, and gave him in return an old black tie, which he had purchased for half-a-crown of a Chelsea pensioner. This sudden metamorphosis caused great mirth among the other company in the coach.

About ten days after this, he and his companion walked to Hillingdon Common, where, seeing two gentlemen on horseback, Everett stopped the foremost, and Bird the other, and robbed them of 3 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 they were three parts over, so that the river was fordable, they gave the ferrymen 10*s.*, and obliged them to throw their oars into the river. They then jumped overboard, and got on shore, while the spectators thought it was

only a frolic, and the robbers got safe to London.

Some time after this, Everett was convicted of an attempt to commit a robbery on the highway, for which he was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in New Prison, Clerkenwell. After some time, he was employed to act there as turnkey; and his conduct meeting with approbation, he remained in that station after the term of his imprisonment was expired; but the keeper dying he took a public-house in Turnmill Street. He had not been long in this situation, when the new keeper who had been appointed frequently called on him, and made him advantageous offers, on the condition of 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 an act.

Everett was now greatly in debt, and in consequence obliged to remove within the rules of the Fleet prison; when he took a public-house in the Old Bailey. After this he took the Cock ale-house, in the same street, which he kept three years with reputation, when the warden of the Fleet persuaded him to keep the tap-house of the said prison. While in this station, he was charged with being concerned with the keeper in some malpractices, for which the House of Commons ordered him to be confined in Newgate; but he obtained his liberty at the end of the sessions, as no bill had been found against him. During his confinement, his brewer seized his stock of beer, to the amount of above 300*l.*, which reduced him to circumstances of great distress; but he even now resolved on a life of industry, if he could have got employment: his character, however, 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 50*l.*, 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, a man named Whitaker, called the boxing drover, circulated a report that Everett had committed a highway robbery; on which the latter loaded a brace of pistols, and vowed he would be revenged. He went to Islington in search of Whitaker, and visited several public-houses which he used to frequent; but not meeting with him, the perpetration of murder was happily prevented.

A woman in the neighbourhood of Newgate Market having buried her husband, who had left her enough to support herself and her children with decency, was now repeatedly visited by Everett, who was received with too great marks of esteem, and allowed to assist in the dissipation of that money which should have provided for her family. The widow's son, jealous of this connexion, 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 sharp knife; then entering the room where they were sitting, he 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 connexion. 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 house, where they remained till morning, when Everett borrowed 7 guineas of the widow, under pretence of paying her in a week.

Not long after this Everett was married to this very widow at Stepney church, by which he came into possession of money and plate to a considerable amount, and might have lived happily with her if he would have taken her advice; but the extravagance of his disposition led to absolute ruin. When he was in very low circumstances he casually met his old accomplice Bird, and joined with him in the commission of a robbery in Essex. They were both taken and lodged in Chelmsford gaol; but Everett having turned evidence, the other was convicted and executed. As soon as he obtained his liberty, he committed several robberies in the neighbourhood of London, the last of which was on a lady named Ellis, whom he stopped near Islington; but being taken into custody on the following day, he was tried, and capitally convicted.

He had been married to three wives, who all visited him after sentence of death. He was likewise visited by the son of the widow; but recollecting what had formerly passed between them, Everett would have stabbed him with a pen-knife, but was prevented by one of his wives; for which interposition he afterwards expressed the greatest happiness. What gave him the 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; but the numbers of people who visited him from

motives of curiosity, took off his attention from his more important duties. He was however, at times serious, and would then advise his brethren in affliction to prepare for that death which now appeared unavoidable.

The gaol distemper (a disorder which the gaols about this time were liable to induce, through want of proper attention on the part of the superintendents of them,) having seized him while in Newgate, a report was propagated that he had taken poison; but this was totally false. He wrote letters to some of his acquaintance, begging they would take warning by his unhappy fate, and avoid those steps which led him to his ruin.

At the place of execution, Tyburn, whither he was removed on the 20th of February, 1729, he behaved in such a manner as induced the spectators to think that his penitence for his past crimes was entirely unaffected.

MATTHIAS BRINSDEN'S DISTRESS AND INHUMANITY.

THIS offender served his time to a cloth-drawer, in Blackfriars, named Beech, who, dying, was succeeded by Mr. Byfield, who left the business to Brinsden, who married Byfield's widow; but how long she lived with him is uncertain. After the death of this wife, he married a second, by whom he had ten children, some of the eldest of whom were brought up to work at his business. At length he was seized with a fever, so violent that it distracted him, and occasioned him to be tied down to his bed. This misfortune occasioned such a decay in his trade, that on his recovery he carried newspapers about, and did any other business he could, to support his family. Going home about nine o'clock one evening, his wife, who was sitting on a bed suckling a young child, asked him what she should have for supper: to which he answered, "Bread and cheese; can't you eat that as well as the children?" She replied, "No; I want a bit of meat." "But," said he, "I have no money to buy you any." In answer to this, 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." Brinsden sent for some basilicon and sugar, which he applied to the wound, and then made his escape.

A surgeon being sent for found that the wound was mortal; and the poor woman died soon after he came, and within half an hour of the time at which 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 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, however, against him was so clear, that his allegations had no weight, and he received sentence of death.

After conviction he became serious and resigned; and being visited by one of his daughters, who had given evidence against him, he took her in his arms, and said, "God forgive me! I have robbed you of your mother: be a good child, and rather die than steal. Never be in a passion; but curb your anger, and honour your mistress: she will be as a father and mother to you. Farewell, my dear child; pray for your father, and think of him as favourably as you can."

On his way to the place of execution, the daughter above mentioned was permitted to go into the cart to take her last farewell of him, a scene that was exceedingly affecting to the spectators.

In consequence of some reports which were very unfavourable to the malefactor having been propagated during his confinement, he desired the ordinary of Newgate to read the following statement written by himself, just before he was launched into eternity. "I was born of kind parents, who gave me learning, and apprenticed me to a fine-drawer. I had often jars with him, which might increase a natural waspishness in my temper. I

fell in love with Hannah, my last wife, and, after much difficulty, won her, she having five suitors courting her at the same time. We had ten children (half of them dead), and I believe we loved each other dearly, though we often quarrelled and fought. Pray, good people, mind, I had no malice against her, nor thought to kill her two minutes before the deed; but I designed only to make her obey me thoroughly, which, the Scripture says, all wives should do. This I thought I had done, when I cut her skull on Monday; but she was the same again by Tuesday. Good people, I request you to observe, that the world has spitefully given out that I carnally and incestuously lay with my eldest daughter: I here solemnly declare, as I am entering into the presence of God, I never knew whether she was man or woman since she was a babe. I have often taken her in my arms, often kissed her; sometimes given her a cake or a pie, when she did any particular service, beyond her due share; but never lay with her, or carnally knew her, much less have a child by her. But when a man is in calamities, and is hated, like me, the women will make surmises be certainties. O, good Christians, pray for me! I deserve death: I am willing to die; for though my sins are great, God's mercies are greater."

From this there is strong ground for believing that the culprit had set his affections on things above, the idea of which cheered and supported him at his execution, which took place at Tyburn on the 24th of September, 1722.

PERSIAN MODE OF CONVERSION.

"The bravest man I ever knew," said the Pashaw of Sulimania to Mr. Rich, the English traveller, "was a poor Russian soldier, whom I saw when I accompanied the Prince Mahomed Ali Mirza in his inroad into Georgia. The man was carrying despatches, and was taken prisoner by the Persians, and brought before the Prince, who interrogated him as to the purport of his business. 'What I am going about,' said the man, 'is contained in my despatches; they are in Russian: read them if you can.' The Prince, finding nothing was to be got out of him, asked him to become a Mussulman. The man refused; on which the Prince threat-

ened him with the most cruel torments; but the man's resolution was not to be shaken. The Prince, therefore, ordered a grave to be dug: all the while the soldier laughed and chatted with those around him with the utmost unconcern. When the grave was ready, the Prince once more asked him if he would become a Mussulman; and upon his refusal, ordered him to be buried alive, which was instantly done, though I did all I could to prevent so barbarous an act. It was a pity to see so fine and brave a fellow sacrificed for religion. What business had the Prince with his faith?"

Slavery in England! The Factory System. No 2.

A CHRISTIAN COUNTRY!

WE make no apology for introducing the striking facts and comments respecting the British factory "discipline," contained in the following extracts from a most able work, entitled "Hampden in the Nineteenth Century," to the notice or for the gratification of our readers, persuaded, as we are, that such facts and comments will be new to most of them, notwithstanding the lapse of time since they were first ushered from the press, that mighty engine which seems destined to be the chief instrument in moralising, if not in evangelising, the entire world.

We speak of these facts as referring to the British factory "discipline:" wherefore? We presume our readers generally are not aware that "tyranny" and "despotism" were erst as mild in their signification as they are now harsh; that they were, in reality, analogous to that which is understood of "discipline" in its most pleasing and agreeable application; that they were the prototypes, if we may so express ourselves, of the word in question. Well, when we reflect that "discipline in the army" is synonymous to "tyranny or despotism in the army," have we not a ground for opining that "discipline" is about to resume its correspondence to "tyranny," by adopting only its signification? that the disciplinarian and the despot will ere long be fixed as but one and the same person? "To this complexion it will come at last," we verily believe; for the discipline in the British factory, it is well known, has been fast approaching, in its general character, to

as cruel, and oppressive, and withering a tyranny as ever stretched its huge carcass on our parent earth; as the annexed cutting evidence, though only an atom of the component mass collected by a Parliamentary inquisition, will amply testify. Therefore, "factory discipline!"—With such genuine proofs of its infamy, we may well denounce the factory system as one of the most reckless and merciless ever devised by demoniac agency in human breasts; we may fearlessly take our stand against the many-headed victimiser, with an indestructible determination to hold up to view, as far as our simple means will permit, the blood of the numerous martyrs to his insatiable thirst.

It is true that our "Annals of Crime" have recorded the evils of the factory system with an appearance of backwardness; but (we trust we shall not be considered too ostentatious in calling our readers our patrons) we beg our patrons to understand that we have been guided solely by passing events; and, as coming events cast their shadows before, we are happy in having it in our power to state, that there is a prospect of an improvement in the system, which will be the means of infinitely bettering the moral and social condition of the factory child, by giving him a considerable portion of the time which has hitherto been so unsparingly devoted to the body-and-soul-destroying drudgery of the pest-house—rendered such principally by the excess of labour carried on within its borders, causing an uninterrupted succession of humid and unwholesome exhalations, an all-sufficient inhumation for the most robust frame. The time thus given him, if a gift it can be appropriately styled, will enable him, by a suitable guidance springing from the kindly-expanding energies of those who are called on to be his benefactors, by influence, precept, and example, to enjoy alternately that repose and recreation of mind and body which it is his inherent right to possess, and the blessings of which will fit him fully for the correct performance of his duties towards his neighbour and his God. Such will be the hallowed tendency of the contemplated improvements in the factory system of England: the benefited child, thus relieved from a perpetuity of thralldom, shall acknowledge the change with an expressive look of comfort, and of a heart

impressed with gratitude, having enlarged affections and concomitant sympathies; and the philanthropist shall smile with exulting approbation. Had the prospect been otherwise, our pages would have been more open to an exposition of the demoralising and iniquitous mode of treatment of the factory slave.

Without farther preface we proceed to place those extracts before our readers, who will soon perceive that the subject is treated on in the form of a dialogue, Vela being a foreigner on a visit to England, and Bertrand his English friend and companion.

Upon arriving at Birmingham, Vela expressed a desire to see a copy of the Report of the Committee on the Factory Bill, which Bertrand was unable to procure; but he was informed that a copy could most probably be seen at the rooms of the Philosophical Society at Manchester. They remained here for a few days, and had interviews with some of the more moderate members of the Political Union, who were much occupied in the currency question, a favourite mode of relief with Mr. Attwood. Vela was not interested in the subject, as he found it difficult to comprehend, being altogether unaccustomed to such inquiries; nor is it wonderful that it should be perplexing to him, since so many who have been long used to similar objects find it too intricate. They visited most of the large manufactories; and Vela was astonished at the power and beautiful execution of the machinery; but he could not help deeply commiserating the excessive toil and disagreeable employment of the people. One scene in particular drew his attention: a whole family, father, mother, brothers, and sisters, in all twelve persons, were occupied, almost in a state of nudity, at a furnace of intense heat in a confined place. The symptoms of oppression which their persons exhibited was painful and revolting. Upon inquiry he ascertained that this was no uncommon case of that kind of distressing work.

From Birmingham they proceeded to Manchester, where they sojourned many days, making frequent excursions in the vicinity; and it was not unusual for them to loiter near a mill about the hour of dinner to see the men, women, and children come out. These scenes astonished

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Vela more than all he had heard or seen since his arrival in England. Hundreds of children, pale, sickly, and decrepid,—the parents feeble and emaciated,—a beautiful country disfigured by clouds of smoke,—vegetation checked, and all the towns and villages in a constant bustle, noise, and confusion.—“The papers of last week reported,” said Vela one day (while looking steadfastly upon a group of pale and wan-looking children just emerged from a mill), “the trade of Manchester to be in a more healthy state.”—“They meant,” replied Bertrand, “that the commerce of the town was more steady, and less speculative and fluctuating.”—“Well,” observed Vela upon another occasion, “I think your country dearly purchases all its fame and glory; no paternal government would covet extent of territory or wealth at the cost of so much pain and misery. Is it not known that these crowds of children are gifted with superior faculties, and that each could be made kind in disposition, as well as industrious, and highly intelligent? Yesterday I spoke to several, and found they could neither read nor write: indeed, it is quite impossible they should have any time, for all were employed thirteen, and some more, hours in the day. They went to a Sunday-school; but one of their mothers informed me that they were too much jaded and confined in the week-days to pay any attention when at school; and it was absolutely necessary they should have as much fresh air as possible. The poor woman told me she had lost two children: a daughter, whose clothes were caught in one of the wheels, which carried her round two or three times, breaking both her legs and an arm; and a son, who was one of the nine boys precipitated down a coal-shaft ninety yards in depth, in consequence of the chain being displaced—all were killed; but one, however, survived a short time only.”

One morning Bertrand had engaged to visit a friend a few miles from Manchester; and before he set out he introduced Vela to the reading room of the Philosophical Society, where he found the Report on the Factory Bill. On his return he found his Peruvian friend still reading; but with his face flushed, as if he had been extremely intent upon the subject. Vela looked up on his entrance, and addressed him in a hurried manner.

Vela. Charles, I am glad you have returned, for I have been much perplexed with the opinions in a work which is now before me, and the leaves of which I have ventured to cut. But first I must tell you that I read the Report on the Factory Bill, until I was so agitated with its detail of remorseless cruelties, that I got up and walked about the room in such a state of excitement, that (until two gentlemen who were present, and appeared to be interrupted in their reading, asked me if I was indisposed) I was unconscious of what I was doing: I apologized, and resumed my seat.

Bertrand. Excepting one extract in the newspaper, I have not read any of the evidence.

Vela. I have marked several passages, and I will read you some of them.

WILLIAM COOPER called in and examined.

What is your business?—I follow the cloth-dressing at present.

What is your age?—I was twenty-eight last February.

When did you first begin to work in mills or factories?—When I was about ten years of age.

With whom did you first work?—At Mr. Benyon's flax-mills, in Meadow Lane, Leeds.

What were your usual hours of working?—We began at five o'clock, and gave over at nine o'clock; at five o'clock in the morning.

And you gave over at nine o'clock?—At nine at night.

At what distance might you have lived from the mill?—About a mile and a half.

At what time had you to get up in the morning to attend to your labour?—I had to be up soon after four o'clock.

Every morning?—Every morning.

What intermissions had you for meals?—When we began at five in the morning, we went on until noon, and then we had forty minutes for dinner.

Had you no time for breakfast?—No, we got it as we could, while we were working.

Had you any time for an afternoon refreshment, or what is called in Yorkshire “drinking”?—No; when we began at noon, we went on till night: there was only one stoppage—the forty minutes for dinner.

Then, as you had to get your breakfast,

and what is called "drinking," in that manner, you had to put it on one side?—Yes, we had to put it on one side; and when we got our frames doffed, we ate two or three mouthfuls, and then put it by again.

Is there not considerable dust in a flax-mill?—A flax-mill is very dusty indeed.

Was not your food therefore frequently spoiled?—Yes, at times with the dust: sometimes we could not eat it, when it had got a lot of dust on.

What were you when you were ten years old?—What is called a bobbin-doffer. When the frames are quite full, we have to doff them.

Then, as you lived so far from home, you took your dinner to the mill?—We took all our meals with us, living so far off.

During the forty minutes which you were allowed for dinner, had you ever to employ that time, in your turn, in cleaning the machinery?—At times we had to stop to clean the machinery, and then we got our dinner as well as we could; they paid us for that.

At those times you had no resting at all?—No.

How much had you for cleaning the machinery?—I cannot exactly say what they gave us, as I never took any notice of it.

Did you ever work even later than the time you have mentioned?—I cannot say that I worked later there; I had a sister who worked up-stairs, and she worked till eleven o'clock at night, in what they call the card-room.

At what time in the morning did she begin to work?—At the same time as myself.

And they kept her there till eleven o'clock at night?—Till eleven o'clock at night.

You say your sister was in the card-room?—Yes.

Is not that a very dusty department?—Yes, very dusty indeed.

She had to be at the mill at five o'clock, and was kept at work till eleven o'clock at night?—Yes.

During the whole time she was there?—During the whole time; there was only forty minutes allowed at dinner out of that.

To keep you at work for such a length of time, and especially towards the ter-

mination of such a day's labour as that, what means were taken to keep you awake and attentive?—They strapped us at times, when we were not quite ready to be doffing the frame when it was full.

Were you frequently strapped?—At times we were frequently strapped.

The rest of this evidence describes the effect upon his health.

Bertrand. Does it mention the amount of his wages?

Vela. Four shillings a-week when a boy; afterwards he became a boiler, and had only four nights' rest during the week, exclusive of Sunday: this excessive labour brought on an illness for six months; he was left weak, and his appetite gone; he could not cross the floor without a stick, and was in great pain in any posture. When he was somewhat recovered, he applied for work, but the overseer said he was not fit for it; and he was then obliged to throw himself on the parish.

Bertrand. Gracious heaven! and this a Christian country!

Vela. What is the object for which these poor creatures are so reduced to slavery?

Bertrand. Some of them to make silks and ribbons for the gratification of the pride and vanity produced by superfluous wealth, and defective education.

Vela. All parties appear to be injured by this system; and the manufacturers and their overseers also must be demoralized.

Bertrand. The manufacturers, perhaps, see little of the effects of the system, as they communicate with the overseers or chief managers, whose interest it is to produce as much profit as possible for their employers; and when competition is great, as at present, probably they are compelled to the most rigid economy to prevent even a loss.

Vela. Besides vanity and pride, I perceive another cause intimately connected with them—what some of your writers term "glory."—Joshua Drake is asked when the extra hours at his mill commenced, and he replies, "They first began about the time they got so many camp and navy orders."

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N^o. 20.

JULY 13, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 8.
NICHOLAS MOONEY AND JOHN JONES.



[ROBBING THE PLAY-HOUSE GENTLEMAN.]

NICHOLAS MOONEY having been no less remarkable for his sincere penitence and happy death than for his repeated acts of criminality and violence, we deem ourselves justified in presenting to our readers some extracts from a life written by himself, while under sentence of condemnation, at the Newgate in Bristol. He says—"I have thought it necessary to give a particular account of myself; and this I do, not to satisfy the curious part of mankind, but to stir up all men to repent, and believe in Jesus Christ; to show that I really own the justice of the sentence passed upon me; and, above all, to magnify the wisdom, justice, and mercy of Almighty God, who has made a notorious offender a public example to the world, and at the same time a happy

monument of his amazing love and grace to the worst of sinners.

"Whatever other names I have at any time taken upon myself, my real name is Nicholas Mooney. My father, John Mooney, who kept a large dairy farm, and was likewise a master gardener; lived in good credit at Regar, near Refarman, within two miles of Dublin, in Ireland, where I was born July 10, 1721. I lived at home with my father, till I was about fifteen years of age: in the mean time, I was put to school, and had the benefit of a tolerable education. About sixteen, I was put apprentice to Andrew Muckleworth, a paper-maker at Glasneven, one mile from Dublin. After I had served a year of my time, a quarrel happened between me and one William Reney, a

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by Thomas
Pentonville
K. CLARK.
High Street,
Sellers.

journeyman that worked for my master, whom I almost killed, by giving him a violent blow on the head with a stone: this brought upon me the dislike of my master and mistress, which I was impatient to bear; whereupon I packed up my clothes, together with a Prayer-book that belonged to my master's daughter, 'The Whole Duty of Man,' and a pair of stockings that were my master's, and ran away by night to Drogheda, about twenty miles off; where I was known and entertained by an acquaintance of my father's. This inconsiderate action paved the way for all the after extravagances of my life.

"The fear of being apprehended by my master prevented my staying long at Drogheda: I therefore sold my working clothes, and the books I had purloined, and then embarked for Liverpool, in Lancashire. After we were put to sea, a violent storm arose, which detained us at sea some days, expecting every moment to be cast away. The ship was stripped of her masts and rigging, and all were carried off. The swelling of the sea was so great, that the sailors were obliged to tie themselves with ropes to the ship, to prevent their being washed overboard. Being driven near the Isle of Man, there was the utmost danger of being lost off Douglas-bay. One signal instance of Providence, though it does not concern me, I will relate: a boy, who came with some liquor to give the sailors to refresh them, was washed overboard, and afterwards thrown on board again. On the fifth day, the tempest abated. We then took in a pilot from Douglas, who carried us safe in our shattered vessel into that harbour.

"Not being ready to go with the ship, she sailed without me, and I was left in Douglas, where I stayed three weeks, and then embarked in another ship, and had a fair passage to Liverpool. From thence I proceeded to London, and worked in Kent Street Road as a gardener. Being of an unsettled disposition I did not continue long in this situation.

"After some time I took to work again, and wrought at Mr. Nelson's, a sugar-baker, near Thames Street, London. I had been here but a short time, before I was discharged on suspicion of a criminal intrigue with a servant-maid in the family; but I soon after got a place at Mr. Shoemaker's, a sugar-baker, in Leman Street,

where I continued some time. From thence I went to Mr. Cooper's, in Old Fish Street, where I made love to my master's sister, which coming to his ear, he discharged me from his service, before I had been there quite a year. My mind was then bent on roving again, and I went and enlisted into Captain Canningham's company, in the train of artillery at Greenwich, by the name of Nicholas Moon. From thence I went to Scotland, this being the time the rebellion broke out there; but afterwards I joined the rebel party, and continued in the service of the Pretender till his defeat and escape to France.

"It will be easily imagined, that all this while I gave up myself to all those vices for which the soldiery in general are so notoriously infamous. But notwithstanding the impious life I led, my conscience was often aroused with the accuser in my own breast. This sometimes made me think of breaking off my evil course of life, and I would set about a reformation. Divers times did I in a formal manner repent and sin, and repent and sin again; and when I have happened in company where religious people have been discoursing, I have made vows and resolutions [of a new life, and afterwards wrote them down in a book that I might not forget them. But, alas! what are man's best resolutions when he does not look to God for his gracious assistance!

"Soon after leaving the Pretender, I returned to England, and pursued my way to Exeter; where I got acquainted with a shopkeeper's daughter, to whom I pretended love; and having ingratiated myself into her favour, I borrowed money of her, and set out in order to go to London. But first I swore I would return and marry her.

"In my way to London, I met with an honest, virtuous young woman, whose father was a farmer of good circumstances, in Wiltshire. I cast my vulture's eye upon her, as a destined prey. I attired myself in a gay manner; and, in the appearance of a gentleman, paid my addresses to her, making her believe I was a man of fortune; and by this and other devilish artifices I gained her consent to be married. We went together to London, where I took her to the Fleet and married her. I had one child by her, which dying unbaptised, though I was such an abandoned

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wretch, gave me no little concern. How cautious ought every young woman to be what company she goes into, especially with whom she contracts a familiarity! What calamities have young people brought upon their friends, what misery and distress upon themselves, by giving too easy credit to appearances!

"After I had spent what money I had with this wife, I applied myself to work at gardening again; but my income not being sufficient to support my extravagances, I took to coining, half-crowns and shillings, in moulds of my own making. I had not followed this practice long, before I was overheard by some in the house as I was at work, who suspected what I was doing, and threatened to inform against me; whereupon I threw away my moulds, and left off coining. But my leaving off one vice was but to make way for another.

"I now resolved to take to the highway: accordingly, I equipped myself with a brace of pistols, and set out. The first I robbed was a gentleman going to Deptford. Then I robbed a man and his wife at Hyde Park corner: the woman's pocket I snatched from her side. After this I got two accomplices, and we set upon a play-house gentleman, near a watch-house, in London. One kept the watchman in the house, while the other two committed the robbery. The gentleman had his sword drawn in his hand, with which he stabbed me in the side: however I got his sword from him, and made off with it. Soon after, I was taken up for this robbery, and carried before a magistrate, who committed me to Clerkenwell Bridewell. At the next sessions of the Old Bailey, I was tried and condemned to die by my right name of Nicholas Mooney.

"My carelessness at this time was in a great measure owing to the expectation I had of a reprieve: of this I seemed almost confident, my wife, who showed herself a true friend to me in the time of my necessity, notwithstanding my baseness to her, assuring me, that I should not die. I was respited several times. At last Justice Fielding's brother came to me a few days before the day of execution, and desired me to tell him ingenuously and truly, whether those three men I had impeached were guilty? I confidently affirmed they were; though I knew it to be false. I pray God make them

amends for the wrong I did them, I cannot. After this, Mr. Fielding became my friend, and through his and the favour of Sir J. Ligonier a pardon was procured for me.

"When I had gotten my liberty, I waited on General Ligonier, to return him thanks for his favour, who gave me a guinea. I then took to work again at gardening, and had a very good place: but it happened, after I had been there for some time, that, being drinking in a public-house with my master's brother, a quarrel broke out in the company between another man and me; and I, as concerned in the riot, was sent to the New Gaol, Southwark. From hence I was carried to Guildford gaol, and after some time released.

"During the time I was under confinement at Guildford, I contracted an acquaintance with two poor creatures like myself: with these I agreed, that if we were acquitted, we would all take to the highway together: and we did not fail of our word; many were the robberies we committed in and about London. I was at last wounded in attempting to rob a gentleman near the half-way house going to Kensington. One of my accomplices was taken and afterwards hanged. Upon his impeachment (oh! what a rope of sand is the confederacy of the wicked!) my other companion and I were forced to fly. I bent my course to the west, having first bought me a very long knife, either to defend myself, or rob withal, and got to Salisbury, disguised in a sailor's habit. There I became acquainted with one who was formerly a carpenter in the French service. With him I set out for Exeter, and on the road asked him to rob a gentleman, but he was afraid, and would not consent. When we came to Exeter, he made information against me for advising him to rob, and moreover took an oath that I was an outlawed smuggler; whereupon I was apprehended and committed to prison. On my examination I swore, that my name was John Jackson, and that I was born at Prescott, in Lancashire. This is the only time that I ever got any advantage by changing my name; but now it stood me instead, for by this means I got clear of outlawry, and was also acquitted of the other indictment, and set at liberty.

"Being discharged, I went to Taunton,

in Somersetshire, and got work at gardening, and at leisure times painted pictures, and sold them; for I had made some proficiency in painting and drawing patterns for needlework. Here I assisted in making a new garden for a gentlemen, and by this means got acquainted with several noted gentlemen's gardeners, and by one of them was recommended to Esquire P—r, of Fairfield, near Stokegussey, where I lived about three quarters of a year. My outward demeanour here was such as gained me respect, and none suspected what my former life had been, yet all the while my heart was going after its lusts. During my stay here, I contracted an intimacy with a virtuous young woman that was my fellow-servant: and (let me here ask pardon of God and her, which I do from the ground of my heart) I ensnared her affections, and debauched her. After I had lived in sin with her some time, I began to fear, lest she should prove with child, and be brought to disgrace: I therefore resolved to have no more criminal conversation with her; and that I might be afraid to break my resolution, I went the Sunday following to church, and took the sacrament upon it: but how weak are the resolves of feeble man, without the strength of God! My passion soon grew too strong for my reason and resolution. I relapsed, and it happened according to my fears; the poor, ruined creature proved with child.

“When I found this poor creature advancing in her pregnancy, I resolved to leave my place. I communicated to her my intention of going away, and, to make her easy, swore I would return and marry her. I had lately received half a year's wages, and with that I set out for Bristol, and got work there at Messrs. Hillhouse and Stevens's sugar-house, where I wrought for some time, and was well-beloved, though I so ill deserved it. Here it was I became acquainted with my unhappy companion and fellow-sufferer, John Jones. It happened that Jones fell into company with one that was a noted boxer, who challenged him to box him, which challenge Jones accepted. He afterwards came and acquainted me with the affair, and desired me to second him. I refused, saying, I did not like fighting on a stage, it exposed a man so much: ‘but,’ added I, ‘if you want money, go upon the highway.’ He urged that

we had no pistols. I told him, I could rob any man with a stick, and bid him not fear, saying, I am a stout man, and so are you: who can take us? we shall soon fill our pockets, and then we may buy pistols and horses too. Bristol is much better than London for robbing, and, as it is the fair-time, I don't question getting two or three hundred pounds before it is over.’ But he was still unwilling to go without pistols, so we concluded to buy a brace; and at length he consented.

“At our first setting out, we met with Alderman Rich's son, in Magdalen Lane, near his father's house: I proposed robbing him, but Jones objected, there being a woman near: I said, I feared nobody, and accordingly attacked him; and robbed him of a pinchbeck watch, a 36s. piece, a moidore, and some silver. As I was robbing him, he dropped his cane or stick, which I picked up and gave him: I likewise asked him where he lived; and on his telling me Mile Hill, I bid him go home and say nothing, for if he did I would blow his brains out. We went from thence to Queen's Square the same night, and robbed Mr. Sheircliff of his watch and money; after which I was going to rob a gentleman in the square at his own door, though Jones persuaded me to the contrary; but before I could lay hold on him, the door was opened, and he went in and escaped my hands. The next day we went to Durham Down, and attacked Mr. Wasborough, of Henbury, who struck me on the head with the butt-end of his whip, and wounded me, whereupon I fired at him: the ball went through his great coat, but happily did him no further harm, for which I can never sufficiently thank God. I went then to a pond, and washed the blood off my face, and then we rode off for Bristol, and went to Jones's lodging, where, after I had washed my face again, and gotten a plaster for my head, I proposed to go out again on foot; but Jones absolutely refused, saying, he was ill. However, I was resolute, and swore I would have some money that night (so was I hurried by the devil); and accordingly went by myself to College Green, and robbed a gentleman of a mourning ring and 7s. When I had done, I returned to Jones's lodging, and gave him half the money, leaving my pistols with him. I then went to the Bell, in Broad Street, to inquire for

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a lodging. Being asked from whence I came, I immediately replied, from Westbury; not in the least imagining I could be suspected from that circumstance. But God is wise, and here he meant to stop me short in my career. I was suspected to be the person who attacked Mr. Wasborough on the Down, and more so from a drop of blood that was left on my face, notwithstanding I had washed it twice. But by what small means can God bring great matters to light, when he sees proper, when at other times much stronger circumstances escape unobserved. To put an end to all doubt, while I was here Mr. Wasborough himself came in, who charged me with the robbery. Being searched, and powder and ball found upon me, I was then committed to Bridewell, where being searched again, there was found upon me Mr. Sheircliff's watch, the mourning ring, and the 36s. piece. Seeing no possibility of getting clear of the charge, I thought I had better to declare the whole matter; and accordingly I impeached poor Jones, who was taken the next morning in bed, with the pistols at his bed-side, and Mr. Rich's watch in his pocket. We were afterwards both examined before the Mayor of Bristol, and by him committed to Newgate. I should here observe the reason why the things could not be found upon me the first time I was searched: they were concealed in a private pocket, many of which every common highwayman has about his clothes.

"When I was committed to prison, I was very heavily ironed and closely confined in the condemned room, it being apprehended that I, being a stout, sturdy, resolute person, might find means to make my escape.

"Surely the all-wise Providence of God over-ruled in all this affair: for had I robbed Mr. Wasborough, I must have taken my trial at Gloucester, where I had in all probability been destitute of such spiritual helps as I have met with at Bristol: this, and my being so closely confined here, is such an instance of God's mercy to me, as I shall have reason to praise him to all eternity. Hereby I had the opportunity of reflecting on my past misconduct, and the conversation of some religious friends, uninterrupted by the rest of the prisoners.

"On Easter Tuesday, March 31, as

soon as I arose, I was so terrified in my conscience I could get no rest. I knew not what to do. I longed for some good Christian to advise me, but knew not whom to send to. The agonies of my mind increasing more and more, I thought to ease myself by reading a little: accordingly, I took up the Common Prayer-book, in which I read, and sometimes prayed on my knees (the prisoners that lay in the room with me being all gone out). While I was in this distress of soul, and as I was reading, according to my wish, a woman came to the window, and said, 'My friend, I am glad to see thee so well employed; I am not come to look at you, but to speak to you for the good of your soul.' She had not spoken many words more, before I was cut to the heart, and had I not given way to my distress by a flood of tears, my heart must have burst. As soon as I was able to answer her, I could not forbear crying out, 'I am the vilest sinner upon earth; I have been guilty of all manner of wickedness.' She told me, if I felt the burden of sin I was the very person for whom Christ died; at which news I was a little refreshed, and for that time she left me. After this she came to me every day, with others that had like care of my soul, and gave me such advice as they saw I stood in need of, and sung hymns suitable to my condition, and joined in fervent prayer for me, and directed me to proper portions of Scripture. All this time, the conviction of my lost state sank deeper and deeper into my soul, and I made an open confession of such crimes as would have touched my life, if the fact I was committed for had not.

"On Friday, April 10, the trumpet gave its solemn pleasing sound, to call me and the rest of my fellow-criminals to the bar of justice. It was to me as a welcome voice from heaven, and it filled my heart with joy, hoping I should be shortly there. When I was put to the bar, knowing myself worthy of more than one death, I determined, as I had done before, to give the court no trouble, but to plead guilty, and addressed the judge nearly in this manner:

"My lord, I am called by the name of Jackson, but I desire to be indicted by the name of Nicholas Mooney, for the other is a fictitious name. And, my lord, I beg I may have the liberty of speaking a few words before I am arraigned, to let your

lordship know, that I am the man who hath drawn Jones into these unhappy circumstances, and hope your lordship will therefore show him favour. My lord, I have been arraigned for my life before at the Old Bailey, and was convicted; and the cart came to the door to take me to execution, but I was reprieved. I then depended altogether upon the favour of my friends; but now I rely only upon my God. Had I died then I had gone to hell, and been damned to all eternity; but now I am snatched as a brand from the burning, and my sentence will be pleasing.' His lordship then asked me, if I did not expect mercy, by pleading guilty. I replied, 'No, my lord, I expect no mercy from any man on this side the grave. The Lord is on my side. I do not fear what man can do unto me. I desire to die, for I have not only committed many robberies, but have been a rebel, and fought against my king and country. His majesty's clemency to me I have abused. Till within these few days, I neither knew what it was to fear or love God, but now I know both, and I know that God is reconciled to me, and has forgiven me all my sins, and I am content to die.'

"The next day I was called to the bar again, to receive sentence of death, which I did with the utmost calmness, my soul being kept all the time in sweet peace and full of love. I here again addressed his lordship much to this purpose:

"Permit me again to entreat for John Jones, whom I have drawn into this trouble. As for my own part, I have committed many robberies, and been a rebel against my king, and have wronged my country by coining money; for which I can never make the public restitution; therefore I am content to die, as I deserve. And I pray God to bless every one to whom I have done any wrong. And if there be any gentlemen of Bristol here, whom I have injured, I ask them forgiveness, and especially Mr. Wasborough (he then stood near me), whom I attempted to murder, but God saved him; for which I can never praise him enough.

"My lord, I desire only three Sundays, and I am willing to launch into eternity. And I hope, when I come to the place of execution, that God will open my mouth, to warn all to flee from their wicked course of life. I pray God to

bless your lordship and the honourable court; and the Lord Jesus receive my soul!

"After condemnation, I wrote letters, one to the poor creature who is now with child by me, and another to a gentleman who had been formerly my friend, part of which, for special reasons, I think proper here to subjoin.

"Bristol, April 14, 1752.

"Dear Nelly—Righteous is the Lord, and just are his judgments. His hand hath at last overtaken me: his hand of justice to cut short my life, and his hand of mercy to save my soul. You, for one, can witness the justice of my sentence. Were it in my power, I would gladly make you and every one else amends, whom I have injured in their goods, persons, or credit; but seeing it is not, I hereby ask your forgiveness for the wrong I have done you; and I trust that God, to whom I owe this duty first, and you and every one else, will accept my willing mind to make full restitution.

"I am too apprehensive what you have to undergo on my account, not to be concerned for you. Oh, that I had sufficiently considered this before I had brought you into trouble! The shame naturally attending your circumstances, the trouble consequent thereon, the slight of friends, the indignity and reproaches of an ill-natured world, are all grievous to be borne; but yet I hope that God, who comforts and supports me under my trials, in a manner I am not able to express, will do the same for you. Put your trust in him, and you shall never be confounded.

"On Wednesday fortnight—or, as some tell me, on Friday se'nnight—I am to be delivered out of the miseries of this sinful world. Glory be to God through Jesus Christ! he has given repentance and remission of sins to me, the worst of sinners. He has taken away the sting of death, and I am preparing to meet my Saviour and my Judge. Let my example encourage every sinner to break off his sins, and come unto God through Jesus Christ, pleading but his merits and their guilt, and he will freely forgive them: but let none presume on the long-suffering of God, for he will surely visit their iniquity with a rod, and their sins with scourges.

"As a dying man, I give you this

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advice: give yourself up wholly to God, pray to him continually, and never rest satisfied till you have secured an interest in the blood of Jesus Christ. Live in his fear, and you will, as I trust I shall, die in his favour. I now commend you to God's grace and almighty protection, and request your earnest prayers for

"Your dying friend and well-wisher,
"NICHOLAS MOONEY.

"Please to communicate these lines to Mr. B——, with my due respects."

"TO A FRIEND.

"Bristol, April 14, 1752.

"Sir—Before I die, I take this opportunity of acknowledging your kindness to me in times past. Oh! that I had deserved it; for then I had not brought myself into these unhappy circumstances. But God is wise; and seeing I would not hear his voice, and leave my wicked life, he gave me up to my heart's lust, and permitted me to fill up the measure of mine iniquity, that in me at last might be shown the severity of his justice and the riches of his mercy.

"You took me, the most abandoned wretch, for an honest man; and as such, you generously recommended me where I might have done well: it is my own fault I did not. On Friday se'nnight I am to meet the fate my crimes have justly deserved. I deserve not only death, but hell! To the former, man hath doomed me; from the latter, Christ will save me: of this I have such a firm hope in myself, being assured that God is reconciled to me, (O, the riches of his mercy in Christ Jesus!) that my prison is a palace, my chains are as ornaments, and I am quite happy. I hope every one will pray for me, that my faith fail not.

"I am longing for death, and in firm expectation of a glorious resurrection to eternal life.—Your much obliged and dying servant,
"NICHOLAS MOONEY."

"On the Sunday before I was to die, a friend proposed our going in a coach to execution; but I told my fellow-sufferer, as our crimes have been public, let us be public examples: let us be seen of all, that all may take warning: God will support us. We do not know what good we may do by being exposed in a cart. I had likewise a friendly visit from Mr. Wasborough and Mr. Sheirclift, which gave me no small satisfaction: and that day I received the blessed sacrament.

"On Tuesday night William Cudmore, who was condemned to die with Jones and me, found means to get off his irons, and had begun to break the prison, but was discovered. But had all the prison-doors been set open, here would I have stayed to meet the fate my crimes have deserved. On the following day I kept a fast to the Lord, took the sacrament, and attended at chapel."

What follows is a sequel to the account above given by Mooney himself.

On the 23d of May, 1752, the night before Mooney and Jones died, the executioner entered their room and said, "Gentlemen, if you are not willing, I will not perform the office, although I am come:" at which Mooney took him by the hand, and said, "My friend, you are a welcome man to me."

That night six persons sat up in the room, and spent the time till midnight in reading, singing, and solemn prayer. At one, the prisoners went to bed, and desired the eighth chapter of the Romans to be read to them, which being done, they went to sleep. At three, Mooney arose, and washed himself, saying, "My wedding-day is come at last!" He conversed cheerfully with his friends till four, and then called up Jones and Cudmore, and all together spent about an hour in devotion. After this, Jones falling into a great agony, as he stood at the window, reading in the Bible, retired to the bed, and seemed under such great terrors that he had fainted, had not timely application been made: Mooney exclaimed, "I bless God for this: more of my sort of work; mine began in this manner." When Jones came to himself, Mooney took him by the hand, saying, "Come, my dear brother Jones, fear not; we shall take our flight above the clouds soon."

One then asked Jones how he did; and he replied, "My heart is ready to burst; and yet at the same time I find in me such rejoicing as if I had the whole world given to me. I was never so happy in my life."

About seven o'clock, company began to flock in, and Mooney, with the utmost cheerfulness testified to all the consolations he felt from God. He then dressed himself in mourning, saying, "I hope this is no sin; I do it not out of vanity, but decency! No, no more of the devil's works for me."

About eight his fetters were taken off; at which he said, "Thus has God taken off the chains of my sins." He continued reading, praying, and speaking to the people till he was called to the sacrament at nine.

At the place of execution, they all joined the minister in singing and prayer; which done, Mooney earnestly exhorted all to take warning by him. He then gave this printed narrative of his life to the sheriff, and said, "This was revised by me last night, and contains nothing but the truth, and it is my desire it should be dispersed abroad as much as possible, to show my wickedness and God's goodness, who has forgiven all my sins." He then added, "O, sir, I cannot express the happiness I feel. There is more pleasure in serving God one hour, than in a long life of sin. Oh! what hath he done for so vile a sinner! I know Christ died for me; and the moment the breath is out of my body, my soul will be in heaven. I can from my heart triumph with the apostle, and say, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?'" As the executioner was preparing to tie up Jones, he cried out, "Tie me up first; for I am the greatest offender:" desiring that no one would pull his legs, for that he was willing to suffer all the pains of death. The rope being fixed, he cried out, "My soul is so full of the love of God, that it is ready to start out of my body; and in a few moments I shall be at my Father's house." The cart being drawn away, he was launched into eternity. It is remarkable, that he never stirred hand or foot after he was turned off; but his soul seemed to have willingly taken its flight before it was forced from the body.

His corpse was conveyed in a hearse from the place of execution to a friend's house in Temple Street, whence it was removed for interment on the Sunday following to the Temple church-yard, in the presence of several thousands of people.

ELIZABETH CHIVERS.

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

This unnatural woman was a native of Spitalfields, but she lived at Stepney at the time of the commission of the murder. The account she gave of herself after she was under sentence, was as follows.—She said that her father dying while she was very young, left her in indigent circumstances, which obliged her to go into service when only fourteen years of age; that she lived in several reputable families, in which her conduct was deemed irreproachable. When she arrived almost at the age of thirty years, she lived with Mr. Ward, an attorney, who prevailed on her to lie with him: in consequence of which she bore the child which she afterwards murdered. Finding herself pregnant, she removed from Mr. Ward's to another family, where she remained about six weeks, and then took private lodgings, in which she was delivered of a girl, who was baptised by the name of Elizabeth Ward. The father, agreeably to promise, provided for the mother and child for about three months, when Mrs. Ward, discovering her habitation, exposed her in the neighbourhood, so that she was ashamed to make her appearance.

Galled and driven to desperation at this circumstance, the poor creature was tempted to destroy her child; on which she took it into the fields, and threw it into a pond not far from Hackney; but some people near the spot, happening to see what transpired, took her into custody and carried her before a magistrate, who committed her to Newgate.

All the time that she remained in this gloomy abode her mind seemed to be tortured with the most agonizing pains, on account of the horrid crime of which she had been guilty; and she expressed a sense of her torments in the following striking words, which she addressed to a clergyman who attended her: "O, sir, I am lost! I cannot pray, I cannot repent: my sin is too great to be pardoned! I committed it with deliberation, and in cold blood; I was not driven to it by necessity."

She was executed on the 1st of August following.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

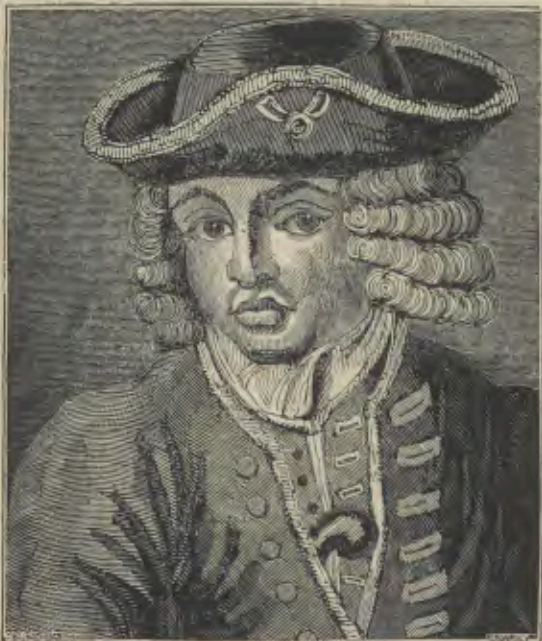
OR,
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR. AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 21.

JULY 20, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

JONATHAN WILD.



CHAPTER I.

In former pages of our work, allusion has been made to the notorious individual whose abominable exploits we now proceed to lay before our readers, at considerable length, as the materials which his conduct furnished are well adapted for reflection, which must lead to the strongest abhorrence of his infamy; an infamy the demerits of which may be thus simply stated: 1st, Making thieves for the purpose of entrapping the unwary, by undertaking to restore the stolen property for a valuable compensation; 2dly, Causing the apprehension of any thief that frustrated his sinister designs, though the thief might have become such at his

suggestion. But the case will be more clearly stated in the sequel; and we therefore proceed at once with the history of the wretch whose portrait (which is faithfully copied from a very old print in the possession of a friend) is prefixed, and whose subsequent cognomen was the Prince of Robbers!

Jonathan Wild was the eldest son of a poor but honest and industrious parents, whose family consisted of three sons and daughters, whom they brought up as well as they could from their joint labours; the father as a carpenter, and his wife as a vender of fruit in the market of Wolverhampton, Staffordshire, in which town our protegé was born about the year 1682.

After having been furnished with a decent education, Jonathan was apprenticed to a bucklemaker at Birmingham, though it had been the intention of his father to bring him up to his own trade. He served his time with fidelity, and then accompanied a gentleman of the long robe to London, as a servant: this was about the year 1704-5. Not relishing his situation, he quitted it, and returned to Wolverhampton, where he worked diligently at his business for some time as a journeyman, and married a young woman of good character.

He had been married about two years, in which time his wife had a son, when he formed the resolution of revisiting London; and he very soon after deserted his wife and child, and set out for the metropolis, where he got into employment, and at first maintained himself by his trade. Being, however, of an extravagant disposition, many months had not elapsed after his arrival in London when he was arrested and thrown into Wood Street Compter, where he remained a prisoner for debt upwards of four years, and fared very hard. But as no man wanted address less than Jonathan, so nobody could have employed it to better advantage; for he got so much into the favour of the keepers that they soon permitted him the liberty of the gate, by which he earned something through going errands. This set him above the very pinch of want, and that was all; but his fidelity and industry in these mean employments procured him such esteem among those in power, that he was ultimately appointed an under-keeper to the disorderly persons who were brought there every night. He now managed to obtain a comfortable subsistence, having learnt how to get money of such people by putting them into the way of gaining their liberty.

In this prison was a woman named Mary Milliner, who had long been considered as one of the most notorious pick-pockets and abandoned prostitutes on the town. After having escaped the punishment due to the varieties of felonies of which she had been guilty, she was put under confinement for debt. An intimacy subsisted between them while they remained in the Compter; and through her Wild assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of the criminals who were his

fellow-prisoners, and attended to their account of the exploits in which they had been engaged with singular satisfaction.

Wild and Milliner had no sooner obtained their freedom, than they lived under the denomination of man and wife; and by their evil practices they soon obtained a sum of money which enabled them to open a little public-house in Cock Alley, facing Cripplegate church.

Milliner, being personally acquainted with most of the notorious characters by whom London and its environs were infested, and perfectly conversant as to the manner of their proceedings, was a most useful companion to Wild; and indeed she very materially contributed towards rendering him one of the most accomplished characters in the arts of villany; for by her assistance he became well acquainted with all the notorious gangs of loose persons within the Bills of Mortality, and with the plan on which they carried on their schemes. He knew when and how their enterprises were to be gone upon, and in what manner they disposed of their plunder; and having an intriguing head he sat up for a "Director" amongst them, and soon became so useful that, though he never went out with any of them, he got more money by their thefts than if he had been a partner in their operations, which upon one pretence or another he always declined.

Wild industriously penetrated into the secrets of felons of every denomination, who resorted in great numbers to his house in order to dispose of their booty, and they looked upon him with a kind of awe; for, from his being acquainted with their proceedings, they were conscious that their lives were continually in his power. He was at little difficulty to dispose of the articles brought to him by thieves at something less than their real value, because no law existed at this period for the punishment of the receivers of stolen goods; but the evil increasing to so enormous a degree, it was deemed expedient by the legislature to frame a law for its suppression. An act therefore was passed, consigning such as should be convicted of receiving goods, knowing them to have been stolen, to transportation for the space of fourteen years.

Wild's practices were considerably interrupted by this law: he, however, sug-

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gested a plan to obviate its intention. He called a meeting of all the thieves whom he knew, and observed to them, if they carried their prizes to such of the pawnbrokers who were known to be not much troubled with any scruples of conscience, they would scarcely advance on the property one-fourth of its real value; and that if they were offered to strangers, either for sale or by way of deposit, it was a chance of ten to one but the parties were rendered amenable to the laws. He stated that the most industrious thieves were now scarcely able to obtain a livelihood; and that they must either submit to be half starved, or be in continual danger of Tyburn. He informed them that he had devised a plan for removing the inconveniences under which they laboured, recommending them to follow his advice, and to behave towards him with honour. He then proposed that when they had gained any booty they should deliver it to him instead of carrying it to the pawnbroker, saying, he would restore the goods to the owner, by which means greater sums would be raised than by depositing them with the pawnbrokers, while the thieves would be perfectly secure from detection.

This proposal was received with general approbation, and it was resolved to carry it into immediate execution. All the stolen effects were to be given into the possession of Wild, who soon appointed convenient places wherein they were to be deposited, judging that it would not be prudent to have them left at his own house.

The infamous plan being thus concerted, it was the business of Wild to apply to persons who had been robbed, pretending to be greatly concerned at their misfortunes, saying some unsuspected property had been stopped by a very honest man, a broker, with whom he was acquainted, and that if their goods happened to be in the hands of his friend, restitution should be made. But he failed not to plead that the broker might be rewarded for his trouble and disinterestedness, and to use every argument in his power for exacting a promise that no disagreeable consequences should ensue to his friend, who had imprudently neglected to apprehend the supposed thieves. Happy in the prospect of regaining their property without the trouble and the ex-

pense necessarily attending prosecutions, people generally applauded the conduct of Wild, and sometimes rewarded him even with one-half of the real value of the goods restored.

Persons who had been robbed, however, were not always satisfied with Wild's declaration; and sometimes they questioned him particularly as to the manner of their goods being discovered. On these occasions he pretended to be offended that his honour should be disputed, saying, that his motive was to afford all the service in his power to the injured party, whose goods he imagined might possibly be those stopped by his friend; but since his good intentions were received in so ungracious a manner, and himself interrogated respecting the robbers, he had nothing farther to say on the subject, but must take his leave; adding, that his name was Jonathan Wild, and that he was every day to be found at his house in Cock Alley, Cripplegate. This affectation of resentment seldom failed to possess the people who had been robbed with a more favourable opinion of his principles; and the suspicion of his character being removed, he had an opportunity of advancing his demands.

Wild received no direct gratuity from the owners of stolen goods, but deducted his profit from the money which he said was to be paid the broker. Thus did he amass considerable sums without danger of prosecution, for his offence came under the description of no law then existing. For several years he preserved a tolerably fair character; so consummate was the art he employed in the management of all his schemes.

Wild's business greatly increasing and his name becoming exceedingly popular, he altered his mode of proceeding: instead of applying to persons who had been robbed, he opened an office, to which great numbers resorted, in the hope of recovering their effects. He made a great parade in his business, and assumed a consequence that enabled him more effectually to impose on the public. When persons came to his office, they were informed that they must each pay a crown in consideration of receiving his "advice." This ceremony being despatched, he entered in his book the names and places of abode of the parties, with all the particulars which they could communicate respecting

the robberies, and the rewards that would be given provided the goods were recovered; and they were then desired to call again in a few days, when he hoped he should be able to give them some agreeable intelligence. Upon calling to know the success of his inquiries, he informed them that he had received some information concerning their goods, but that the agent he had employed to trace them had informed him, the robbers pretended they could raise more money by pawning the property than by returning it for the proposed reward; saying, however, that if he could by any means procure an interview with the villains, he doubted not of being able to settle matters agreeably to the terms already proposed; but, at the same time, artfully insinuating that the safest, most expeditious, and most prudent method would be to make some addition to the reward. At length, after one or two more attendances, Wild gave the definitive answer: "Provided no questions be asked, and you give so much money to the porter who brings them, you may have your things returned at — o'clock precisely." This was transacted with an outward appearance of friendship on his side, and with great seeming frankness and generosity; but when you came to the last article—namely, What Mr. Wild expected for his trouble, then an air of coolness was put on, and he answered with equal composure and seeming indifference, that what he did was purely from a principle of doing good: as for a gratuity for the trouble he had taken, he left it wholly to yourself; you might do in it what you thought fit. And even when money was presented to him, he received it with the same negligent grace, always putting you in mind that it was your own act, and that he took it as a great favour, and not as a reward.

By this dexterity in his management he fenced himself against the rigour of the law, in the midst of these notorious transgressions of it: for what could be imputed to Mr. Wild? He neither saw the thief who took away the goods, nor received them after they were taken. The method he pursued was neither dishonest nor illegal, if you would believe his account of it, and no other than his account of it could be obtained. At all events, had he continued satisfied with this way of dealing, in all probability he might have gone unmolested to his grave: but he was

greedy, and, instead of keeping constant to this safe method, came at last to take the goods into his own custody, giving those that stole them what he thought proper, and then making such a bargain with the loser as he was able to bring him to, sending the porter himself, and taking without ceremony whatever money had been given him: but this happened only in the last two years of his career. When he had discovered the utmost sum people would give for the recovery of their property, he requested them to call again, and in the mean time he caused the goods to be ready for delivery.

He derived considerable advantage from examining persons who had been robbed; for he thus became acquainted with any particulars the robbers omitted to communicate to him, and was thereby enabled to detect them if they concealed any part of their prizes. Being in possession of the secrets of all the notorious robbers, they were under the necessity of complying with whatever terms he thought proper to exact; for they were conscious, that by opposing his inclination they must have involved themselves in the most imminent danger of being sacrificed to the injured laws of their country.

Through the infamous practices of this man, articles which had been before considered as of no use but to the owners now became matters claiming the particular attention of thieves: account-books, pocket-books, watches, rings, trinkets, and a variety of articles of but small intrinsic worth, were now esteemed very profitable plunder. Books of accounts, and other writings, being of great importance to the owners, produced very handsome rewards; and the same may be said of pocket-books; for they generally contained memorandums, and sometimes bank-notes and other articles on which money could be readily procured.

Wild accumulated money so fast, that he considered himself a man of consequence; and to support his imaginary dignity, he dressed in lace clothes, and wore a sword, which instrument he first exercised on the person of his reputed wife, Mary Milliner, whom, having on some occasion provoked him, he instantly struck at, and cut off one of her ears. This event was the cause of a separation; but in acknowledgement of the great services she had rendered him, by intro-

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ducing him to so lucrative a profession, he allowed her a weekly stipend till her decease.

Before Wild had brought the plan of his office to perfection, he for some time acted as an assistant to Charles Hitchen, the city-marshal, a man as infamous as himself. These co-partners in villany, under the pretext of reforming the manners of the dissolute part of the public, paraded the streets from Temple Bar to the Minories, searching the houses of ill fame, and apprehending disorderly and suspected persons; but such as complimented these *public* reformers with *private* douceurs were allowed to practise every species of abomination with impunity. Hitchen and Wild, however, becoming jealous of each other, and an open rupture taking place, they parted, each pursuing the business of thief-taking on his own account.

Wild's artful behaviour, and the punctuality with which he discharged his engagements, obtained him a great share of confidence among thieves of every denomination; insomuch, that if he caused it to be intimated to them that he was desirous of seeing them, and that they should not be molested, they would attend him with the utmost willingness, without entertaining the most distant apprehension of danger, although conscious that he had informations against them, and that their lives were absolutely in his power: but if they presumed to reject his proposals, or proved otherwise refractory, he would address them to the following effect: "I have given you my word that you should come and go in perfect safety, and so you shall: but take care of yourself; for, if ever you see me again, you see an inveterate enemy."

The great influence that Wild obtained over the thieves, will not be deemed very extraordinary, on considering, that when he promised to use his endeavours for rescuing them from impending fate he was always desirous, and generally able, to succeed. Such as complied with his measures, he would never interrupt; but, on the contrary, afford them every encouragement for prosecuting their iniquitous practices; and if apprehended by any other person, he seldom failed of procuring their discharge. His usual method, in desperate cases, and when matters could not be managed with more

ease and expedition, was, to procure them to be admitted evidences, under pretext that it was in their power to make discoveries of high importance to the public; and when they were in prison, he frequently attended them, and communicated to them from his own memorandums such particulars as he judged it would be prudent to relate to the court. Again, when his accomplices were apprehended, and he was not able to prevent their being brought to trial, he contrived stratagems (in which his invention was amazingly fertile) for keeping the principal witnesses out of court; so that the delinquents were generally dismissed unpunished through defect of evidence.

Jonathan was ever a most implacable enemy to those thieves who were hardy enough to reject his terms, and dispose of their stolen effects merely for their own advantage. He was industrious in the extreme in his endeavours to surrender them into the hands of justice; and it was scarcely possible for them to escape his vigilance, he being acquainted with all their usual places of resort.

By subjecting those who incurred his displeasure to the punishment of the law, he obtained the rewards for pursuing them to conviction; besides which he greatly extended his ascendancy over the other thieves, whom he kept in fear; while he established his character as a man of the greatest public utility, and received the countenance of persons in eminent stations in society, who considered him the friend of justice. Certain it is, that he brought more villains to the gallows than any other man ever did: indeed, so sensible was he of the necessity there was for his acting in this manner, to keep up his pretensions, that he generally had two or three rogues executed in a twelvemonth.

This practice of Jonathan's, if well considered, carries in it a great deal of policy; and when it attained notoriety it not only formed a topic for general discourse, but was the cause, as well, of some inquiries into his character. Foreseeing this, in order to evade any ill consequence, he assumed upon occasion an air of gravity, and complained of the evil dispositions of the times, which would not permit a man to serve his neighbours and his country without censure. "For do not I," said he, "do the greatest good, when I persuade people who have deprived others

of their goods to restore them again for a reasonable consideration? And the villains whom I have brought to suffer punishment, do not their deaths show of how much service I am to the country? Why then should people asperse me?"

Perhaps there is not, even in the whole range of history, another instance of a man who so flagrantly dallied with the ends of justice, playing even with capital punishment, to suit his nefarious schemes. He continually exhorted the plunderers to let him know punctually what goods they at any time took; by which means he had it in his power to give a direct answer to those who made inquiries. If the thieves complied faithfully with his instructions, as we have in fact shown, he was a sure protector on all occasions; but if they evinced any symptoms of independence and despised his rules, or if they threatened their companions, or if they grumbled at the compensation made for them, or in any other way displeased the prince, they were certain martyrs to his princely power.

In those parts of his business which were most hazardous, Wild made the plundered parties themselves take the first steps, by publishing advertisements of the things lost, and directing them to be brought to Mr. Wild, who was empowered to receive them, and pay such reward as the persons that lost them thought fit to offer. Wild in this capacity appeared no otherwise than as a person on whose honour the injured people could rely.

After he had gone on in this trade for about ten years with success, he began to lay aside much of his former caution, taking a larger house in the Old Bailey, giving the woman whom he called his wife abundance of fine things, and keeping an open office for the restoration of stolen property in general. His fame at last came to that height, that persons of the highest quality would condescend to make use of his abilities, when at any installation, public entry, or some other great solemnity, they had the misfortune of losing their watches, jewels, or other things of real or imaginary value.

Jonathan was frequently asked, how it was possible that he could carry on the business of restoring stolen effects, and yet not be in league with the robbers; and his replies were always to this purpose: "My acquaintance among thieves

is very extensive, and when I receive information of a robbery I make inquiry after the suspected parties, and leave word at proper places, that if the goods are left where I appoint the reward shall be paid and no questions asked. Surely no imputation of guilt can fall upon me; for I hold no interviews with the robbers, nor are the goods given into my possession."

We now proceed to relate the most remarkable exploits of the hero of these pages, and of necessity include many particulars relating to other notorious characters.

A lady of fortune being on a visit in Piccadilly, her servants, leaving the sedan at the door, went to refresh themselves at a neighbouring public-house. Upon their return the vehicle was not to be found; in consequence of which the men immediately went to Wild, and having informed him of their loss, and complimented him with the usual fee, they were desired to call upon him again in a few days. Upon their second application Wild extorted from them a considerable reward, and then directed them to attend the chapel in Lincoln's Inn Fields on the following morning during the time of prayers. The men went according to the appointment, and under the piazzas of the chapel perceived the chair, which upon examination they found to contain the velvet seat, curtains, and other furniture, and that it had received no kind of damage.

A young gentleman named Knap accompanied his mother to Sadler's Wells on Saturday, the 31st of March, 1716; and on their return home they were attacked about ten at night, near the wall of Gray's Inn gardens, by five villains. The young gentleman was knocked down, and his mother being exceedingly alarmed called for assistance; upon which a pistol was discharged at her, and she instantly fell down dead. A considerable reward was offered by proclamation in the Gazette for the discovery of the perpetrator of this horrid crime; and Wild was remarkably assiduous in his endeavours to apprehend the offenders. From a description given of some of the villains, Jonathan immediately judged the gang to be composed of William White, Thomas Thurland, John Chapman (alias Edward Darvel), Timothy Dunn, and Isaac Rag-

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On the evening of Sunday, the 8th of April, Wild received intelligence that some of the abovenamed men were drinking with some prostitutes at an indifferent house kept by John Weatherly, in Newton's Lane: he went to Weatherly's, accompanied by his man Abraham, and seized White, whom he brought away about midnight in a hackney-coach, and lodged in the Round-house.—White being secured, information was given to Wild that a man named James Aires was then at the Bell inn, Smithfield, in company with a woman of the town. Having an information against Aires, Wild, accompanied by his assistants, repaired to the inn, under the gateway of which they met Thurland, whose person had been mistaken for that of Aires. Thurland was provided with two brace of pistols; but being suddenly seized, he was deprived of all opportunity of making use of those weapons, and taken into custody.—They went on the following night to a house in White Horse Alley, Drury Lane, where they apprehended Chapman, alias Darvel. Soon after the murder of Mrs. Knap, Chapman and others stopped the coach of Thomas Middlethwaite, Esq., but that gentleman escaped being robbed by discharging a blunderbuss and wounding Chapman in the arm, on which the villains retired.—In a short time after this, Wild apprehended Isaac Rag at a house which he frequented in St. Giles's, in consequence of an information charging him with a burglary. Being taken before a magistrate, in the course of his examination Rag impeached twenty-two accomplices, charging them with being house-breakers, footpads, and receivers of stolen effects; and he was consequently admitted an evidence for the crown.—Rag was convicted of a misdemeanour in January, 1714-15, and sentenced to stand three times in the pillory. He had concealed himself in the dust-hole belonging to the house of Thomas Powell, where being discovered, he was searched, and a pistol, some matches, and a number of pick-lock keys were found in his possession. His intention was evidently to commit a burglary; but as he did not enter the house he was indicted for a misdemeanour in entering the yard with intent to steal. He was indicted in October, 1715, for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Stanwell, on the 24th of August; but of this

charge he was acquitted.—White, Thurland, and Chapman were arraigned on the 18th of May, 1716, at the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, on an indictment for assaulting John Knap, gent., putting him in fear, and taking from him a hat and wig on the 31st of March, 1716. They were also indicted for the murder of Mary Knap, widow; by White discharging a pistol loaded with powder and bullets, and thereby giving her a wound of which she instantly died, on the said 31st of March, 1716. They were a second time indicted for assaulting and robbing John Gough. White was a fourth time indicted with James Russell for a burglary in the house of George Barclay. Chapman was a fourth time indicted for a burglary in the house of Henry Cross. These three offenders were executed at Tyburn on the 8th of June, 1716.—Wild was still indefatigable in his endeavours to apprehend Timothy Dunn, who had hitherto escaped the hands of justice by removing to a new lodging, where he concealed himself in the most cautious manner. Wild, however, did not despair of discovering this offender, whom he supposed must either perish through want of the necessaries of life, or obtain the means of subsistence by returning to his felonious practices; and so confident was he of success, that he made a wager of ten guineas that he would have him in custody before the expiration of an appointed time. Dunn's confinement at length became exceedingly irksome to him, and he sent his wife to make inquiries respecting him of Wild, in order to discover whether he was still in danger of being apprehended. Upon her departure from Wild's he ordered one of his people to follow her home. She took water at Blackfriars, and landed at the Falcon; but suspecting the man was employed to trace her, she again took water and crossed to Whitefriars; observing that she was still followed, she ordered the waterman to proceed to Lambeth, and having landed there, it being nearly dark, she imagined she had escaped the observation of Wild's man, and therefore walked immediately home. The man traced her to Maid Lane, near Bankside, Southwark; and perceiving her enter a house he marked the wall with chalk, and then returned to his employer with an account of the discovery he had made. Wild, accompanied by a fellow named Abraham, (a

Jew, who acted the part he had done to the worthless marshal, already mentioned,) one Riddlesden, and another man, went on the following morning to the house where the woman had been seen to enter. Dunn hearing a noise, and thence suspecting that he was discovered, got out of a back window on the second floor upon the roof of the pantry, the bottom of which was about eight feet from the ground. Abraham discharged a pistol and wounded Dunn in the arm; in consequence of which he fell from the pantry into the yard: after his fall Riddlesden discharged a pistol and wounded him in the face with small shot. Dunn was secured and carried to Newgate, and being tried at the ensuing sessions he was soon after executed at Tyburn.—Riddlesden was bred to the law, but he entirely neglected that business and abandoned himself to every species of profligacy. His irregular course of life having greatly embarrassed his circumstances, he broke into the chapel of Whitehall and stole the communion-plate. He was convicted of this offence and received sentence of death; but through the exertion of a powerful interest a pardon was obtained on condition of transporting himself for the term of seven years. He went to America, but soon returned to England, and had the address to ingratiate himself into the favour of a young lady, daughter of an opulent merchant at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Before he could get his wife's fortune, which was considerable, into his hands, he was discovered and committed to Newgate. His wife followed him, and was brought to bed in the prison: her friends, however, being apprized of her unhappy situation, caused her to return home. He contracted an intimacy with the widow of Richard Revel, one of the turnkeys of Newgate; and being permitted to transport himself again, the woman went with him to Philadelphia under the character of his wife. In consequence of a disagreement between them, Mrs. Revel returned and took a public-house in Golden Lane; but what became of Riddlesden cannot be learnt.

A thief of most infamous character named Arnold Powell, being confined in Newgate, on a charge of having robbed a house in the neighbourhood of Golden Square of property to a great amount,

he was visited by Jonathan, who informed him, that in consideration of a sum of money he would save his life; adding, that if the proposal was rejected, he should inevitably die at Tyburn for the offence on account of which he was then imprisoned. The prisoner, however, not believing that it was in Wild's power to do him any injury, bid him defiance. Powell was brought to trial; but through a defect of evidence he was acquitted. Having gained intelligence that Powell had committed a burglary in the house of Mr. Eastlick, near Fleet ditch, he caused that gentleman to prosecute the robber. Upon receiving information that a bill was found for the burglary Powell sent for Wild, and a compromise was effected according to the terms which Wild himself proposed; in consequence of which Powell was assured that his life should be preserved. Upon the approach of the sessions, Wild informed the prosecutor that the first and second days would be employed in other trials, and as he was willing Mr. Eastlick should avoid attending with his witnesses longer than was necessary, he would give timely notice when Powell would be arraigned. But he contrived to have the prisoner put to the bar; and no persons appearing to prosecute, he was ordered to be taken away; after some time, however, he was again put to the bar, then ordered away, and afterwards put up a third time, proclamation being made each time for the prosecutor to appear. At length the jury were charged with the prisoner, and as no accusation was adduced against him he was necessarily dismissed; and the court ordered Mr. Eastlick's recognizances to be estreated. Powell was ordered to remain in custody till the next sessions, there being another indictment against him; and Mr. Eastlick represented the behaviour of Wild to the court, who justly reprimanded him with great severity. Powell put himself into a salivation in order to avoid being brought to trial the next sessions; but notwithstanding this stratagem he was arraigned and convicted, and executed on the 20th of March, 1716-17.

(To be continued.)

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

No. 22.

JULY 27, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

JONATHAN WILD.



[WILD APPREHENDING JOHN BUTLER.]

CHAPTER II.

At the time of Arnold Powell's execution, Wild had quitted his apartments at Mrs. Seagoe's, and hired a house adjoining the Coopers' Arms, on the opposite side of the Old Bailey, to which we have already alluded.

The unexampled villanies of Jonathan were now become an object of so much consequence as to excite the particular attention of the legislature; and in the year 1718 an act was passed deeming every person guilty of a capital offence, who should accept a reward in consequence of restoring stolen effects without prosecuting the thief. It was the general opinion, at the time, that this law would effectually suppress his iniquitous practices; but after some trifling interruptions to his proceedings, he devised

means for evading the law, which were for several years attended with success. The plan he now adopted was that related at full in that part of our detail, in the first chapter, which mentions his setting aside his applications to injured parties, and opening an office for the purpose of giving them an opportunity to apply to him.

After the passing of the law referred to, however, a certain honourable personage sent to Jonathan, to warn him of going on any longer at his old rate, for it was now become a capital crime, and if he was apprehended for it he could expect no mercy. Jonathan received the reproof with abundant thankfulness and submission, but never altered the manner of his behaviour in the least, but, on the contrary, carried on his practices more

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openly and publicly than ever. Indeed, to compensate for this, he seemed to double his diligenece in apprehending thieves, and brought the most notorious amongst them to the gallows, even though he himself had bred them up in their art.

Of these none was so open and apparent a case as that of Blake, alias Blue-skin. This fellow had, from a child, been under the tuition of Mr. Wild; who paid for the curing his wounds whilst he was in the Compter, allowed him 3s. 6d. a week subsistence, and afforded his help to get him out at last; yet, soon after this, he abandoned him to his own conduct, and in a short space caused him to be apprehended for breaking open the house of Mr. Kneebone, which brought him to the gallows. When this fellow came to be tried, Wild assured him that his body should be handsomely interred in a good coffin, at his own expense. This was strange comfort, and such as by no means suited Blueskin, who insisted peremptorily upon a transportation pardon, which he said he was sure Jonathian had interest enough to procure for him. But upon Wild's assuring him that he had not, and that it was in vain for him to flatter himself with such hopes, Blueskin was at last in such a passion, that, though this discourse happened in the presence of the court then sitting, Blake could not forbear taking revenge for the insult towards him, and therefore elapped one hand under Jonathian's chin, and with the other cut a large gash across the throat, which everybody, at the time it was done, judged mortal. Jonathian was carried off, covered with blood; and though at that time he professed the greatest resentment for such base usage, affirming that he had never deserved to be so treated, yet when he afterwards came to be under sentence of death himself, he regretted prodigiously the escape he then made, often wishing that Blake had put an end to his life, rather than left him to so ignominious a fate. Indeed, it was not Blake alone that had entertained a notion of putting him to death; he had dislodged almost the whole group of villains, and there were numbers of them who had taken it into their heads to deprive him of life. His escapes in the apprehending such persons were sometimes very narrow, having received wounds in almost every part of his body. He had his skull twice

fractured; and his whole constitution was so broken by these accidents, and the great fatigues he went through, that when he fell under the misfortunes which brought him to his death, and was under confinement in Newgate, he was scarce able to stand upright, and was never in a condition to go to chapel.

Our adventurer's business still increased exceedingly, and he opened an office in Newtoner's Lane, to the management of which he appointed his man Abraham. This Israelite proved a remarkably industrious and faithful servant to Jonathian, who intrusted him with matters of the greatest importance.

A lady had her pocket picked of bank-notes to the amount of 7000*l*. She related the particulars of her robbery to Abraham, who in a few days apprehended three pickpockets, and conducted them to Jonathian's lodgings at Dulwich. Upon their delivering up all the notes Wild dismissed them. When the lady applied to Abraham he restored her property, and she generously made him a present of 400*l*., which he delivered to his employer. These pickpockets were afterwards apprehended for some other offences, and transported. One of them carefully concealed a bank-note for 1000*l*. in the lining of his coat; and on his arrival at Maryland he procured cash for the note, and having purchased his freedom went to New York, where he assumed the character of a gentleman.

Wild's business would not permit him to remain long at Dulwich; and being under great inconvenience from the want of Abraham's assistance, he did not keep open his office in Newtoner's Lane for more than three months.

About a week after the return of Wild from Dulwich, a mercer in Lombard Street ordered a porter to carry to a particular inn a box containing goods to the amount of 200*l*. In his way the porter was observed by three thieves, one of whom, being more genteelly dressed than his companion, thus accosted the man: "If you are willing to earn sixpence, my friend, step to the tavern at the end of the street, and ask for the roqueler I left at the bar; but, lest the waiter should scruple giving it you, take my gold watch as a token. Pitch your burden upon this bulk, and I will take care of it till you return; but be sure

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you make haste." The man went to the tavern, and, having delivered his message, was informed that the thing he inquired for had not been left there; upon which the porter said, "Since you scruple to trust me, look at this gold watch which the gentleman gave me to produce as a token." What was called a gold watch, being examined, proved to be only pewter lackered. In consequence of this discovery the porter hastened back where he had left the box, but neither that nor the sharpers were to be found. The porter was with reason apprehensive that he should incur his master's displeasure if he related what had happened; and, in order to excuse his folly, he determined upon the stratagem of rolling himself in the mud; when he went home and said he had been knocked down and robbed of the goods. The proprietor of the goods applied to Wild, and related to him the story he had been told by his servant. Wild told him he had been deceived as to the manner in which the trunk was lost, and that he should be convinced of it if he would send for his servant. A messenger was despatched for the porter, and upon his arrival Abraham conducted him into a room separated from the office only by a slight partition. "Your master," said Abraham, "has just been here concerning the box you lost; and he desired that you might be sent for in order to communicate the particulars of the robbery. What kind of people were the thieves, and in what manner did they take the box away?" In reply, the man said, "Why, two or three fellows knocked me down, and then carried off the box." Hereupon Abraham told him, that "if they knocked him down there was but little chance of the property being recovered, since that offence rendered them liable to be hanged: but," continued he, "let me prevail upon you to speak the truth; for, if you persist in a refusal, be assured we shall discover it by some other means. Pray, do you recollect nothing about a token? Were you not to fetch a roquelet from a tavern; and did you not produce a gold watch as a token to induce the waiter to deliver it?" Astonished at Abraham's words, the porter declared he believed he was a witch, and immediately acknowledged in what manner he had lost the box. One of the villains concerned in this robbery lived in the house

formerly inhabited by Wild, in Cock Alley, Cripplegate. To this place Jonathan and Abraham repaired; and when they were at the door they overheard a dispute between the man and his wife, during which the former declared that he would set out for Holland the next day. Upon this they forced open the door, and Wild saying he was under the necessity of preventing his intended voyage, took him into custody, and conducted him to the Compter. On the following day, the goods being returned to the owner, Wild received a handsome reward; and he contrived to procure the discharge of the thief.

A gentleman who dealt in silks, near Covent Garden, had a piece of extraordinarily rich damask bespoke for the birthday suit of a certain duke; and the laceman having brought such trimmings as were required, the mercer had made the whole up in a parcel, tied it at each end with a blue riband, sealed with the greatest exactness, and placed it on one end of the counter, in expectation of his grace's servant calling for it in the afternoon, in accordance with the instructions which he knew had been given him. The servant came; and when the mercer went to deliver the goods, the piece was gone, and no account could possibly be had of it; and as the master had been all day in the shop there was no room for charging anything either upon the carelessness or dishonesty of his servants. After an hour's fretting, therefore, seeing no other means towards a remedy, he determined to communicate his loss to Mr. Wild, in the hope of receiving some benefit by his assistance, the loss consisting not so much in the value of the things as in the disappointment it would be to the birthday. Upon this consideration a hackney-coach was immediately called, and away the coachman was ordered to drive directly to the house of Mr. Wild, in the Old Bailey. On arriving, acquainting Jonathan with his business, the usual deposit of a crown was made; and the common questions of how, when, and where having been asked, the mercer became very impatient, and said, with some warmth, "Mr. Wild, tell me in a few words if it be in your power to serve me; if it is, I have 30 guineas here ready to put down; but if you expect that I should dance attendance for a week or two, I assure you I shall not be willing

to part with half the money." "Good sir," replied Wild, "I am no thief, sir, nor receiver of stolen goods; so that if you do not think fit to give me time to inquire, you must even take what measures you please." When the mercer discovered that he was likely to be left without any hope of success, he began to talk in a milder manner, and with the most earnest entreaties fell to persuading Jonathan to think of some method to serve him, and that immediately. Wild stepped out a minute or two, and as soon as he returned told the gentleman it was not in his power to serve him in such a hurry, if at all: however, in a day or two he might be able to give him a positive answer. The mercer protested that a day or two would lessen the value of the goods one half to him; and Jonathan protested as firmly that it was not in his power to do anything sooner. At last a servant came in a great hurry, and told Wild there was a gentleman below desired to speak with him immediately. Jonathan bowed, begged the gentleman's pardon, and told him he would wait on him again in one minute. In about five minutes he returned with a very smiling countenance, and, addressing the gentleman, said, "I protest, sir, you are the luckiest man I ever knew: I spoke to one of my people just now to go to a house where I know some lifters resort, and directed him to speak of your robbery, and to say you had been with me and offered 30 guineas for the things. This story has had its effect; and if you go directly home I fancy you will hear more news of it than I am able to tell you. But pray, sir, remember the 30 guineas was your own offer; you are at free liberty to give them or not; it is nothing to me, though I have done all for you in my power." Away went the mercer, wondering where the affair would end; but as he walked up Southampton Street a fellow overtook him, patted him on the shoulder, delivered the bundle unopened, and told him the price of it was 20 guineas. The mercer paid it him, and returned to Jonathan in half-an-hour and begged him to accept of the 10 guineas he had saved him for his pains. Jonathan told him, he had saved him nothing, but he supposed that the people thought 20 guineas enough, considering that they were now pretty safe from prosecution. The mercer still pressed the 10 guineas

on Jonathau, who, after taking them out of his hand, returned five of them, and assured him he had more than enough; adding, "It is satisfaction enough, sir, to an honest man that he is able to procure people their goods again." This was a remarkable instance of the moderation he sometimes practised, the better to conceal his villanies. But the reader must bear in mind that Jonathan had, probably, not so little as one third of the 20 guineas paid on the delivery of the goods into the mercer's hands.

We add another story no less extraordinary than the foregoing.—A lady whose husband, being out of the country, had sent over draughts for her assistance, to the amount of between 1500 and 2000*l.*, lost the pocket-book in which they were contained, between Bucklersbury and the Magpie aloe-house, in Leadenhall Street, where the merchant lived on whom they were drawn. She, however, went to the gentleman, who advised her to go immediately to Mr. Wild. To Jonathan she accordingly went, deposited the crown, and answered the questions put to her. Jonathan then told her, that in an hour or two some of his people might possibly hear who it was that picked her pocket. The lady was so desirous to recover her property, that she at last went so far as to offer a hundred guineas. Wild replied, "Though they are of much greater value to you, madam, yet they cannot be worth anything like it to them: therefore, keep your own counsel, say nothing in the hearing of my people, and I will give the best directions I am able for the recovery of your notes. In the mean while, if you will go to any tavern near, and endeavour to eat a bit of dinner, I will bring you an answer before the cloth is taken away." She said she was not acquainted with any house thereabouts, on which Wild named the Baptist's Head; but the lady would not be satisfied unless Mr. Wild promised to eat with her. He at last complied, and she ordered a fowl and sausages at the house he had appointed. She waited there about three quarters of an hour, when Wild made his appearance and told her he had heard some news of her book, desiring her to tell out 10 guineas on the table, in case she should have occasion for them; and as the cook came up to acquaint her that the fowl was ready, Jonathan begged she would just step

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down and see whether there was a woman waiting at his door. The lady did as he desired her; and perceiving a woman in a scarlet riding-hood walk twice or thrice by Wild's house, her curiosity prompted her to go near her; but recollecting she had left the gold upon the table up stairs, she went and snatched it up without saying a word to Jonathan, and then, running down again, went towards the woman in the red hood, who was still walking to and fro before his door. No sooner did she approach towards her than the woman came directly up to her and presented the pocket-book, desiring she would open it and see that all was safe: the lady did so, and, on her saying "It is all right," the woman in the riding-hood said—"Here's another little note for you, madam," at the same time handing her a slip of paper, on which was written—"Ten guineas." The lady delivered her the money immediately, adding also a piece for herself. She then returned to Wild with a great deal of joy, and told him she had got her book, and she would now eat her dinner heartily. When the table was cleared, she thought it was time to go to the merchant, who had probably now returned from Change; but she first thought it necessary, besides paying the tavern bill, to make Mr. Wild a handsome present, for which purpose she put her hand in her pocket, when, to her great surprise, she found her purse was gone, in which was the remainder of 50 guineas she had borrowed of the merchant in the morning. She looked very much confused, but did not speak a word. Jonathan inquired—"Are you not well, madam?" To which she replied, "I am tolerably well as to health, sir; but am quite amazed that the woman took but 10 guineas for the book, besides one I gave her, and at the same time picked my pocket of 39!" Wild appeared as confused as the lady, and said he hoped she was not in earnest, but begged her, if it were so, not to disturb herself, for she should not lose one farthing. Jonathan then requested her to sit still, and, stepping over to his own house, gave, as may be supposed, the necessary directions for a recovery; for in less than half-an-hour the little Jew, Abraham, entered the room, and told him the woman was taken, and was on the point of going to the Compter. "You shall see, madam," said Jonathan, turning

to the lady, "what exemplary punishment I will give this infamous woman." Then turning himself to Abraham, he says, "Was the green purse of money taken about her?" "Yes, sir," replied his agent. "O, la! then," said the lady, "I will take the purse with all my heart: I would not prosecute the poor wretch for the world." "Would you not so, madam?" said Wild, "Well then, we will see what is to be done:" on which, he whispered his emissary, and then despatched him. He was no sooner gone, than upon Jonathan's saying the lady would be too late at the merchant's, they took coach, and stopped over against the Compter Gate. The lady wondered at all this; but they had been in a tavern there a very little time when back comes Jonathan's emissary with the green purse, and the gold in it. "She says, sir," said the fellow to Wild, "she has only broken a guinea of the money for garnish and wine, and here is all the rest of it." "Very well," says Jonathan; "give it to the lady. Will you please to tell it, madam?" The lady accordingly did, and found there were 49 guineas. "Bless me," says she, "I think the woman's bewitched; she has sent me 10 guineas more than I should have had." "No, madam," replied Wild; "she has sent you the 10 guineas back again, which she received for the book: I never suffer any such practices in my way; I obliged her, therefore, to give up the money she had taken, as well as that she had stolen." The lady was so much confounded at these unaccountable incidents, that she scarcely knew what she did: at last recollecting herself, "Well, Mr. Wild," says she, "then I think the least I can do is to oblige you to accept of these 10 guineas." "No," replied he, "nor of 10 farthings; I scorn all actions of such a sort as much as any man of quality in the kingdom: all the reward I desire, madam, is, that you will acknowledge I have acted like an honest man." He had scarce pronounced these words, when he rose up, made her a bow, and left her.

On the 23d or 24th of January, 1718, or the following year, two women, named Margaret Dodwell and Alice Wright, went to Wild's house, and desired to have the privilege of a private interview with him. Observing one of the women to be with child, he imagined that she might want a father to her expected issue; for it was a

part of his business to procure persons to stand in the place of real fathers of children born in consequence of illicit commerce. Being shown into another room, Dodwell spoke in the following manner: "I do not come, Mr. Wild, to inform you that I have met with any loss, but that I wish to find something. If you will follow my advice, you may acquire a thousand pounds, or perhaps many thousands." Jonathan here expressed the utmost willingness to engage in an enterprise so highly lucrative, and the woman thus proceeded: "My plan is, that you must procure two or three stout fellows who will undertake to rob a house in Wormwood Street, Bishopsgate. The house is kept by a cane-chair maker named James Cook, who has a lodger, an ancient lady, immensely rich; and she keeps her money in a box in her apartment: she is now gone into the country to fetch more. One of the men must find an opportunity of getting into the shop in the evening, and conceal himself in a sawpit there; so that he may let his companions in when the family have retired to rest. But it will be particularly necessary to secure two stout apprentices and a boy, who sleep in the garret. I wish, however, no murder may be committed." Upon this Wright said, "Pooh, pooh! when people engage in matters of this sort, they must manage as well as they can, and so as to provide for their own safety." Dodwell resumed—"The boys secured, no kind of difficulty will attend your getting possession of the old lady's money, she being from home, and her room under that where the boys sleep. In the room facing that of the old lady, Cook and his wife lie: he is a man of remarkable courage; great caution therefore must be observed respecting him: and indeed I think it would be as well to knock him on the head; for then his drawers may be rifled, and he is never without money. A woman and a child sleep under the room belonging to the old lady; but I hope no violence will be offered to them." Having heard this proposal, Wild took the women into custody and lodged them in Newgate. It is not to be supposed that his conduct in this affair proceeded from a principle of virtue or justice, but that he declined engaging in the iniquitous scheme from an apprehension that their design was to draw him into a snare. - Dodwell had

lived five months in Mr. Cook's house, and though she paid no rent he was too generous to turn her out, or in any manner to oppress her. Wild prosecuted Dodwell and Wright for a misdemeanour, and, being found guilty, they were sentenced each to suffer six months' imprisonment.

Wild had inserted in his book a gold watch, a quantity of fine lace, and other property of considerable value, which John Butler had stolen from a house at Newington Green; but Butler, instead of coming to account as usual, had declined his felonious practices, and lived on the produce of his booty. Wild, highly enraged at being excluded his share, determined to pursue every possible means for subjecting him to the power of justice. Being informed that he lodged at a public-house in Bishopsgate Street, Wild went to the house early one morning, when Butler, hearing him ascend the stairs, jumped out of the window of his room, and, climbing over the wall of the yard, got into the street. Wild broke open the door of the room, and was exceedingly disappointed and mortified to find that the man of whom he was in pursuit had made his escape. In the mean time Butler ran into a house, the door of which stood open, and descending to the kitchen where some women were washing, told them he was pursued by a bailiff; and they advised him to conceal himself in the coal-hole. Jonathan coming out of the alehouse; and seeing a shop on the opposite side of the way open, he inquired of the master, who was a dyer, whether a man had not taken refuge in his house. The dyer answered in the negative; saying, he had not left his shop more than a minute since it had been opened. Wild requested to search the house, and the dyer readily complied. Wild asked the women if they knew whether a man had taken shelter in the house which they denied; but he informing them that the man he sought was a thief, they said he would find him in the coal-hole. Having procured a light, Wild and his attendants searched the place without effect; and they examined every part of the house with no better success. He observed that the villain must have made his escape into the street; on which the dyer said, that could not be the case; that if he had entered, he must still be in the house, for

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he had not quitted the shop, and it was impossible that a man could pass to the street without his knowledge; and he advised Wild to search the cellar again. They now all went into the cellar, and, after some time spent in searching, the dyer turned up a large vessel used in his business, and Butler appeared. Wild asked him in what manner he had disposed of the goods he stole from Newington Green, upbraided him with ingratitude, and declared that he should certainly be hanged. Butler, however, knowing the means by which an accommodation might be effected, directed Wild to go to his lodging, and look behind the head of the bed, where he would find what would recompense him for his time and trouble. Wild went to the place, and found what fully satisfied him; but as Butler was apprehended in a public manner, the other was under the necessity of taking him before a magistrate, who committed him for trial. He was therefore tried the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey; hut by the artful management of Wild, instead of being condemned to death, he was only sentenced to transportation.

Being at an inn in Smithfield, Wild observed a large trunk in the yard; and, imagining that it contained property of value, he hastened home and instructed one of the thieves he employed to carry it off. The man whom he employed in this affair was called Jeremiah Rann, who was reckoned one of the most dexterous thieves in London: having dressed himself so exactly as to resemble a porter, he carried away the trunk without being observed. Mr. Jarvis, who followed the business of a whip-maker in the neighbourhood, the proprietor of the trunk, no sooner discovered his loss than he applied to Wild, who returned him the goods, in consideration of receiving the sum of 10 guineas. Some time afterwards a disagreement took place between Jonathan and Rann, and the former apprehended the latter, who was tried and condemned. The day before his execution Rann sent for Mr. Jarvis, and related to him all the particulars of the trunk. Jarvis threatened Wild with a prosecution; but Jonathan's apprehensions on that score were soon dissipated, by Mr. J.'s decease.

Wild, being much embarrassed to find out a method by which he might safely

dispose of the property that was not claimed by the respective proprietors, revolved in his mind a great variety of schemes; and at length he purchased a sloop, in order to transport the goods to Holland and Flanders, and gave the command of the vessel to a notorious thief, named Roger Johnson. Ostend was the port at which this vessel traded principally; but when the goods were not disposed of there, Johnson navigated her to Bruges, Ghent, Brussels, and other places. He brought home lace, wine, brandy, &c.; which commodities were landed in the night, without adding anything to the revenue. This trade was continued about two years, when, five pieces of lace being lost, Johnson deducted the value of them from the mate's pay. Violently irritated by this conduct, the mate lodged an information against Johnson, for clandestinely running on shore a great quantity of various kinds of goods; in consequence of which the vessel was exchequered, and Johnson was cast in damages to the amount of 700*l.*; and those commercial proceedings were thus entirely ruined.

A disagreement had for some time subsisted between this Johnson and Thomas Edwards, who kept a house of resort for thieves in Long Lane, concerning the division of some plunder. Meeting one day in the Strand, they charged each other with felony, and were both taken into custody. Wild bailed Johnson, and Edwards was not prosecuted. The latter had no sooner recovered his liberty than he gave information against Wild, whose private warehouses, on being searched, were found to contain a great quantity of stolen goods. Wild arrested Edwards in the name of Johnson, to whom he pretended the goods belonged, and he was taken to the Marshalsea, but the next day he procured bail. Edwards determined to wreak his vengeance upon Johnson, and for some time industriously sought him in vain; but at length he met him usually in Whitechapel Road, and gave him into the custody of a peace-officer, who conducted him to an adjacent ale-house. Johnson sent for Jonathan, who immediately attended, accompanied by one of his men, Quilt Arnold; and Wild promoted a riot, during which Johnson availed himself of the opportunity to effect his escape.

(To be continued.)

EDWARD JEFFRIES.

This culprit was a gentleman by birth and education; and, until a short time previous to the commission of the crime for which he suffered, he ever deputed himself as such. The details truly afford a melancholy instance of the fatal effects of illicit love and jealousy. He was born about the year 1666, at Devizes, Wiltshire; and at a proper age was articled to an eminent attorney in London, and afterwards carried on business on his own account: but his father dying while he was yet young, and leaving him a considerable fortune, he entered into too profuse a way of living, and embarked in the gulf of debauchery and sensuality, which dissipated his substance. Soon after, he had the good fortune to marry a young lady of St. Alban's, with whom he received a decent property, and might have lived in prosperity with her, but that he continued his former course of dissipation, which occasioned a separation. He now associated with Mrs. Elizabeth Torshell, with whom a Mr. Woodcock had likewise an illicit connexion.

Jeffries and Woodcock had frequent debates concerning this woman, but at length appeared to be reconciled, and dined together at the Blue Posts, near Pall Mall, on the day that the former committed the crime for which he suffered death. After dinner they went into the fields near Chelsea: a quarrel arising between them respecting Mrs. Torshell, Jeffries drew his sword; and before Woodcock, who was left-handed, could draw his, he received a wound, of which he almost immediately died. We need scarcely remind our readers that at this period it was the custom to wear a sword.

Woodcock had no sooner fallen than Jeffries rubbed some of his blood upon his (deceased's) sword, took some things out of his pocket, and then went towards Chelsea, where he had appointed to meet Mrs. Torshell.

There were some boys playing in the fields, who saw the body of the deceased, and a part of Jeffries' transactions with it. The body was removed to St. Martin's church-yard to be owned; and on the following day Mrs. Torshell came, among an immense crowd of people, to see it; and she was taken into custody, on her saying that she knew the murdered party, having been acquainted with him, at the

same time expressing great concern at his unhappy fate.

Torshell's lodgings being searched, a number of articles were found, which she admitted Mr. Jeffries had brought there, though they appeared to be the property of Mr. Woodcock. On this Jeffries was also taken into custody, and both of them were committed to Newgate.

At the trial Jeffries alleged, in his line of defence, that he was at another place at the time the murder was committed, and called several witnesses to prove an alibi; but, as these did not agree in the circumstances, he was convicted, and received sentence of death. Mrs. Torshell was acquitted.

All the while Jeffries lay under condemnation he repeatedly denied having committed the murder, and exerted his utmost interest to obtain a reprieve, which he was at length promised, through the medium of the Duke of Ormond. On the 19th of September, 1705, when the procession towards Tyburn had reached as far as St. Giles's, a respite met him, to defer his execution till the 21st of the same month; on which day he was executed, his guilt being too apparent.

At the place of execution he again denied the fact; but said he freely forgave those who had injured him, and died in charity with all men. He betrayed no symptoms of fear during the preparations for his awful exit.

THE IDLE MAN A KNAVE.

No father can transmit to his son the right of being useless to his fellow-men. In a state of society where every individual must necessarily be maintained at the expense of the community, he certainly owes the state so much labour as will pay for his subsistence, and this without exception of rank or person. Rich or poor, strong or weak, every idle citizen is a knave. The man who earns not his subsistence, but eats the bread of idleness, is no better than a thief; and a pensioner who is paid by the state for no services, differs little from a robber supported by his plunder on the highway.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

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AUGUST 3, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE ROBBERY OF MRS. HUTCHINGS, OF CHELSEA.



[THE KITCHEN SCENE.]

Mrs. HUTCHINGS was a farmer's widow, left by her husband in good circumstances, and with three children—two boys and a girl: she lived in King's Road, Chelsea. One Saturday evening some Jews met in Chelsea fields, lurking about there till ten o'clock. Having put the children to bed, the widow went into the kitchen, where her two maid-servants were finishing the day's work. She had scarcely told them to go to bed when a knock was heard at the door. "Go," said she, to one of them; but the girl hesitated: the other was also unwilling to see who came at so unseasonable an hour. "Foolish girls," said the mistress, "we will all go;" and taking each of them by the hand, she proceeded to open the door. A fierce and bearded banditti rushed in, seized the terrified females, and threatened them with death.

This gang afterwards proved to have consisted of ten Jews: Levi Weil (a Jewish physician), Asher Weil (his brother), Jacob Lazarus, and Solomon Porter, hanged; Lazarus Harry and Marcus Hartagh, acquitted for want of evidence; Daniel Isaacs, admitted evidence; and Abraham Linevill, who absconded.

Levi Weil had been educated in a rank above his accomplices. He had studied physic in the university of Leyden, where he was admitted to the degree of doctor in that faculty; and then coming to England he practised physic in London, with no inconsiderable degree of success, and was always known by the name of Doctor Weil: but so destitute was he of principle, and such was the depravity of his heart, that he determined to engage in the dangerous practice of robbery; and

having formed this fatal resolution he wrote to Amsterdam, to some poor Jews, desiring them to come to England and assist him in his intended depredations on the public. The inconsiderate men no sooner received Weil's letter, than they procured a passport from the English consul, and, embarking in the Harwich packet-boat, arrived in England. They lost no time in repairing to London; and immediately attending Dr. Weil, he informed them that his plan was, that they should go out in the day-time, and minutely survey such houses near London as might probably afford a good booty in the night: this they did while pretending to purchase old clothes.

Mrs. Hutchings was a female of some strength of body: she resisted the outrage, and, finding the villains using one of the girls with immodest brutality, attempted to assist her; but the wicked doctor seized the mistress, and forced her to sit down upon a chair. He then pulled up part of her clothes, and held them over her head, with a view of preventing her identifying the gang, threatening to murder her in case of farther resistance. Terrified into submission, she remained some time almost stifled, while his associates secured the other women.

Five of them, headed by the doctor, then went up stairs; the others remaining to guard their prisoners, and to prevent the surprise of an alarm. They first entered the room where John and Thomas, the young sons of Mrs. Hutchings, were in bed. They threw off the bed-clothes, and happily the boys still slept. In this way they proceeded in the daughter's bed-room, and she also slept, and was thereby secure.

From the children's room they proceeded to the attic story, where John Slow and William Stone, two husbands in the service of Mrs. Hutchings, were asleep: these unfortunate men they immediately determined to murder. The doctor aimed a blow at the breast of Stone, intended to kill him, but it only stunned him. Slow started up, and the villains cried, "Shoot him! shoot him!" A pistol was fired—he fell, exclaiming, "Lord have mercy on me, I am murdered!" He was then dragged to the head of the stairs; while Stone, recovering his senses, jumped out of bed, and escaped to the roof of the house, through the window.

He was fired at, but without effect; and he was sought by the villains, calling and threatening him, while he crouched behind a chimney.

They now descended, and the children yet slept. They returned to the women, and plundered the house of plate and everything valuable. Finding no money, they once more ferociously came to Mrs. Hutchings, and demanded it, saying, they knew it was in the house. She gave them her watch, and said she had no cash, when one of them struck her in the mouth with a force that loosened her teeth; and, now expecting to be murdered, she was unloosed, upon promise of showing them where her money was concealed. She went up stairs, and gave them a purse, containing 64 guineas. With this, and the other plunder, which they deposited in bags brought for the purpose, the villains quitted the house.

Mrs. Hutchings, finding they did not return, went to see how her servants had been used. She found the maid-servants bound together; and no sooner had she given them their liberty, than the wounded man approached her, and said, "How are you, madam? for I am dying." These words were scarcely pronounced, when he dropped on the floor; and having languished under the most execrable pain till the afternoon of the following day, he then expired, leaving behind him a wife and two children.

The villains having effected an escape, remained undiscovered for a considerable time, till Daniel Isaacs, one of the gang, became the means of discovering his accomplices. Isaacs was one of those unhappy men who had been induced to come from Holland in consequence of Dr. Weil's letter; and being now reduced to circumstances of distress, he applied for assistance to the elders of the Jewish synagogue. The treasurer, Mr. Myers, refused Isaacs any immediate assistance, urging, as a reason, that he had acted improperly in leaving Holland.

A reward was offered from the Secretary of State's office, for the apprehension of those concerned in the robbery and murder at Mrs. Hutchings's; and this offer was seconded by that of a much more considerable reward from the city of London, on which Isaacs, reduced by poverty, was tempted by the prospect of the reward, and went to Mr. Myers, whom he made ac-

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acquainted with the whole of the shocking transaction. Mr. Myers took Isaacs to Sir John Fielding's office, when he was admitted an evidence against his accomplices, and six were soon apprehended; but the other made his escape. Though the villains, in order to disguise their Jewish appearance, had shaved themselves, and altered their dress, Mrs. Hutchings singled them out, and swore to their persons.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of December, 1771, Levi and Asher Weil, Hartagh, Lazarus, Porter, Harry, and Linevill (absent), were indicted for the felony and murder above mentioned; when the two named Weil, Lazarus, and Porter were capitally convicted; Hartagh and Harry were acquitted. These men, as is customary in all cases of murder, when it can be made convenient to the court, were tried on a Friday, and on the following day they were anathematized in the synagogue. As their execution was to take place on the Monday following, one of the rabbies went to them in the press-yard of Newgate, and delivered to each of them a Hebrew book; but declined attending them to the place of death, nor even prayed with them on his visit.

At the place of execution, having prayed together, and sung a Hebrew hymn, they were launched into eternity.

JONATHAN WILD.

CHAPTER III.

INFORMATION being laid against Wild for the rescue of Johnson, he judged it prudent to abscond, and he remained concealed for three weeks; at the end of which time, supposing danger to be over, he returned home. Learning that Wild had returned, Mr. Jones, high-constable of Holborn division, went to his house in the Old Bailey, on the 15th of February, 1725, and apprehended him and Quilt Arnold, and took them before Sir John Fryer, who committed them to Newgate, on a charge of having assisted in the escape of Johnson.

On Wednesday, the 24th of the same month, Wild moved to be either admitted to bail, or discharged, or brought to trial that sessions. On the following Friday a warrant of detainer was produced against him in court, and to it was affixed certain

articles of information, of which a copy is subjoined.

1. That for many years past he had been a confederate with great numbers of highwaymen, pickpockets, housebreakers, shoplifters, and other thieves.

2. That he had formed a kind of corporation of thieves, of which he was the head or director; and, that notwithstanding his pretended services, in detecting and prosecuting offenders, he procured such only to be hanged as concealed their booty or refused to share it with him.

3. That he had divided the town and country into so many districts, and appointed distinct gangs for each, who regularly accounted with him for their robberies. That he had also a particular set to steal at churches in time of divine service; and likewise other moving detachments to attend at court on birth-days, balls, both houses of Parliament, circuits, country fairs, &c.

4. That the persons employed by him were for the most part felon convicts, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported was expired; and that he made choice of them to be agents, because they could not be legal evidences against him, and because he had it in his power to take from them what part of the stolen goods he thought fit, and otherwise use them ill, or hang them, as he pleased.

5. That he had from time to time supplied such convicted felons with money and clothes, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them; particularly some, against whom there are now informations for counterfeiting and diminishing broad pieces and guineas.

6. That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods, as well as of writings of all kinds, for nearly fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate with the abovementioned convicted felons in committing robberies.

7. That, in order to carry on these vile practices, and to gain some credit with the ignorant multitude, he usually carried a short silver staff, as a badge of authority from the government, which he used to produce when he himself was concerned in any robbery.

8. That he had, under his care and direction, several warehouses for receiving and concealing stolen goods; and also a ship for carrying off jewels, watches,

and other valuable goods to Holland, wherc he had settled a superannuated thief for his factor.

9. That he kept in pay several artists to make alterations, and transform watches, seals, snuff-boxes, rings, and other valuable things, that they might not be known; several of which he used to present to such persons as he thought might be of service to him.

10. That he seldom or never helped the owners to the notes and papers they had lost, unless he found them able exactly to specify and describe them, and then often insisted on more than half the value.

11. And, lastly, it appears that he has often sold human blood, by procuring false evidence to swear against persons for acts of which they were not guilty; sometimes to prevent them from being evidences against himself, and at other times for the sake of the great reward given by the government.

The information of Mr. Jones was also read in court, setting forth that two persons would be produced to accuse the prisoner of capital offences. The men alluded to in the above affidavit were John Follard and Thomas Butler, who had been convicted; but it being deemed expedient to grant them a pardon, on condition of their appearing in support of a prosecution against Wild, they pleaded to the same, and were remanded to Newgate till the next sessions.

Saturday, the 12th of April, Wild by counsel moved that his trial might be postponed till the ensuing sessions; and an affidavit made by the prisoner was read in court, purporting, that till the preceding evening he was entirely ignorant of a bill having been found against him; that he knew not what offence was charged against him; and was unable to procure two material witnesses, one of them living near Brentford, and the other in Somersetshire. This was opposed by the counsel for the crown, who urged, that it would be improper to defer the trial on so frivolous a pretext as that made by the prisoner; that the affidavit expressed an ignorance of what offence he was charged with, and yet declared that two nameless persons were material witnesses.

The prisoner informed the court that his witnesses were — Hays, at the Pack-horse on Turnham Green, and — Wilson, a clothier at Frome; adding, that he

had heard it slightly intimated that he was indicted for a felony upon a person named Stretham. Wild's counsel moved that the names of Hays and Wilson might be inserted in the affidavit, and that it should be again sworn to by the prisoner.

The counsel for the prosecution observed, that justice would not be denied the prisoner, though it could not be reasonably expected that he would be allowed any extraordinary favours or indulgences. Follard and Butler were at length bound each in the penalty of 500*l.* to appear at the ensuing sessions, when it was agreed that Wild's fate should be determined.

On Saturday, the 15th of May, 1725, Jonathan Wild was indicted for privately stealing in the house of Catherine Stretham, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, fifty yards of lace, the property of the said Catherine, on the 22d of January, 1724-5. He was a second time indicted for feloniously receiving of the said Catherine, on the 10th of March, 10 guineas on account, under pretence of restoring the said lace, without apprehending the felon who stole the property.

Previous to his trial, Wild distributed among the jurymen, and other persons who were walking on the leads of the court, a great number of printed papers, under the title of "A List of Persons discovered, apprehended, and convicted of several Robberies on the Highway; and also for Burglary and Housebreaking; and also for returning from Transportation; by Jonathan Wild." This list contained the names of thirty-five for robbing on the highway; twenty-two for house-breaking; and ten for returning from transportation. To the list was annexed the following

"*Nota Bene.* Several others have been also convicted for the like crimes; but, remembering not the persons' names who had been robbed, I omit the criminals' names.

"Please to observe, that several others have been also convicted for shoplifting, picking of pockets, &c., by the female sex, which are capital crimes, and which are too tedious to be inserted here, and the prosecutors not willing to be exposed.

"In regard therefore of the numbers above convicted, some that have yet escaped justice are endeavouring to take away the life of the said

"JONATHAN WILD."

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The prisoner, on being put to the bar, requested that the witnesses might be examined apart, which was complied with.

Henry Kelly deposed, that by the prisoner's direction he went, in company with Margaret Murphy, to the prosecutor's shop under pretence of buying some lace; that he stole a tin box, and gave it to Murphy in order to deliver to Wild, who waited in the street for the purpose of receiving the plunder, and rescuing them if they should be taken into custody; that they returned together to Wild's house, where the box was opened, and it contained eleven pieces of lace; that Wild said he could afford no more than 5 guineas, as he should not be able to get more than 10 guineas for returning the goods to the owner; that he received as his share 3 guineas and a crown, and that Murphy had what remained of the 5 guineas.

Margaret Murphy was next sworn, and her evidence corresponded in every particular with that of Kelly. This witness (Murphy) was executed on the 27th of March, 1728, for stealing plate.

Catherine Stretham the elder deposed, that between three and four in the afternoon of the said 22d of January, a man and woman came to her house pretending that they wanted to purchase some lace; that she showed them two or three parcels, to the quality and price of which they objected; and that in about three hours after they had left the shop, she missed a tin box containing a quantity of lace, estimated at 50*l.* value.

The prisoner's counsel observed, that it was their opinion he could not be legally convicted, because the indictment positively expressed that *he stole* the lace in the house, whereas it had been proved in evidence that he was at a considerable distance when the fact was committed. They admitted that he might be liable to conviction as an accessory before the fact, or guilty of receiving the property knowing it to be stolen; but conceived that he could not be deemed guilty of a capital felony unless the indictment declared (as the act directs) that he did *assist, command, or hire*.

Lord Raymond presided when Wild was tried; and in summing up the evidence his lordship observed, that the guilt of the prisoner was a point beyond dispute; but that, as a similar case was not to be

found in the law-books, it became his duty to act with great caution. He was not satisfied that the construction urged by the counsel for the crown could be put upon the indictment, and, as the life of a fellow-creature was at stake, recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the jury, who brought in their verdict—Not guilty.

Jonathan was then indicted a second time for an offence during his confinement in Newgate. The indictment being opened by the counsel for the crown, the following clause in an act passed in the 4th George I. was ordered to be read:

"And whereas there are divers persons who have secret acquaintance with felons, and who make it their business to help persons to their stolen goods, and by that means gain money from them, which is divided between them and the felons, whereby they greatly encourage such offenders: be it enacted, by the authority aforesaid, that whenever any person taketh money or reward, directly or indirectly, under pretence or upon account of helping any person or persons to any stolen goods or chattels, every such person so taking money or reward as aforesaid (unless such person do apprehend, or cause to be apprehended, such felon who stole the same, and give evidence against him) shall be guilty of felony, according to the nature of the felony committed in stealing goods, and in such and the same manner as if such offender had stolen such goods and chattels, in the manner, and with such circumstances, as the same were stolen."

Catherine Stretham deposed to the following effect: "A box of lace being stolen out of my shop on the 22d of January, I went in the evening of the same day to the prisoner's house, in order to employ him in recovering the goods; but not finding him at home I advertised them, offering a reward of 15 guineas, and saying no questions should be asked. The advertisement proved ineffectual: I therefore went again to the prisoner's house, and by his desire gave the best description that I was able of the persons I suspected to be the robbers; and promising to make inquiry after my property, he desired me to call again in two or three days. I attended him a second time, when he informed me that he had learnt something concerning my goods, and ex-

pected more particular information in a short time. During this conversation we were joined by a man who said he had reason to suspect that one Kelly, who had been tried for circulating plaited shillings, was concerned in stealing the lace. I went to the prisoner again on the day he was apprehended, and informed him that though I had advertised a reward of no more than 15, I would give 20 or 25 guineas, rather than not recover my property; upon which he desired me not to be in too great a hurry, and said the people who had the lace were gone out of town, but that he would contrive to foment a disagreement between them, by which means he should be enabled to recover the goods on more easy terms. He sent me word on the 10th of March, that if I would attend him in Newgate, and bring 10 guineas with me, the goods should be returned. I went to the prisoner, who desired a person to call a porter, and then gave me a letter, saying it was the direction he had received where to apply for the lace. I told him I could not read, and gave the letter to the man he had sent for, who appeared to be a ticket-porter. The prisoner then told me I must give the porter 10 guineas, that he might pay the people who had my goods, otherwise they would not return them. I gave the money, and the man went out of the prison; but in a short time he returned with a box sealed up: though it was not the box I lost, I opened it, and found all my lace, excepting one piece. I asked the prisoner what satisfaction he expected, and he answered, 'Not a farthing; I have no interested views in matters of this kind, but act from a principle of serving people under misfortune. I hope I shall soon be able to recover the other piece of lace, and to return you the 10 guineas, and perhaps cause the thief to be apprehended. For the service I can render you I shall only expect your prayers. I have many enemies, and know not what will be the consequence of this imprisonment.'

The prisoner's counsel argued, that as Murphy had deposed that Wild, Kelly, and herself were concerned in the felony, the former could by no means be considered as coming within the description of the act on which the indictment was found; for the act in question was not meant to operate against the actual perpetrators of felony, but to subject such

persons to punishment as held a correspondence with felons.

The counsel for the crown observed, that from the evidence adduced, no doubt could remain of the prisoner's coming under the meaning of the act, since it had been proved that he had engaged in combinations with felons, and had not discovered them.

The judge recapitulated the arguments enforced on each side, and was of opinion that the case of the prisoner was clearly within the meaning of the act; for it was plain that he had maintained a secret correspondence with felons, and received money for restoring stolen goods to the owners, which money was divided between him and the felons, whom he did not prosecute. The jury pronounced him guilty, and he was executed at Tyburn on Monday, the 24th of May, 1725, with Robert Harpham, who had been convicted of coining base money.

When under sentence of death Wild frequently declared that he thought the service he had rendered the public, in returning the stolen goods to the owners, and apprehending felons, was so great, as justly to entitle him to the royal mercy. He said, that had he considered his case as being desperate he should have taken timely measures for inducing some powerful friends at Wolverhampton to intercede in his favour; and that he thought it no unreasonable to entertain hopes of obtaining a pardon through the interest of some of the dukes, earls, and other persons of high distinction, who had recovered their property through his means. It was remarked to him, that he had trained up a great number of thieves, and must be conscious that he had not enforced the execution of the law from any principle of virtue, but had sacrificed the lives of a great number of his accomplices in order to provide for his own safety, and to gratify his desire of revenge upon those who had incurred his displeasure.

He was observed to be in an unsettled state of mind, and upon being asked whether he knew the cause thereof, he said he attributed his disorder to the many wounds he had received in apprehending felons, and particularly mentioned two fractures of his skull, and his throat being cut by Blueskin.

He declined attending divine service in the chapel, excusing himself on account

of his infirmities, which were manifestly against his expectation, but he interrupted him. He said I had great reason to expect that he would have asked the words, "O

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of his infirmities, and saying, that there were many people highly exasperated against him, and therefore he could not expect but that his devotions would be interrupted by their insulting behaviour. He said he had fasted four days, which had greatly increased his weakness. He asked the ordinary the meaning of the words, "Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree," and what was the state of the soul immediately after its departure from the body? He was advised to direct his attention to matters of more importance, and sincerely repent of the crimes he had committed.

By his desire the ordinary administered the sacrament to him, and during the ceremony he appeared to be somewhat attentive and devout. The evening preceding the day on which he suffered, he inquired of the ordinary whether self-murder could be deemed a crime, since many of the Greeks and Romans, who had put a period to their own lives, were so honourably mentioned by historians. He was informed, that the most wise and learned Heathens accounted those guilty of the greatest cowardice, who had not fortitude sufficient to maintain themselves in the station to which they had been appointed by the Providence of Heaven; and that the Christian doctrine condemned suicide in the most express terms.

He pretended to be convinced that self-murder was a most impious crime; but about two o'clock in the morning he endeavoured to put an end to his life by drinking laudanum: on account of the largeness of the dose, however, and his having fasted a considerable time, no other effect was produced than drowsiness or a kind of stupefaction. The situation of Wild being observed by two of his fellow-prisoners, they advised him to rouse his spirits, that he might be able to attend to the devotional exercises; and taking him by the arms they obliged him to walk, which he could not have done alone, being much afflicted with the gout. The exercise revived him a little, but he presently became exceedingly pale, then grew very faint; a profuse sweating ensued, and soon afterwards his stomach discharged the greatest part of the laudanum. Though he was somewhat recovered, he was nearly in a state of insensibility, and in this situation he was put into the cart and conveyed to Tyburn.

In his way to the place of execution, the populace treated this offender with remarkable severity, incessantly pelting him with stones, dirt, &c., and execrating him as the most consummate villain that had ever disgraced human nature.

Upon his arrival at Tyburn, he appeared to be much recovered from the effects of the laudanum; and the executioner informed him that a reasonable time would be allowed him for preparing himself for the important change that he must soon experience. He continued sitting some time in the cart; but the populace were at length so enraged at the indulgence shown him, that they outrageously called to the executioner to perform the duties of his office, violently threatening him with instant death if he presumed any longer to delay. He judged it prudent to comply with their demands, and when he began to prepare for the execution the popular clamour ceased; and he was ushered off, no soul lamenting his fate.

About two o'clock on the following morning, the remains of Wild were interred in St. Pancras church-yard; but a few nights afterwards the body was taken up, it was supposed, for the use of the surgeons. At midnight, a hearse and six waited at the end of Fig Lane, where the coffin was found the next day.

Wild had by his legal wife, whom he married at Wolverhampton, a son, who came to London a short time before the execution of his father, at which time he was about nineteen years of age. He was a youth of so violent and ungovernable a disposition, that it was judged prudent to confine him while his father was conveyed to Tyburn, lest he should create a tumult, and prove the cause of mischief among the populace. Soon after the death of his father, he accepted a sum of money to become a servant in one of our plantations.

Besides the woman to whom he was married at Wolverhampton, five others subsequently lived with him at different periods under the pretended sanction of matrimony: the first was Mary Milliner; the second, Judith Nun, by whom he had a daughter; the third, Sarah Gregson, alias Perrin; the fourth, Elizabeth Mann, who cohabited with him above five years; the fifth, whose real name is uncertain, married some time after the death of her burly Jonathan.

History can scarcely furnish another instance of such complicated villany as was shown in the character of Jonathan Wild, who possessed abilities which, had they been properly cultivated, and directed into a right course, would have rendered him a respectable and useful member of society; but it is to be lamented, that the profligate turn of mind that distinguished him in the early part of his life, disposed him to adopt the maxims of those abandoned people with whom he obtained an acquaintance. To their influence must be attributed his subsequent fatal progress.

During his apprenticeship Wild was observed to be fond of reading; but, as his resources would not admit of his purchasing books, his reading was confined to such as casually fell in his way; and they unfortunately happened to contain those abominable doctrines to which thousands have owed their ruin, and against the fallacies of which few having imbibed them have the candour to read or hear any arguments which may be advanced. In short, Wild in his youth entertained the principles of Deism and Atheism, with their attendant train of evils; and to the sentiments thus early contracted he pertinaciously adhered, amidst frequent and complicated doubts and fears, till near the period of his dissolution.

Rich treatises, if at all voluminous, were formerly beyond the reach of persons in the humbler walks of life; but the great encouragement given in our own day to the publication of weekly numbers has so liberally suffused the streams of knowledge, that but few even of the lower ranks of the community can be sensible of any impediment to the laudable acquirement of some degree, at least, of useful and entertaining information.

Wild trained up and instructed his followers in the practice of villany, planning measures and suggesting cases for their pursuit; and when they became objects of his displeasure he laboured, with unremitting assiduity, to procure their deaths: thus did his temporal and private interest seek gratification at the expense of every religious and moral obligation. But there is a principle implanted in our nature that will exert itself when we are approaching to a state of dissolution, and impress our minds with a full conviction of the existence of an eternal God, who will reward or punish us according to our deserts;

and thus it happened to the miserable Atheist of these pages, who, when he had relinquished the hope of surviving the sentence of the law, anxiously inquired into the meaning of several passages of Scripture, and concerning the intermediate state of the soul. The horrors of his guilt rushed upon his conscience with an irresistible force, and reflection became intolerable—this punishment was greater than he could bear; and, instead of seeking repentance and remission of his sins, he employed his last moments, though somewhat enlightened by reason, in meditating the means of committing suicide—self-destruction he had certainly brought upon himself, though he died at the hands of the executioner.

As a sequel to this notorious character, a brief detail will be given in a future number of one or two swindling transactions of a late individual, who has been aptly termed "THE ROYAL JONATHAN WILD;" the being of whom a wretched parasite had the gross and impious buffoonery to say, "The king can do no wrong!" at a time, too, when a broken-hearted wife was the victim of as base a persecution as ever disgraced human nature. It is right that the real character of a prince should be known, especially when he has been represented as the possessor of every virtue, as the doer of every good and perfect work! Besides, this work is a special record of criminal characters; and it is therefore the duty of its conductor to portray the hardened and profligate vices of a prince as of a peasant. Indeed, the commission of the peasant crime by him who is clothed in purple and fine linen, and fares sumptuously every day, is increased in flagrant magnitude perhaps a thousandfold. A portrait will be presented.

As a farther sequel, an account will be given in future pages of our work of the whole nest of thief makers and takers who were for the most part apprehended and punished in accordance with the letter of the law, about thirty years after the close of Wild's detestable career of crime and ignominy.

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ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 24.

AUGUST 10, 1836.

PRICE
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THE CRUELTY OF GOVERNOR PICTON.



[APPLICATION OF THE TORTURE CALLED PICKETING.]

THOMAS PICTON, Esq., late Governor of Trinidad, was convicted on the 24th of February, 1806, of applying a most cruel torture, in order to extort confession from a presumed culprit. The indictment on which he was brought to trial charged him with inflicting a certain torture, in order to extort confession from Louisa Calderon, one of his Majesty's subjects in the island of Trinidad, in the West Indies.

Mr. Garrow rose to address the jury, and said, that the duty had devolved on him, by the removal of a learned gentleman [Mr. Erskine, who was retained as leading counsel for the crown, and, a short time before the trial, was appointed Lord High Chancellor of England] from this court to an exalted station; which deprived them of the advantage of his

greater abilities, to lay before them a statement of the singular and horrid transaction which was the subject of this prosecution; and although he should acquit himself zealously of the obligation to bring to light and condign punishment an offence so flagrant as that charged upon the defendant, yet much more happy would he be to find that there was no ground upon which the charge could be supported, and that the British character was not stained by the adoption of so cruel a measure as that alleged in this prosecution. "The island of Trinidad," said Mr. Garrow, "surrendered to that illustrious character Sir Ralph Abercrombie, whose name will ever invite gratitude and admiration, in the year 1797; and he entered into a stipulation, by which he conceded to the inhabitants the con-

tinuance of their laws, and appointed a new governor until his Majesty's pleasure should be known, or, in other words, until the King of England, in his paternal character, should extend to this new acquisition to his empire all the sacred privileges of the laws of England. I have the authority of the defendant himself for stating, that the system of jurisprudence adopted under the Spanish monarch, for his colonial establishments, were benignant and adapted to the protection of the subject, previous to the surrender of this island to the British arms. In December, 1801, when this crime was perpetrated, Louisa Calderon was of the tender age of ten or eleven years. At that early period, she had been induced to live with a person of the name of Pedro Ruiz, as his mistress; and, although it appears to us very singular that she should sustain such a situation at that time of life, yet it was a fact that in this climate women often become mothers at twelve years of age, and were in a state of concubinage if, from their condition, they could not form a more honourable connexion. While she lived with Ruiz, she was accused of an intrigue with Carlos Gonzalez, the pretended friend of the former, who robbed him of a quantity of dollars. Gonzalez was apprehended, and she also, as some suspicion fell upon her, in consequence of the affair. She was taken before the justice, as we, in our language, should denominate him, and in his presence she denied having any concern in the business. The magistrate felt that his powers were at an end; and whether the object of her denial were to protect herself or her friend, is not material to the question before you. The extent of his authority being thus limited, this officer of justice resorted to General Picton; and I have to produce, in the hand-writing of the defendant, this bloody sentence—'Inflict the torture upon Louisa Calderon.' You will believe there was no delay in proceeding to its execution. The girl was informed in the gaol, that if she did not confess she would be subjected to the torture; that under the process she might probably lose her limbs or her life, but the calamity would be on her own head, for if she would confess she would not be required to endure it. While her mind was in the state of agitation this notice produced, her fears were aggravated by

the introduction of two or three negroes into her prison, who were to suffer under the same experiment for witchcraft, as the means of extorting confession from them. In this situation of alarm and horror, the young woman persisted in her innocence; the punishment was inflicted, improperly called picketing, which is a military punishment, perfectly distinct from this is not picketing, but the torture. It is true, the soldier, exposed to this, does stand with his foot on a picket, or sharp piece of wood, but, in mercy to him, a means of reposing is afforded, on the rotundus major, or interior of the arm. This practice, I hope, will not in future be called 'Picketing,' but 'Pictoning,' that it may be recognized by the dreadful appellation which belongs to it. The position may be easily described: the great toe was lodged upon a sharp piece of wood, while the opposite wrist was suspended in a pulley, and the other hand and foot were lashed together. Another time the horrid ceremony was repeated, with this difference, that her feet were changed." [The learned counsel here produced a drawing in water colours, in which the situations of the sufferer, and the magistrate, executioner, and secretary, were described. He then proceeded— "It appears to me, that the case, on the part of the prosecution, will be complete when these facts are established in evidence; but I am to be told, that though the highest authority in this country could not practise this on the humblest individual, yet, by the laws of Spain, it can be perpetrated in the island of Trinidad. I should venture to assert, that if it were written in characters impossible to be understood, that if it were the acknowledged law of Trinidad, it could be no justification of a British governor. Nothing could vindicate such a person, but the law of imperious necessity, to which all must submit. It was his duty to impress upon the minds of the people of that colony, the great advantages they would derive from the benign influence of British jurisprudence; and that, in consequence of being received within the pale of this government, torture would be forever banished from the island. It is, therefore, not sufficient for him to establish this sort of apology; it is required of him to show that he complied with the institutions under the circumstances of irre-

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istable necessity. This governor ought to have been aware, that the torture is not known in England; and that it never will be, never can be, tolerated in this country. The trial by rack is utterly unknown to the law of England, though once, when the Dukes of Exeter and Suffolk, and other ministers of Henry the Sixth, had laid a design to introduce the civil law into this kingdom, as the rule of government, for a beginning thereof they erected a rack for torture, which was called in derision the Duke of Exeter's daughter, and still remains in the Tower of London, where it was occasionally used as an engine of state, not of law, more than once in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. But when, upon the assassination of Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, by Felton, it was proposed in the Privy Council to put the assassin to the rack, in order to discover his accomplices, the judges, being consulted, declared unanimously, to their own honour, and the honour of the English law, that no such proceeding was allowable by the laws of England. Such are the observations of the elegant and learned author of the Commentaries of the Law of England on this subject; and as the strongest method of showing the horror of the practice, he gives this question in the form of an arithmetical problem: 'The strength of the muscles and the sensibility of the nerves being given, it is required to know what degree of pain would be necessary to make any particular individual confess his guilt.' But what are we to say to this man, who, so far from having found torture in practice under the former governors, has attached to himself the infamy of having invented this instrument of cruelty? Like the Duke of Exeter's daughter, it never had existence until the defendant cursed the island with its introduction. I have incontestible evidence to show this ingenuity of tyranny in a British governor; and the moment I produce the sanguinary order, the man is left absolutely without defence. The date of this transaction is removed at some distance. It was directed that a commission should conduct the affairs of the government, and among the persons appointed to this important situation was Colonel Fullarton. In the exercise of his duties in that situation, he attained the knowledge of these facts; and with this information, he thought it incumbent

on him to bring this defendant before you; and with the defendant, I shall produce the victim of this enormity, whom, from the accident of my being conducted into a room by mistake, I have myself seen. She will be presented before you, and you will learn she at this moment bears upon her the marks of the barbarity of the defendant. In due time you will hear what my excellent and amiable friend near me has to offer in behalf of his client: I state the case at present with full confidence in your verdict; I ask nothing from your passions; nothing but justice do I require, and I have no doubt at the end of this trial that you will be found to have faithfully exercised your important duty."

Louisa Calderon was then called. She appeared about eighteen years of age, of a very interesting countenance, being a Mulatto or Creole, of a very genteel appearance. She was dressed in white, with a turban of white muslin, tied on in the custom of the country. Her person was slender and graceful. She spoke English but indifferently; and was examined by Mr. Adam, through the medium of a Spanish interpreter. She deposed, that she resided in the island of Trinidad in the year 1798, and lived in the house of Don Pedro Ruiz, and remembered the robbery. She and her mother were taken up on suspicion, and brought before Governor Pieton, who committed them to prison, under the escort of three soldiers: she was put under close confinement; and before she was taken there the governor said, if she did not confess who had stolen the money the hangman would have to deal with her. She knew Beggarrat, the magistrate, or lord mayor. He came to the prison, and examined her on the subject of the robbery many times, and on different days. De Castro, the clerk of the magistrate, also attended, and took down her depositions. She was then carried to the room where the torture was prepared. Here her left hand was tied up to the ceiling by a rope, with a pulley; her right hand was tied behind, so that her right foot and hand came in contact, while the extremity of her left foot rested on the wooden spike.

A drawing, representing the exact situation, with the negro holding the rope by which she was suspended, was then shown to her; when she gave a shudder, expres-

sive of horror, which nothing but the most painful recollection of her situation could have excited; on which

Mr. Garrow expressed his concern, that his lordship was not in a position to witness this accidental but conclusive evidence of the fact.

Lord Ellenborough objected to the exhibition of this drawing to the jury, until Mr. Dallas, on the part of his client, permitted it to be shown to them.

The examination then proceeded, and the remainder of Louisa Calderon's evidence corroborated the statement of Mr. Garrow. She remained upon the spike, on the first occasion, three quarters of an hour, and the next day twenty-two minutes. She swooned away each time before being taken down, and was then put into irons, called the *grillos*, which were long pieces of iron, with two rings for the feet, fastened to the wall; and in this situation she remained eight months. A drawing of this instrument was also produced, which the witness said was an exact representation. The effect of the picket was excruciating pain; her wrists and ankles were much swollen; and the former bore the marks to the present day. In reply to a question by Lord Ellenborough, she said her feet were without shoes and stockings.

The gaoler (Bullo), the magistrate Francisco de Castro, and Rafael (an alguazil), with the executioner, were present at these picketings.

Don Rafael Shando also, assisted by the interpreter, said, that he was an alguazil, in the island of Trinidad, in the year 1801; that he returned from the interior of the country on the 22d of December and saw Louisa Calderon in gaol; that they were then giving her a glass of water, after bringing her down from the torture. She was supporting herself on a table; it was about seven o'clock in the evening. Beggerratt desired witness to bring Carlos Gonzalez up, and told her she must repeat to Carlos what she had said to him. After this interview, at which nothing transpired, she was instantly put into the *grillos*, and in the same room in which she had suffered the torture. The apartment was like a garret, with sloping sides, and the *grillos* were so placed that, by the lowness of the room, she could by no means raise herself up during the eight months of

her confinement. On the 23d of December she was again put to the torture, between eleven and twelve in the morning, and she remained in this situation for twenty-two minutes by the watch. The witness here examined the drawing, and described the position much in the way it had been before represented, and then added—She fainted twice in his arms. Beggerratt sent vinegar to the executioner, to administer to her in this situation. There was no advocate appointed to attend on her behalf, and no surgeon to assist her. No one but a negro, belonging to Bullo, the gaoler, to pull the rope. As soon as she was taken down, she was put into the *grillos*. The witness had seen her sister bring her victuals, but never noticed the admission of her sister or her friend into the gaol. The witness had been four or five years in the post of alguazil. He never knew the torture inflicted in the island until the arrival of the defendant. There had been no instrument for the purpose. The first he saw was in the barracks among the soldiers. Before the torture of Louisa Calderon, the instrument had been introduced into the gaol about six months. The first person he saw tortured in Trinidad was by directions of the defendant, who said to the gaoler, "Go and fetch the black man to the picket-guard, and put him to the torture." After the eight months confinement, both Carlos and Louisa were discharged.

On his cross-examination by Mr. Laws he said, that Carlos was discharged at the time the judge ordered him to bring the money; that he went from the island, but did not know by whose orders, and that he took his passage to Margaritta.

Don Juan Montes said he was well acquainted with the hand-writing of the defendant: he proved the document containing the order of the torture, which was thus expressed—

"Appliquez la question à Louise Calderon." [Apply the torture to Louisa Calderon.] "THOMAS PICTON."

After some observations from Mr. Dallas, which were answered by Mr. Garrow, the Lord Chief Justice ruled that the application of the alcade Beggerratt, which led to the issue of this order, should be read to the court.

Mr. Lowton then read the representation of this officer, advising that slight

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torture should be applied, stating that his own authority was incompetent to do it without the order of the governor, and giving the result of the proceedings in the course of the examinations Louisa Calderon had undergone. This instrument was countersigned by Francisco de Castro.

Don Juan Montes said, he had known the island of Trinidad since the year 1793. The torture was never introduced until after the conquest of the island, and was then practised by order of the defendant: it was first used with the military in 1799, and two years afterwards in the gaol.

Mr. Garrow then intimated to the court that he had many more witnesses to these facts, but he did not think it necessary to waste the time of the court with any more of them.

Lord Ellenborough agreed with the counsel for the prosecution, that the evidence was sufficient on these points.

Mr. Dallas, for the defendant, rested his defence upon the ground—First, That by the laws of Spain, in the present instance, torture was directed; and being bound to administer those laws, his client was justified in its application. Secondly, That the order for the torture, if not unlawful, was not maliciously, issued. Thirdly, That if it were unlawful, yet, if the order were erroneously or mistakenly issued it is a complete answer to a criminal charge.—The learned counsel entered at considerable length into these positions, and compared the law of Spain as it prevailed in Trinidad, with the law of England as it subsisted in some of our own islands; contending, that the conduct of General Picton was true gentleness and humanity compared to what might be practised with impunity under the British government.

After a long interlocutory discussion, several items of the examination taken on the island for the purpose of this cause were read by the clerk of the court.

The next testimony adduced was that of Mr. Gloucester, the attorney-general of his Majesty in the island, who deposed to the authenticity of several books on the laws of the island, among which were the *Elisondo*, the *Curia Philippica*, the *Bobadilla*, the *Colom*, and the *Recopilacion des Leys*. Various passages in these books were then referred to and translated, for the purpose of showing that torture was not only permitted in certain

cases, but in the particular instance before the jury.

Mr. Garrow was then allowed to call a witness, to show that, however such a law might at any time have existed, or might still exist, in Spain, it did not prevail in those West Indian colonies which were under that dominion. To this end,

Don Pedro de Vargass was sworn: he deposed, that during the early part of his life he had been regularly initiated and admitted to the office of an advocate at the Spanish law-courts in the colonies; that he had practised, after his admission, in the regular course, for two years, and had resided, for a shorter or more extensive period, at five or six of the West Indian islands, in the pursuit of his profession; and that, according to his knowledge of the Book of Recapitulation, by which the laws are administered, there was nothing contained in it to justify the infliction of torture, nor was torture, to his knowledge, ever resorted to. He had not ever seen or heard of instruments for torture being kept in the gaols or elsewhere.

In reply to a question, "Do you know of any existing Spanish law whatever, which warrants the application of torment?" he said, there was a law of Old Castile, of the year 1260, which justified it in certain cases; but he never understood it extended to the West Indian colonies; and it had long been so abhorrent in Spain that, if not repealed, it was fallen entirely into disuse.

On cross-examination by Mr. Dallas, he stated, that he did not know of any law which forbade the practice of torturing persons in the colonies; and he also admitted that he had been employed by Colonel Fullarton, as an interpreter, and as translator of part of the evidence to be employed in this prosecution.

In answer to a question from Lord Ellenborough, Mr. Dallas said he certainly was not prepared with any parole evidence to prove that the use of torture prevailed generally in the Spanish West Indies.

Lord Ellenborough now appeared to be about to close the case, by remarking that the special verdict which had been consented to, was granted on the supposition, that a greater contrariety of evidence on the subject of the law of the colony would have been elicited than now bona fide appeared; but it was thought it would

perhaps be better, before the jury were called on for a general verdict, for the counsel, if they thought proper, to make such observations as might be considered necessary.

Mr. Dallas then rose and said, that in the stage of the investigation to which the court had arrived he should content himself with submitting to the determination of the jury the single fact, unincumbered with any question of his—whether the criminal judge by the law of Spain could, in any instance, order the application of torture? To prove that the discretion did rest with that officer, he did not call to them persons who spoke from the observations they had made during any short periods they might have resided in the colonies; but he produced to them the unequivocal testimony of books of the first law authority, which were constantly resorted to, as had been proved by the judges, on all occasions of doubt or difficulty. As charitable men, and as men of sense, must they not conclude that this code of reference was correctly elucidatory of the law as it was meant to be dispensed? The works of distinguished civilians, who have written upon the jurisprudence of their country, were a ground upon which he felt he stood firmly in defence of his client. The law of 1260 was proved by them to have existed, and to be still in existence to the date of the works of the last writer he had cited. No attempt had even been made by the ingenious counsel on the other side to show that the universality of the Spanish law, as applied to the colonies, had been broken in upon by any special privilege enjoyed at Trinidad; and he would ask, therefore, could the jury, upon their oaths, decide that what had transpired there, and was the subject of this prosecution, was not agreeable to a law that had authorized it, and of which there was no proof that it had fallen into disuse.

Mr. Garrow said, that he looked at this case as he regarded the honour of our country, and the redress of a stranger, who had visited our land to procure it. If the defendant had had an English heart in his bosom, he would have wanted no restrictive provisions to have guarded from the commission of sanguinary acts. He feared, that it remained to the disgrace of the British name, that General Picton was the first man to stretch autho-

riety, and order torture to be established in the island of Trinidad. After a few other animated observations, Mr. Garrow said, he left the case to the decision of the jury, confidently anticipating their verdict.

Lord Ellenborough recommended the jury to divest their minds of every feeling which they might have contracted in the course of the present trial, and to throw every part of the case out of their consideration except that which related to this simple point—What was the law by which the island of Trinidad was governed at the period of its capture by the British? It was for the consideration of the jury, if the law then subsisting authorized personal torture as to witnesses. By the indulgence of the government of this country, the subsisting law was to continue, the question was, What was that subsisting law? The jury would attend, that it did not necessarily follow, because Trinidad was a colony of Old Spain, that it must therefore, in every part, have the laws of Old Spain. It did not originally form any part of that country, but had been annexed to it; and on what terms there was no positive evidence. It did not appear that either the schedule peculiar to this island, or the recapitulations embraced the criminal law, or made any mention of torture. So, if torture did subsist in this island, it must be on the authority of law-books read to the jury, which it was for them to say, whether they were sufficient to satisfy them of that fact. It was ascertained by a person of thirty-two years of age, who had been almost all his life-time in the island, by another person, who had been an aborigine; by Mr. Nugent, who had resided in the island since the year 1786; and by a person who had studied the law at New Spain, and had known the Spanish West Indies from his infancy, that torture had not, to their knowledge, or within their recollection, ever been practised in the island. It was, therefore, for the jury to say, in absence of all positive proof on the subject, and in the face of much negative evidence, if the law of Spain was so fully and completely established in Trinidad as to make torture a part of the law of that island. Without going through the authorities, he thought the jury might take it to be the existing law of Old Spain, that torture might be inflicted. It was

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too much to say, that a discontinuance of a practice could repeal a law; but still it was for them to say, if they were convinced that torture had ever been part of the law of Trinidad. Our law-books might be recognized in Jamaica, but yet it did not follow that everything in them must extend to our colonies. It was, therefore, for them, on the whole, to say, if they were convinced that torture was part of the law of Trinidad at the time of its capture: if so, they would enter a special verdict; if otherwise, they would find the defendant guilty.

The jury found—There was no such law existing in the island of Trinidad, as that of torture, at the time of the surrender of that island to the British.

Lord Ellenborough—"Then, gentlemen, General Picton cannot derive any protection from a supposed law, after you have found that no such law remained in the island at the surrender of it, and when he became its governor; and therefore your verdict should be, that he is guilty."

By the direction of Lord Ellenborough, they therefore found the defendant guilty.

The trial lasted from nine in the morning till seven at night.

Governor Picton walked the hall of the Four Courts accompanied by several of the civil officers of the island.

It is deeply to be regretted that the name of Picton should have so black a stain as is imprinted on it by the transactions which led to the trial now reported, and which has been selected for the purpose of representing a certain barbarous and inhuman torture, to obtain an end held, for the last half century at least, to be most foul and unnatural by all civilized communities. Than Thomas Picton not a braver soldier fell on the field of Waterloo, his deathbed—and not a braver or more skilful survived him; but these gallant heroes are oftentimes ill adapted for civil offices.

On the 25th of April, in the same year, Mr. Dallas moved for a new trial. He stated that the defendant was a person of respectability and character in the service of his Majesty, as Governor of the island of Trinidad. He solicited a new trial on the following grounds: First, The infamous character of the girl, who lived in open prostitution with Pedro Ruiz, and

who had been privy to a robbery committed upon her paramour by Carlos Gonzalez; and when a complaint laid against her had been brought before a magistrate, she, refusing to confess, had been ordered to be tortured. Secondly, That Governor Picton, who condemned her to the said torture, did not proceed from any motives of malice, but from a conviction that the right of torture was sanctioned by the laws of Trinidad; and that he was rooted in this opinion by a reference to the legal written authorities in that island. Thirdly, That, whatever his conduct might be, it certainly did not arise either from personal malice or a disposition to tyranny, but resulted, if it should prove to be wrong, from a misapprehension of the laws of Trinidad. Fourthly, That one of the principal witnesses, M. Vargass, had brought forward a book, entitled "Recopilacion des Leys des Indes," expressly compiled for the Spanish colonies, which did, by reference or inference, authorize torture. The defendant had no opportunity of ever seeing that book; but it had been purchased by the British Institution at the sale of the Marquis of Lansdowne's library, subsequent to his trial; and, having consulted it, it appeared that where that code was silent upon some criminal cases recourse was always to be had to the laws of Old Spain, and these laws, of course, sanctioned the infliction of punishment by torture.

The court, after some consideration, granted a rule to show cause for a new trial; to which we shall return in a future Number.

MARY ADAMS.

This unhappy woman was born at Reading, in Berkshire; and when she was old enough to go to service, she went to live with a grocer in that town. Being a girl of a genteel figure, with spirit and vivacity, she unfortunately attracted the regard of the grocer's son, and the consequence of a connexion between them soon became conspicuous. As soon as it was evident that she was pregnant, she was dismissed from her master's service, on which she immediately made oath that his son was the father of the child thereafter to be born; which compelled the old gentleman to support her till after her confinement. She had not been delivered long before

she went to London, where she entered into the service of a mercer in Cheapside; and by prudent conduct she might have retrieved the character she had forfeited in the country: but though she had already suffered for her indiscretion, an intimacy soon subsisted between her master and herself; but as their associations could not conveniently be held at home, they contrived to meet at other places on those evenings that the mistress of the house had gone to the theatre or on a visit. This connexion continued till the girl was far advanced in her pregnancy; when the master, apprehensive of disagreeable consequences at home, advised the girl to quarrel with her mistress, in order that she might be dismissed, and then took a lodging for her at Hackney, where she remained till she was delivered; and in the mean time the connexion between her and her master continued as before. Being brought to bed of a child that died in a few hours after its birth, the master thought himself happy, supposing he could easily free himself from the incumbrance of the mother, of whom he now began to be heartily tired. When the girl recovered from her lying-in, he told her she must go to service, as it did not suit him to maintain her any longer; but this enraged her to the highest degree, and she threatened to discover the nature of their connexion to his wife unless he would make her a present of 20 guineas; with which demand he thought it prudent to comply, happy to get rid of her even on such terms.

Being now in the possession of money, and in no want of clothes in which to make a genteel appearance, Mary Adams removed from Hackney to Wych Street, Strand; where she was scarcely settled when she sent a letter to the mercer's wife, whom she acquainted with the nature of the connexion that had subsisted between her late master and herself, but she did not mention her place of abode. The consequence was, that the mercer was obliged to acknowledge the crime of which he had been guilty, and solicit his wife's pardon in terms of the utmost humiliation. This pardon was promised, but whether it was ever ratified remains a doubt.

Mrs. Adams now passed for a young widow, and became the wife of a young fellow, who, on discovering the imposition

played upon him, embarked on board a ship in the royal navy.

By this time Mrs. Adams's money was almost expended; but as her clothes were yet good an attorney of Clement's Inn took her into keeping; and after she had lived a short time with him she went to another of the same profession, with whom she cohabited above two years; but she was abandoned once more to seek her fortune by this gentleman taking to himself a wife.

Fertile of invention, and too proud to accept a common service, she became connected with a notorious bawd residing in Drury Lane, who was very glad of her acquaintance, and promised herself considerable advantage thereby. In this situation Adams displayed her charms to the utmost, and was as happy as a common prostitute could be; but, alas! what is the best of such happiness but the more bitter prelude to the extremity of misery! Such, indeed, Mrs. Adams found it: gratified by a gentleman with a considerable sum of money, the bawd quarrelled with her respecting its division; and a battle ensuing, our heroine was turned out of the house after being severely bruised.

After this she paraded the Park in the daytime, and walked the streets in the evening, in search of casual lovers: at length she joined the practice of theft to that of incontinence, and few of her temporary acquaintance escaped being robbed. She was often taken into custody for these practices, but she escaped time after time through defect in the evidence. An end, however, was now put to her depredations: having enticed a gentleman to a bagnio near Covent Garden, she picked his pocket of all his money, and left him asleep. When the gentleman awoke, he sent a notice immediately to the bank to stop payment of a note of large amount which she had carried off; and as Mary Adams went soon after to cash the note she was taken into custody: being tried at the Old Bailey, she was convicted and received sentence of death, and was executed at Tyburn on the 16th of June, 1702. So true it is that the way of iniquity brings a snare.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 25.

AUGUST 17, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

WILLIAM PARSONS,
HANGED FOR RETURNING FROM TRANSPORTATION.



[YOUNG PARSONS CONTEMPLATING THE ACT OF SELF-DESTRUCTION.]

The unhappy subject of this narrative, who was the eldest son and heir of Sir William Parsons, Bart., of the county of Nottingham, was born in London in 1717. He was placed under the care of a pious and learned divine at Pepper Harrow, in Surrey, where he received the first rudiments of education; and in little more than three years he was removed to Eton college, where it was intended that he should have qualified himself for one of the universities. While he was a scholar at Eton he was detected stealing a volume of Pope's Homer, at the shop of a bookseller named Pote; and on being charged with the fact, he confessed that he had at different times stolen many other books. The case was represented to his master, and Parsons underwent a very severe dis-

cipline, which failed of producing satisfactory results.

Though he remained at Eton nine years, his progress in learning was very inconsiderable; and the youth was of so unpromising a disposition, that Sir William was led to the determination of sending him to sea, as the most likely means for preventing his destruction, and he soon procured him an appointment as midshipman on board a man of war, then lying at Spithead, under sailing orders for Jamaica, there to be stationed for a period of three years. Some accident detaining the ship beyond the time when it was expected she would sail, Parsons applied for leave of absence, and went on shore; but, having no intention to return, he immediately directed his course towards a small town

about ten miles from Portsmouth, called Bishop's Waltham, where he soon ingratiated himself into the favour of the principal inhabitants. His figure being very agreeable, his deportment pleasing, and his style of address easy and polite, he found little or no difficulty in recommending himself to the ladies; and he became violently enamoured of a beautiful and accomplished young lady, the daughter of a physician in considerable practice, and prevailed upon her to promise she would yield him her hand in marriage. News of the intended marriage coming to the knowledge of the young man's father and uncle, the latter hastened to Waltham, to prevent a union which he apprehended would inevitably lead to the ruin of the contracting parties; and with much difficulty the uncle prevailed on Parsons to return to the ship, which in a few days afterwards proceeded on her voyage. The ship had been but a short time at her destination, when Parsons resolved upon deserting and returning to England; and he soon found an opportunity of shipping himself on board the Sheerness man of war, then preparing to sail on her return home.

Immediately after his arrival in England he set out for Waltham, in order to visit the object of his desires; but his uncle, being apprized of his motions, lost no time in repairing to the place, where he represented his character in so unfavourable but, at the same time, so just a manner, that he prevented the renewal of his addresses to the physician's daughter. He consequently went home with his uncle, who observed his conduct with the most scrupulous attention, and confined him, as much as possible, within doors. This generous relation at length exerted his interest to get the youth appointed midshipman on board his Majesty's ship Romney, which was under orders for the Newfoundland station.

Upon his return from Newfoundland, Parsons learnt, with infinite mortification, that the Duchess of Northumberland, to whom he was related, had revoked a will made in his favour, and bequeathed to his sister a very considerable legacy, which he had expected to enjoy. He was repulsed by his friends and acquaintance, who would not in the least countenance his visits at their houses, so that his circumstances now became exceed-

ingly distressful. Thus situated, he made application to a gentleman named Bailey, with whom he had formerly lived on terms of the closest intimacy; and his humanity induced him to invite Parsons to reside in his house, and to furnish him with the means of supporting the character of a gentleman. Mr. Bailey was also indefatigable in his endeavours to effect a reconciliation between young Parsons and his father, in which he at length succeeded.

Sir William, having again prevailed on his son to go abroad, procured him an appointment under the Governor of Saint James's Fort, on the river Gambia, to which destination he embarked on board a vessel in the service of the Royal African company.

Parsons had resided at James's Fort about six months when a disagreement took place between him and Governor Aufleur, in consequence of which the former signified his intention to return to England. The governor informed him that he was commissioned to engage him as an indentured servant for five years. Parsons warmly expostulated with the governor, declaring that his behaviour was ungentlemanly, and by no means that of a man of probity, and requested permission to return: but so far from complying, the governor issued orders to the sentinels to be particularly careful lest he should effect an escape. Notwithstanding every precaution, Parsons found means to get on board a homeward-bound vessel: being followed by the governor, he was commanded to return; but, cocking a pistol, and presenting it at the governor, he declared he would fire at any man who presumed to molest him. The governor departed, and in a short time after the ship sailed for England.

Soon after his arrival in his native country, he received an invitation to visit an uncle who lived at Epsom, which he gladly accepted, and experienced a most cordial and friendly reception. He resided with his uncle about three months, and was treated with all imaginable kindness and respect. At length one of the female servants in the family swore herself to be pregnant by him, which so incensed the old gentleman that he dismissed Parsons from his house.

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of poverty, he directed his course towards the metropolis; and three halfpence being his whole stock of money, he subsisted four days upon the bread purchased with that small sum, quenching his thirst at the pumps he casually met with in the streets. He lay four nights in a hayloft in Chancery Lane, belonging to the Master of the Rolls, by permission of the coachman, who pitied his truly deplorable case.

At length he determined to apply for redress to an ancient gentlewoman with whom he had been acquainted in his more youthful days, when she was in the capacity of companion to the Duchess of Northumberland. Weak and emaciated through want of food, his appearance was rendered still more miserable by the uncleanness and disorder of his apparel; and when he appeared before the old lady, she tenderly compassionated his unfortunate situation, and recommended him to a decent family in Cambridge Street, with whom he resided some time in a very comfortable manner, the old gentlewoman defraying the charge of his lodging and board; and a humane gentleman, to whom she had communicated his case, supplying him with money for common expenses.

Sir William came to town at the beginning of the winter, and received an unexpected visit from his son, who dropped upon his knees and supplicated forgiveness with the utmost humility and respect. His mother-in-law was greatly enraged at his appearance, and upbraided her husband with being foolishly indulgent to so graceless a youth, at the same time declaring that she would not live in the house where he was permitted to enter. It is not improbable that the indiscretion and unkindness of this woman prevented the young man's reformation.

Sir William asked him what mode of life he meant to adopt; which he was unable to determine; but he would cheerfully pursue such measures as so indulgent a parent should think proper to recommend. The old gentleman advised him to enter as a private man in the horse-guards; which he approved of, saying, he would immediately offer himself as a volunteer. Upon mentioning his intention to the adjutant, he was informed that he must pay 70 guineas for his admission into the corps; which news proved ex-

ceedingly afflictive, as he had little hope that his father would advance the necessary sum. Upon returning to his father's lodgings, he learnt that he had set out for the country, and left him a present of only 5s.

Driven now nearly to a state of distraction, he formed the desperate resolution of putting an end to his life, and repaired to St. James's Park, intending to throw himself into Rosamond's pond. While he stood on the brink of the water, waiting for an opportunity of carrying his impious design into effect, it occurred to him, that a letter he had received, mentioning the death of an aunt, and that she had bequeathed a legacy to his brother, might be made use of to his own advantage; and he immediately declined the thoughts of destroying himself. He produced the letter to several persons, assuring them that the writer had been misinformed respecting the legacy, which in reality was left to himself; and under the pretext of being entitled to it, he obtained money and effects from different people to a considerable amount. Among those who were deceived by this stratagem was a tailor in Devereux Court, Strand, who gave him credit for several genteel suits of clothes. The money and other articles thus fraudulently obtained, enabled him to engage in scenes of gaiety and dissipation; and he seemed to entertain no idea that his happiness would be but of short duration.

Accidentally meeting the brother of the young lady to whom he had made professions of love at Waltham, he intended to renew his acquaintance with him, and his addresses to his sister; but the young gentleman informed Parsons that his sister died suddenly a short time after his departure from Waltham. Parsons endeavoured, as much as possible, to cultivate the friendship of this young gentleman, and represented his case in so plausible a manner as to obtain money from him at different times to a considerable amount.

Parsons's creditors now became exceedingly importunate, and he thought there was no probability of relieving himself from his difficulties but by connecting himself in marriage with a woman of fortune. Being eminently qualified in those accomplishments which are known to have a great influence over female hearts, Parsons soon ingratiated himself

into the esteem of a young lady possessed of a handsome independence bequeathed her by her lately deceased father. He informed his creditors that he had a prospect of an advantageous marriage; and as they were satisfied that the lady had a good fortune, they supplied him with everything necessary for prosecuting the amour, being persuaded that, if the expected union took place, they should have no difficulty in recovering their respective demands. The marriage was solemnized on the 10th of February, 1740, in the 23d year of the bridegroom's age. On this event, the uncle, who lived at Epsom, visited him in London, and gave him the strongest assurances that he would exert every possible endeavour to promote his interest and happiness, on condition that he would avoid such proceedings as would render him unworthy of friendship and protection. His relations in general were satisfied with the connexion he had made, and hoped that his irregular and volatile disposition would be corrected by the prudent conduct of his bride, who was justly esteemed a young lady of great sweetness of temper, virtue, and discretion. A few weeks after his marriage, his uncle interceded on his behalf with the Right Honourable Arthur Onslow; and through the interest of that gentleman Parsons was appointed an ensign in the 34th regiment of foot.

He now discharged all his debts, which proved highly satisfactory to all his relations; and this conduct was the means of his obtaining farther credit on subsequent occasions. He hired a very handsome house in Poland Street, where he resided two years, in which time he had two children, one of whom died very young. From Poland Street, he removed to Panton Square, and the utmost harmony subsisted between him and his wife, who were much respected by their relations and acquaintances. But it must be observed, that though his conduct in other respects had been irreproachable from the time of his marriage, he was guilty of unpardonable indiscretion as to his manner of living; for he kept three saddle-horses, a chaise and pair, several unnecessary servants, and engaged in many other superfluous expenses his income could not afford. Unfortunately, too, Parsons became acquainted with an infamous gambler, who seduced him to the gaming-table, and to

engage in play; by which he lost considerable sums, which were shared between the pretended friend of Parsons and his villainous accomplices.

Parsons was now promoted to a lieutenancy in a regiment that was ordered to Flanders, and was accompanied to that country by the abandoned gamester, whom he still deemed his most valuable friend. The losses by gaming, added to the extravagant manner in which he lived, in a short time involved him in such difficulties that he was under the necessity of selling his commission, in order to discharge debts contracted in Flanders. The commission being sold, Parsons and his treacherous companion returned to England. His arrival was no sooner known, than his creditors were extremely urgent for the immediate discharge of their respective claims; which induced him to take a private lodging in Gough Square, where he passed under the cognomen of Captain Brown. He pretended to be an unmarried man; and saw his wife only when appointments were made to meet at a public-house. While he lodged in Gough Square, he seduced his landlord's daughter, who became pregnant by him; and her imprudence, in yielding to the persuasions of Parsons, proved the means of involving her in extreme distress.

His creditors having discovered the place of his retreat, he deemed it prudent to remove; and at this juncture an opportunity offered by which he hoped to retrieve his fortune; and he therefore embarked as captain of marines on board the Dursley privateer. Soon after the arrival of the ship at Deal, Parsons went on shore, provided with pistols, being determined not to submit to an arrest, which he supposed would be attempted. He had no sooner landed on the beach, than he was approached by five or six men, one of whom attempted to seize him; but Parsons, stepping aside, discharged one of the pistols, and lodged a ball in the man's thigh. He then said, he was well provided with weapons, and would fire upon them if they presumed to give him farther molestation. The officers retreated; and Parsons returned to the ship, which sailed from Deal the following morning.

They had been in the channel about a week, when they made prize of a French privateer, which they carried into the port

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of Cork. Parsons being now afflicted with a disorder that prevailed among the French prisoners was sent on shore for the recovery of his health. During his illness, the vessel sailed on another cruise, and he was no sooner in a condition to permit him to leave his apartment than he became anxious to partake of the passing fashionable amusements. In order to recruit his finances, which were nearly exhausted, he drew bills of exchange on three merchants in London, on which he raised 60*l*.; and before advice could be transmitted to Cork, that he had no effects in the hands of the persons on whom he had drawn the bills, he embarked on board a vessel bound for England. Landing at Plymouth, he resided there some time under a military character, to support his claim to which he was provided with a counterfeit commission. He frequented all places of public resort, and particularly where gaming was permitted. His money being nearly expended, he obtained 100*l*. from a merchant of Plymouth, by means of a false draft upon a London alderman. Some time after the discovery of the fraud, the injured party saw Parsons a transport prisoner on board a ship bound to Virginia, lying in Catwater, in Plymouth Sound, when he assured him of an entire forgiveness, and made him a present of a guinea.

From Plymouth, Parsons repaired to London; and his money being nearly spent, he committed a fraud in conjunction with a woman of the town: taking his accomplice to a tavern in the Strand (where he was known), he represented her as an heiress, who had consented to a private marriage, and requested the landlord to send immediately for a clergyman. The parson being arrived, and about to begin the ceremony, Parsons pretended to recollect that he had forgotten to provide a ring, and ordered the waiter to tell some shopkeeper in the neighbourhood to bring some plain gold rings. Upon this the clergyman begged to recommend a very worthy man, who kept a jeweller's shop in the neighbourhood: and Parsons said it was a matter of indifference with whom he laid out his money; adding, that as he wished to compliment his bride with some small present, the tradesman might also bring some diamond rings.

The rings being brought, and one of each chosen, Parsons produced a forged

draft, saying, the jeweller might either give him change then or call for payment after the ceremony; on which the jeweller retired, saying, he would attend again in the afternoon. In a little time the woman formed a pretence for leaving the room; and our hero soon after, affecting great impatience on her not returning, likewise quitted the apartment, without his hat, stating that he would inquire of the people of the house whether his bride had not been detained by some accident. After waiting a considerable time, the clergyman called the landlord; and as neither of the supposed contracting parties could be found, it was concluded that Parsons left the house with a cap which he had had concealed about his person, and that their whole intention was to perpetrate a fraud. In the mean time our hero and his accomplice met according to appointment, and divided the booty which they considered they had so ingeniously acquired.

Soon after the above transaction, Parsons intimated to a military officer that, on account of the many embarrassments he was under, he was determined to join the rebel army, as the only expedient by which he could avoid being lodged in prison. The gentleman represented the danger of engaging in such an adventure, and, lest his distress should precipitate him to any rash proceeding, generously supplied him with 40 guineas to answer present exigences. He soon after borrowed this gentleman's horse, pretending that he had occasion to go a few miles into the country on business; but he rode immediately to Smithfield, where he had the daring baseness to dispose of the animal at a very inadequate price. That he might escape the resentment of the gentleman whom he had treated in so unworthy a manner, he lodged an information against him as being disaffected to the government, in consequence of which he was deprived of his commission, and suffered an imprisonment of six months. Parsons likewise exhibited informations of a similar nature against two other gentlemen, who had been most liberal benefactors to him, in revenge for refusing to supply him any longer with the means of indulging his extravagant and profligate disposition.

In the year 1745 he counterfeited a draft upon one of the collectors of the

Excise, in the name of the Duke of Cumberland, for 500*l.*: he carried the draft to the collector, who paid him 50*l.* in part, being all the cash that remained in his hands. He next went to a tailor, saying he meant to employ him on the recommendation of a gentleman, mentioning his name, whom he had long supplied with clothes; adding, that a captain's commission was preparing for him at the war-office. The tailor furnished him with several suits of clothes; but not being paid according to agreement, he entertained some suspicion as to the responsibility of his new customer, and therefore inquired at the war-office respecting Capt. Brown, and learnt that a commission was making out for a gentleman of that name. Unable to get any part of the money due to him, and determined to be no longer trifled with, he instituted a suit at common law; but he was non-suited by having laid his action in the fictitious name of Brown, while it appeared that the real name of the defendant was Parsons.

A fraud was attempted by Parsons on the firm of Sir Joseph Hankey and Co., by his sending a porter from the Ram inn, Smithfield, with a forged draft upon them. The delinquent followed the man, imagining that if he came alone from Sir Joseph's he would have received the money, and that if he were accompanied by any person it would be a strong proof of the forgery being discovered; and as he observed Sir Joseph and the porter get into a hackney-coach he resolved not to return to the inn.

He afterwards went to a widow named Bottomley, hat manufacturer, near Saint George's church, and, saying that he had contracted for supplying the regiment to which he belonged with hats, gave her an order to the amount of 160*l.* He had no sooner got possession of the hats than he sold them to a Jew for one half of the sum he agreed to pay for them.

Being strongly apprehensive that he could not long avoid being arrested by some of his numerous and highly exasperated creditors, he caused himself, by means of counterfeit letters, to be taken into custody as a person disaffected to the king and government; by which he was supported, without expense to himself, in the house of one of the king's messengers for about eighteen months. Being released from the messenger's house, he

revolved in his mind a variety of schemes for eluding the importunities of his creditors, and he at length determined to embark for Holland, where he remained till his money was nearly expended, when he returned to England. A few days after his arrival in London he went to a masquerade, where he engaged in play to the hazard of every shilling he possessed, and was so fortunate as to obtain a sufficient sum for his maintenance for several months.

His circumstances being again reduced, he wrote in pressing terms to his brother-in-law, who was an East India director, entreating that he would procure him a commission in the company's service, either by land or sea. The purport of the answer was, that a gentleman in the Temple was authorised to give the supplicant a guinea, but that it would be fruitless for him to expect any farther favours.

Having written a counterfeit draft, he went to Ranelagh on a masquerade night, where he passed it to a gentleman who had won some small sums of him. The party who received the draft offered it for payment in a day or two afterwards, when it was proved to be a counterfeit; in consequence of which Parsons was apprehended, and committed to Wood Street compter. As no prosecutor appeared, Parsons was necessarily acquitted; but a detainer being lodged, charging him with an offence similar to the above, he was removed to Maidstone gaol, in order to take his trial at the next Lent assizes at Rochester.

Mr. Carey, the keeper of the prison, treated Parsons with great humanity, allowing him to board in his family, and indulging him in every privilege that he could grant, without a manifest breach of the duties of his office. But such was the ingratitude of Parsons, that he formed a plan, which, had it taken effect, would have utterly ruined the man to whom he was indebted so much. His intention was, privately to take the keys from Mr. Carey's apartments; and not only to escape himself, but to give liberty to every prisoner in the gaol: this scheme he communicated to a man accused of being a smuggler, who reported the matter to Mr. Carey, desired him to listen at a certain hour at night, when he would hear a conversation that would prove his intelligence

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to be authentic. Mr. Carey attended at the appointed time, and, being convinced of the ingratitude and perfidy of Parsons, he abridged him of the indulgences he had before enjoyed, and caused him to be closely confined.

Being convicted at the next assizes at Rochester, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years; and in the following September he was put on board the Thames, Captain Dobbins, bound for Maryland, in company with upwards of one hundred and seventy other convicts, fifty of whom died on the voyage. In November, 1749, Parsons was landed at Annapolis, in Maryland; and having remained in a state of slavery about seven weeks, a gentleman of considerable property and influence, who was not wholly unacquainted with his family, compassionating his unfortunate situation, obtained his freedom, and received him at his house in a most kind and hospitable manner. Parsons had not been in the gentleman's family many days before he rode off with a horse which was lent him by his benefactor, and proceeded towards Virginia; on the borders of which country he stopped a gentleman on horseback, and robbed him of five pistoles, a moidore, and ten dollars.

A few days after, he stopped a lady and gentleman in a chaise, attended by a negro servant, and robbed them of 11 guineas and some silver; after which he directed his course to the Potomac river, where, finding a ship nearly ready to sail for England, he embarked, and after a passage of twenty-five days landed at Whitehaven. He now produced a forged letter, in the name of one of his relations, to a merchant of Whitehaven, signifying that he was entitled to the family estate in consequence of his father's decease, and prevailed upon him to discount a false draft upon a banker in London for 75*l*. Upon his arrival in the metropolis, he hired a handsome lodging at the west end of the town; but he almost constantly resided in houses of ill fame, where the money he had so unjustifiably obtained was soon dissipated.

Having hired a horse, he rode to Hounslow Heath, where, between ten and eleven o'clock at night, he stopped a post-chaise, in which were two gentlemen, whom he robbed of 5 guineas, some silver, and a watch.

A short time afterwards he stopped a gentleman near Turnham Green, about twelve o'clock at night, and robbed him of 30*s*. and a gold ring. He requested that the ring might be returned, as it was his wife's wedding-ring. Parsons complied with the gentleman's request, and voluntarily returned the gentleman 5*s*., telling him, at the same time, that nothing but the most pressing necessity could have urged him to the robbery; after which the gentleman shook hands with the robber, assuring him that, on account of the civility of his behaviour, he would not appear to prosecute if he should hear of his being thereafter apprehended.

He attempted to rob a gentleman in a coach and four near Kensington; but hearing some company on the road, he proceeded towards Hounslow, and on his way thither overtook a farmer, whom he robbed of nearly 50*s*. He then took the road to Colnbrook, and robbed a gentleman's servant of 2 guineas and a half, and a silver watch. After this he rode to Windsor, and returned to London by a different road.

His next expedition was on the Hounslow road; and at the entrance of the heath he stopped two gentlemen, and robbed them of 7 guineas, some silver, and a handsome, curiously wrought silver, snuff-box.

Returning to his lodgings near Hyde Park Corner one evening, he overtook a footman in Piccadilly, and joining company with him a familiar conversation took place, in the course of which Parsons learnt that the other was to set out early on the following Sunday with a portmantean, containing cash and notes to a considerable value, the property of his master, who was then at Windsor.

Pursuing his intention, on the Sunday morning he set out towards Windsor, intending to rob the footman. Soon after he had passed Turnham Green, he overtook two gentlemen, one of whom was Mr. Fuller, who had prosecuted him at Rochester, and who, perfectly recollecting his person, warned him not to approach. He however paid no attention to what Mr. Fuller said, but still continued sometimes behind and sometimes before them, though at a very inconsiderable distance.

Upon coming into the town of Houn-

low, the gentlemen alighted, and commanded Parsons to surrender, adding, that if he did not instantly comply they would alarm the town. He now dismounted, and earnestly entreated that the gentlemen would permit him to speak to them in private, which they consented to; and the parties being introduced to a room in an inn, Parsons surrendered his pistols, which were loaded and primed, and supplicated for mercy in the most pathetic terms. In all probability he would have been permitted to escape, had not Mr. Day, landlord of the Rose and Crown, at Hounslow, come into the room, and advised that he might be detained, as he conceived him very nearly to answer the description of a highwayman by whom the roads in that part of the country had been long infested. He was secured at the inn till the next day, and then examined by a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate.

Parsons was now arraigned for returning from transportation before the expiration of the term of his sentence; nothing, therefore, was necessary to convict him but the identifying of his person: this being done, he received sentence of death. His distressed father and wife used all their interest to obtain a pardon for him, but in vain: he was an old offender, and judged by no means a proper object for mercy.

While Parsons remained in Newgate, his behaviour was such that it could not be determined whether he entertained a correct idea of his dreadful situation. There is, indeed, but too much reason to fear that the hope of a reprieve (in which he deceived himself even to the very last moments of his life) induced him to neglect the necessary preparations for launching into eternity. The parting between himself and wife afforded a scene affecting in the extreme: he earnestly recommended to her parental protection his only child, and regretted that his misconduct had put it in the power of a censorious world to reflect upon both the mother and son.

On the 11th of February, 1751, Parsons was conveyed to Tyburn for execution, previous to which he joined with fervent zeal in the accustomed exercises of devotion; so that it may be hoped he experienced the relief of the penitent thief on the cross.

AFFECTING MEMENTO.

THE Count Confalonieri, an Italian nobleman, was some years ago sentenced to death, for some real or supposed conspiracy against the insatiable Austrian government. The moment his countess heard of this she flew to Vienna, but the courier had already set out with the fatal mandate. It was midnight; but her agonies of mind pleaded for instant admission to the empress. The same passionate despair which won the attendants wrought its effect on their royal mistress: she hastened that moment to the emperor, and, succeeding, returned to the unhappy lady with the commuted sentence of imprisonment for life; her husband's life was spared. But the death-warrant was on its way—could she overtake the courier? Throwing herself into a conveyance, and paying four times the amount for relays of horses, she never, it is stated, stopped or tasted food till she reached the city of Milan. The count was preparing to be led to the scaffold; but she was in time—she had saved him!

During her painful journey she had rested her throbbing brow upon a small pillow, which she bathed with her tears—in the conflict of mingled terror and hope, for all might be over. This interesting memorial of conjugal tenderness and truth in so fearful a moment was sent by his judges to the count, to show their sense of his wife's admirable conduct. He took it with him to the dungeons of Spielberg; it was his sole consolation, his inseparable companion by day and by night. A long succession of governors and superintendants had all respected its possession, and the noble devotedness of heart which gave it him. In an evil hour Count Von Vage came—said it was *irregular*, and deprived the captive count of this his last-left source of consolation.

FANATICISM.

OF all things wisdom is the most terrified with epidemical fanaticism, because of all enemies it is that against which she is the least able to furnish any kind of resource.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

No. 26.

AUGUST 24, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

HISTORY OF GILBERT LANGLEY.



[LANGLEY AND HILL ROBBING A TRAVELLER.]

GILBERT LANGLEY, who was a man of superior talents and education, was sentenced to death, which was remitted for transportation, for robbing a person on the highway of three farthings. He was born of Roman Catholic parents in London, where his father was an eminent goldsmith. The son was sent to the seat of his grandfather, in Derbyshire, when he was only three years of age. Having been in Derbyshire four years, his mother's anxiety induced her to fetch him home; soon after which he was entered in Charter-house School, where he soon became a tolerably good classical scholar.

The father now wished to send his son abroad for farther education, and with the view that he might not fail of being brought up a strict Catholic: this was warmly opposed by the mother, through

tenderness to her child; but her death soon left the father to act as he pleased. The prior of the Benedictine convent at Douay being in London, Langley's father agreed for his board and education, and committed him to the care of his new master, with whom he proceeded to Dover, sailed for Calais, and travelled thence to St. Omer, and on the following day reached Douay, where young Langley was examined by the prior and fellows of the college, and admitted of the school. At the end of three years he became a tolerable master of the French language, exclusive of his other literary acquirements; so that, at the Christmas following, he was chosen king of the class, which is a distinction bestowed on one of the best scholars, whose business it is to regulate the school entertainments.

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It was the custom at Douay for officers to attend at the gates of the town, to detect any persons bringing in contraband liquors, because the merchants of the place paid a large duty on them, which duty was annually farmed by the highest bidder. During the Christmas holidays Langley and three of his school-fellows quitted the town, to purchase a small quantity of brandy at an under price; but being observed by a soldier, who saw their bottles filled, he informed the officers of the affair; the consequence of which was, that the young gentlemen were stopped, and the liquor was found hid under their cassocks. They offered money for their release, which was refused; and they were conducted to the house of the farmer-general. At the instant of their arrival, two Franciscan friars, seeing them, said it was illegal to take students before the civil magistrates, because the superior of their own college was accountable for their conduct. They were therefore taken home to the prior; and the farmer-general making his demand of the customary fine, the prior thought it extravagant, and refused to pay it; but at length the matter was settled by arbitration.

In the Catholic colleges the students live in a very meagre manner during the season of Lent, having little to subsist on but bread and sour wine; a circumstance that frequently tempts them to supply their wants by acts of an irregular character. At this season Langley and five of his companions, oppressed by the calls of hunger, determined to make an attack on the kitchen; but at the instant they had forced open the door, they were overheard by the servants, the consequence of which was, that many furious blows were exchanged by the contending parties. On the following day the delinquents were summoned to attend the prior, who was so incensed at this outrage on good order that he declared they should be expelled as soon as a consistory of monks could be held. But when the consistory assembled, they resolved to pardon all the offenders on acknowledging their faults, and promising not to renew them, except one, named Brown, who had twice knocked down the shoemaker of the college, because he had called out to alarm the prior.

The young gentlemen, chagrined at

losing their associate, determined to be revenged on some one at least of the servants who had given evidence against them; and after revolving many schemes they determined that the man who lighted the fires should be the object of their vengeance, because he had struck several of them during the encounter. This being resolved on, they disguised themselves, and went to a wood-house adjacent to the college, where, being previously provided with rods, they waited till the man came with his wheel-barrow to fetch some wood, when one of them, going behind him, threw a cloak over his head, which was immediately tied round his neck, and the rest stripped him, and flogged him in the severest manner, while he in vain called for assistance, because unheard by any but his punishers, who had taken care to shut the door of the wood-house. The flagellation was just ended when the bell rung for the students to attend their evening exercise; on which they left the unhappy victim of their revenge, and repaired to the public hall. In the mean time the poor sufferer was into the cloisters, exclaiming, "Le Diable! Le Diable!" as if he had really thought the Devil had tormented him; hence he ran to the kitchen, where he recounted the adventure to his fellow-servants, who dressed his wounds, carried him to bed, and gave him something to nourish him. A suspicion arising that the students had been the authors of this calamity to the poor fellow, the servants communicated the circumstances of it to the prior, who promised his endeavours to find out and punish the delinquents; and with this view he went into the hall, with a look at once penetrating and indignant; but the young gentlemen having bound themselves by an oath, no discovery could be made.

Young Langley had now distinguished himself by his attention to literature for the space of two years, and the monks began to consider him as one who would make a valuable acquisition to their society, for which reason they treated him with more than common respect; and they at length prevailed upon him to agree to enter into the fraternity, if his father's consent could be obtained.

As Langley was in no want of money, he frequently went into the town, to habituate himself to the manners of the people, and to observe their customs.

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Thursday being a holiday, he and one of his schoolfellows, named Meynel, asked the prior permission to walk on the ramparts, which was denied; on which they went out without leave, and repairing to a tavern drank wine till they were intoxicated. In this condition they went to the ramparts, whence, after having been for some time the laughing-stock of the populace, they went home to bed. Being missed at evening prayers, some of the other students apologized for their absence, by saying they were ill, and the excuse was very readily admitted: but in a few days a gentleman called on the prior, and told him what a ridiculous figure his students had made on the ramparts. Incensed at this violation of their duty, the prior sent for them to his chamber, and gave orders that they should be flogged with great severity. This indignity had such an effect on the mind of Langley, that he grew reserved and morose, and would have declined all his studies had not one of the monks, Father Howard, restored him to his good humour by his indulgent treatment, and persuaded him to pay his usual attention to literature.

Father Howard's considerate conduct had such an effect on Langley, that he spent the greater part of his time with that gentleman, who instructed him in the principles of logic, and was about to initiate him in those of philosophy when his father sent a letter requiring him to return to his native country. The society being unwilling to lose one who was so likely to become a valuable member, the prior wrote to England requesting that the youth might be permitted to complete his education: but the father insisted on his return. The young gentleman consequently left the college, and proceeding by the way of St. Omer reached Calais in two days. As the wind was contrary, it was some days before the company embarked for England, when, instead of putting into Dover, the vessel came round to the Thames, and the passengers were landed at Gravesend. Langley having spent all his money at Calais, now affected an air of unconcern, saying that he had no English money in his possession, from his having been so long abroad; on which one of the company lent him money, and on the following day he arrived at his father's house in London.

When he had reposed himself some days after his journey, the father desired him to make choice of some profession; on which he mentioned his inclination to study either physic or law: but the old gentleman, who had no good opinion of either of these professions, persuaded him to follow his own trade of a goldsmith.

For the present, however, he was placed at an academy, in Chancery Lane, that he might be instructed in those branches of knowledge requisite for a tradesman; but becoming acquainted with some young gentlemen of the law, he found that his father's allowance of pocket money was insufficient for his use; and, being unwilling that his new acquaintance should think that he was deficient in cash, he purloined small sums from a drawer in his father's shop; and when he did not find any money there, he stole some pieces of broken gold, which he disposed of to the Jews.

The father having sent his son with some plate to the house of a gentleman in Grosvenor Square, the youth saw a very handsome woman go into a shop opposite a public-house; on which he went into the latter, and, inquiring after her, found she had gone to her own lodgings. Having ascertained this, he delivered his plate, and formed a resolution of visiting the fair object of his desires on the following Sunday. When the Sunday came, the old gentleman left home—the son supposed, to smoke his pipe at an adjacent ale-house. In the mean time the son stole 7 guineas from three different bags, that his father might not discover the robbery, and then repaired direct to the lodgings of her on whose attractions he had so firmly fixed his passion. Having found favour in the eyes of the frail one, they went from her lodgings to a tavern, where they remained till the following day, having no idea of a detection; but it happened that old Langley, instead of going to his usual place of resort, watched Gilbert to the tavern above mentioned.

On the Monday the father interrogated the youngster respecting his conduct on the preceding day; and particularly asked where he had been: to which Gilbert replied that he had been at church, where he met with some acquaintance, who prevailed on him to go to the tavern. Well knowing the falsehood of this tale, the father chastised him severely, and forbade

him the privilege of dining at his table till his conduct should be reformed. Thus obliged to associate with the servants, the young delinquent soon became too intimate with the kitchen-maid, robbing his father to buy such things as he thought would be acceptable to her. Amongst other things he purchased a pair of shoes for her, laced with gold, which he was presenting to her in the parlour at the very moment that his father knocked at the door. The girl instantly quitted the room; but on the old gentleman interrogating the son respecting the shoes, the latter averred that a lady, who said she had bought them in the neighbourhood, begged leave to deposit them at their house till the following day.

After this the father permitted Gilbert to dine with himself, as he had originally done; but it was not long before he discovered him in too familiar a posture with the girl in the kitchen; on which the girl was dismissed, and Gilbert was threatened with being disinherited unless he would reform.

A middle-aged woman of grave appearance was now hired as servant; but the evil complained of was far from being cured, the same kind of familiarity on the part of young Langley soon taking place with her.

Not long after the first-mentioned servant was dismissed she swore herself pregnant by young Langley, on which he was taken into custody by a warrant; in consequence whereof the father paid 15*l.* by way of compromise. He then received his son into his favour, and forgave all his past errors.

The death of the old gentleman put the son in possession of a considerable fortune, exclusive of a good settled trade; and for the first year he applied himself so closely to business that he made a net profit of 700*l.*: but he did not long continue this course of industry; for, having formerly connected himself with women of ill fame, particularly in the purlieus of Drury Lane, he now renewed his visits to those wretched victims and victimizers of "the lords of creation."

A man of genteel appearance, named Gray, having ordered plate of Langley to the amount of 100*l.*, invited him to a tavern. In the course of conversation, the stranger said he had dealt with his late father, for whom he had the greatest

respect; and, if agreeable, he would introduce him to a lady who had 30,000*l.* of her fortune. This was only a scheme to defraud Langley, who delivered the plate and took a draft for the money on a vintner in Bartholomew Close; but when he went to demand payment he found the vintner had removed.

On the following day the vintner's wife went to Langley, and informed him that Gray had defrauded her husband of 450*l.*, and Langley, being of a humane disposition, interested himself so far in behalf of the unfortunate man, that a letter of license for three years was granted him by his creditors.

Langley now took out an action against Gray, whom he was not able to find; but he was one day accosted by a man in Fleet Street, who asked him to step into a public-house, and he would tell him where he should meet with the defrauder. Langley complying with the proposal, the stranger said he would produce Gray within an hour if the other would give him a guinea; which being done, the stranger went out, and did not return. Exasperated by this circumstance, which seems to have been a contrivance of one of Gray's accomplices, Mr. Langley employed an attorney, who soon found the delinquent, against whom an action was taken out in consequence of which he was confined several years in the Marshalsea.

Langley now became a sportsman on the turf at Newmarket, under the instruction of a vintner in Holborn, whose niece, entering into his service, soon fell a victim to his unbounded lust.

Langley becoming acquainted with some young fellows in the Temple, three of them, and four women of the town, went with him to Greenwich, where they gave the ladies the slip, and took a boat to London; but the women, pursuing them, overtook them in the river, and, attempting to board their boat, afforded great diversion to the spectators. Our adventurers' watermen, however, rowing hard, they reached the Temple, and concealed themselves in one of the chambers a few minutes before the ladies lauded.

Soon after this Langley made another excursion to Greenwich, to visit a lady and gentleman, who had a remarkably handsome servant-maid, whom our adventurer found means to seduce; the consequence of which was that she be-

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came pregnant, and made repeated applications to him for support: he gave her a considerable sum of money, and heard no more of her from that period.

Thus living in a continual round of dissipation his friends recommended matrimony as the most likely step to reclaim him; in consequence of which he married a young lady named Brown, with a handsome fortune.

He had not been long married before he determined to borrow all the cash and jewels he could, and decamp with the property. As he had the reputation of being in ample circumstances, he found no difficulty in getting credit for many articles of value, with which he and his wife embarked for Holland; and in the mean time his friends took out a commission of bankruptcy against him.

When Langley came to Rotterdam, he applied to the states-general for protection, in apprehension of being pursued by his creditors; but the states not then sitting, the creditors made application to Lord Chesterfield, then ambassador at the Hague, which frustrated his intention.

In the interim his creditors found out his lodgings, in a village near Rotterdam; but he eluded their search, leaving his wife with 400*l.* in the care of a friend. He did not tell her the place of his retreat, to prevent any possibility of a discovery. After skulking from place to place, he went back to Rotterdam, and surrendered to his creditors; when he found that his wife was gone with an English captain to Antwerp. On his arrival in England he was examined before the commissioners, and treated with the customary lenity shown to unfortunate tradesmen in such circumstances.

After his affairs were adjusted he sailed to Barbadoes, where he soon contracted so many debts that he was glad to take his passage to Port Royal, Jamaica; soon after arriving at which place he went to visit a planter at some distance, who would have engaged him as a clerk. Langley told the planter that he owed 20 dollars at Port Royal, for which he had left his chest as security. The gentleman instantly giving him the money to redeem it, he went to Port Royal, adopted the name of Englefield, embarked as midshipman on board a man of war, and came to England, where the ship was paid off at the end of six months.

Taking lodgings at Plymouth, where he was paid off, he addressed himself to a young lady whom he might have married with the consent of her father; but being then in an ill state of health, he pretended to have received a summons from his friends in London to repair immediately to that city on an affair of importance; upon the adjustment of which he would return and conclude the marriage.

On his arrival in town, he sent for a man who had formerly lived with his father, from whom he learnt that his creditors had not made any dividend under his bankruptcy, and that they were then engaged in a law-suit respecting a part of the property. This faithful servant of his father told him that his wife had retired to the North of England; and, supplying him with money, recommended him to lodge privately in Southwark. This advice he followed, and kept himself retired for some time; but when passing one day through Cheapside he was arrested, and conducted to the Poultry compter, where he continued many months, during which he was supported by the benevolence of the old servant above mentioned. While in the said compter he formed some very bad connexions; and being concerned with some other prisoners in an attempt to get free, he was removed to Newgate, as a place of greater security. While in this prison he fell ill of a disorder which put his life in jeopardy; on which his friends discharged the debt for which he had been arrested, and, placing him in lodgings, he soon recovered his health.

Soon afterwards he got recommended to a captain in the Levant trade, with whom he was to have sailed; but a fatal attachment to a woman of ill fame prevented him from getting ready for the voyage. Langley's friends were much chagrined at this fresh instance of his imprudence; and soon afterwards he was again arrested, and carried to a sponging-house, where he attempted to despatch himself by a halter; but the breaking of the rope frustrated his design. The bailiff and his wife happening to be absent, and there being only two maid-servants in the house, Langley made them both drunk, and, effecting his escape, crossed over the water to the Borough, where he worked some considerable time with a colour-grinder.

Disgusted with a life attended with so

much labour, he contracted with the captain of a Jamaica ship, who took him to that island on condition of selling him as a slave; and on his arrival he was sold to Colonel Hill, who employed him to educate his children. Langley soon ran from his employer, and went on board a ship bound to England; but he was impressed on his arrival in the Downs, put on board a man of war, and carried round to Plymouth. Langley and another man having deserted from the ship, strolled to London, and took up their residence in a two-penny lodging: but as Langley found no friends to support him, he contracted with one of those persons called crimps, who used to agree with unhappy people to go as slaves to the colonies. His contract was to sail to Pennsylvania: but while the ship lay in the Thames, he and a weaver from Spitalfields made their escape, and travelling to Canterbury passed themselves as Protestant refugees. Going hence to Dover, they embarked for Calais; and after some week's residence in that place, Langley sailed to Lisbon, where he remained only a short time before he contracted debts, which obliged him to seek another residence, and he therefore went to Malaga, in Spain.

His poverty was now extreme; and while he sat melancholy one day by the sea-side, some priests asked him from what country he came. He answered in Latin, "From England." They conducted him to a convent, relieved his distresses, and then began to instruct him in the principles of the Roman Catholic religion. Langley disguised his sentiments; and, after being apparently made a convert, he was recommended as a page to a Spanish lady of distinction. In this situation he continued several months; but having an affair of gallantry with the niece of the old lady, he was compelled to make a precipitate retreat from a window, and shelter himself in the house of an Irish tailor, who procured a passage for him to Gibraltar in the first ship that sailed.

On his arrival at Gibraltar, he would have entered into the army: being refused, because he was not tall enough, his distress compelled him to work as a labourer in repairing the barracks; but he soon quitted this business, and officiated as a waiter in the tennis-court

belonging to the garrison; but, it being intimated to the governor that he was a spy, he was lodged in a dungeon, where he remained more than a fortnight. On obtaining his discharge, he embarked on board a Spanish vessel bound to Barbary with corn; and on his return to Spain he applied to the monks of a convent, who charitably relieved him, and the prior agreed to take him a voyage to Santa Cruz; but having no great prospect of pecuniary advantage in this way of life, he went to Oratava, where some English merchants contributed to his support: as he could get no settled employ at Oratava, however, he soon sailed to Genoa.

From Genoa the vessel sailed to Cadiz; and Langley being now appointed steward to the captain, in the course of his reading some letters, found one directed to Messrs. Ryan and Mannock. Having been a schoolfellow with Mr. Mannock, he requested the captain's permission to go on shore, and was received in the most friendly manner by Mr. Mannock, who offered to serve him in any way within his power; when Langley said, what he wished was a discharge from his present situation.

Mr. Mannock wrote to the captain, desiring him to pay the steward, and discharge him; but this was refused, and Langley consequently took a lodging, to which he was recommended by his friend, who desired he would dine daily at his table till he procured a passage for England. He likewise gave him money and clothes, so as to enable him to appear in the character of a gentleman.

Langley behaved with great regularity for some time; but, the season of a carnival advancing, he got into company with a woman of ill fame, with whom he spent the evening; and on his return he was robbed of his hat, wig, and a book which he had borrowed of his friend. On the following day, Mr. Mannock saw the book lying at a shop for sale; which chagrined him so much, that he asked Langley for it, who acknowledged the whole affair; and Mr. Mannock, supposing the woman was privy to the robbery, took out a warrant against her by which he recovered his book, which he greatly esteemed. This matter being adjusted, Langley, by the help of his friends, procured a passage for England.

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but just as he was going to embark he met with a woman who detained him till the ship had sailed; upon which he took a boat, and passed over to St. Lucar, where he went on board an English vessel, which took him to his native country.

On his arrival in London, he found that his creditors, under the bankruptcy, had received 10s. in the pound, which gave him reason to hope that he should have a sum of money returned to him, with which he proposed to engage in a small way of business. Having that view, he applied to his wife's mother for assistance, and for information where he might find his wife; but she positively refused to render either.

Langley now gave himself up to despair, and associated with the worst of company; and, though he had some money left him at this juncture, he dissipated the whole in the most extravagant and thoughtless manner.

He now made an acquaintance with one Hill, a young fellow who was in similar circumstances. Having agreed to go over to Paris together, they walked as far as Dover; but on their arrival, finding that an embargo had been laid on all vessels in the port, they determined to return to London.

Being now destitute of cash, they demanded a man's money on the highway; but on his saying he had none, they searched him and took from him three shillings, which they threw away almost as soon as they had obtained it. For this offence, however, they were apprehended on the same day; and, being tried at the next assizes for Kent, were capitally convicted; but, through the lenity of the judge, the sentence was changed to transportation for seven years; and Langley was transported in the month of December, 1740.

THE BURIAL-PLACE OF NAPLES. MOST HORRIBLE MODE OF INTERMENT.

(From Willis's "Pencilings by the Way," 1835.)

I can read so many harrowing descriptions of the burial-place of Naples that my curiosity arose as we drove along in sight of it, and, requesting my friends to set me down, I joined an American of my acquaintance, and we started to visit it together. An old man opened the iron

door, and we entered a clean, spacious, and well paved area, with long rows of iron rings in the heavy slabs of the pavement. Without asking a question, the old man walked across to the farther corner, where stood a movable lever, and, fastening the chain into the fixture, raised the massive stone cover of a pit. He requested us to stand back for a few minutes to give the effluvia time to escape, and then, sheltering our eyes with our hats, we looked in.

You have read, of course, that there are three hundred and sixty-five pits in this place, one of which is opened every day for the dead of the city. They are thrown in without shroud or coffin, and the pit is sealed up at night for a year. They are thirty or forty feet deep, and each would contain perhaps two hundred bodies. It was some time before we could distinguish anything in the darkness of the abyss. Fixing my eyes on one spot, however, the outlines of a body became defined gradually, and in a few minutes, sheltering my eyes completely from the sun above, I could see all the horrors of the scene but too distinctly. Eight corpses, all of grown persons, lay in a confused heap together, as they had been thrown in one after another in the course of the day. The last was a powerfully made, grey, old man, who had fallen flat on his back, with his right hand lying across and half covering the face of a woman. By his fall limbs and chest, and the dark colour of his legs below the knee, he was probably one of the lazzaroni, and had met with a sudden death. His right heel lay on the forehead of a young man, emaciated to the last degree, his chest thrown up as he lay, and his ribs showing like a skeleton covered with a skin. The close black curls of the latter, as his head rested on another body, were in such strong relief that I could have counted them. Off to the right, quite distinct from the heap, lay, in a beautiful attitude, a girl, as well as I could judge, of not more than nineteen or twenty. She had fallen on the pile and rolled or slid away. Her hair was very long, and covered her left shoulder and bosom; her arm was across her body; and if her mother had lain her down to sleep, she could not have disposed her limbs more decently. The head had fallen a little way to the right, and the feet,

which were small, even for a lady, were pressed one against the other, as if she were about turning on her side. The sexton said, that a young man came with the body, and was very ill for some time after it was thrown in.

We asked him if respectable people were brought here. "Yes," he said; "many. None but the rich would go to the expense of a separate grave for their relations. People were often brought in handsome grave-clothes, but they were always stripped before they were left: the shroud, whenever there was one, was the perquisite of the undertakers."

And thus are flung into this noisome pit, like beasts, the greater part of the population of this vast city—the young and the old, the vicious and the virtuous together, without the decency even of a rag to keep up the distinctions of life! Can human beings thus be thrown away—men, like ourselves—women, children, like our sisters and brothers? I never was so humiliated in my life as by this horrid spectacle. I did not think a man—a felon, even, or a leper—what you will, that is guilty or debased—I did not think anything that had been human could be so recklessly abandoned. Pah! it makes one sick at heart! God grant I may not die at Naples!

While we were recovering from our disgust, the old man lifted the stone from the pit destined to receive the dead of the following day. We looked in. The bottom was strewed with bones, already fleshless and dry. He wished us to see the dead of several previous days, but my stomach was already tried to its utmost. We paid our gratuity, and hurried away.

A few steps from the gate we met a man bearing a coffin on his head. Seeing that we came from the cemetery, he asked us if we wished to look into it. He set it down, and, the lid opening with a hinge, we were horror-struck with the sight of seven dead infants! The youngest was at least three months old; the eldest perhaps a year; and they lay heaped together like so many puppies, one or two of them spotted with disease, and all wasted to baby-skeletons. While we were looking at them, six or seven noisy children ran out from a small house at the road-side, and surrounded the coffin. One was a fine girl of twelve years of age, and, in-

stead of being at all shocked at the sight, she lifted the whitest of the dead things, and looked at its face very earnestly, loading it with all the tenderest diminutives of the language. The others were busy in pointing to those they thought had been prettiest, and none of them betrayed fear or disgust. In answer to a question of my friend about the marks of disease, the man rudely pulled one out by the foot that lay below the rest, and, holding it up to show the marks upon it, tossed it again carelessly into the coffin. He had brought them from the hospital for infants, and they had died that morning. The coffin was worn with use. He shut down the lid, and, lifting it again upon his head, went on to the cemetery, to empty it like so much offal upon the heap we had seen.

IRVING'S DEFINITION OF HISTORY.

HISTORY is but a kind of Newgate calendar, a register of the crimes and miseries that man has inflicted on his fellow-man. It is a huge libel on human nature, to which we industriously add page after page, volume after volume, as if we were building up a monument to the honour rather than the infamy of our species. If we turn over the pages of these chronicles that man has written of himself, what are the characters dignified by the appellation of great, and held up to the admiration of posterity? Tyrants, robbers, conquerors, renowned only for the magnitude of their misdeeds, and the stupendous wrongs and miseries they have inflicted upon mankind; warriors, who have hired themselves to the trade of blood, not from motives of virtuous patriotism, or to protect the injured and defenceless, but merely to gain the vaunted glory of being adroit and successful in massacring their fellow-beings! What are the great events that constitute a glorious era? The fall of empires—the desolation of happy countries—splendid cities smoking in their ruins—the proudest works of art tumbled in the dust—the shrieks and groans of whole nations ascending unto Heaven!

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MARTIN'S
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OR,

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ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

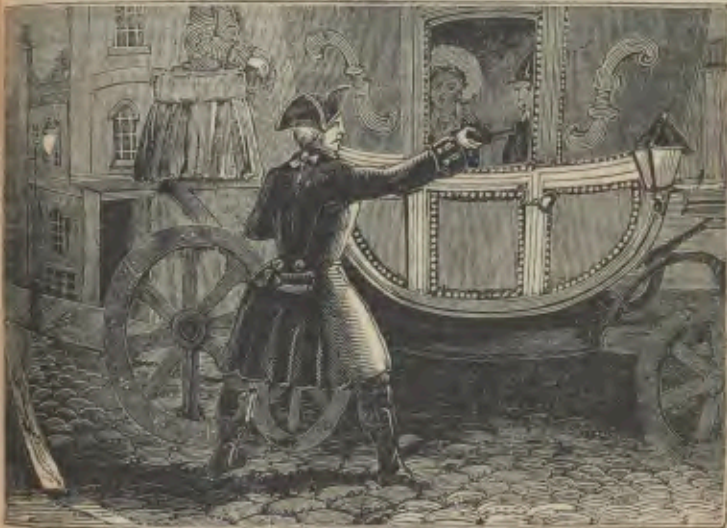
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AUGUST 31, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 9.

THOMAS QUIN, JOSEPH DOWDELL, AND THOMAS TALBOT.



[QUIN STOPPING A CARRIAGE IN DRURY LANE.]

The villainies disclosed in the following narrative, will show the gross impropriety of masters and mistresses giving false characters of servants. Quin, a murderer in his own country, Ireland, was recommended to a person in London as a youth of good morals, notwithstanding his very abandoned disposition. Dowdell, who in his apprenticeship injured his first master, procured a recommendation to another, towards whom he also proved a villain. Talbot, the third of this dangerous gang, after having robbed on the highway for a considerable time, being afraid of apprehension, applied to be restored to honest servitude, and was refused; but his master, in pity to his distresses, recommended

him to a nobleman, who, on the first opportunity, was robbed by his newly-employed servant, with whom he had had so satisfactory a recommendation. In fine, it appears that the above were all delinquents from an early age, and that each had been imposed on honest people by those who knew them to be such: nor is it a little singular that three such characters should make their disgraceful exit together, and they only, considering that they were not connected on setting out on their courses of iniquity.

Quin was a native of Dublin, and the son of poor but honest parents: his father dying while he was a child, his uncle put him to school, and afterwards placed him

apprentice to a buckle-maker, with whom he served three years faithfully; but his friends clothing him very genteelly, he began to associate with a gay company of youngsters, and was guilty of many irregularities. These thoughtless youths were frequently engaged in riots, and Quin was considered as the head of the party. In one of their nocturnal insurrections, Quin murdered a man, whose friends, watching him to his master's house, desired that he might be delivered up to justice; but some of the journeymen sallied forth with offensive weapons, and drove off the people. A warrant being afterwards issued for apprehending the murderer, his master advised him to depart for England. A subscription for his use being raised by his friends, he came to London, having recommendations to some gentlemen of the place; but of these he made no use, for, frequenting the purlieu of St. Giles's, he spent his money amongst the lowest of his countrymen, and then entered himself on board a man of war.

After a service of six months, Quin quitted the ship at Leghorn, and sailed in another vessel to Jamaica, where he received his wages, which he soon spent. He now agreed to work his passage to England; and the ship arriving in the port of London, he took lodgings in St. Giles's, and soon after became acquainted with Dowdell and Talbot; the former of whom was the son of a bookbinder in Dublin, who, being in low circumstances, was unable to educate his children as he wished. His son Joseph, who was remarkable for the evil propensities of his disposition, he apprenticed to a breeches-maker; but the graceless youth grew weary of his place before he had served two years of his time.

Dowdell was one time ordered by his master to take proper care, of some green leather, particularly to defend it from the snow; instead of which he heaped such quantities of snow and ice upon it, that it was greatly reduced in value: this circumstance so exasperated his master, that he was glad to get rid of him by delivering up his indentures of apprenticeship. Thus at large, and the father ill able to support him, he was recommended to the service of a gentleman in the country, with whom he might have lived happily; but here he conducted himself in the

most disgraceful manner, and at length he ran away to Dublin and commenced pickpocket. After some practice in this way, he became connected with a gang of housebreakers, in company with whom he committed several depredations in Dublin. Having broken open a gentleman's house, he was opposed by the servants, and effected his escape only by the use he made of a hanger; soon after which he was taken by the watchmen, and being carried before a magistrate, he was committed to prison till the next morning. His person was advertised, and he was brought to trial; but notwithstanding the servants being able to swear to him, he was acquitted for want of evidence. He now renewed his dangerous practice, and committed a variety of robberies. One of the most singular of his exploits was—Going to the house of a farmer near Dublin, he pretended to be a citizen who wanted a lodging for the benefit of his health, for which he would pay a liberal price: the unsuspecting farmer put his lodger into the best chamber, and supplied his table in the most ample manner. After a residence of ten days he asked the farmer's company to go to town of Finglass, where he wanted to purchase some necessaries: the farmer attended him, and Dowdell purchased some articles at different shops, in one of which he saw a quantity of gold in a till, which he resolved to appropriate to his own use. Having returned home with the farmer, Dowdell pretended to recollect that he had omitted to purchase some medicines which he must take that night, and which had occasioned his going to Finglass: the farmer consequently ordered a horse to be saddled, and Dowdell set forward, promising to return before night. On his arrival at Finglass he put up his horse, and stealing unperceived into the shop above mentioned he stole the till with the money, and immediately set out for Dublin. In the interim, the farmer, missing his lodger, went to Finglass, whence, not finding him there, he proceeded to Dublin, where he chanced to put up his horse at the same inn where Dowdell had taken up his quarters. In a short time he saw our adventurer with some dealers, to whom he would have sold the horse; on which the farmer procured a constable, seized the offender, and lodged him in prison. For this presumption

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and at length he was brought to trial; but it appearing that the farmer had entrusted him with the horse, he could be convicted of nothing more than a fraud, for which he received sentence of transportation.

The vessel in which Dowdell sailed being overtaken by a storm was dashed on the rocks of Cumberland, and many lives were lost; but several, among whom was Dowdell, swam on shore, and went to Whitehaven, where the inhabitants contributed liberally to their relief. Dowdell, travelling to Liverpool, entered on board a privateer, which soon took several prizes, for which he received 60*l.* as his share: but this he soon squandered in the most thoughtless extravagance. Being reduced to poverty, he robbed a Portugese gentleman; for which he was apprehended, but afterwards released on the intercession of the English factory. He then sailed for England, and arrived in London, where he had been but a short time when he became the associate of a gang of pick-pockets and street-robbers (among whom was one Carter), whose practice it was to commit depredations at the doors of the theatres. Dowdell had not long entered into this association before he and Carter went under the piazzas in Covent Garden, where the latter demanded a gentleman's money, while Dowdell watched at a little distance, to give notice in case of a surprise. While Carter was examining the gentleman's pockets, he drew his sword, and killed the robber on the spot; and a mob gathering at the instant, it was with great difficulty that Dowdell effected his escape. He now went to the lodgings of a woman of ill fame, who, having been heretofore kept by a man of rank, had received a gold watch and some trifling jewels, which Dowdell advised her to pawn, to raise him ready money: the girl hesitating to comply, he beat her in a most violent manner; on which she swore the peace against him, and he was lodged in Newgate, but discharged at the next sessions, no prosecution being commenced against him. He was no sooner at large, than he made a connexion with a woman of the town, whom an officer had taken to Gibraltar, and during her residence with whom she had saved a hundred moidores. Dowdell having possessed himself of this sum, soon spent it extravagantly, and then actually pre-

vailed upon her to pawn her clothes for his support.

Talbot was the son of poor parents, who lived in Wapping; and having received a common education, he engaged himself as the driver of a post-chaise, in the service of a stable-keeper in Piccadilly. While he was driving two gentlemen on the Bath road, a highwayman stopped the carriage, and robbed them of their watches and money. This circumstance gave Talbot an idea of acquiring money by similar unpractices; and on his return to London he made himself acquainted with some highwaymen, assuring them that he was properly qualified to give them the intelligence necessary for the successful management of their business. His proposal met with a ready acceptance; and a company having soon afterwards hired a coach and six of his master to go to Bath, Talbot gave one of the highwaymen notice of the affair, and it was resolved the robbery should be committed on Honnslow Heath. The highwaymen met the carriage on the appointed spot, and robbed the parties of all they had; so that they were obliged to return to London for money before they could pursue their journey. Talbot's share of this plunder amounted to 50*l.*, which gave him such spirits that he resolved to follow up the same iniquitous mode of living. In consequence of this resolution Talbot informed a highwayman of some company going to Bath, and the latter attempted to rob them; but a gentleman in the carriage shot him dead on the spot. Mortified at the fate which had befallen his friend, Talbot no sooner arrived in London than he determined to resign his employment, and commence robber on his own account; but previous to engaging in this business, he spent the money he had in hand in the most depraved company. After several attempts to commit robberies, and having narrowly escaped the hands of justice, he grew sick of his employment and requested his former master to take him into his service: this he declined, but, pitying his distress, recommended him to a nobleman, in whose family he was engaged.

Talbot had been but a short time in his new place, when he robbed the house of several articles of value, which he sold to the Jews, to supply the extravagance of one of the maid-servants, with whom

he had an amour. This theft was not discovered at the time; but Talbot was soon discharged from his place, in consequence of the sourness of his temper, which rendered him insupportable to his fellow-servants. On his dismissal he spent his ready money with the most abandoned company, then commenced housebreaker, and committed a variety of depredations in the neighbourhood of London; for one of which he was apprehended, and brought to trial at the Old Bailey, but acquitted for want of evidence.

On the very evening of his acquittal he stopped a carriage in Drury Lane, and robbed a gentleman of his money, which he soon squandered in his usual reckless way; and within a week afterwards he broke into a house in Westminster, where he obtained plate and cash to a large amount, and escaped apprehension.

A few days after this transpired he was taken into custody for picking a gentleman's pocket, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, sentenced to be transported for seven years, shipped to America, and sold into slavery. He had not been long in this situation, when he embarked at Boston, in New England, on board a privateer; and when at sea he entered into a conspiracy with some of the sailors, to murder the officers and seize the vessel: but the confederacy being discovered in time, a severe punishment was inflicted on Talbot and his villanous coadjutors.

Talbot, quitting the privateer, sailed to England in a man of war; and engaging with some street-robbers in London, he was apprehended, tried and convicted, and sentenced to death; but he found interest to obtain a pardon on condition of transportation. He had not been long abroad, however, before he returned, in company with an abandoned woman who had been transported at the same time; and this woman introduced him to the acquaintanceship of Quin and Dowdell, in whose company he committed a considerable number of robberies.

These accomplices robbed six coaches one evening, and obtained immense plunder; but this being soon spent in extravagance, they at length embarked in a robbery by which they sacrificed their lives. Having formed a connexion with a man named Cullen, they all joined in a street-robbery, and, stopping a coach in

Long Acre, robbed a gentleman of his watch and money. Some people, being informed of the affair, immediately pursued them; and Cullen, being taken into custody, was admitted evidence against his accomplices, who were apprehended on the following day.

Being brought to trial at the next Old Bailey sessions, the culprits, Quin, Dowdell, and Talbot, received sentence of death; but after their conviction they seemed as little sensible of the enormity of their crimes, as any offenders whose cases have ever been recorded; and they were executed at Tyburn on the 17th of June, 1751, in a state of mind, it was thought, far different from what was to be desired.

SCENE IN A FRENCH PRISON.

[From "The Fellow-Commoner." London, 1832.]

OUR hero was one day in the court, as usual, when a prisoner was brought in by two men upon a broken wooden couch, and laid down in a corner apart from the other inmates of the prison. He was reduced to a skeleton. His breath came from him in short convulsive gaspings. He had no coat upon his back, and his tattered shirt hung about his body in shreds. He was filthy in the last degree, and his shrunken countenance was rendered more ghastly by the dirt with which it was "o'erpatched." He seemed a young man scarcely beyond his twentieth year, yet in his countenance was expressed more than the ordinary sum of misery of a long life. He did not utter a word, as he was borne by two undertakers to the court, where they placed the hard couch upon which the state victim was lying, and seated themselves behind him.

Anxious to know the nature of this young man's crime, Dillon addressed himself to a tall well-looking person near him, with large monstaches and a military air, and asked him if he knew upon what charge the invalid was confined.

"They say he has been plotting treason," replied the Frenchman, with a significant smile. "Our government does not choose to be meddled with; and he who puts his hand into its mess of porridge is sure to scald his fingers."

"May I ask what was his specific offence?"

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"Why, sir, in a *petite comédie* which he wrote he was so presumptuous as to introduce a story about a fox and some geese. This was presumed to be levelled against the ministers of state, who are so sensitive upon these matters that they cannot bear Titania's wing to fan their sensibility, and he was accordingly committed to prison."

"Is it possible that he should be incarcerated upon the mere arbitrary interpretation of a passage in a play?"

"Possible, say you? Why, if a man looks treason here the laws lay hold of him; but if he writes treason he has no more chance of escape than a moth from the burning wick of a taper. Our prisons could tell some dark secrets. Death, sir, is an infallible ally when a tongue is to be stilled. This is the land of paradox—we are free slaves. You Englishmen don't understand paradoxes."

"How long has the poor young man been confined?"

"Seven months; but his release is signed," said the speaker, looking significantly towards the object of their conversation. "He'll soon defy prison doors, and slip out of the hands of his persecutors."

"But it appears to me such a base anomaly in legislation, to confine a man in a dungeon without producing proof of crime."

"Sir, his father was suspected of political delinquency, and only saved himself from the benefits of lodging at the state's charge, by dying. The son, therefore, has been made to expiate the imaginary offences of the father, and his reckoning seems pretty nearly summed up."

Dillon was still further confirmed by this conversation, in the suspicion that there was not the slightest hope of escaping conviction on his own trial. In pursuing the conversation with his fellow-prisoner respecting the invalid, he learned that the unhappy youth had been torn from the arms of a dotting mother, and cast into a dungeon without even the form of a trial. The miserable parent had never been allowed to see him. The system of espionage with which the French government was so familiar, was adopted towards her husband for some time before his death. Knowing him to be connected with a political party hostile to the ministry, he was vigilantly watched, and as he

had escaped by death the miseries of imprisonment, which they were preparing for him, they determined, upon some flimsy pretext, to seize upon the son, and make him answerable for his father's political delinquencies. They pretended to interpret a play which the youth had written, as containing a covert satire upon the ministers, and on this shallow pretence he was committed to gaol, and left to linger in a cell that would have been a cruel habitation for a dog.

Dillon, affected at what he heard, approached the wretched prisoner, who was evidently dying. He took his hand, and gently said—"I fear you are very ill."

"Yes," replied the other, in a sharp hissing whisper, "I am very ill—I am a state victim."

"We must have none of this," said one of the gaolers, surlily: "if you don't keep a quiet tongue between your teeth, you must go back to your apartment."

"You might," observed Dillon, "use somewhat less harshness towards a dying man. Take care that the remembrance of this hour does not haunt your own deathbed."

The man shrugged up his shoulders, directed a look of silent scorn at the speaker, and began twisting his whiskers, but did not reply.

Dillon turned to the dying man, and asked him if he felt refreshed by the air.

"It is now too late," he said, breathlessly; "death is busy here," and he placed his hand upon his heart. "This is the only time I have been allowed to quit my dungeon for seven dreary months, and I am now brought out to die. Oh! I have one bitter regret; and that is, that I cannot breathe my last sigh upon the bosom which nourished my infancy, and hear a blessing aspirated by the tenderest of mothers."

"Surely she will be allowed to visit you at a moment like this?"

"Indeed she will not," said the gaoler, sternly; "we seldom admit women within these walls, except they come as criminals."

"No, sir," gasped forth the dying man; "it is the practice of our government to punish innocent men with greater rigour than confirmed criminals, because tyrants always aim at bringing to a level with their own moral degradation those who are morally superior."

Both the gaolers started upon their legs, and swore with a savage oath that they would bear the sick man back to his cell that very moment.

"Nay," said the prisoner feebly, "you will not carry me there alive—grant me a little longer to breathe the air of heaven."

"Not an instant!" and they stooped to take up the couch.

The invalid started upright, held out his hand, and faintly cried—"Hold!"

One of the gaolers pushed him violently, and he fell forward upon the stones of the court. Dillon raised him, but his eyes were closing—he drew a long sigh, the jaw fell, and all was still. He was beyond the reach of further persecution.

—Thou poor, pale piece
Of outcast earth in darkness! What a
change
From yesterday!

The two ruffians took up the body, flung it with a coarse oath upon the couch, and bore it from the court.

"Ay," said the Frenchman, to whom Dillon had before spoken, as the two officials disappeared with their sad burden, "they make summary work of it here. He'll be crammed into a hole before night, and thus will conclude the tragedy."

"But the mother?" inquired Dillon, anxiously.

"Oh! ill news travel apace. She'll hear of her loss some day, and then she'll probably follow her son: at least, the government will give her all the encouragement in the world to do so. But if I mistake not, you have got into a scrape. You are, perhaps, not aware that sympathy for a criminal is forbidden by the laws of France; and yours, depend on't, won't pass without its meed. We must not be seen together, or I may be suspected of sharing in the sympathy that will be proved against you; and I have no ambition, believe me, to share your reward. *Au revoir.*" Saying which, he turned his back upon our hero, whistling a patriotic air.

When Dillon returned to his cell, he could not help reflecting upon the sad scene he had just witnessed, which did not at all tend to allay his unfavourable opinion, long and earnestly entertained, of political tyranny. It called to his mind the fine apostrophe of Young—

Oh death! I stretch my view; what
visions rise!

What triumph! toils imperial! arts divine!
In withered laurels; glide before my sight!
What lengths of far-famed ages, billowed
high

With human agitation, roll along
In unsubstantial images of air!
The melancholy ghosts of dead renown,
Whispering faint echoes of the world's
applause,

With penitential aspect, as they pass,
All point at earth, and hiss at human pride.

RICHARD PARVIN, EDWARD ELLIOT,
ROBERT KINGSELL, HENRY MARSHALL,
EDWARD PINK, JOHN PINK, AND
JAMES ANSELL.

The above individuals formed a gang of daring plunderers, who carried on their depredations with such effrontery that it was found necessary to enact the law hereafter recited, in order to bring them to condign punishment; and it was not long after it was in force, before it took due effect upon them.

Having blackened their faces, they went in the daytime to the parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly stole deer; and at length they murdered the Bishop of Winchester's keeper on Waltham Chase; from the name of which place, and from blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the Waltham Blacks.

The following is the substance of the Act of Parliament on which they were convicted. "Any person appearing in any forest, chase, park, &c., or in any high road, open heath, common, or down, with offensive weapons, and having his face blacked, or otherwise disguised, or unlawfully and wilfully hunting, wounding, killing, or stealing, any red or fallow deer, or unlawfully robbing any warren, &c., or stealing any fish out of any river or pond, or (whether armed or disguised or not) breaking down the head or mound of any fishpond, whereby the fish may be lost or destroyed; or unlawfully and maliciously killing, maiming, or wounding any cattle, or cutting down or otherwise destroying any trees planted in any avenue, or growing in any garden, orchard, or plantation, for ornament, shelter, or profit; or setting fire to any house, barn, or outhouse, hovl, cockmow, or

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stack of corn, straw, hay, or wood; or maliciously shooting at any person, in any dwellinghouse or other place; or knowingly sending any letter without any name, or signed with a fictitious name, demanding money, venison, or other valuable thing, or forcibly rescuing any person being in custody for any of the offences before mentioned; or procuring any person by gift, or promise of money, or other reward, to join in any such unlawful act, or concealing or succouring such offenders, when, by order of council, &c., required to surrender, shall suffer death." Prior to the passing of the said Act of Parliament the offence of deer-stealing was only a misdemeanour at common law.

With respect to the malefactors in question, we shall now give such particulars as we have been able to collect.

Richard Parvin kept a public-house in Portsmouth, which he held with reputation for a considerable time, till he was imprudent enough to engage with this gang of ruffians, who practised the robbing of noblemen's and gentlemen's parks throughout the country generally. The reader is already apprized that it was the custom of these fellows to go disguised. A servant-maid of Parvin's, having left his house during his absence, had repaired to an alehouse in the country, at which place Parvin called on his return from one of his dishonest expeditions, so that the girl discovered him; in consequence of which he was committed to Winchester gaol by the Mayor of Portsmouth, till his removal to London for trial.

Edward Elliot was an apprentice to a tailor at Guildford, and was very young when he engaged with the gang, whose orders he implicitly obeyed, till the following circumstance occasioned his leaving them. Having met with two countrymen who refused to enter into the society, they dug holes in the ground, and placed the unhappy men in them, up to their chins; and had these not been relieved by persons who accidentally saw them they must have perished. Shocked by this deed, Elliot left them, and for some time served a lady as a footman; but on the day the keeper was murdered, he casually met them in the fields, and on their promise that no harm should befall him he unhappily consented to bear them company. The gang having provided themselves with

pistols, and blacked their faces with gunpowder, proceeded on their lawless depredations; and while the rest of the party were killing deer, Elliot went in search of a fawn; as he was looking for which, the keeper and his assistants came up, and took him into custody. His associates were near enough to see what happened; and immediately coming to his assistance, a violent affray ensued, in which the keeper was shot by Henry Marshall, so that he died on the spot, and Elliot made his escape; but he was soon afterwards taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Guildford.

Robert Kingshell, who was a native of Farnham, in Surrey, was placed by his parents with a shoemaker; but being too idle to follow his profession, he was guilty of many acts of irregularity before he associated himself with the Waltham Blacks, with whom he afterwards suffered. While he was in bed on the night preceding the fatal murder above mentioned, one of the gang awoke him, by knocking at his window; on which he arose, and went with him to join the rest of the deer-stealers.

Henry Marshall was a man distinguished for his strength and agility: we have no account of the place of his birth, or the manner of his education; but it is reasonable to suppose that the latter was of the inferior kind, since he appears to have been chiefly distinguished by his skill in the vulgar science of bruising. He was once the occasion of apprehending a highwayman, who had robbed a coach, by giving him a single blow, which broke his arm. He seems to have been one of the most daring of the Waltham Blacks, and was the man who shot the keeper of the chase above mentioned.

Edward Pink and John Pink were brothers, who spent the former part of their lives as carters, at Portsmouth, and had maintained the character of honest men, till they became weak enough to join this desperate gang of deer-stealers.

James Ansell, the last of the gang, likewise lived at Portsmouth. We are not informed in what way he originally supported himself; but for some years before he joined the desperate company above mentioned he was a highwayman. He had been concerned with the Waltham Blacks about two years before the commission of the murder above recorded.

By a vigilant exertion on the part of the civil power, all the offenders in this affair were taken into custody; and it being thought prudent to bring them to trial in London, they were removed thither under a strong guard, and lodged in Newgate.

On the 13th of November, 1723, they were brought to trial in the Court of King's Bench; and being convicted on the clearest evidence, they were found guilty, and sentenced to death; which it was immediately ordered they should suffer on the 4th of the following month. The judge had no sooner pronounced the sentence than Marshall was deprived of the power of speech; nor did he recover it till the day before his death.

At Tyburn they were so dejected as to be unable to address the populace; but they confessed their crimes, and recommended their souls to God, beseeching his mercy, through the merits of Christ, with the utmost fervency and devotion.

CRIME AND EXECUTION IN THE UNITED STATES.

HERE, where murder for revenge is thought so little of, the same crime to perpetrate or conceal a robbery is sure to bring down the whole vengeance of the laws, whether administered in the name of Lynch, or of the state. Not twelve months ago, a young man, named Bayington, a compositor, proposed a walk into the woods to his friend and companion, and then cut him down with a knife or dagger—took his money, about eighty or ninety dollars, and embarked in a steam-boat the same night to proceed to the north. Being immediately suspected, he was pursued and brought back, and, on circumstantial evidence, was found guilty, and condemned to be hanged. Had he been acquitted, it was perfectly well known that his life would have been taken by the people. He remained some months in gaol, displaying the greatest indifference, denying his guilt, and writing sentimental poetry, which appeared occasionally in the paper on which he had been a compositor.

In the month of February last he was brought into the woods, where a temporary gallows had been erected. He was allowed to walk, by his own request, accompanied by his counsel, a clergy-

man, and some other gentlemen; and without knowing him it would have been impossible to have designated the culprit. Arrived at the tree, he very coolly mounted the platform, accompanied by the clergyman, through whom he requested permission to read an exculpatory address which he had written. Being permitted, he proceeded with an unblanched cheek, and an unflinching voice, to read a long, laboured, and artful commentary on the evidence on which he had been convicted, which would have been perfectly suited to a lawyer to puzzle and confound a jury, but which tended to remove any doubts of his guilt.

The limited time for his execution approaching, he was interrupted by the sheriff—obliged to descend from the platform to have his shroud and cap put on, and to be pinioned. Then, for the first time, the colour left his cheek; he ascended the ladder, and cast his eyes around on the guards and the people, as if to see what other delay could be obtained; for his loitering walk and his long address were doubtlessly planned for the purpose of delaying the execution till after four o'clock, when it could not legally take place; and hopes of success, it appeared, had never left him.

On the sheriff proceeding to put the rope about his neck, he jumped from the platform among the guards, dressed in his winding-sheet, exclaiming that it was his duty to save himself if he could, and he would try it. However, the sheriff and his deputy soon seized him, and, in despite of his struggles, dragged him up the ladder and put the noose about his neck, he clinging to everything, and resisting to the utmost. The platform fell, and he appeared suspended, with his hands, which were not sufficiently secured, clasping the rope so as to prevent its closing on his throat; and all their strength was insufficient to remove them. In about a minute, as insensibility approached, they dropped of themselves, and the spectators beheld, at a few paces' distance, his uncovered face—calm and untroubled like sleep, with the flush of youth and health, in the midst of a violent death.

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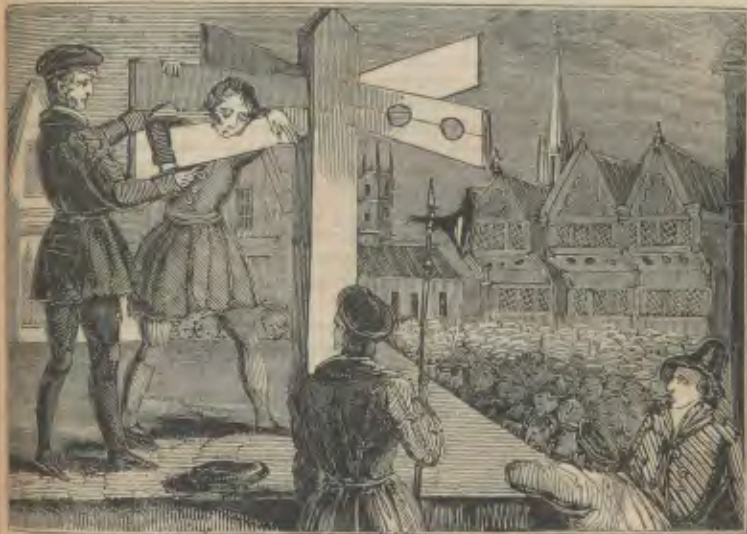
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 28.

SEPTEMBER 7, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

JOHN CATHER, PATRICK KANE, DANIEL ALEXANDER, AND
JAMES DIXON, EXTORTIONERS.



[PLACING A MAN IN THE PILLORY.]

Not only in the metropolis and its environs, but in the country at large, though in the former part more especially, there is a set of villains constantly prowling about for plunder by means of extortion, threatening men of sufficient substance with the accusation of some heinous or abominable crime. Oftentimes the gentleman thus singled out by these conspirators, though innocent, dreading even the breath of suspicion against his character, is terrified into a consent to give them money; and when once the devoted victim has thus yielded to their design, there is no prospect of an end to the extortions from time to time made upon him: many have even been utterly ruined by the unabatable rapacity of such infamous rascals.

In the present case the Hon. Edward Walpole was the mark of a confederacy of such extortioners, whose names are given above. On being brought to trial, it appeared in evidence that Mr. Walpole had been secretary to the Duke of Devonshire, while his grace was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland; and on his return to London, being in want of a confidential servant, he wrote to his friend Lord Boyle to procure him one, who some time after sent John Cather, one of his lordship's Irish tenants, to England. Mr. Walpole having in the mean time, however, hired an English servant, with whom he was well satisfied, he declined taking him, but told him to remain in his house till a place could be found for him. Thus was Cather, when he committed the basest act

of ingratitude, maintained like a gentleman, Mr. Walpole having from time to time generously supplied him with pocket-money.

Cather was one day observed by a servant of Mr. Walpole's in new, gay clothes, which he put on and off with much privacy; slipping in and out of the house in a way that showed he did not wish to be seen in such dress by any of the household. This soon came to the knowledge of the master, who, confident that he could not honestly come by the means of procuring such articles, suspected he had been plundered, and forbade him his house.

From this moment Cather meditated revenge; and when the mind is prone to vice, the course is unhappily soon entered upon. Cather, during the time he had enjoyed Mr. Walpole's bounty, having no employment, formed an acquaintance with bad characters; among whom was a gang of his own countrymen, who supported their excesses by extorting money upon the plan already detailed; a plan against the operation of which, upon any attempt to victimize an individual, a most determined front should be opposed; and even if suffering come for the truth's sake, let sufficient fortitude or courage be mustered to endure that suffering, seeing that such wretches can only by so doing be effectually defeated, and others be thereby discouraged in pursuing similar attempts. At the same time, the intended victim should adopt practicable means of proving his innocence of the crime with which he may be publicly charged, and of inflicting punishment on his cruel and merciless pursuers.

The villains in question laid a snare for Mr. Walpole, by which, however, they were caught themselves; as he very properly resisted their attempts, and caused them to be apprehended.

On the 5th of July, 1751, John Cather, Patrick Kane, Daniel Alexander, and James Dixon were brought up to the King's Bench, accused of a conspiracy in charging, on their oaths, the Hon. Edward Walpole with the commission of a disgraceful crime. They were found guilty, after a trial which lasted several hours, and received the sentences which are hereto annexed.

John Cather: to stand three times in and upon the pillory—the first time at

Charing Cross; the second, in Fleet Street; and the third, in Cornhill: to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell Bridewell for the term of four years; then to give security, himself in 40*l.*, and two sureties in 20*l.* each, for his good behaviour for four years more.

Patrick Kane: to stand upon the pillory, and to be kept to hard labour in Clerkenwell Bridewell for two years; then to give the like security as John Cather for five years more.

Daniel Alexander (who was an attorney, and solieitor to the conspirators; and who was the greatest villain of the gang), to stand once upon the pillory, and to be imprisoned three years in the King's Bench prison; then to give security for good behaviour for three years more—himself in 200*l.*, and two sureties in 100*l.* each; and to be struck off the roll of attorneys.

To some men the pillory would be no punishment: to stand with the head and hands fastened to a block of wood for an hour, no pain arising therefrom, would be no terror to them, were not the populace, honestly indignant at the law's lenient punishment in itself of such diabolical villains as were formerly consigned to the pillory, (such as extortioners, conspirators, swindlers, perjurers, gamblers, and rogues of the like description, while he who stood to the amount of a shilling was hanged to supply the defect. This was amply done on the present scoundrels, who were most severely pelted.

On the trial taking place which decided the fate of the first three culprits, Dixon absconded, and for a while he eluded the search made after him; but being at last taken, he was brought to trial, and on the 4th of May, 1752, sentenced by the Court of King's Bench to be imprisoned two years, and to find sureties for his subsequent good behaviour for two years: first, however, he was to stand once upon the pillory at Charing Cross, where the mob treated him with no less severity than they had treated those of his associates in villany, who had already passed the like disgraceful spectacle.

Let all on whom attempts are made to extort money by some iniquitous scheme adopt the plan of the Hon. E. Walpole, and they will not only defeat imposture—they will be most effectually a terror to evil-doers.

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AWFUL END OF BARBARA SPENCER,
COINER AND UTTERER OF BASE MONEY.

The mischief arising from counterfeiting the current coin of the realm reaches to every door. A poor man, cheated by one base shilling, often finds a loss as great as an extensive forgery upon paper is to the wealthy merchant. The subjoined description and history of the malpractice of coining, were written about twenty-five years since, when the forging of Bank of England Notes and British coin was probably at its height. The laws of the present day are different with respect to forgery from those of that period; but the statement gives an interesting development of the then state of base coining both in its practice and the punishment to which such practice was liable.

Coining, or uttering base money, is high treason in the second degree. To rob the whole community is to be a traitor to the state. But it is asked, whether a merchant, who imports ingots of gold from America, and privately converts them into good money, be guilty of high treason, and merits death, which is the punishment annexed to the crime in almost all countries? Nevertheless, he has robbed nobody: on the contrary, he has done service to the state by increasing the currency. But he had defrauded the king of the small profit thereon. He has indeed coined good money, but he has led others into the temptation of coining bad. Yet death is a severe punishment. A lawyer was of opinion that such a criminal should be condemned, as a useful hand, to work in the royal mint with irons to his legs.

The increased manufacture and extensive circulation of counterfeit money, particularly of late years, is too obvious not to have attracted the notice of all ranks. It has become an enormous evil in the melancholy catalogue of crimes which the laws of the country are called upon to assist the police in suppressing. Its extent almost exceeds credibility; and the dexterity and ingenuity of these counterfeiters have, after considerable practice, enabled them to finish the different kinds of base money, in so masterly a manner, that it has become extremely difficult for a common observer to distinguish their spurious manufacture from the worn-out silver of the mint. So systematic, indeed, has this nefarious traffic become of late,

that the great dealers, who in most instances are the employers of the coiners, execute orders for town and country, with the same regularity as manufacturers in fair branches of trade.

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

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

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

Nor has the mischief been confined to counterfeiting the coin of the realm. The avarice and ingenuity of man are constantly finding out new sources of fraud; inasmuch, that in London, and in Birmingham and its neighbourhood, Louis d'or, half-Johannas, French half-crowns and shillings, as well as several coins of Flanders

and Germany, and dollars of excellent workmanship, in exact imitation of the Spanish dollars issued from the Bank in 1797, have been from time to time counterfeited, and apparently without suspicion that under the Act of the 14th of Elizabeth, cap. 3, the offenders were guilty of misprision of high treason.

These ingenious miscreants have also extended their iniquitous manufacture to the coins of India: a coinage of the star pagoda of Arcot was established, by one person, in London for years. These counterfeits, being made wholly of blanchéd copper tempered in such a manner as to exhibit, when stamped, the cracks in the edges, which are always to be found on the real pagoda, cost the maker only 1½*d.* each, after being double-gilt. When finished, they were generally sold to Jews at 5*s.* a dozen, who disposed of them afterwards at 2*s.*, 3*s.*, and even 5*s.* each: and through this medium, they have been introduced by a variety of channels into India, where they were mixed with the real pagodas of the country, and passed at their full denominated value of 8*s.* sterling.

The sequins of Turkey, another gold coin, worth 5*s.* and 6*s.*, have in like manner been counterfeited in London. Thus the national character is wounded, and the disgrace of the British name proclaimed in Asia, and even in the most distant nations of India. Nor can it be sufficiently lamented, that persons who consider themselves as ranking in superior stations of life, with some pretensions to honour and integrity, have suffered their avarice so far to get the better of their honesty as to be concerned in this iniquitous traffic.

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

It will scarcely be credited, that of criminals of this latter class, who have either been detected, prosecuted, or convicted, within the last seven years, there stand upon the register of the solicitor of the mint, more than six hundred and fifty names! And yet the mischief is not diminished. When the reader is informed,

that two persons can finish from 200*l.* to 300*l.* (nominal value) in base silver, in six days; and that three people, within the same period, will stamp the like amount in copper; taking into the calculation the number of known coiners, the aggregate amount in the course of a year will be found to be immense.

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

So dexterous and skilful have coiners now become, that by mixing a certain proportion of pure gold with a compound of base metal, they can fabricate guineas that shall be full weight, and of such perfect workmanship, as to elude a discovery except by persons of skill; while the intrinsic value does not exceed 13*s.* or 14*s.*, and in some instances is not more than 8*s.* or 9*s.* Of this coinage, considerable quantities were circulated some years since, bearing the impression of George II.; and another coinage of counterfeit guineas of the year 1793, bearing the impression of his present Majesty, has been for some years in circulation, finished in a masterly manner, for nearly full weight, although the intrinsic value is not above 8*s.*; half-guineas are also in circulation, of the same coinage; and lately a good imitation of the 7*s.* pieces. But as the fabrication of such coin requires a greater degree of skill and ingenuity than generally prevails, and also a greater capital than most coiners are able to command, it is to be hoped it has gone to no great extent; for, amidst all the abuses which have prevailed of late years, it is unquestionably true, that the guineas and half-guineas which have been counterfeited in a style to elude detection have borne no proportion, in point of extent, to the coinage of base silver. Of this latter there are five different kinds at present counterfeited, which we shall proceed to enumerate.

The first of these are denominated flats from the circumstance of this species of money being cut out of flattened plates composed of a mixture of silver and blanchéd copper. The proportion of silver runs from one fourth to one third

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

The artisans who stamp or coin these blanks into base money, are seldom interested themselves. They generally work as mechanics for the large dealers, who employ a capital in the trade, and who furnish the plates, and pay about 8 per cent. for the coinage, being at the rate of 1*d.* for each shilling, and 2½*d.* for each half-crown.

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

All these operations are so quickly performed, that two persons (a man and his wife for instance) can completely finish to the nominal amount of 50*l.* in shillings and half-crowns in two days, by which they will earn each 2 guineas a-day.

A shilling of this species, which exhibits nearly the appearance of what has been usually called a Birmingham shilling, is intrinsically worth from 2*d.* to 4*d.*; and crowns and half-crowns are in the same proportion. The quantity made of this sort of counterfeit coinage is very considerable: it requires less ingenuity than any of the other methods of coinage, though at the same time it is the most expensive, and of course the least profitable to the dealer; who for the most part disposes of it to the utterers, vulgarly

called smashers, at from 28*s.* to 40*s.* for a guinea, according to the quality; while these smashers generally manage to utter it again at the full import value.

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

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

These shillings do not cost the makers above ½*d.* each; and they are sold very low to the smashers or utterers, who pass them where they can at the full nominal value; and then when the silver wears off, which is very soon the case, they are sold to the Jews, as bad shillings, who generally re-sell them at a small profit to customers, by whom they are re-coloured, and thus soon brought again into circulation. The profit is immense, owing to the trifling value of the materials; but the circulation, on account of the danger of discovery, it is to be hoped, is not yet very extensive. It is, however, to be remarked, that it is a species of coinage not of a long standing.

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

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

The counterfeit money made in imitation of shillings by this process, is generally cast so as to have a crooked appearance; and the deception is so admirable, that although intrinsically not worth $\frac{1}{2}d.$, by exhibiting the appearance of a thick crooked shilling they enter into circulation without suspicion, and are seldom refused while the surface exhibits no part of the copper; and even after this the itinerant Jews will purchase them at $3d.$ each, though six times their intrinsic value, well knowing that they can again be re-coloured at the expense of $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ a dozen, so as to pass without difficulty for their nominal value of $12d.$ each. A vast number of the sixpences now in circulation are of this species of coinage.

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

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

The fifth and last species of base coin made in imitation of the silver money of the realm is called figs, or fig things. It is a very inferior sort of counterfeit money, of which composition, however, a great part of the sixpences now in circulation are made. The proportion of silver is not, generally speaking, of the value of a farthing in a half-crown; although there are certainly some exceptions, as counterfeit sixpences have been lately discovered, some with a mixture, and some wholly silver: but even these did not yield the

maker less than from 500 to 1000 per cent., and sometimes more.

It is impossible to estimate the amount of this kind of base money which has entered into the circulation of the country during the last twenty years; but it must be very great, since one of the principal coiners of stamped money, who some time since left off his business, and made some important discoveries, acknowledged to the author that he had coined to the extent of 200,000*l.* sterling in counterfeit half-crowns, and other base silver money, in a period of seven years. This is the less surprising, as two persons can stamp and finish to the amount of from 200*l.* to 300*l.* a-week.

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

The plain halfpence are generally made at Birmingham, and from their thickness afford a wonderful deception. They are sold, however, by the coiners, to the large dealers, at about a farthing each, or 100 per cent. profit on the tale or aggregate number. These dealers are not the utterers, but sell them again by retail in pieces, or 5*s.* papers, at the rate of from 28*s.* to 31*s.* for a guinea; not only to the smashers, but also to persons in different trades, as well in the metropolis as in the country towns, who pass them in the course of their business at the full import value.

Farthings are also made in considerable quantities, chiefly in London; but so very thin, that the profit upon this specie of coinage is much greater than on the halfpence, though these counterfeits are not now, as formerly, made of base metal. The copper of which they are made is generally purc. The advantage lies in the weight alone, where the coiners, sellers, and utterers, do not obtain less than 200 per cent. A well-known coiner has been said to finish from 60*l.* to 80*l.* sterling a-week. Of halfpence, two or three persons can stamp and finish to the nominal amount of at least 200*l.*, it is said, in six days.

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

It has not been an unusual thing for several of these dealers to hold a kind of market, every morning, where from forty to fifty of the German Jew boys are regularly supplied with counterfeit halfpence, which they dispose of in the course of the day in different streets and lanes of the metropolis, for bad shillings, at about 3*d.* each. Care is always taken that the person who cries bad shillings shall have a companion near him, who carries the halfpence, and takes charge of the purchased shillings (which are not cut), so as to elude the detection of the officers of the police, in the event of being searched.

The bad shillings thus purchased, are received in payment by the employers of the boys, for the bad halfpence supplied by them, at the rate of 4*s.* a dozen; and are generally re-sold to smashers, at a profit of 2*s.* a dozen; who speedily recolour them, and introduce them again into circulation at their full nominal value.

These boys will generally clear from 5*s.* to 7*s.* a-day by this fraudulent business, which they almost uniformly spend, during the evening, in riot and debauchery, returning penniless in the morning to their old trade.

Thus it is that the frauds upon the public multiply beyond conception, while

the tradesman, who, unwarily at least, if not improperly, sells his counterfeit shillings to Jew boys at 3*d.* each, little suspects, that it is for the purpose of being returned upon him again at the rate of 12*d.*, or 400 per cent. profit to the purchasers and utterers.

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

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

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

An opinion prevails, founded on information obtained from one of the most intelligent of these coiners and dealers, that of the counterfeit money now in circulation not above one third is of the species of flats or composition money, which has been mentioned as the most valuable, containing from one fourth to one third silver, the remainder being blanchéd copper. The other two thirds of the counterfeit money being cast or washed, and in reality worth little or nothing, the imposition is obvious. Taking the whole upon an average, the amount of the injury may be fairly calculated at within 10 per cent. of a total loss upon the mass of the base silver now in circulation; which, if a conclusion may be drawn from what passes under the review of any person who has occasion to receive silver in exchange, must considerably exceed one million

sterling! To this we have the miserable prospect of an accession every year, until some effectual measures shall be adopted to remedy the crying and grievous evil of so extensive a circulation of counterfeit money.

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

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

These dealers are also assisted by fruit-women, who are always ready to give change to ladies, when perhaps not one shilling in the change is good; and should the purchaser of the fruit object to any, abusive words ensue: an instance of this kind happened not long ago in Cranbourn Alley. Rabbit and fowl hawkers are also very dexterous in passing bad money: they call in at shops, and propose bargains of fowls; and when they receive payment they have a mode of changing any silver placed in their hands, telling the purchaser that he has given a bad shilling or half-a-crown, &c., producing at the same time a notoriously base one; and the poor shopkeeper is done unless he sees through the chicanery, and sends for a constable. Such an impostor lately imposed upon some very respectable people in Chelsea, but he has fortunately been stopped in his career.

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

The same kind of counterfeit penny-pieces is also in circulation; and as a number of pence is often taken in a lump the leaden ones, on account of their size and similitude, are seldom noticed. The colouring, however, is very apt to wear off at the edges.

Such is the description of the manufacture and circulation of base coin in the early part of the present century. The individual particulars of Barbara Spencer may be briefly summed up. She was born in the parish of St. Giles without Cripplegate, and proved in her youthful days to be of a violent temper. Finding her quite unmanageable at home, her mother apprenticed her to a mantuamaker, who, having known her from a child, treated her with great kindness. Barbara had served about two years when a dispute with her mistress caused her to return home to her mother, with whom she had not resided long when she made a demand that a servant-maid might be kept. Barbara and the maid soon had a quarrel, in which the mother interposed; and Barbara left her for a short time, but soon returned again. Not long after this some malefactors were to be executed at Tyburn, and Barbara had determined to make one of the spectators, though otherwise advised by her mother, who, struggling to keep her at home, struck her; but the daughter got away, and proceeded with a female acquaintance to Tyburn, and thence to a house near St. Giles's pound, where Barbara vowed she would never again return to her mother. In this fatal resolution she was encouraged by the company present, who persuaded her to believe that she might live in an easy manner if she would follow their way of life. To this she readily agreed; and they employed her in uttering counterfeit money, of which they were the coiners: she was detected, fined, and imprisoned. Not taking warning, however, by this circumstance, she returned to the pursuit, commenced coiner herself, and was at length apprehended, found guilty, and sentenced to be strangled and burnt.

While under sentence she behaved in the most indecent and turbulent manner; nor could she be convinced that she had been guilty of any crime in making a few shillings. At Tyburn she seemed anxious to exercise a prayerful spirit; but she was much interrupted by the pitiless pelting she received from the mob. She suffered on the 5th of July, 1721.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 29.

SEPTEMBER 14, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

SLAVERY IN ENGLAND. THE FACTORY SYSTEM. N^o. 3.
THE HORRORS OF A COTTON-MILL EXHIBITED IN A MEMOIR OF
ROBERT BLINCOE.



[BLINCOE RELATING HIS TALE OF WOE TO THE AUTHOR.]

INTRODUCTION.

HAVING in some of our former Numbers commented on the iniquity of a system of slavery existing in the very heart of "our native land," we now avail ourselves of a subject proving to our readers that the system as a whole is iniquitous beyond description or even conception. That subject is the contents of a pamphlet, first published about ten years since, entitled "A Memoir of Robert Blincoe, an Orphan Boy, sent from the Workhouse of St. Pancras, London, at Seven Years of Age, to endure the Horrors of a Cotton-Mill, through his Infancy and Youth; with a Minute Detail of his Sufferings: being the First Memoir of the Kind published. By John Brown." The Memoir

is divided into six chapters, with a Preface by the original publisher; and it is our intention to lay the whole open in the pages of our Annals, as they contain a series of facts as free from verbiage perhaps as any facts ever penned. Our only alterations will be a different division of the same into chapters, and an immaterial reconstruction of occasional passages without in the least impairing the sense. A few designs have likewise been prepared, by way of pictorial illustration. The original publisher of the pamphlet refers to the late Mr. Wilberforce as a foreign slave-emancipator merely; and it must be admitted that that gentleman could not have been ignorant of the existence of a domestic slavery, outstrip-

ping, in appalling magnitude and frightful operation, that system he so violently and properly denounced. Respecting the details of the following memoir, we may add emphatically, facts established upon so firm a basis it is impossible to controvert. We know that there is many a casuist in a house which may be facetiously termed "*The Reformed House*," who would attempt to convince his hearers that the record was a hoax upon the country, a thing got up for the mere gratification of excitement, which would fail of its object unless it had within it something of the marvellous, the impracticable, the horrible, and so forth: but we tell that casuist that it is he who is hoaxing and trifling with mankind and the Author of mankind. There is a plain, straightforward path open for any having the power to show that the treatment of Robert Blincoe was not such as the record describes, or the sweeping and more effective power to show that no such person as the said Robert Blincoe ever existed: but neither of these points is possible—the quailing and sickening facts are unhappily too true; and the people of England are beginning, though tardily, to be alive to the atrocities of Britain's children being *sometimes* slaves!

"The various Acts of Parliament" (says the original publisher) "which have been passed to regulate the treatment of children in the Cotton Spinning Manufactories, betoken the previous existence of some treatment so glaringly wrong as to force itself upon the attention of the legislature. This Cotton slave-trade, like the Negro slave-trade, did not lack its defenders; and it might have afforded a sort of sorry consolation to the Negro slaves of America, had they been informed that their condition, in having agriculturally to raise the cotton, was not half so bad as that of the white infant-slaves, who had to assist in the spinning of it, when brought to this country. The religion and humanity of Mr. Wilberforce seem to have been entirely of a black and foreign nature. Pardon is begged, if an error is about to be wrongfully imputed; but the publisher has no knowledge, that Mr. Wilberforce's humane advocacy for slaves, was ever of that homely kind as to embrace the region of the home cotton slave-trade. And yet, who shall read the Memoir of Robert Blincoe, and say, that

the charity towards slaves should not have begun or ended at home?

"The author of this memoir is now dead: he fell, about two or three years ago, by his own hand. He united, with a strong feeling for the injuries and sufferings of others, a high sense of injury when it bore on himself, whether real or imaginary; and a despondency when his prospects were not good: hence his suicide. Had he not possessed a fine fellow-feeling with the child of misfortune, he had never taken such pains to compile the Memoir of Robert Blincoe, and to collect all the wrongs on paper, on which he could gain information, about the various sufferings under the cotton-mill systems. Notes to the Memoir of Robert Blincoe were intended by the author, in illustration of his strong personal assertions. The references were marked in the memoir; but the notes were not prepared—or, if prepared, have not come to the publisher's hand. But, on inquiring after Robert Blincoe in Manchester, and mentioning the memoir of him written by Mr. Brown, as being in the publisher's possession, other papers, by the same author, which had been left on a loan of money in Manchester, were obtained; and these papers seem to have formed the authorities, from which the notes to the memoir would have been made: so that, though the publisher does not presume to make notes for the author, nor for himself, to the memoir, he is prepared to confirm much of the statement here made, the personal particulars of Robert Blincoe excepted, should it be generally challenged.

"Robert Blincoe, the subject of the memoir, is now about thirty-five years of age, and resides at No. 19, Turner Street, Manchester, where he keeps a small grocer's shop. He is also engaged in manufacturing sheet wadding, and is a cotton-waste dealer. The publisher having no knowledge of Robert Blincoe, but in common with every reader of this memoir, can have no personal feelings towards him other than those of pity for his past sufferings. But such a memoir as this was much wanted, to hand down to posterity what was the real character of the complaints about the treatment of children in our cotton-mills, about which a legislation has taken place, and so much has been said. An amended treatment of children has been made, the appren-

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ing system having been abandoned by the masters of the mills: but the employment is in itself bad for children—first, as to their health; and secondly, as to their manners and acquirements: the employment being in a bad atmosphere; and the education, from example, being bad; the time that should be devoted to a better education being devoted to that which is bad. The employment of infant children in the cotton-mills furnishes a bad means to dissolute parents, to live in idleness and all sorts of vice, upon the produce of infant labour. There is much of this in Lancashire, which a little care and looking after, on the part of the masters of cotton-mills, might easily prevent. But what is to be done? Most of the extensive manufacturers profit by human misery, and become callous toward it, both from habit and interest. If a remedy be desired, it must be sought by that part of the working people themselves, who are alive to their progressing degradation. It will never be sought fairly out by those who have no interest in seeking it: and so long as the majority of the working people squander their already scanty incomes in those pest-houses, those intoxicating nurseries for vice, idleness, and misery—the public drinking-houses, there is no hope for them of an amended condition."

CHAPTER I.

By the time the observant reader has got through the melancholy recital of the sufferings of Blincoe and his associates in cotton-mill bondage, he will probably incline to an opinion, that, rather than rear destitute and deserted children, to be thus distorted by excessive toil, and famished and tortured as those have been, it were incomparably less cruel to put them at once to death—less cruel that they had never been born alive; and far more wise that they had never been conceived. In cases of unauthorized pregnancies, our laws are tender of unconscious life, perhaps to a faulty extreme; whilst our parochial institutions, as these pages will prove, after incurring considerable expense to preserve the lives of those forlorn beings, sweep them off by shoals, under the sanction of other legal enactments, and consign them to a fate far worse than sudden death.

Rear'd in the most profound ignorance

and depravity, these unhappy beings are, from the hour of their birth to the last of their existence, generally cut off from all that is decent in social life. Their preceptors are the veriest wretches in nature! their influential examples all of the worst possible kind. The reports of the Cotton Bill Committees abundantly prove, that, by forcing those destitute poor to go into cotton-mills, they have, in very numerous instances, been consigned to a destiny worse than death without torture. Yet, appalling as are many of the statements, which, through the reports of the committees, have found their way before the public, similar acts of delinquencies, of a hue still darker—even repeated acts of murder, have escaped unnoticed. Much of the evidence brought forward by the friends of humanity, was neutralized or frittered away by the timidity of their witnesses, or by the base subservency of venally unprincipled professional men, who, influenced by rich capitalists, basely prostituted their talent and character as physicians, surgeons, and apothecaries, to deceive the government, to perplex and mislead public opinion, and avert the loud cry raised against the insatiate avarice and relentless cruelty of their greedy and unfeeling suborners.

It was in the spring of 1822, after having devoted a considerable time to an investigation of the effect of the manufacturing system, and factory establishments, on the health and morals of the manufacturing populace, that I first heard of the extraordinary sufferings of Robert Blincoe: at the same time, I was told of his earnest wish that those sufferings should, for the protection of the rising generation of parish children, be laid before the world. Thus assured, I went to inquire for him, and was much pleased with his conversation. If this young man had not been consigned to a cotton-factory, he would probably have been strong, healthy, and well grown; instead of which, he is diminutive as to stature, and his knees are grievously distorted. In his manners, he appeared remarkably gentle; in his language, temperate; in his statements, cautious and consistent. If, in any part of the ensuing narrative, there are falsehoods and misrepresentations, the fault rests solely with himself; for, repeatedly and earnestly, I admonished him to beware, lest a too keen remembrance of

the injustice he had suffered should lead him to transgress the limits of truth. After I had taken down his communications, I tested them, by reading the same to other persons, with whom Blincoe had not had any intercourse on the subject, and who had partaken of the miseries of the same hard servitude; by whom they were in every point confirmed.

Robert Blincoe commenced his melancholy narrative, by stating, that he was a parish orphan, and knew not either his father or mother. From the age of four years," he says, "till I had completed my seventh, I was supported in Saint Pancras poorhouse, near London." In very pathetic terms, he frequently censured and regretted the remissness of the parish officers, who, when they received him into the workhouse, had, as he seemed to believe, neglected to make any entry, or, at least, any to which he could obtain access, of his mother's and father's name, occupation, age, or residence. Blincoe argued, and plausibly too, that those officers would not have received him, if his mother had not proved her settlement; and he considered it inhuman in the extreme, either to neglect to record the names of his parents, or, if recorded, to refuse to give him that information which, after his attaining his freedom, he had requested at their hands. His lamentations, on this head, were truly touching, and evinced a far higher degree of susceptibility of heart than could have been expected, from the extreme and long-continued wretchedness he had endured, in the den of vice and misery in which he was so long immured. Experience often evinces, that, whilst moderate adversity mollifies and expands the human heart, extreme and long-continued wretchedness has a direct and powerful contrary tendency, rendering it impenetrably callous.

In one of our early interviews, tears trickling down his pallid cheeks, and his voice tremulous and faltering, Blincoe said, "I am worse off than a child reared in the Foundling Hospital. Those orphans have a name given them by the heads of that institution, at the time of baptism, to which they are legally entitled. But I have no name I can call my own." He said, he perfectly recollected riding in a coach to the workhouse, accompanied by some female; that he did not, however, think this female was his mother, for he

had not the least consciousness of having felt either sorrow or uneasiness at being separated from her, as he very naturally supposed he should have felt if that person had been his mother. Blincoe also appeared to think he had not been nursed by his mother, but had passed through many hands before he arrived at the workhouse; because he had no recollection of ever having experienced a mother's caresses. It seems, young as he was, he had been inquired of the nurses, when the parents and relations of other children came to see his young associates, why *one came to him*; and he used to weep when he was told that *no one had ever owned him*, after his being placed in that house. Some of the nurses stated, that a female, who called soon after his arrival, inquired for him by the name of "Saint"; and, when he was produced, gave him a penny-piece, and told him his mother was dead. If this report were well founded, his mother's illness was probably the cause of his being removed and sent to the workhouse. According to his own description, he felt with extreme sensibility the loneliness of his condition, and, at each stage of his future sufferings, during his severe cotton-mill servitude, it pressed on his heart the heaviest of all his sorrows—an impassable barrier, "a wall of brass," cut him off from all mankind. The sad consciousness, that he stood alone—"a waif on the world's wide common;" that he had no acknowledged claim of kindred with any human being, rich or poor; that he stood apparently for ever excluded from every social circle—so constantly occupied his thoughts, that, together with his sufferings, they imprinted a pensive character on his features, which, probably, neither change of fortune nor time itself would ever entirely obliterate. When he was six years old, and, as the workhouse children were saying their Catechism, it was his turn to repeat the Fifth Commandment—"Honour thy father and thy mother," he recollects having suddenly burst into tears, and that he felt greatly agitated and distressed—his voice faltering, and his limbs trembling. According to his statement, (and his pathetic eloquence, in reciting his misfortunes strongly corroborated his assertion,) he was a very ready scholar; and the source of this sudden burst of grief being inquired into by some of his superiors, he said,

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cry, because I cannot obey one of God's commandments: I know not my father or my mother; I cannot, therefore, be a good child and honour my parents."

It was rumoured, in the ward where Robert Blincoe was placed, that he owed his existence to the mutual frailties of his mother and a reverend divine, and was called the young Saint, in allusion to his priestly descent. This name or appellation he did not long retain, for he was afterwards called Parson—often, *the young Parson*; and he recollected hearing it said in his presence, that he was the son of a Parson Blincoe. Whether these allusions were founded in truth, or were but the vile effusions of vulgar malice, was not, and is not, in his power to determine, whose bosom they have so painfully agitated. Another remarkable circumstance in his case, was, that when he was sent in August, 1799, with a large number of other children, from St. Pancras workhouse, to a cotton-mill near Nottingham, he bore amongst his comrades the name of Parson, and retained it afterwards till he had served considerably longer than his fourteen years; and then, when his indentures were at last relinquished, and not till then, the young man found he had been apprenticed by the name of Robert Blincoe. I urged the probability, that his right indenture might, in the change of masters that took place, or the careless indifference of his last master, have been given to another boy; and that to the one given to him, bearing the name of Blincoe, he had no just claim. This reasoning he repelled, by steadily and consistently asserting, he fully recollected having heard it said his real name was Blincoe, whilst he remained at St. Pancras workhouse. His indentures were dated the 15th of August, 1799: if, at this time, he was seven years of age, which is by no means certain, he was born in 1792, and in 1796 was placed in Pancras workhouse. With these remarks I close this preliminary matter; and happy should I be, if the publication of these facts enables the individual to whom they relate, to remove the veil which has hitherto deprived him of a knowledge of his parentage, a privation which he still appears to feel with undiminished intensity of grief.

Two years have elapsed, since I first began to take notes of Blincoe's extraordinary narrative. At the close of 1822, and

the beginning of 1823, I was seized with a serious illness, which wholly prevented my publishing this and other important communications. The testimony of as respectable a surgeon, who attended me, as any in the country—even ocular demonstration of my enfeebled state—failed to convince some of the cotton-spinners, that my inability was not feigned, to answer some sinister end; and such atrocious conduct was pursued towards me, as would have fully justified a prosecution for conspiracy. Animated by the most opposite views, the worst of miscreants united to vilify and oppress me: the one wanting to get my papers, in order, by destroying them, to prevent the enormities of the cotton-masters being exposed; and another, traducing my character, and menacing my life, under an impression that I had basely sold the declarations and communications received from oppressed workpeople to their masters. By some of those suspicious, misjudging people, Blincoe was led away: he did not, however, at any time, or under any circumstances, retract or deny any part of his communications; and on the 18th and 19th of March, 1824, of his own free will, he not only confirmed all that he had communicated in the spring of 1822, with many other traits of suffering, not then recollected, but furnished me with them. It has stood the test of this hurricane, without its authenticity being in any one part questioned or impaired. The authenticity of this narrative is, therefore, entitled to greater credit, than much of the testimony given by the owners of cotton-factories, or by professional men on their behalf; as will, in the course of this narrative, be fully demonstrated by evidence, wholly incontrovertible. If it should be proved that atrocities to the same extent exist no longer, still, its publication, as a preventive remedy, is no less essential to the protection of parish paupers and foundlings. If the gentlemen of Manchester and its vicinity, who acted in 1816, &c., in conjunction with the late Mr. Nathaniel Gould, had not made the selection of witnesses too much in the power of incompetent persons, Robert Blincoe would have been selected in 1819, peradventure, as the most impressive pleader in behalf of destitute and deserted children.

(To be continued.)

LIEUTENANT EDWARD BIRD.

WHEN young men mount the cockade, suspend the epaulet to the shoulder, and gird themselves with a sword, they too often neglect the duty they owe to private life. Accustomed to a certain degree of authority, they forget that private individuals, with whom they may choose to associate, are subject alone to the *civil* law, which has the power of chastising military outrages, when carried to excess.

Edward Bird was born at Windsor, in Berkshire, and descended of respectable parents, who first sent him to Westminster School, and then removed him to Eton College. When he had finished his studies, he was sent to make the tour of France and Italy; and on his return to England he was honoured with the commission of a lieutenant in a regiment of horse. He now began to associate with abandoned company of both sexes, which finally led to the commission of the crime for which he forfeited his life.

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

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

Being at length convicted on the clearest evidence, he received sentence of death;

but great interest being made in his behalf he was reprieved; and it was thought he would have been pardoned, on condition of transportation, but for the intervention of those circumstances next detailed. The friends of Loxton, hearing that a reprieve was granted, advised his widow to lodge an appeal at the bar of the Court of King's Bench; and she went thither with some friends, to give security for that purpose; but the relations of Bird hearing what was intended, were ready in court with witnesses to depose that this was the second wife of Loxton, his first being still alive. This being the fact, the court refused to admit the appeal, as the second could not be a lawful wife.

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

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

In the fate of this young man, we have demonstrated the misapplication of a military education, when exercised among private individuals; but it also shows the effects of fallen pride, which induced the culprit twice to attempt suicide—a crime, in a religious point of view, more heinous than the act for which he suffered. Passion might plead in extenuation for the latter, but self-murder is a premeditated offence both to God and man. When resorted to from a sense of shame, arising from private wrongs, it discovers an imbecillity not to be found in the minds of brave men.

England is justly reproached by foreign writers with the multiplicity of crimes of

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this description. When we estimate the mischief arising to the friends and relations of the suicide, we must hold it in abhorrence; nay, the very welfare of society is concerned. Men regardless of their fate in the next world—they only can coolly contemplate their departure from this life by their own hands. They are lost to religion—to a sense of their Maker: hence they are more than ordinarily hardened.

In addition to the baneful influence of bad actions upon the multitude, mark the increased agonies of mind of the wretched female who gave birth to this malefactor, when she attended his still flowing blood, shed by his own hands, to the place where the remainder must be sacrificed to the offended laws of his country. In what detestation, then, ought we to regard a crime leading to such aggravated enormities!

—

ARUNDEL COOKE, JOHN WOODBURN,
AND THE COVENTRY ACT.

Previous to the passing of the above-mentioned Act of Parliament, it was customary for revengeful men to waylay another, and cut and maim him, so that, though he did not die of such wounds, he might remain a cripple during the remainder of his life, and such case was not then a capital offence. It was also a dangerous practice resorted to by thieves, who would often cut the sinews of men's legs, called hamstringing, in order to prevent their escape from being robbed.

Sir John Coventry, in the reign of Charles the Second, opposed the measures of the Court in the House of Commons, in revenge for which some armed villains attacked him one night in Covent Garden, slit his nose, and cut off his lips. Shocked by so barbarous a deed, the members of both houses of Parliament passed an act in a few days, by which it was ordained, that "Unlawfully cutting out or disabling the tongue, of malice aforethought—or 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." This law likewise enacted, that "accessaries shall likewise be deemed principals." A similar act was passed in Ireland, called "The Chalking Act;" on which one Lamb, a

butcher, was the first individual that was convicted.

Arundel Cooke was born at Bury St. Edmund's, in the county of Suffolk. His father was a man of fortune, who, when he had given Arundel a university education, sent him to the Temple to study the law, after which he was called to the bar, and practised 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, that 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 upon the best terms. However, he at length grew so impatient that he could not come into possession, that he resolved to remove the obstacle, Mr. Crisp; for which purpose he engaged John Woodburne, a labouring man, who had six children, to assist him in the execution of his diabolical plan; on the completion of which the latter was promised 100*l*. The man was unwilling to be concerned in this execrable business; but, after reflecting on his poverty, and the largeness of his family, he was induced to comply.

On this it was agreed that the murder should be perpetrated on Christmas evening; and as Mr. Crisp was to dine with Cooke on that day, and the churchyard lay between one house and the other, Woodburne was to wait concealed behind one of the tombstones till Cooke gave him the signal of attack, which was to be a loud whistle. Crisp came to his appointment, and dined and drank tea with his brother-in-law; but declining to stay supper, he left the house about nine o'clock, and was almost immediately followed into the churchyard by Cooke, who gave 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 despatched him, Mr. Cooke rewarded Woodburne with a few shillings, and instantly went home; but he had not arrived more than a quarter of an hour before Mr. Crisp knocked at the door, and entered covered with wounds, and almost dead through loss of blood. He was unable to speak, but by his looks he seemed to accuse Cooke with the intended murder. He was then put to bed, and his wounds were 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 that Cooke was one of the persons who had assaulted him; but had resolved not to speak of the affair till future circumstances made it necessary for him to inform a court of justice of what had happened.

The intended assassination having greatly engaged the attention of the neighbours, Woodburne was apprehended on suspicion; when he made a discovery of the whole truth, and Cooke was also taken into custody. They were brought to trial 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 upon the case.

The counsel for the crown opposed the arguments of Cooke, insisted that the crime came within the meaning of the law, and hoped that judgment would pass against the prisoners.

Lord Chief Justice King, who presided on the occasion, declared he could not admit the force of Mr. Cooke's plea, consistent with his own oath as a judge: "for," said he, "it would establish a principle in the law inconsistent with the first dictates of natural reason; as the greatest villain might, when convicted of a smaller offence, plead that judgment must be arrested because he intended to commit a greater. In the present instance judgment cannot be arrested, as the in-

tervention is naturally implied when the crime is actually committed." His Lordship farther 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." Sentence of death was accordingly passed on the delinquents.

After condemnation, Cooke employed his time principally in endeavours to procure a pardon; and when he found his expectations fail him, he grew reserved, and would not admit even the visits of his friends. Woodburne, on the contrary, was all penitence and contrition; sincerely lamenting the crime of which he had been guilty, 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; in consequence of which he was hanged at Bury St. Edmund's at four o'clock in the morning of the 5th of April, 1722; 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, absolutely refusing to confess his crime.

THE COST OF A DELINQUENT.

A CALCULATION has been made in France as to the expense to which an habitual delinquent puts the community. It has been proved, on an average of fifty cases, that such an individual passes fourteen whole years of his life in places of confinement, between the ages of sixteen and forty, and eighteen years and four months between the ages of sixteen and fifty. Supposing the annual cost of each prisoner to be only 200 francs, in the latter case an offender aged fifty must have cost the state more than 3,600 francs (144*l.*) without reckoning the cost of judicial proceedings. This sum is much greater in the English gaols; and the saving of temporary transportation may be questioned.

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No. 30.

SEPTEMBER 21, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE FATE OF JOHN HALL, BURGLAR.



[HALL, BUNCE, LOW, AND OTHERS ROBBING A BAKER OF HACKNEY.]

From the humble avocation of a chimney-sweeper, this fellow became a notorious and daring thief. He was remarkably distinguished in his time, on account of the number of robberies in which he was concerned; and few thieves have been more the subject of public conversation.

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

Notwithstanding frequent punishments of this nature, he commenced shoplifter, and, in the month of January, 1698, he was convicted at the Old Bailey of stealing a pair of shoes, for which he was whipped at the cart's tail; but he had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he commenced housebreaker; and being convicted of breaking open the house of Jonathan Bretail, he was sentenced to be hanged in the year 1700, but was afterwards pardoned, on condition of transporting himself, within six months, to some of the American plantations.

He consequently entered on board a ship; from which, however, he soon deserted, and engaged with his old accomplices, who now took up the trade of robbing country waggons, and stealing

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

Hall had no sooner obtained his liberty, than he joined with Stephen Bunce, Dick Low, and others of his dissolute companions, in breaking open the house of a baker at Hackney. Having broken into the house soon after midnight, when the journeyman and apprentice were at work, the robbers tied them neck and heels, and threw them into the kneading-trough; and one of the villains stood over them with a drawn sword, while the others went up stairs to rob the house; but the baker being unwilling to tell them where the money was, Hall seized a young child, a granddaughter of the old people, and swore he would thrust her into the oven if they did not make the discovery. Terrified at this circumstance, the old man told him where they might find his money, in consequence of which they robbed him of about 70*l*.

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

Hall was in custody in 1705, for breaking open the house of Richard Bartholomew; but he had been so frequently at the Old Bailey, that he was afraid of being tried by his own name, which he changed to that of Price; and the evidence not being sufficient to convict him, he was again acquitted.

Having thus fortunately re-obtained his liberty, he returned to his former practices, and in October, 1706, was indicted for stealing a handkerchief, in company with Arthur Chambers, and was actually once more discharged through defect of evidence.

Repeated as these excessive warnings were, they made no impression on the mind of Hall, who was soon afterwards taken into custody, for a fact which he had reason to think would have put an end to his career of crime, which induced him to become an evidence against Chambers, Bell, and Fitch, three of his accomplices; by which he yet once more preserved his life.

After this he was concerned in breaking open the house of Captain Guyon, near Stepney, in company with Richard Low and Stephen Bunce, and stealing a considerable quantity of plate and other effects; for which offence the parties were apprehended, and, being brought to trial, were found guilty, and were executed at Tyburn on the 17th of December, 1707.

THE ORIGIN OF LAW.

THE profession of the law takes its origin solely from human depravity; and being the case, it is no wonder that considerable abuses should always be found in it. Crafty and designing men are ever attempting to enrich themselves at the expense of others, and never want professional assistants to gain their ends. This necessarily obliges the honourable practitioners to exercise arts by way of counteraction, which, in strict abstract justice, he would condemn. Hence, also, the practice itself unavoidably becomes a labyrinth of subtleties to him who is engaged in it, and of no ordinary vexation to him who is under the necessity of having recourse to it, as a means of defence, or to obtain a right unjustly usurped. The intricacies and difficulties of the profession must, undoubtedly, therefore, be numerous. They arise from the profession itself; and while it continues to be required in society, from the corrupt habits of mankind, these subjects of so much just complaint will, in spite of every effort to the contrary, abundantly be found. Still it does not follow, from this consideration, that no endeavours should be used to render the law more clear and simple in its principles and certain in its practice. Though the law will always be necessary, and though new statutes will always be requisite, according to the change of circumstances and manners, yet, with the same, will a perpetual reform ever be found equally expedient.

Slavery in England!

The Factory System. N^o 4.

THE HORRORS OF A COTTON-MILL, ETC.

CHAPTER II.

Of the few adventures of Robert Blincoe, during his residence in old Saint Pancras workhouse, the principal occurred when he had been there about two years. He acknowledges he was well fed, decently clad, and comfortably lodged; and not at all overdone as regarded work: yet, with all these blessings in possession, this destitute child grew melancholy. He relished none of the humble comforts he enjoyed: it was liberty he wanted. The busy world lay outside the workhouse gates; and those he was seldom if ever permitted to pass. He was cooped up in a gloomy though liberal sort of prison-house: his buoyant spirits longed to rove at large. He was too young to understand the necessity of the restraint to which he was subjected, and too opinative to admit that it could be intended for his good. Of the world he knew nothing, and the society of a workhouse was not very well calculated to delight the mind of a volatile child. He saw givers—destitute of charity—receivers of insult, instead of gratitude; witnessed little besides sullenness and discontent; and heard little but murmurs, or malicious and slanderous whispers. The aged were commonly petulant and miserable; the young, demoralized and wholly destitute of gaiety of heart. From the top to the bottom, the whole of this motley mass was tainted with dissimulation; and he saw the most abhorrent hypocrisy in constant operation. Like a bird newly caged, that flutters from side to side, and foolishly beats its wings against its prison walls, in hope of obtaining its liberty—so young Blincoe, weary of confinement, and resolved, if possible, to be free, often watched the outer gates of the house, in the hope that some favourable opportunity might facilitate his escape. He wistfully measured the height of the wall, and found it too lofty for him to scale; and too well guarded were the gates to admit of his egress unnoticed. His spirits, he says, which were naturally lively and buoyant, sunk under this vehement longing after liberty: his appetite declined, and he wholly forsook his usual sports and comrades. It is hard to say how this disease of the mind might have

terminated, if an accident had not occurred which afforded a chance of emerging from the lifeless monotony of a workhouse, and of launching into the busy world, with which he longed to mingle.

Blincoe declares, he was so weary of confinement he would gladly have exchanged situations with the poorest of the poor children, whom, from the upper windows of the workhouse, he had seen begging from door to door, or, as a subterfuge, offering matches for sale. Even the melancholy note of the sweep-boy, whom, long before day, and in the depths of winter, in frost, in snow, in rain, in sleet, he heard, though pacing behind his surlly master, had no terrors for him: so far from it, he envied him his fortune; and, in the fullness of discontent, he thought his own state incomparably more wretched. The poor child was suffering under a diseased imagination, from which men of mature years and elaborate culture are not always free: it filled his heart with perverted feelings—it rendered the little urchin morose and unthankful, and as undeserving of, as he was insensible to, the important benefits extended to him by a humane institution, when helpless, destitute, and forlorn.

From this state of early misanthropy, young Blincoe was suddenly diverted, by a rumour that filled many a heart among his comrades with terror—namely, that a day was appointed when the master-sweeps of the metropolis were to come and select such a number of boys as apprentices, till they attained the age of twenty-one years, as they might deign to take into their sable fraternity. These tidings, that struck damp to the hearts of the other boys, sounded like heavenly music to the ears of young Blincoe: he anxiously inquired of the nurses if the news were true; and if so, what chance there was of his being one of the elect. The ancient matrons, amazed at the boy's temerity and folly, told him how bitterly he would rue the day that should consign him to that wretched employment, and bade him pray earnestly to God to protect him from such a destiny. The young adventurer heard those opinions with silent contempt; and finding, on farther inquiry, that the rumour was well founded, he applied to several menials in the house, whom he thought likely to promote his suit, entreating them to forward his elec-

tion with all the interest they could command! Although at this time he was a fine grown boy, being fearful he might be deemed too low in stature, he accustomed himself to walk in an erect posture, and went almost a-tiptoe: by a ludicrous conceit, he used to hang by the hands to the rafters and balustrades, supposing the exercise, which could only have the effect of lengthening his arms, would produce that effect on his legs and body. This course of training for the contingent honour of being chosen by the mastersweeps, as one fit for their use, with a perseverance truly admirable, his tender age considered, young Blincoe continued till the important day arrived. The boys were brought forth, many of them in tears, and all except Blincoe very sorrowful. Amongst them, by an act unauthorized by his guardians, young Blincoe contrived to intrude his person. His deportment formed a striking contrast to that of all his comrades: his seemed unusually high; he smiled as the grim-looking fellows approached him; held his head as high as he could; and, by every little artifice in his power, strove to attract their notice and obtain the honour of their preference. While this fatherless and motherless child, with an intrepid step and firm countenance, thus courted the smiles of the sooty tribe, the rest of the boys conducted themselves as if they dreaded nothing so much as becoming the objects of their choice, and shrunk back from their touch as if they had been tainted by the most deadly contagion. Boy after boy was taken, in preference to Blincoe, who was often handled, examined, and rejected. At the close of the show, the number required was elected, and Blincoe was not among them! He declared, that his chagrin was inexpressible when his failure was apparent. Some of the sweeps complimented him for his spirit, and, to console him, said, if he made good use of his time, and contrived to grow a head taller, he might do very well for a fag at the end of a couple of years.

This disappointment gave a severe blow to the aspiring ambition of young Blincoe, whose love of liberty was so ardent that he cared little about the sufferings by which, if attained, it was likely to be alloyed. The boys that were chosen were not immediately taken away; mingling

with these, some of them said to our hero the tears standing in their eyes—"Why, Parson, can you endure the thought of going to be a chimney-sweep? I wish they would take you instead of me." "So do I, with all my heart," said Blincoe: "for I would rather be anywhere than here." At night, as Blincoe lay tossing about, unable to sleep, because he had been rejected, his unhappy associates were weeping and wailing, because they had been accepted! Yet his heart was not so cold as to be unaffected by the wailings of those poor children, who mournfully anticipating the horrors of their new calling, deplored their misfortune in the most touching terms. They called upon their parents, who, living or dead, were alike unable to hear them to come and save them! What a difference of feeling amongst children of the same unfortunate class! The confinement that was so wearisome to young Blincoe, must have been equally irksome to some of his young associates; therefore, the love of liberty could not have been its sole cause; there was another and a stronger reason—all his comrades had friends, parents, or relations: poor Blincoe stood alone! no ties of comradery or kindred bound him to any particular portion of society, or to any place—he had no friend to sooth his troubled mind—no domestic circle in which, though excluded for a time, he might hope to be remitted. As he stood thus estranged from the common ties of nature, it is less to be wondered at that, propelled by a violent inclination to a rambling life, and loathing the restraint imposed by his then condition, he should indulge so preposterous a notion as to prefer the wretched state of a sweeping-boy. Speaking on this subject, Blincoe said to me, "If I could penetrate the source of my exemption from the sorrow and consternation so forcibly expressed by my companions, it would probably have been resolved by the peculiarity of my destiny, and the privation of those endearing ties and ligatures which cement family circles. When the friends, relatives, parents of other children came to visit them, the caresses that were sometimes exchanged, the joy that beamed on the faces of those so favoured, went as daggers to my heart; not that I cherished a feeling of envy at their good fortune,

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but that it taught me more keenly to feel my own forlorn condition. Sensations, thus excited, eluded every festive hour; and, young as I was, the voice of nature—instinct, if you will—forced me to consider myself as a moral outcast, as a scathed and blighted tree in the midst of a verdant lawn." I dare not aver that such were the very words Blincoe used, but they faithfully convey the spirit and tendency of his language and sentiments. Blincoe is by no means deficient in understanding: he can be witty, satirical, and pathetic, by turns; and he never showed himself to such advantage, as when expatiating upon the desolate state to which his utter ignorance of his parentage had reduced him.

During Blincoe's abode at St. Paneras, he was inoculated at the Small-Pox Hospital. He retained a vivid remembrance of the copious doses of salts he had to swallow, and how his heart heaved, and his hand shook, as the nauseous potion approached his lips. The old nurse seemed to consider such conduct as being wholly unbecoming a *pauper child*; and chiding young Blincoe, told him, he ought to "lick his lips," and say "Thank you," for the good and wholesome medicine provided for him at the public expense; at the same time, very coarsely reminding him of the care that was taken to save him from an untimely death by catching the small-pox in the natural way. In the midst of his subsequent afflictions, in Litton Mill, Blincoe declared he often lamented having, by this inoculation, lost a chance of escaping, by an early death, the horrible destiny for which he was preserved.

From the period of Blincoe's disappointment, in being rejected by the sweeps, a sudden calm seems to have succeeded, which lasted till a rumour ran through the house that a treaty was on foot between the churchwardens and overseers of St. Paneras, and the owner of a great cotton-factory, in the vicinity of Notting-ham, for the disposal of a large number of children, as apprentices, till they should become twenty-one years of age. This occurred about a twelvemonth after his chimney-sweep miscarriage. The rumour itself inspired Blincoe with new life and spirits: he was in a manner intoxicated with joy, when he found it was not only confirmed, but that the number required

was so considerable that it would take off the greater part of the children in the house. Poor, infatuated boy! delighted with the hope of obtaining a greater degree of liberty than he was allowed in the workhouse, he dreamt not of the misery that impended, in the midst of which he could look back to Paneras as to an elysium, and bitterly reproach himself for his ingratitude and folly.

Prior to the show-day of the pauper children to the purveyor or cotton-master, the most illusive and artfully contrived falsehoods were spread, to fill the minds of those poor infants with the most absurd and ridiculous errors as to the real nature of the servitude to which they were to be consigned. It was gravely stated to them, according to Blincoe's detail, made in the most positive and solemn manner, that they were all, when they arrived at the cotton-mill, to be transformed into ladies and gentlemen; that they would be fed on roast beef and plum-pudding, be allowed to ride their masters' horses, and have silver watches, and plenty of cash in their pockets. Nor was it the nurses, or other inferior persons of the workhouse, with whom this vile deception originated; but with the parish officers themselves. From the statement of the victims of cotton-mill bondage, it seems to have been a constant rule, with those who had the disposal of parish children, prior to sending them off to cotton-mills, to fill their minds with the same delusion. Their hopes being thus excited, and their imaginations inflamed, it was next stated, amongst the innocent victims of fraud and deception, that no one could be *compelled* to go, nor any but volunteers would be accepted.

When it was supposed, at St. Paneras, that these excitements had operated sufficiently powerful to induce a ready acquiescence in the proposed migration, all the children, male and female, who were seven years old, or considered to be of that age, were assembled in the committee-room, for the purpose of being publicly examined, touching their health and capacity, and, what is almost incredible, touching their *willingness* to go and serve as apprentices in the way and manner required! There is something so detestable in this proceeding, that any one might conclude that Blincoe had been misled in his recollections of the particulars; but so

many other sufferers have corroborated his statement, that I can entertain no doubt of the fact. This exhibition took place in August, 1799, when eighty boys and girls as parish apprentices, and till they had respectively acquired the age of twenty-one years, were made over by the churchwardens and overseers of Saint Pancras parish, to Messrs. Lambert, cotton-spinners, hosiers, and lacemen, of St. Mary's parish, Nottingham, the owners of Lowdham Mill. The boys, during the latter part of their time, were to be instructed in the trade of stocking-weaving; the girls, in lace-making. There was no specification whatever as to the time their masters were to be allowed to work these poor children; although, at this period, the most abhorrent cruelties were notoriously known to be exercised by the owners of cotton-mills upon parish apprentices. According to Blincoe's testimony, so powerfully had the illusions, purposely spread to entrap these poor children, operated, and so completely were their feeble minds excited, by the blandishments held out to them, that they almost lost their wits. They thought and talked of nothing but the scenes of luxury and grandeur, in which they were to move. Nor will the reflecting reader feel surprised at this credulity, however gross, when he considers the poor infants imagined there were no greater personages than the superiors to whom they were, as paupers, subjected; and that these were the identical persons by whom their weak and feeble intellects had thus been imposed on. Blincoe describes his conduct to have been marked by peculiar extravagance: such was his impatience, he could scarcely eat or sleep, so anxiously did he wait the hour of emancipation. The poor deluded young creatures were so inflated with pride and vanity, that they strutted about like so many dwarfish and silly kings and queens, in a mock tragedy. "We began," said Blincoe, "to treat our old nurses with airs of insolence and disdain, and refused to associate with children who, from sickness, or being under age, had not been accepted: they were commanded to keep their distance; told to know their betters; forbidden to mingle in our exalted circle! Our little coterie was a complete epitome of the effects of prosperity in the great world. No sooner were our hearts crecked by a prospect of *good fortune*, than its influence

produced the sad effects recited. The germ of those hateful vices—arrogance, selfishness, and ingratitude, began to display themselves even before we had tasted the intoxicating cup: but our illusion soon vanished, and we were suddenly awakened from the flattering dream, which consigned the greater part of us to a fate more severe than that of the West Indian slaves, who have the good fortune to serve humane owners." Such were Blincoe's reflections in May, 1822.

It appears that the interval was not long, which filled up the space between their examination, acceptance, and departure from St. Pancras workhouse, upon their way to Nottingham; but short as it was, it left room for dissension. The boys could not agree who should have the *first ride* on their masters' horses; and violent disputes arose amongst the girls, on subjects equally ludicrous. It was afterwards whispered at Lowdham Mill, that the elder girls, previous to leaving Pancras, began to feel scruples, whether their dignity would allow them to drop the usual bob-courtesy to the master or matron of the house, or the governess by whom they had been instructed to read or do needle-work. Supposing all these follies to have been displayed to the very letter, the poor children were still objects of pity; the guilt rests upon those by whom they had been so wickedly deceived!

Happy, no doubt, in the thought of transferring the burden of the future support of four score young paupers to other parishes, the churchwardens and overseers distinguished the departure of this juvenile colony by acts of munificence. The children were completely new-clothed, and each had two suits—one for their working, the other for their holiday, dress; a shilling in money was given to each; a new pocket handkerchief; and a large piece of gingerbread. As Blincoe had no relative of whom to take leave, all his anxiety was to get outside the door. According to his own account, he was the first at the gate, one of the foremost who mounted the waggon, and the loudest in his cheering. In how far the parents or relatives of the rest of the children consented to this migration, if they were at all consulted, or even apprized of its being in contemplation, formed no part of Blincoe's communications: all he stated was, that the whole of the party seemed to start in very high

spirits. Blincoe in party way to vanity t he was converte imagina when h whole c parish b but as th children a guard beades, or two, sengers conveya hicles, v that wh locked i clean str no soone within th over one with the A few h ably dan inequalit jolting o many a middle c uncomfo clumsy cooped u nausea a times oc country travellers the childr waggon t After waggon, repent, a They we arrived a doubt, thi attention to St. Pai desirous t have beer beckslder purpose, every st nearer to enriable conveyed the detest

spirits. As to his own personal conduct, Blincoe asserts, he strutted along dressed in party-coloured parish clothing, on his way to the waggon, no less filled with vanity than with delusion: he imagined he was free, when he was in fact legally converted into a slave; he exulted in the imaginary possession of personal liberty, when he was in reality a prisoner. The whole convoy were well guarded by the parish beadles on their way to the waggons; but as these officers bore their staves, the children were taught to consider them as a guard of honour. In addition to the beadles, there was an active young man or two, appointed to look after the passengers of the two large waggons, in their conveyance to Nottingham. These vehicles, very properly too, were so secured, that when once the grated doors were locked no one could escape. Plenty of clean straw was strewed in the beds; and no sooner were the young fry *safely lodged* within them, than they began throwing it over one another, and seemed delighted with the commencement of their journey. A few hours' progress, however, considerably damped this exultation; for the inequality of the road, and the consequent jolting of the waggon, occasioned them many a bruise. Although it was the middle of August, the children felt very uncomfortable: the motion of the heavy, clumsy vehicle, and so many children cooped up in so small a space, produced nausea and other results, such as sometimes occur in Margate hoys. Of the country they passed through, the young travellers saw very little. Blincoe thinks the children were suffered to get out of the waggon to walk through St. Alban's.

After having passed one night in the waggon, many of the children began to repent, and to express a wish to return. They were told to have patience, till they arrived at Messrs. Lamberts', when, no doubt, those gentlemen would pay every attention to their wishes, and send back to St. Pancras those who might really be desirous of returning. Blincoe, as might have been expected, was not one of those *backsliders*—he remained steady to his purpose, exulting in the thought, that every step he advanced brought him nearer to the desired spot where so many enviable enjoyments awaited him, and conveyed him farther and farther from the detested workhouse! Blincoe, being

so overjoyed with the fine expectations of what he was to receive at Lowdham Mill, spent his shilling at Leicester in apples.

The greater part of the children were much exhausted, and not a few of them seriously indisposed, before they arrived at Nottingham. When the waggons drew up near the dwelling and warehouse of their future master, a crowd collected to see the *live stock* that was just imported from the metropolis, and those comprised in that stock were pitied, admired, and compared to lambs being led by the butcher to slaughter! Care was taken that they should not hear or understand much of this sort of discourse. The boys and girls were distributed—some in the kitchen, others in a large ware-room; after which they were washed, combed, and supplied with refreshments; but there was no plum-pudding, no roast beef, no talk of the horses they were to ride, nor of the watches and fine clothing they had been promised. Many looked very sorrowful; they had been four days travelling to Nottingham: at a more advanced period of their lives, a voyage to the East Indies would not have been deemed a much more important or hazardous undertaking. After having been well refreshed, the whole of the boys and girls were drawn up in rows, to be *reviewed by their masters*, their friends and neighbours.

In Blincoe's estimation, their masters, Messrs. Lambert, were "stately sort of men." They looked over the children, and, finding them all right according to the *invoice*, exhorted them to behave with proper humility and decorum, to pay the most prompt and submissive respect and attention to the orders of those who would be appointed to instruct and superintend them at Lowdham Mill, and to be diligent and careful—each one to execute his or her task, and thereby avoid the punishment and disgrace which awaited idleness, insolence, or disobedience. This harangue, which was delivered in a severe and dictatorial tone, increased their apprehensions; but not one durst open a mouth to complain. The masters and their servants talked of the various sorts of labour to which the children were to apply themselves; and to the consternation and dismay of Blincoe and his associates, not the slightest allusion was made to the many fine things which had so positively been promised them while in London. The

discourse which Blincoe heard caused him to look forward to close (if not to unremitting) toil; and the poor boy had been filled with expectations that he was to work only when it pleased him; to have abundance of money and fine clothes, and a watch in his pocket; to feast on roast beef and plum-pudding; and to ride his masters' horses. His hopes, however, were not wholly extinguished, because Nottingham was not Lowdham Mill; but his confidence was greatly reduced, and his tone of exultation much lowered.

The children rested one night at Nottingham in the warehouses of their new masters: the next day they were led out to see the Castle, Mortimer Hole, and other local curiosities, in the forest of Sherwood, celebrated by bards of ancient times. Many shoes, bonnets, and other articles of clothing having been lost upon the journey, others were supplied; but Blincoe nevertheless found himself treated as a parish orphan, whereas he calculated on being received and treated as if he had been a gentleman's son sent on a visit to the house of a friend or relative. By the concurring testimony of other persons who had been entrapped by similar artifices, it appears certain, that the *purveyors* of infant labourers for masters of cotton and silk factories adopted this vile, inhumanly expedient in most of their transactions. It will be seen, by the evidence of Sir Robert Peel and David Owen, Esq., as well as by that of other witnesses examined in 1816, that, when children were first wanted to attend machinery in cotton-factories, such was the aversion of parents and guardians to this noxious employment, scarcely any would submit to consign their offspring to those mills, the owners of which, under the specious pretext of diminishing the burdens occasioned by poor-rates, prevailed on churchwardens and overseers to put their infant paupers into their hands. Since then, by a gradual progress of poverty and depravity, in the county of Lancashire alone, there are some thousand fathers, mothers, and relatives who live upon the produce of infant labour, though alloyed by the dreadful certainty, that their gain is acquired by the sacrifice of their children's health and morals, and too frequently of their lives, whereby the fable of Saturn devouring his children seems realized in modern times.

(To be continued.)

CELIBACY AND MATRIMONY.

LET those who affect to believe the necessary evil and immoralities connected with celibacy, take also into their calculation the no less numerous and more fatal calamities which spring from the frightful source of mercenary or ill-assorted marriages. But not only this: to the brief period of nuptial passion there too often succeeds a feeling of regret and trouble at the idea of being no longer free; perhaps, the discovery that we have been too precipitate, or that the dispositions are wholly at variance. Hence arise mutual regrets and reproaches; or, granting even only one of the parties to be in fault, it is impossible to describe the hourly and daily recurring scenes of domestic annoyances, bickerings, and all those little yet heart-consuming differences, which convert one of the holiest and happiest of states into a wretched, torturing slavery of souls.

Woman, the sweetest and most generous of all beings, is usually the victim of this unhappy discord of moral elements: she either weeps herself into her grave, or, what is still more to be deplored, seized with the heart's despair, she divests herself of her loveliest and purest attributes, she incurs the risk of ignominy and remorse, exposed to passions with which she at length seeks to fill up the void which the loss of conjugal affection has left in her soul.

Turn for a moment to the children of these ill-starred marriages. Their earliest school, the first lessons presented to their young minds, is the wretched, disgraceful conduct of their parents: they are neither loved nor educated in a manner to obviate the evil example by which they are first impressed. True love, charity, humanity, and right reason would be in vain inculcated under such circumstances; and it follows that they are without obedience to their parents, without affection for their brethren and kindred, without an ingredient of those domestic virtues which are the foundation of civil virtues.

HOW TO BE DECEIVED.

The sure way to be deceived, is to believe ourselves more cunning than others.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

No. 31.

SEPTEMBER 28, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

SLAVERY IN ENGLAND. THE FACTORY SYSTEM. No. 5.
THE HORRORS OF A COTTON-MILL EXHIBITED IN A MEMOIR OF
ROBERT BLINCOE.



[VIEW OF LOWDHAM MILL.]

CHAPTER III.

LOWDHAM Cotton-mill, situated near a village of that name, stood ten miles distant from Nottingham, on the Surhill road: thither Robert Blincoe and his associates were conveyed the next day in carts, and it was rather late when they arrived. The mill, a large and lofty edifice, being surmounted by a cupola, Blincoe at first mistook for a church, which raised a laugh at his expense, and some jeering remarks—that he would soon know what sort of service was performed there: another said, he did not doubt the young cockneys would be very regular in their attendance. When he came in view of the apprentice-house,

which was half a mile distant from the mill, and was told that that was to be his home for fourteen years to come, he was not greatly delighted, so closely did it resemble a workhouse. There was one source of consolation, however, remaining—it was not surrounded by lofty walls, nor secured by strong gates, as was the case at Pancras.

When the first cart, in which was young Blincoe, drove up to the door, a number of villagers flocked round, some of whom exclaimed, "God help the poor wretches." "Eh!" said another, "what a fine collection of children: little do they know to what a life of slavery they are doomed." "The Lord have mercy upon them," said

a third. "They'll find little mercy here," said a fourth. The speakers were mostly of the female sex, who, shaking their heads, said—"Ah! what fine clear complexions!" "The roses will soon be out of bloom in the mill." Such were the remarks, with many others of a similar nature, which saluted the ears of these children, as they entered the Lowdham Mill. In common with his comrades, Blincoe was greatly dismayed by the gloomy prognostications, which their guardians did all they could to check, or prevent the children from hearing, hurrying them, as rapidly as they could, inside the house.

The young strangers were conducted into a spacious room, fitted up in the style of the dinner-room in Pancras old work-house—namely, with long, narrow deal tables, and wooden benches. Although the rooms seemed tolerably clean, there was a certain rank, oily smell, which Blincoe did not much admire. They were ordered to sit down at these tables—the boys and girls apart. The other apprentices had not left work, when this supply of children arrived. The supper set before them consisted of milk porridge, of a very blue complexion! The bread was partly made of rye—very black, and so soft they could scarcely swallow it, as it stuck to their teeth like birdlime. Poor Blincoe stared, recollecting this was not so good a fare as they had been used to at Saint Pancras. Where is our roast beef and plum-pudding? he said to himself: he contrived, however, with some difficulty, to eat about half of his allowance. As the young strangers gazed mournfully at each other, the governor and governess, as the master and mistress of the apprentices were styled, kept walking round them, and making very coarse remarks. Just as they had passed Blincoe, some of the girls began making faces, and one flung a dab of bread against the wall, where it stuck fast, as if it had been plaster. This caught the eye of the governor—a huge, raw-boned man, who had been a drill-serjeant in the army: he unexpectedly produced a large horse-whip, which he clanged in such a sonorous manner as to make the house re-echo. In a moment, the face-makers and bread-throwers were reduced to solemn silence and abject submission. Even young Blincoe was daunted—he had been one of the

ring-leaders in these seditious proceedings; but so powerful was the shock to his nerves, sustained from the tremendous clang of the horse whip, that it bereft him of all his gaiety, and he sat as demurely as a truant scholar about to endure a flogging. Yet the master of the house had not uttered a single threat; nor, indeed, had he occasion: his carbuncled nose, his stern and forbidding aspect, and his terrible horsewhip inspired quite as much terror as was requisite. Expecting the apprentices to arrive from the mill, this formidable personage retired, to the great relief of the young strangers; but so deep an impression had he created, they sat erect and formal, scarcely daring to look beyond the nose. Whilst they were in this subdued and neutralized state, their attention was suddenly and powerfully attracted by the loud shouting of many voices, when almost instantly the stone-room was filled, spacious as it was, with a multitude of young persons of both sexes; from young women down to mere children. Their presence was accompanied by a scent of no very agreeable nature, arising from the grease and dirt acquired in their avocation.

The boys, generally speaking, had nothing on but a shirt and trousers: some few, and but a few, had jackets and hats. Their coarse shirts were entirely open at the neck; and their hair looked as if a comb had seldom, if ever, been applied to. The girls, as well as Blincoe could recollect, were, like the boys, destitute of shoes and stockings. Their locks were pinned up, and they were without caps: very few had on either jacket or gown; but they wore what in London are called pin-flores; in Laneashire, bishops; that is, long aprons with sleeves, made of coarse linen, that reached from the neck to the heels. Blincoe was no less terrified at the sight of the pale, lean, sallow-looking multitude, than his nostrils were offended by a dense and heavy smell of rank oil or grease, that arose at their appearance. By comparison, the new comers appeared like so many ladies and gentlemen.

On their first entrance, some of the apprentices took a view of the strangers; but the great bulk first looked after the supper, which consisted of new potatoes, distributed at a hatch door, that opened into the common room from the kitchen. At a signal given, the apprentices rushed

to this door received his place at the seeing the their shirts; hands, reced allotted for indecently, their dirty were sature having recee off as hard tire places, each appe and seemed more: next tables of th devoured ei drop of por answered it gested or ci Thus unf produced by on Blincoe's factory. E absenc of had been so The appee themselves soap was a could be re covered wit persons in every mov laid on the had been a no plates, sure, the last necessary v of salt-coll. Pancras, a was laid on other beve than pump The sup the midst o bell rung t The grim g of the new acting the e every way fished a un robust won hoarse voic surly, hear girls follow ngly the h daring to

to this door, and each, as he made way, received his portion, and withdrew to his place at the table. Blincoe was startled, seeing the boys pull out the fore part of their shirts, and, holding it up with both hands, receive the hot boiled potatoes allotted for their supper. The girls, less indecently, if not less filthily, held up their dirty greasy bishops or aprons, that were saturated with grease and dirt, and, having received their allowance, scampered off as hard as they could to their respective places, where, with a keen appetite, each apprentice devoured her allowance and seemed anxiously to look about for more: next, the hungry crew ran to the tables of the new comers, and voraciously devoured every crust of bread and every drop of porridge they had left, and put or answered interrogatories as curiosity suggested or circumstances required.

Thus unfavourable were the impressions produced by the scene that presented itself on Blincoe's first entrance into a cotton-factory. He was forcibly struck by the absence of that personal cleanliness which had been so rigidly enforced at St. Pancras. The apprentices were required to wash themselves night and morning; but no soap was allowed, without which no dirt could be removed. Their tangled locks, covered with cotton fluc, hung about their persons in long wreaths, floating with every movement. There was no cloth laid on the tables, to which the new comers had been accustomed in the workhouse; no plates, nor knives, nor forks—to be sure, the latter utensils were not absolutely necessary with a potato supper. Instead of salt-cellars, as had been allowed at Pancras, a very stingy allowance of salt was laid on the table; and Blincoe saw no other beverage drunk, by the old hands, than pump-water.

The supper having been devoured, in the midst of the gossiping that ensued, the bell rung the signal for retiring to bed. The grim governor entered to take charge of the newly arrived boys; and his wife, acting the same part by the girls, appeared every way suited for so rough and unpollished a mate. She was a large grown, robust woman, remarkable for a rough, hoarse voice, and ferocious aspect. In a surly, heart-chilling tone, she bade the girls follow her: tremblingly and despondingly the little creatures obeyed, scarcely daring to cast a look at their fellow-

travellers, or bid them good night. As Blincoe marked the tear start in their eyes and silently trickle down their cheeks, his heart responsive sunk within him. They separated in mournful silence, scarcely a sigh being heard, nor a word of complaint being uttered.

The room in which Blincoe and several of the boys were deposited was up two pair of stairs. The bed-places were a sort of cribs, built in a double tier, all round the chamber; and the beds were of flock. The apprentices slept two in a bed. From the quantity of oil imbibed in the apprentices' clothes, and the impurities that accumulated from the oiled cotton, a most disagreeable odour saluted his nostrils. The governor called the strangers to him and allotted to each his bed-place and bed-fellow, not allowing any two of the newly arrived inmates to sleep together. The boy with whom Blincoe was to "chum" sprung nimbly into his berth, and, without saying a prayer, or anything else, fell asleep before Blincoe could mndress himself! So completely was he cowed, he could not restrain his tears. He could not forbear execrating the vile treachery of which he felt himself the victim; but still he declared, it never struck him—at least, not till long afterwards—that the *superiors* of St. Pancras had deceived him: the fault, he thought, lay with Messrs. Lambert, their new masters. When he crept into bed, the stench of the oily clothes and greasy hide of his sleeping comrade, almost turned his stomach. What between grief and dismay, and this nauseous smell, it was dawn of day before Blincoe dropped asleep. Over and over again, the poor child repeated every prayer he had been taught, and strove, by unfeigned piety, to recommend himself to the Friend of the friendless, and the Father of the fatherless. At last, sleep scaled his weary eyelids—but short was the repose he was allowed to enjoy; before five o'clock, he was awoke by his bed-fellow, who, springing upright at the loud tolling of a bell, told Blincoe to dress with all speed, or the governor would flog him and deprive him of his breakfast. Before Blincoe had time to perform this office, the iron door of the chamber, creaking upon its hinges, was opened, and in came the terrific governor, with the horsewhip in his hand; and every boy hastily tumbled out of his crib, and huddled on his clothes

with all possible haste! Blincoe and his fellow-travellers were the slowest, not being rightly awake. Blincoe said, "Bless me, have you *church service* so soon?" "Church service, you fool!" said one of the larger apprentices: "it is to the *mill service* you are called; and you had better look sharp, or you'll catch it!" Saying this, off he scampered.

Blincoe, who was at first amazed at the trepidation that appeared in the apprentices, soon understood the cause. The grim-looking governor, with the carbuncled nose, bearing the emblem of arbitrary rule—a horsewhip in his hand, made his appearance, and, stalking round the chamber, looked in every bed-place: as he passed Blincoe and his young comrades, he bestowed a withering look upon them, which, fully understanding, caused them to hasten below; where Blincoe saw some of the boys washing themselves at a pump, and he was directed to do the same.

The whole mass sat down to breakfast at five o'clock in the morning. The meal consisted of *black bread* and *blue milk porridge*. Blincoe and his fellow-strangers took their places, mingled with the rest of the apprentices, who, marking their dislike of the bread, cagerly seized every opportunity of eating it themselves. Blincoe and his comrades looked wistfully at each other: consternation sat deeply imprinted on their features; but every tongue was silent—young as they were, they had sense enough to perceive the necessity of submission and the prudence of reserve.

They reached the mill about half-past five. The water was on, from the bottom to the top, in all the floors, in full movement. Blincoe heard the burring sound before he reached the portals, and smelt the fumes of the oil with which the axles of twenty thousand wheels and spindles were bathed. The moment he entered the doors, the noise appalled him; and the stench seemed intolerable.

He did not recollect that either of the Messrs. Lambert was present at the mill on his first entrance: the newly arrived were received by Mr. Baker, the head manager, and by the overlookers of the respective rooms. They were mustered in the making-up room—the boys and girls in separate divisions; and after being looked at, and laughed at, they were dispersed in the various floors of the mill, and set to various tasks. Blincoe was

assigned to a room, over which a man named Smith *presided*: the task first allotted him was, to pick up the loose cotton that fell upon the floor; than which, apparently, nothing could be easier, and he set to with diligence, although much terrified by the whirling motion and noise of the machinery, and not a little affected by the dust and flue with which he was half suffocated. They spun coarse numbers. Unused to the stench, Blincoe soon felt sick, and by constantly stooping his back ached: he therefore took the liberty to sit down; but this attitude, he soon found, was strictly forbidden in cotton-mills. His task-master (Smith) gave him to understand, he must keep on his legs: he did so, till twelve o'clock, being six hours and a half, without the least intermission: Blincoe suffered at once by thirst, hunger, nausea, &c.

The moment the bell rung to announce dinner, all were in motion to get out as expeditiously as possible. Blincoe ran out amongst the crowd, who were allowed to go; and never, in his life before, did he know the value of wholesome air so perfectly: he had been sick almost to fainting, and it revived him instantaneously! The cockneys mingled together, as they made progress towards the apprentice-house: such as were playmate made to each other, and the melancholy mingled their tears! When they reached the apprentice-room, each of them had a place assigned at the *homely board*! Blincoe does not remember of what his dinner consisted; but he is perfectly sure that neither roast beef nor plum-pudding made its appearance; and that the provisions, the cookery, and the mode of serving it out, were all very much below the standard of the ordinary fare of the workhouse in which he had been reared.

During the space of a week or ten days, that Blincoe was kept picking up cotton, he felt at night very great weariness, with pains in his back and ankles; and he heard similar complaints from his associates. They might have suffered less had they been taken to the mill at five o'clock, worked till eight, and then allowed time to eat their breakfast; but six hours' confinement, to close work—no matter of what kind, in an atmosphere as foul as that which circulates in a cotton-mill, is certainly injurious to the health and growth of children of tender

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years. Even in mills worked by water, where the temperature of the air is nearly the same within the mill as without, this is the case; but incomparably more so in mills such as are found in Manchester, where, in many, the average heat is from 70 to 90 degrees of Fahrenheit's scale.

After Blincoe had been employed in the way described, he was promoted to the more important employment of a roving winder. Being too short of stature to reach to his work standing on the floor, he was placed on a block; but this expedient only remedied a part of the evil, for he was not able by any possible exertion to keep pace with the machinery. In vain the poor child declared it was not in his power to move quicker: he was beat by the overlooker with great severity, and cursed and reviled from morning till night, till his life became a burden to him, and his body was discoloured by bruises. In common with his fellow-apprentices, Blincoe was wholly dependent upon the mercy of the overlookers, whom he found, generally speaking, a set of brutal, ferocious, illiterate ruffians, alike void of understanding as of humanity! Blincoe complained to Mr. Baker, the manager, and all he said to him was—"Do your work well, and you'll not be beat."

It was seldom either of the masters visited the mill, and when they did Blincoe found it was useless to complain. The overlooker, who had charge of him, had a certain quantity of work to perform in a given time: if every child did not perform his allotted task, the fault was imputed to his overlooker, and he was discharged; on the other hand, a premium was given if the full quantity of work was done, and not otherwise. If, therefore, Messrs. Lambert had remonstrated, or had reprimanded the task-masters, by whom the children were thus mercilessly treated, those task-masters most probably would have said, (which they could have done with some degree of propriety,) that if the owners insisted upon so much work being exacted from the apprentices, and a greater quantity of yarn produced than it was possible to effect by fair and moderate labour, they must allow them severity of punishment to keep the children in a state of continual exertion. Blincoe had not, of course, sense to understand this, the principal if not the sole

cause of the ferocity of the overlookers—but such was, and is, the inhuman policy prevailing in cotton-mills; and whilst that cause remains unchanged, the effect inevitably must be the same. Each of the task-masters, to acquire favour and emolument, urged the poor children to the very utmost!—Such is the *driving* system, which still holds its course, leading to the exhaustion and destruction of annual myriads, and to the utmost frightful crimes; and such is the force of avarice, that there are plenty of spinners so depraved as not only to sacrifice other people's children, but even *their own*. Blincoe was not treated with that sanguinary and murderous ferocity in this mill which these pages will soon delineate, though from morning to night he was continually being beat, pulled by the hair of his head, kicked, and cursed, alternately.

It was the custom in Lowdham Mill, as it is in most water-mills, to make the apprentices work up lost time, by working over-hours; a custom that might not be deemed unreasonable, or found oppressive, if the regular hours were of moderate duration. Blincoe did not say that this custom was abused at Lowdham Mill in an equal degree to what it was in others; but when children of seven years of age, or probably younger, work fourteen hours every day in the week, Sundays excepted, any addition must be severely felt; and besides this, the apprentices had to stop at the mill during dinner-time every other day, to clean the frames. Nor was this the climax; for once in ten days or a fortnight, the whole of the finer machinery used to be taken to pieces and cleaned, when they had to remain at the mill from morning till night, being frequently unable to find time to get any food from this early breakfast till night, after they had left off, a term oftentimes extended from fifteen to sixteen hours' incessant labour.

As an inducement to the children to volunteer to work the whole dinner-hour, a premium of a halfpenny was allowed! Small as was the bribe, it induced many, and Blincoe amongst the number. On such occasions, the dinner was brought up in tin cans; and often has Blincoe's allowance stood till night, while he was almost famished with hunger; and he has carried it back or eat it on the road, cold, nauseous, and covered with fluc.

(To be continued.)

THE MELANCHOLY CASE OF RICHARD COLEMAN.

The following case affords a striking caution to prosecutors not to be too positive in their identity of an accused party; and whatever pity may be excited on finding that we have, through inadvertence, caused a fellow-mortal to undergo an ignominious fate, even unto death, who was as innocent of the crime for which he suffered as the babe unborn, the pity is trivial compared with the feeling of regret that we have been the unhappy cause.

Richard Coleman was indicted at the assizes held at Kingston, Surrey, in March, 1749, for the murder of Sarah Green, on the 23d of July preceding; when he was capitally convicted. Mr. Coleman had received a decent education, and was clerk to a brewer at the time the affair happened which led to the forfeiture of his life. He likewise had a wife and several children, who, in consequence of his conviction, were reduced to accept the bounty of the parish.

The murdered person, as above stated, was Sarah Green, who, having been with some acquaintance to a beanfeast in Kennington Lane, stayed to a late hour: on her return towards Southwark, she met three men who had the appearance of brewers' servants, two of whom used her in so inhuman a manner as will not bear 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 she was so ill, that she informed several people how she had been treated; on which she was sent to St. Thomas's hospital. While in the hospital, she declared that the clerk in Berry's brewhouse (afterwards Taylor's) was one of the parties who had treated her in so infamous a manner; and it was supposed that Coleman was the person to whom she thus alluded.

Two days after the shocking transaction had happened, Coleman and one Daniel Trotman happened to call at the Queen's Head alehouse in Bandy-leg Walk, when the latter was perfectly sober, but the former was 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 neighbour-

hood. Coleman, unconscious of guilt, and conceiving himself affronted by such an impertinent question, said, "D—the pig! what is it to me?" The other, who seems to have had an intention to ensnare him, asked him if he did not know Kennington Lane? Coleman answered that he did, and added, "D—ye! what of that?" The other than asked him if he knew the woman that had been so cruelly treated in Kennington Lane? Coleman replied, "Yes;" and again said, "D—ye! what of that?" The other man asked, "Was not you one of the parties concerned in that affair?" Coleman, who, as we have said, was intoxicated, and had no suspicion of design, replied, "If I had, you dog, what then?" and threw at him the spoon with which he was stirring the liquor. A violent quarrel ensued; but at length Coleman went away with Trotman.

On the following day, Coleman called at the Queen's Head above mentioned, and the landlord informed him how imprudently he had acted on the preceding day. Coleman, who had been too drunk to remember what had passed, asked if he had offended any person; on which the landlord acquainted him with what had transpired: but the other, still conscious of innocence, paid no regard to what he said.

On the 29th of August, Daniel Trotman and another man went before Mr. Clarke, a magistrate in the Borough, and charged Coleman on suspicion of having violently assaulted and cruelly treated Sarah Green, in the Parsonage Walk, near Newington Church, in Surrey. The magistrate, who does not seem to have supposed Coleman was guilty, sent for him, and hired a man to attend him to the hospital where the wounded woman lay; and a person pointing out Coleman, asked if he was one of the persons who had used her so cruelly. She said, she believed he was; but as she declined to swear positively to his having any concern in the affair, Mr. Clarke admitted him to bail.

Some time afterwards, Coleman was again taken before the magistrate, when, nothing positive being sworn against him, the justice would have absolutely discharged him; but Mr. Wynne, the master of the injured girl, requesting that he might once more be taken to see her

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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 drinking on the night of the affair, with the three men who really injured her; and this publican, and other people, declared on oath that Coleman was not one of the parties.

On the following day, Mr. 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 inquire 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.

George the Second being then at Hanover, a proclamation was issued by the lords of the regency, offering a reward of 50*l.* for the apprehension of the supposed offender; and to this the parish of St. Saviour, Southwark, added a reward of 20*l.*

Coleman read the advertisement for his apprehension in the Gazette; but was still so thoughtless as to conceal himself; though perhaps an immediate surrender would have been deemed the strongest testimony of his innocence. However, to assert his innocence, he caused the following advertisement to be printed in the newspaper: "I, Richard Coleman, seeing myself advertised in the Gazette, as absconding on

account of the murder of Sarah Green, knowing myself not any way culpable, do assert that I have not absconded from justice; but will willingly and readily appear at the next assizes, knowing that my innocence will acquit me."

Strict search being made after him, he was apprehended at Pinner on the 22d of November, and lodged in Newgate, whence he was removed to the New Gaol, Southwark, till the time of the assizes, at Kingston, in Surrey; when his conviction arose principally from the evidence of Trotman, and the declaration of the dying woman.

Some persons positively swore that he was in another place at the time the fact was committed; but their evidence was not credited by the jury, though it would have been a happy circumstance if proper attention had been paid to it. One of the causes which led to the crime being fixed on Coleman, arose from the fact of his mother keeping an alehouse, where the unfortunate victim had been drinking: subsequently to the commission of the crime she said something indistinctly about Coleman—hence, in a great measure, the apprehension and conviction of Richard Coleman.

After conviction, Coleman behaved like one who was conscious of being innocent, and who had no fear of death. He was executed on the 12th of April, 1749, on Kennington Common, whither he was attended by the Rev. Mr. Wilson, to whom he delivered a paper, in which he declared, in the most solemn and explicit manner, that he was altogether innocent of the crime alleged against him. He died with great resignation, and lamented only that he should leave a wife and two children in distress.

The subsequent trial of the parties who actually perpetrated the murder, proved this unhappy man's innocence: to their ease we shall direct the reader's attention in a future Number.

RICHARD OAKEY, JOHN LEVEY, AND
MATTHEW FLOOD.

IN 1722 London and its environs were infested with desperate gangs of villains, a felon named Blake being the Mæbeath, in which character he was known as Captain Blueskin. On the present occasion this depredator owed his escape alone

to his baseness in impeaching his associates in villany.

Oakey, Levey, and Flood, three of Blueskin's gang, were of the meanest origin. The first was apprenticed to a tailor, from whom he soon ran away; the other two were miserable and ignorant, yet most dangerous wretches, and from childhood were pickpockets. With such as these Oakey associated, and for some time procured a miserable subsistence by picking pockets; and he afterwards proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women; in order to do which effectually one of them used to trip up the woman by the heels, when the other cut off the pocket; and they generally got out of the reach of detection before the party robbed could recover her legs.

Many of Oakey's associates belonged to Jonathan Wild's gang, who caused several of them to be executed, when he could make no farther advantage of them. Having thus lost many of his old acquaintances, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him a singular method of robbery: in their excursions through the streets the woman went a little before Oakey, and when she observed a lady walking near where a coach was turning, she used to catch her in her arms, crying, "Take care, madam, you will be run over!" and in the interim Oakey was sure to cut off her pocket. But this way of life did not last long, for this abandoned woman died soon after, in consequence of some bruises she received from a man whom she had ill treated; and, on her death, Oakey followed the practice of snatching off pockets without a partner, and became one of the most dexterous in his profession.

Not long after his single-handed practice, he became acquainted with several notorious housebreakers, who persuaded him to follow their course of life, as more profitable than that of stealing pockets. In the first attempt they were successful; but the second, in which two others were concerned with him, was the breaking open a shop in the Borough, from whence they stole a quantity of calimancoes; for which offence Oakey was apprehended; when he impeached his accomplices, one of whom was hanged, and the other transported, on his evidence alone.

Deterred from the thoughts of house-breaking by this adventure, he returned

for a while to his old employment, and then became acquainted with a man called Will the Sailor. Will, who wore a sword, used to affront persons in the streets, and provoke them till they stripped to fight with him, and then Oakey used to decamp with their clothes. These associates in iniquity, however, soon quarrelled and parted; and Oakey, who by this time was an accomplished thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, among whom were John Levey, Matthew Flood, and Captain Blueskin.

These men were for some time the terror of travellers near London. Among other atrocious robberies, they stopped a coach between Camberwell and London, in which were five men and a woman. The men said they would deliver their money, but begged they would not search, as the lady was with child. Blueskin, holding a hat, received the money the passengers put into it, which appeared to be a considerable sum; but, on examination, it was found to be chiefly halfpence. The gang suspected that Blueskin had defrauded them, as it was not the first time he had cheated his fellow-thieves; but they were greatly mortified that they had neglected to search the coach, when they afterwards learned there were 300*l.* in it.

Some time after this Oakey, Levey, Flood, and Blueskin stopped Colonel Cope and Mr. Young, in a carriage, on their return from Hampstead, and robbed them of their watches, rings, and money. Information of this robbery was sent to Jonathan Wild, who caused the parties to be apprehended; and Blueskin being admitted an evidence, Oakey, Levey, and Flood were tried, convicted, sentenced, and ordered for execution. After conviction, their behaviour was exceedingly correct for persons in their calamitous situation. Oakey said, what gave him more concern than all his other offences was the burning a will which he found with some money and rings in a pocket which he had cut from a lady's side—a circumstance which proved highly detrimental to the owner. They suffered at Tyburn on the 23d of February, 1723.

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No. 32.

OCTOBER 5, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

SLAVERY IN ENGLAND. THE FACTORY SYSTEM. No. 6.
THE HORRORS OF A COTTON-MILL EXHIBITED IN A MEMOIR OF
ROBERT BLINCOE.



[BLINCOE ENTRAPPED BY THE TAILOR OF BURTON.]

CHAPTER IV.

He was half starved and cruelly treated by his task-masters—being spotted as a leopard with bruises—and still believing his ill treatment arose from causes beyond the control of the parish officers by whom he had been disposed of to Messrs. Lambert, Blincoe resolved to attempt an escape, to beg his way to London, and to lay his case before the overseers and churchwardens of Saint Pancras, not only claiming redress of injuries, but the fulfilment of the grand promises that had been made to him. "I cannot deny," said Blincoe, "that I feel a glow of pride, when I reflect that, at the age of seven years and a half, I had

courage to resent and to resist oppression, and generosity to feel for the sufferings of my helpless associates, not one of whom durst venture to share the peril of the enterprise. On the other hand," said he, "I must give them credit for sincerity; for, if any one who knew of my intended expedition, had been unguarded or perfidious, I should have been put under such restraint as would have effectually prevented a successful attempt to run away! I considered my situation so deplorable, and my state of thralldom so intolerable, that death appeared as a less evil. I was not wholly ignorant of the sufferings I might have had to encounter, nor that I

might perish on the way from want of food or shelter; and yet I persevered in an effort in which, of forty fellow-sufferers, not one had courage to join, although many had parents or relatives to whom to fly for succour, and I had none. So far, young as I was, I calculated upon difficulty, danger, and sufferings. In one thing only was I deceived; that error consisted in thinking the evils of my situation intolerable! I had no recollection of calamities so severe, and consequently no standard by which to regulate my judgment: I therefore rashly determined, in my own mind, that my condition admitted of no aggravation—I was soon, indeed, undeceived! I lived, within the short space of four years, to look back with regret to the comparative degree of ease, plenty of food, and of all other good things, enjoyed at Lowdham Mill! This sort of knowledge is, I believe, commonly taught," said Blincoe, "to all the children of misery, as they sink deeper and deeper in woe. The first stage appears the most intolerable; but as they descend, like myself, they sink so profoundly in the depths of wretchedness that, in their melancholy progress, those stages and degrees which at first appeared as intolerable, lose all their terrors in accumulated misery; and the desponding heart, when it takes a retrospective glance at past sufferings, often arraigns its want of patience and fortitude, for murmurs measured by present calamities: their former condition appeared comfortable! So it was with me at a later period, when, to be released from a greater and heavier misery, what I endured at Lowdham, with all its evils, and in the very worst shape, I esteemed as a positive state of happiness." Such was the philosophical reasoning of Robert Blincoe in 1822.

To proceed, however, with the narrative. Steady to his purpose, he embraced the first favourable opportunity of making the projected attempt to escape! He considered his great danger to lie in being retaken on the road between Lowdham and Nottingham; but he knew no other way, and was afraid to make inquiry! When the manager and overlooker of the room he worked in were busy Blincoe set off, dressed in his working-clothes: he began his progress in a sort of canter, looking behind him every fifty yards for the first half-mile; when, finding he had

not been seen or pursued, he continued his rapid flight till he reached Burton—and there, as fate decreed, that flight suddenly terminated; for, as he trotted onwards, a long-shanked, slip-shod tailor, who worked for Lowdham Mill, slid nimbly from his shopboard, (which, unfortunately for Blincoe, faced the road,) and, placing himself full in the way, with a malicious kind of grin upon his long, lank visage, said—"O, young Parson! where art thou running so fast this way?" He immediately seized his victim by the hand, and led him—captive against his will—into his cottage; and, giving him a seat in the back part of the room, placed himself between the poor fugitive and the door.

Blincoe saw, at one glance, by these precautions, that he was caught: his indignation was so great at first, he would not give an answer; noticing which, his false and artful host said to his wife, "Give the young Parson something to eat and drink; he is weary, and will be better able to pursue his journey after he has rested and refreshed himself! The Lord commands us to give food to the hungry: and I dare say," addressing himself to Blincoe, "thou art not so full, but thou canst eat a bowl of bread and milk."

"I must own, to my shame," said Blincoe, "the carnal man—the man of flesh, was caught by the bait! I hungered, and I ate; and he gave me so much, and I drank so heartily, that my teeth disabled my legs! To be sure, my fare was not very costly: it consisted of some oatmeal bread and butter-milk."

When this sly fox of a tailor found that the unfortunate lad could eat no more, still blockading the door, he began to question him as to the object of his journey, which the lad frankly explained. "Ay, I thought so," said the detestable hypocrite; "young Parson, I thought so. I saw Satan behind thee, jobbing his prong into thy . . . ! I saw thee running headlong into Hell, when I stepped forth to save thee!"

This avowal roused all Blincoe's indignation; and he was determined to have a scuffle with his perfidious host: but he had swallowed so large a portion of butter-milk, and eaten so much oatmeal bread, he felt he had lost half his speed. Disdainful, however, of fraud or denial, he again avowed his intention, and its cause

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The tailor then commenced an harangue upon the deadly sin of a breach of covenant; assured Blincoe that he was acting under the influence of Satan; that he was liable to be sent to Bridewell, to be flogged; and, when sent back to his work, to be debarr'd of all liberty, and led to and from the mill with a halter round his neck! The reader must bear in mind the tender age of Blincoe at this period; and then judge of the tailor's propriety in sermonizing him on "*the deadly sin*" which he had committed! But Blincoe was neither convinced by his reasoning, nor intimidated by his denunciations: his gluttonous appetite had, however, disabled him for flight; and being thus disabled, and thus doubly a captive, he made a merit of necessity, and agreed to go back if his host would be his mediator with Mr. Baker, the manager.

This was the precise point to which the jesuitical tailor wished to bring his victim. Without relinquishing his seat, the treacherous kuave doffed his paper cap, and the skeins of thread which still hung round his long neck; he combed his black, greasy locks, which lay as straight as candles about his lantern jaws; tied a yellow cotton handkerchief round his neck; put on a pair of shoes; took a *crab-tree* stick, full of knots, in his right hand; and, grasping Blincoe's very tight in his left, sallied forth on a *work of charity*, as the loathsome hypocrite called his having entrapped and betrayed a poor, oppressed orphan child, flying from slavery and oppression.

"In my heart," said Blincoe, "I detested the wretch with greater bitterness than my task-master; but he held me so tight, I could not escape; and the sight of the bit of crab-tree which he brandished, as he chanted hymns of thanksgiving, had also no small share of influence in over-awing me: in short, into the counting-house this second Judas led me. After an admonition to beware how I again made an attempt of the kind, the manager gave me a severe but not cruel chastisement."

As to the *hospitable* tailor, when he had delivered him up, he slunk away, not waiting to receive Blincoe's thanks. Whether he took the *five shillings*, which Blincoe was afterwards told was the standing reward of those who brought back runaway apprentices, or left the same

till he had *5l.* to receive for such services, he cannot ascertain; but he was told, this peeping Tom of Burton had rendered many a poor child the same sort of kindness. "In consequence of this scurvy trick," said Blincoe, "I have never been able wholly to conquer the aversion it created in my mind against Methodists; although I am bound to believe, the wretch was one of the myriads of *counterfeits* who flock to their standard from venal and corrupt motives."

After Blincoe had received his punishment, every weal and bruise with which he had started found a fellow. He was handed back to Smith, his task-master, by whom he was laughed at and jeered unmercifully, and worked with an increased severity. When Blincoe left work, his old associates flocked round him, condoling his misfortune, and offering half-pence and bits of bread that they had saved! When they heard that "*Godly*" had caught him (as he was nicknamed), and the means he employed, their indignation swelled to such a height, they declared they would drown him in the mill-dam if ever they had an opportunity. These condolences were grateful to his wounded pride and disappointed hopes.

As he retired to his miserable bed, the governor, grinning horribly, made him a low bow in the military style, and gave him a hearty kick on his *seat of honour* at the same instant. In this manner was he ushered to his bed, laughed at by that portion of the older apprentices who had made similar attempts, and had undergone the like or a more vindictive punishment.

Having abandoned all thoughts of escape, Blincoe submitted sullenly and patiently to his fate; he worked, according to his age and stature, as hard as any one in the mill. When his strength failed, and his limbs refused their office, he endured the strap or the stick, the cuff or the kick, with as much resignation as any of his fellow-sufferers. In the faded complexions and sallow looks of his associates, he could see, as, in a mirror, his own altered condition! Many of his comrades had by this time been more or less injured by the machinery: some had the skin scraped off the knuckles, clean to the bone, by the fliers; others, a finger crushed, or a joint or two nipped off, in the cogs of the spinning-frame wheels! When his turn to suffer came, the forefinger of his

left hand was caught; and almost before he could cry out off was the first joint: his lamentations excited no manner of emotion in the spectators, except a coarse joke. He clapped the mangled joint, streaming with blood, to the finger, and ran off to the village of Burton, to the surgeon, who very composedly put the parts together again and sent him back to the mill; and though the pain was so intense that he could scarcely help crying out every minute, he was not allowed to leave the framc. He said little to any one; but he was almost always continually bemoaning in secret the cruelty of his fate. Blincoe declared, that many a time before he was eight years of age, he had been tempted to throw himself out of one of the upper windows of the factory; but when he came to look at the leap he purposed taking, his courage failed him—a propensity which he mentioned not as thinking it evinced any commendable feeling, but as an illustration of the natural and unavoidable consequences of working children too hard, and subjecting them to so many severe privations.

About the second year of his servitude, when the whole eighty children sent from Pancras Workhouse had lost their plump and fresh appearance, and acquired the pale and sickly hue which distinguished factory children from all others, a most deplorable accident happened in Lowdham Mill, and in Blincoe's presence. A girl, named Mary Richards, who was thought remarkably handsome when she left the workhouse, and who might be nearly or quite ten years of age, attended a drawing frame, below which, and about a foot from the floor, was a horizontal shaft, by which the frames above were turned. It happened one evening, when most of her comrades had left the mill, and just as she was taking off the weights, her apron was caught by the shaft: in an instant the poor girl was drawn by an irresistible force and dashed on the floor. She uttered the most heartrending shrieks! Blincoe ran towards her, an agonized and helpless beholder of a scene of horror that exceeds the power of my pen to delineate! He saw her whirled round and round with the shaft! he heard the bones of her arms, legs, thighs, &c., successively snap asunder—crushed, seemingly, to atoms, as the machinery whirled her round, and drew tighter and tighter her body within the

works! Her blood was scattered over the frame, and streamed upon the floor; her head appeared dashed to pieces—at last, her mangled body was jammed in so fast, between the shafts and the floor, that, the water being low and the wheels off the gear, it stopped the main shaft! When she was extricated, every bone was found broken, and her head dreadfully crushed! Her clothes and mangled flesh were, apparently, inextricably mixed together; and she was carried off, as supposed, quite lifeless. "I cannot describe," said Blincoe, "my sensations at this appalling scene: I shouted out aloud for them to stop the wheels! When I saw her blood thrown about like water from a twisted mop, I fainted." But neither the spine of her back was broken, nor was her brain injured; and to the amazement of every one, who beheld her mangled and horrible state, by the skill of the surgeon, and the excellence of her constitution, she was saved!—Saved, to what end? the philosopher might ask: to be sent back to the same mill, to pursue her labours upon crutches; made a cripple for life, without a shilling indemnity from the parish, or from the owners of the mill! Such was the fate of this poor girl; but, dismal as it was, it will be seen by the succeeding parts of this narrative that a lot still more horrible awaited many of her fellow-sufferers, whom the parish officers of St. Pancras, pursuant to Acts of Parliament authority, had apprenticed for fourteen years to the masters of Lowdham Cotton-mill. The dreadful spectacle Blincoe had witnessed in the racking of Mary Richards rendered his employment more odious than ever.

It is already stated that the food was very ordinary and not very plentiful: the apprentices were so oppressed by hunger, that the oldest and most daring sallied out at night and plundered the fields; frequent complaints were made, and the apprentices got a very bad name, which belonged rather to the masters, in whose parsimony it originated!

When Blincoe had served about three years of his time, an event happened at Lowdham Mill, arising out of the manner in which apprentices were treated, that wrought a complete revolution there, and led to a new era in Blincoe's biography. Among the girls who had been bound apprentices to Messrs. Lambert, of Not-

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ingham and Lowdham, were two sisters named Fanny and Mary Collier, who had a mother residing in London. These young girls, finding their health declining from excess of labour, bad provisions, and want of wholesome air and exercise, found means to write a letter to their mother, full of complaints; upon which the widow undertook a journey to Lowdham, where she resided a fortnight, during which time she was a reserved and shrewd observer of the condition of her own and other children, and then returned to the metropolis. As far as Blincoe remembers these circumstances, Mrs. Collier did not make any complaints to Messrs. Lambert or to the manager: she reserved such representations for the parish officers of St. Pancras, which induced them to send down a parochial committee, to inquire into the state and condition of the apprentices. One day, just as the dinner was being served out in the usual slovenly manner, without the notice of the intended visit having been previously given, the committee arrived: without asking or waiting for permission, they walked into the common room, and tasted the viands upon the table, which they found such as had been described. "Whether conscience had any concern in the effort to discover and reform abuses in the mill," said Blincoe, "I know not; but this I do know—that, if they had had a spark of pity or remorse, the sallow and sickly appearance of the eighty victims, saying nothing of Mary Richards, who was for ever rendered a cripple, ought to have filled them with sorrow and shame, on account of the base and cruel imposition that had been practised in 1799."

It is more probable, however, that the atrocious treatment experienced by the thousands and tens of thousands of orphan children, poured forth from our charitable institutions and from parish workhouses, the dreadful rapidity with which they were consumed in the various cotton-mills to which they were transported, and the sad spectacle exhibited by most of the survivors, were the real causes which, in 1802, produced Sir Robert Peel's Bill for the relief and protection of infant paupers employed in cotton-mills. Hence, the extraordinary weakness evinced by the overseers and churchwardens of Saint Pancras, might have been occasioned by the dreadful

scences of cruelty and oppression developed during the progress of that bill, which Blincoe never heard of, nor ever saw, till eleven years after it had passed into a law. It would truly be difficult to produce a more striking instance of the utter contempt with which the upstart owners of great establishments treated an Act, purposely enacted to restrain their unparalleled cruelty and waste of human life. The Act itself declared the masters, owners, or occupiers of every cotton-mill in Great Britain and Wales should have a legible copy of the Act placed in some conspicuous and public part of each mill, so as to be accessible to every one; yet Blincoe, who was reared in the cotton-mill, never saw or heard of any such law till eleven or twelve years after it had been enacted!

When the committee began their investigation, as to the treatment and condition of the children sent from St. Pancras workhouse, Blincoe was called up amongst others, and admonished to speak the truth, and nothing but the truth. So great, however, was the terror of the stick and strap being applied to their persons, after these dons should be at a distance from them, that it rendered him, and no doubt the great majority of his fellow-sufferers, extremely cautious and timid. It is, however, likely that their looks bespoke their sufferings, and told a tale not to be misunderstood. The visitors saw their food, dress, and bedding; and they castrated, in conjunction with the local magistrates, very great alterations to be made. A new house was ordered to be erected near the mill, for the use of the apprentices, in which there were fewer beds to a given space; the quantity of good and wholesome animal food, to be dressed and distributed in a more decent way, was specified; and a more cleanly and decorous mode of cookery, and serving up the dinner and other meals, was ordered. The apprentices were divided into six classes; and a new set of tin cans, numbered 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6, were made, to be served up to each individual, according to the class to which he or she might belong, to hold his or her soup or porridge! The old governor was discharged, who had given them all such a fright on their first arrival; and several of the overlookers were dismissed, and new ones introduced: among the latter description of persons

was a man who seemed wholly destitute of humanity—his name was William Woodward, born, I believe, at Cromford, in Derbyshire. The appearance of this ferocious tyrant at Lowdham Mill proved a much heavier curse, scourge, and affliction to Blincoe, than all the grievances which had existed or were removed! But as Woodward's *amusement*, in tormenting these poor apprentices, will occupy a large space in the next chapter, I shall say little of him in this.

It was the ill fortune of Blincoe and his associates, that, shortly after the reforms specified were introduced, and the hours of labour were reduced, so that their situation became every way incomparably more agreeable, Lowdham Mill stopped working. At this period, Blincoe had served about four years of his time, and had learnt to wind rovings, and spin at the throstle; and he certainly earned as much money for his master in the week, as would suffice to keep him a month, or longer, in meat, drink, and clothes: but he had not been instructed in any part of the stocking-trade; nor had he acquired such a degree of knowledge of the cotton-spinning, as might enable him to gain his bread elsewhere.

At this juncture, if justice had been done, the apprentices would have reverted to St. Pancras parish—they would not have been abandoned as they were, and turned over to a new master, without any care being taken that he should, if he took them, abide by the condition specified in their first indentures, and act up to the regulations introduced at Lowdham Mill.

Blincoe said, he believed the Messrs. Lambert wrote to the parish officers of St. Pancras, informing them of the situation of the children, in order that their friends might take back whom they pleased to claim; and if Blincoe is right in this conclusion, and those officers neglected to take proper measures for the safety and protection of so large a body of children as they had sent to Lowdham Mill, all healthy and straight-limbed, they are morally responsible for the unparalleled sufferings to which they were afterwards exposed. When the subject shall again come before Parliament, it will be requisite to have the conduct of the parish officers on this occasion thoroughly investigated; not so much from a wish to have their offences visited with any legal

penalty, if such were practicable, as to show the necessity of abrogating the power invested in them, by Act of Parliament, to place children beyond a given distance from the place of their birth or settlement; and secondly, to deprive them altogether of the power of tearing away children from their parents, and sending them into any manufactories whatever, without the knowledge and consent of their parents or next of kin. If the parish officers think proper to apprentice them to any of the ordinary, established trades, they ought not to have that power independently of the parents. In the mill where Blincoe was next consigned, the *parish children* were considered, treated, and consumed as a part of the raw materials: their strength, their marrow, their lives, were consumed and converted into money; and as their live stock, consisting of parish apprentices, diminished, new flocks of victims arrived from various quarters, without the cost of purchase to supply their place!

It is within the compass of probability, that there have been, and are yet, instances wherein the overseers of the poor, and more especially the *assistant overseers* who are mere mercenaries and serve for pay, have been, and are, some of them at least, *bribed* by the owners of mills for spinning silk, cotton, or woollen yarn, to visit the habitation of the persons receiving parochial aid, and to compel them, when children are wanting, utterly regardless of education, health, or inclination, to deliver up their offspring, or, by cutting off the parish allowance, leave them to perish for want!

When Messrs. Lambert gave up the cotton-yarn establishment carried on at Lowdham Mill, they permitted all their apprentices who wished to leave their employment in a cotton-mill to write to their parents and friends, and some few found redeemers; the great bulk were, unhappily, left to their fate! Being foundling, and knowing no soul on earth to whom he could look up for succour, Robert Blincoe was one of the unhappy wretches, abandoned to as dismal a destiny as ever befell a *parish apprentice*. It was his civil fortune, with a multitude of fellow-sufferers, to be turned over, *en masse*, to Mr. Ellise Needham, of Highgate Wall, Derbyshire, the master and owner of Litton Mill, near Tideswell.

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Before, however, I close this delineation of the character and conduct of the owners of Lowdham Cotton-mill—Messrs. William, Charles, and Thomas Lambert—it is due to them, if living, whatever may be their fortune—and to their memory, if deceased—to state, that, with the exception of Mary Richards, who was so dreadfully racked upon a shaft, by which her bones were mostly broken, not one of the children sent to their mill by St. Pancras parish was injured so as to be made a cripple; nor were they deformed in their knees and ankles. That there were deficiencies as to food, and that an excess of labour was exacted, is clear, by the alterations which were introduced; but still, compared with what they soon afterwards suffered, they were humanely treated. They were kept decently clad; had a bettermost suit reserved for Sundays and holidays; were occasionally allowed a little time for play in the open air; and upon *Goose fair-day*, which is, or then was, a great festival at Nottingham, the whole of them were conveyed in carts to that celebrated place and regaled with fermenty, and sixpence in money was allowed to the very youngest! They went pretty regularly to Lowdham Church on Sundays; was not confined within gates and walls, as was the case at most other mills where parish apprentices were immured; nor were there any iron bars before the windows. They were *worked hard*; but not so hard as to distort their limbs, nor occasion declines or deaths: their food latterly was good, and cleanly cooked: their bedding, though coarse, was clean: when they had meat, they were allowed trenchers, knives, forks, and spoons. It will presently be seen, when carried away from Lowdham Mill, into what a den of vice, disease and famine, filth and slavery, they were plunged; by what hellions they were worried; and all in defiance of a positive and recently-made law, framed expressly for their protection; and in the face of the *Visiting Magistrate*, whose visits were, according to Blincoe's assertion, too frequently directed to the luxurious table of the master, to admit even a chance of justice to the apprentices. May this exposition of the crimes and sufferings inflicted upon the friendless, the orphan, the widow's son, induce honest and upright men, senators and legislators, effec-

tually to curb the barbarous propensities of hard-hearted masters, and rescue their nation from a worse stain than was ever inflicted even by the African Slave-trade, horrible as was that odious traffic!

(To be continued.)

PICTURE OF IRISH MISERY.

[From Von Raumer's "England in 1835."
Murray, London.]

My mind is filled with one thought—I can entertain no other; it is that of the inexpressible wretchedness of so many thousands in Ireland. In England I looked in vain for misery; all the complaints that I heard seemed to me to be partial and exaggerated: here, no words can express the frightful truth which everywhere meets the eye. To form an idea of it you must see these houses—not houses, but huts—not huts, but hovels, mostly without windows or apertures; the same entrance—the same narrow space, for men and hogs; the latter lively, sleek, and well fed; the former covered with rags, or rather hung with fragments of rags, in a manner which it is impossible to conceive. If I except the respectable people in the towns, I did not see upon thousands of Irish a whole coat, a whole shirt, a whole cloak; but all in tatters, such as are nowhere else to be seen. The ruins of ancient castles were pointed out to me; but how could I take any pleasure in them while the desolate ruined huts surrounded me, and testified the distress of the present times more loudly than the others did the grandeur of the past? But then the lords were of the same race—of the same language: they were on the spot, and the people certainly were not so wretched as since the confiscations of the English conquerors. Other huts were half fallen down; but the occupants crept into the remaining half, which was not larger than a coffin for the wretched family. When I recollect the well-fed rogues and thieves in the English prisons, I admire (notwithstanding the very natural increase of Irish criminals) the power of morality—I wonder that the whole nation does not go over and steal, in order to enjoy a new and happier existence. And then the English boast of the good treatment of their countrymen, while the innocent Irish are obliged to live worse than their cattle.

In Parliament they talk, for years together, whether it is necessary and becoming to leave 100,000 dollars annually (15000*l.*) in the hands of the pastors of five hundred and twenty-six Protestants, or 10,759 dollars to the pastors of three Protestants; while there are thousands here who scarcely know they have a soul, and know nothing of their body except that it suffers hunger, thirst, and cold. Which of these ages is the dark and barbarous—the former, when mendicant monks distributed their goods to the poor, and, in their way, gave them the most rational comfort; or the latter, when rich (or bankrupt) aristocrats can see the weal of the church and of religion (or of their relations) only in retaining possession of that which was taken and obtained by violence? All the blame is thrown on agitators, and discontent produced by artificial means. What absurdity! Every falling hut causes agitation, and every tattered pair of breeches a *sans culotte*.

Since I have seen Ireland, I admire the patience and moderation of the people, that they do not (what would be more excusable in them than in distinguished revolutionists, authors, journalists, Benthamites, baptised and unbaptised Jews) drive out the Devil through Beelzebub, the prince of the devils. Thrice-happy Prussia, with its free proprietary peasantry, its agricultural nobles, its contented and tolerant clergy, its well-educated youth! I endeavoured to discover the original race of the ancient Irish, and the beauty of the women: but how could I venture to give an opinion? Take the loveliest of the English maidens from the saloons of the Duke of Devonshire or the Marquis of Lansdowne; carry her—not for life, but for one short season—into an Irish hovel; feed her on water and potatoes, clothe her in rags, expose her blooming cheek and alabaster neck to the scorching beams of the sun and the drenching torrents of rain; let her wade with naked feet through marshy bogs; with her delicate hands pick up the dung that lies in the road, and carefully stow it by the side of her mud resting-place; give her hog to share this with her; to all this add no consolatory remembrance of the past, no cheering hope of the future—nothing but misery, a misery which blunts and stupifies the mind, a misery of the past, the present, and the

future; would the traveller, should the image of woe crawl from out her muddy hovel, and imploringly extend her shrivelled hand, recognise the noble maiden whom, a few short weeks before, he admired as the model of English beauty? And yet the children—with their dark hair and black eyes, so gay and playful in their tatters—created in the image of God—are, in a few years, by the fault of man and the Government, so worn out without advantage to themselves or others, that the very beasts of the field might look down on them with scorn!

[The respected foreigner who penned the foregoing observations was, after all, but partially acquainted with England: what did he know, for instance, of the factory system? Evidently nothing. His delineation of the state of the Irish is by no means overcharged—it is pathetically true: but had he been acquainted with such scenes as are detailed in the "Memoir of Robert Blincoe," he would have been one of the last to speak in so unqualified language of the invariable happiness which awaits the denizen of England.]

TRUE HONOUR.

WHEN you have committed an offence, never tell a lie in order to deny or extenuate it: lying is a base weakness. Confess that you have done wrong—in that there is some magnanimity; and the shame you will experience in making the confession will bear fruit in the applause of the good. If you have been unfortunate enough to offend any one, have the noble humility, that true criterion of the gentleman, to ask his pardon: inasmuch as your conduct will show that you are not a poltroon, no one will venture to call you vile for an act of frank magnanimity. But to persevere in the crime of insulting the innocent, and, rather than admit your error and retract your words, to enter into eternal enmity with the injured, are the mad tricks of proud and ferocious men; are infamies of so black a dye as to make it some difficulty for the world to veil them under the brilliant name of honour.

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OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 33.

OCTOBER 12, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

RESULT OF JOHN MEFF'S RETURN FROM TRANSPORTATION.



[MEFF AND HIS COMPANIONS ON THE SOLITARY ISLAND.]

This offender had been taken into custody for committing a robbery near London; but, as it happened at a time within the limits of an Act of Grace passed in the reign of George the First, it was not thought necessary to indict him; and he would have been discharged without farther ceremony, but that it appeared he had been transported for another crime and had returned before the expiration of his time. He was therefore indicted for this offence, on an Act then lately passed—"For the effectual transportation of felons;" and his person being identified, he was found guilty, and received sentence of death. We subjoin an account written by himself between his condemnation and the day of his execution.

"I was born in London of French

parents, who fled hither for protection when the Protestants were driven out of France by Louis the Fourteenth, and I was there put apprentice to a weaver. My father, having continued about twelve years in England, went with the rest of his family to Holland; but I remained behind, and served my time faithfully and with the approbation of my master. Soon after I came to work for myself I married; but my business not being sufficient to maintain myself, my wife, and children, I was induced to try my hand at thieving.

"I followed this practice till I was apprehended, tried, and condemned, for housebreaking; but as I was going to the place of execution, the hangman was arrested, and I was brought back to New-

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gate. It was thought this was my contrivance, to put a stop to public justice; but I was so far from being concerned in it, that I knew nothing of it till it was done. This might have been a happy turn for me, if I had made a right use of it; for my sentence of death was changed to that of transportation: and, indeed, I formed a solemn resolution to lead a honest and regular course of life, and to resist all the persuasions of my comrades to the contrary. This resolution, however, continued but a short time after the fear of death vanished.

"I believe, notwithstanding, that if I had been safely landed in America my ruin might have been prevented; but the ship which carried me and the other convicts was taken by pirates. They would have persuaded me and some others to sign a paper, in order to become pirates; but we refused, and they put me and eight more on shore on a desert, uninhabited island, where we must have perished with hunger if, by good fortune, an Indian canoe had not arrived there. We waited till the Indians were gone up the island, and then, getting into the vessel, we sailed from one small island to another till we reached the coast of America.

"Not choosing to settle in any of the plantations there, but preferring the life of a sailor, I shipped myself on board a vessel that carried merchandise from Virginia and South Carolina to Barbadoes, Jamaica, and other of his Majesty's islands: and thus I lived a considerable time; but at last being over-desirous to see how my wife and children fared in England, I was resolved to return at whatever risk.

"Upon my arrival here, I quickly fell into my former wicked practices; and it was not long before I was committed to Newgate on suspicion of robbing a person near London; but, by the assistance of a certain bricklayer, I broke out of prison and went to Hatfield, where I lay concealed for some time. I was at last discovered, however, and taken by the bricklayer who had procured my escape. Some evil genius attended me: I was certainly infatuated, or I had never continued in a place where I was so likely to be discovered.

"My father is now a gardener at Amsterdam. 'Tis an addition to my misfor-

tune that I cannot see him and my mother before I die; but I hope, when he hears of my unhappy end, he will keep my children by my first wife from starving. My present wife is able, by her industry to bring up her own offspring; for she has been a honest, careful woman, during the nine months I have been married to her, and has often pressed me to go over to Ireland, and there lead a regular and sober life. It had been well for me if I had taken her advice.

"I have had enough of this restless and tumultuous world, and I hope I am now going to a better. I am very easy and resigned to the will of Providence, not doubting I have made my peace with Heaven. I thank God that I have not been molested by my fellow-prisoners, with the least cursing or swearing in the condemned hole; but have had an opportunity of employing every moment of my time in preparing for a future state."

The culprit was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of September, 1724.

Naval and Military Torture. No 3.

IMPROMPTU,

Written by Mrs. Cornwell Baron Wilson, after reading a Case of Military Torture.

[From "The Weekly Dispatch" of March 6, 1800.]

BRITAIN said, "The Afric slave
Shall not faint beneath the stroke!"

Bade soft Mercy's pinions wave
O'er him when *his* bonds she broke.

Yet she lets the oppressor's thong
Fall on *children of her own*;
For some petty tyrant's wrong,
Sees proud manhood overthrow!

Ye can write in *Poland's* cause,
England's Bards! and find it fame;
Advocate *kind Nature's* cause,
And add a laurel to your name.

Ye can weep for *foreign slaves*,
England's daughters! will the tear,
When a Briton's wound it laves,
Less like Heaven's own dew appear?

Ye can plead for foreign woe,
England's Senate! let each voice
Rise this outrage to overthrow,
And bid Humanity rejoice!

Oh! 'tis idle mockery all,
For distress abroad to roam,
While tortures still unheeded fall
On a *Brother's* neck at Home!

Slavery in England!
The Factory System. N° 6.

THE HORRORS OF A COTTON-MILL, ETC.

CHAPTER V.

The next cotton-mill to which our child of misfortune was consigned, together with those of his companions in tribulation, who had no friend to redeem them from impending misery, belonged to a Mr. *Ellice Needham*, as stated in the previous chapter. Like most of his fraternity, his origin was obscure: he is said to have arisen from an abject state of poverty; and had it been by honourable industry, his prosperous fortune had redounded to his credit. Of his primeval state of poverty it was his weakness to be ashamed: by the profusion of his table, and the splendour and frequency of his entertainments, he seemed to wish to cover and conceal his mean descent. His house, lawns, equipage, and style of living, completely eclipsed the neighbouring gentry; yet, boundless as was his ostentation, he was in his heart sordidly mean and parsimonious: his cruelty, in wringing from poor friendless orphans the means of supporting his guilty and unbecoming pomp, sufficiently evinces the baseness of his heart! His mansion, in 1803, and years later, was at Highgate Wall, near Buxton, in Derbyshire.

To this arrogant and unfeeling master, Messrs. Lambert made over the unexpired term of years for which the greater part of the parish apprentices had been bound by their respective indentures: what premium was paid, if any, I know not. As this master was neither a hosier, nor a lace-manufacturer, he had not the power to fulfil the conditions imposed on Messrs. Lambert—namely, to instruct the girls during the last three years of their time in lace-knitting, and the boys in stocking-weaving: the consequence was, the poor children lost these important advantages; and those who survived the term of their apprenticeship to *Ellice Needham*, found themselves without that degree of skill which was requisite to enable them to win their bread, in almost any other cotton-mill, and could touch none but the very coarsest work.

As Messrs. Lambert were constrained by circumstances to stop their works, it might be that they had not means to sup-

port the apprentices, and that they were therefore forced to get rid of them with the utmost expedition. There have been instances where, in case of bankruptcy, parish apprentices bound to cotton-masters have been put into carts, driven to the verge of the parish, and there turned adrift, without money—without a friend or a place to shelter them. According to *Blincoe's* account, although Messrs. Lambert informed the guardians of the poor of St. Pancras parish of the necessity they were under of giving up their apprentices, or turning them over to other masters, no steps were taken for the protection of the friendless children; an imputation the more extraordinary when the promptitude and decision with which they had acted in the case recited is considered: it is therefore probable that their previous activity might have been owing to the horrid tales that had then burst upon the public, descriptive of the cruelty and misery of which parish children placed out in cotton-mills were the victims. It was in 1802 that Sir Robert Peel, of Bury, who had the greatest number of parish and founding children employed in his cotton-mills, of any cotton-master in Great Britain, brought forward his bill for their protection. According to *Blincoe*, the committee from St. Pancras arrived at Lowdham Mill at this juncture, and the reforms introduced at Lowdham Mill were therefore likely to have been owing to the Parliamentary agitation of the question; and nothing can be more highly illustrative of the force of public opinion, than this proof of its potent effect on the officers of St. Pancras parish! Supposing the conjecture to be well founded, at the time the apprentices were removed from Lowdham Mill this humane Act had passed into a law, and had become all but a dead letter! It might also have been a reliance upon the effect of that law which induced the parish officers to leave the children to their fate—what *that fate was* will presently appear!

It seems that Mr. *Ellice Needham*, the master of Litton Mill, went to Lowdham to inspect the condition of the apprentices, who had improved very materially after the introduction of the new regulations. Nothing could be more kind or condescending than *Ellice Needham's* deportment at Lowdham: to some he gave money—to all he promised most liberal

and kind usage; he promised like a Titus, but he performed like a Caligula.

Blincoe could not recollect, with precision, the number of apprentices, male and female, who were removed in carts from Lowdham to Litton Mill. The first day's progress brought them to Cromford, where they halted for the night: the girls were lodged in dwelling-houses; the boys, on straw, in a barn or stable! The next morning the whole party were marched on foot through the village, as far as Matlock toll-bar, so proud was Woodward (their conductor) of their healthy appearance! Here they again mounted their carts! This improvement, by-the-by, is not imputable to the wholesomeness of cotton-factory employment; but to the effect of the recent modifications introduced at Lowdham Mill, and to their diminished hours of toil.

It was in the gloomy month of November when this removal took place! On the evening of the second day's journey, the devoted children reached Litton Mill. Its situation, at the bottom of a sequestered glen, surrounded by rugged rocks, and remote from any human habitation, marked a place fitted for the foul crimes, of frequent occurrence, which hurried so many of the friendless victims of insatiate avarice to an untimely grave.

The savage features of the adjacent scenery impressed a general gloom upon the convoy, when Woodward pointed out to them the lonely mill to which they were travelling. As the hands were then at work, all of whom, except the overlookers, were parish children, the conductor of the new comers led them through the mill. The effect of the review filled the mind of Blincoe, and perhaps his unhappy associates, with deep dismay. The pallid, sickly complexions—the meagre, haggard appearance of the Litton Mill apprentices, with their filthy and ragged condition, gave him a sorrowful foretaste of the dismal fate that apparently awaited him. From the mill, they were escorted to the apprentice-house, where everything wore a discouraging aspect. Their first meal was water porridge and oat cakes; the former thin and ill made—the latter baked in flat cakes, on iron griddles, about an inch thick, which, being piled up in heaps, were liable to heat, ferment, and grow mouldy: this was a new and not a very palatable diet. Whilst Blincoe and

many of his comrades went supperless to bed, their half-starved comrades, the Litton Mill apprentices, ravenously devoured what the more dainty Lowdham children turned from with loathing, and told them *their stomachs* would come to in a few days, and that they would be glad to pick from a dunghill the mouldiest pieces then so disdainfully flung away.

The lodging-room, the bedding—everything was inferior to what it was at Lowdham: and the smell, from oil and filth, incomparably more offensive. Blincoe passed a restless night, bitterly deploring his hard destiny, and trembling at the thought of greater sufferings! Soon after four in the morning, they were summoned to their work by the ringing of a bell. Blincoe was put to wind rovings: he soon found an immense difference in his situation, having much more work to perform, and being treated with a brutal severity hitherto unknown to him.

Blincoe remarked that very few of the apprentices had either knife, fork, or spoon to use at table; or hats, shoes, or stockings. At Lowdham, particularly during the latter part of their stay there, the children used to wash at the pump night and day, and were allowed soap. At Litton Mill, they were called out so early, and worked so late, that little or no attention was given to personal cleanliness! On Friday night, the apprentices were washed, combed, and shirtd! Blincoe found his companions in a woful condition; their bodies were literally covered with weals and contusions, their heads full of wounds, and in many cases lamentably infested with vermin. The eldest girls had to comb and wash the younger apprentices—an irksome task, which was carelessly and partially performed. No soap was allowed—a small quantity of meal was given as a substitute; and this from the effects of keen hunger, was generally eaten. The first day's labour at Litton Mill convinced Blincoe into what a den of vice and misery he was cast. The overlookers were fierce and brutal, beyond anything he had ever witnessed at Lowdham Mill; to which servitude, terrible as it once appeared, *he looked back with regret!* In the retrospect of his own conduct he felt shame and sorrow; for, compared with what he had to perform and to endure, he now considered that he had lived in idleness and luxury

at Lowdham and shifting, said, from stable to a performed, kept to work even beyond The app a room. the door c first bell ru room door with a swi if he foun dressing, h by which s empty. Th fast general this part o and oaten mill. The o'clock; br and so irreg times did o'clock. A would not and it stood with flue! was allowe often in a served out. for dinner; was absorb Sometimes in the mill which acco or rather p they had to generally s food! The pained by appear to t me—almost tion, marv afterwards c narratives e no sort of a laterly sub fully prote ferocity wi driven by s the insuffici had and u in common often dropp been so we that he has penny, or e

at Lowdham. The custom of washing and shifting on Friday night arose, he said, from a notion that it was *more profitable* to allow those ablutions to be then performed, that the apprentices might be kept to work till *midnight* on Saturday, or even beyond that hour.

The apprentices slept about fifty in a room. The governor used to unloek the door of each room as soon as the first bell rung: having unloeked the last room door, he went back to the first with a switch stick in his hand; and if he found any one in bed, or slowly dressing, he used to lay on without mercy; by which severity the rooms were soon empty. The apprentices had their breakfast generally of water porridge, called in this part of Derbyshire "stir-pudding," and oaten cake, which they took in the mill. The breakfast hour was eight o'clock; but the machinery did not stop, and so irregular were their meals it sometimes did not arrive till ten or eleven o'clock. At other times the overlookers would not allow the apprentices to eat it, and it stood till it was cold and covered with flue! Skimmed milk or butter-milk was allowed; but very sparingly, and often in a stinking state when it was served out. Forty minutes were allowed for dinner; of which time full one half was absorbed in cleaning the frames. Sometimes the overlookers detained them in the mill the whole dinner-time, on which account a halfpenny was given—

or rather promised. On these occasions, they had to work the whole day through, generally sixteen hours, without rest or food! These excessive labours, accompanied by comparative starvation, may appear to the reader—as, at first it did to me—almost *incredible*; but Blincoe's relation, marvellous as it may appear, was afterwards confirmed by individuals, whose narratives will be given, and with whom no sort of acquaintance or intercourse had latterly subsisted. Owing to this shamefully protracted time of labour—to the severity with which the children were driven by stripes, cuffs, and kicks—and to the insufficiency of food, no less than its bad and unwholesome quality—Blincoe, in common with his fellow-sufferers, has often dropped down at the frames, and been so weary, when, at last, he left work, that he has given a stronger boy a halfpenny, or a part of his supper, to allow

him to lean upon him on his way back to the apprentice-house!

Bad as was the food, the cookery was still worse. The most inferior sort of Irish-fed bacon was purchased for the consumption of these children, and this boiled with turnips, put into the water, I cannot say without washing, but certainly without being pared! Such was the *Sunday* fare of the parish children at Litton Mill. When first Blincoe and the rest of the children arrived from Lowdham, they noticed that many of the other apprentices had neither spoon nor knife, but had to eat as they could, meat, thick porridge, or broth; nor were the new comers long allowed any such "unnecessary" implements.

On Sunday, bacon-broth and turnips were served out, which they eat with oaten cake in dirty wooden bowls. It could not be otherwise than unpalatable; for the portion of water to be converted into *broth* was very ample: in this, rusty, half-putrid, fish-fed bacon and unpared turnips were boiled! A portion of this broth, with coarse oaten cake, was served out frequently as the first course of a Sunday's dinner: next, the rusty bacon was portioned out with the boiled unpared turnips! There was generally a large quantity of broth to spare, which often became very fetid before it was cold: into this stuff, no better than hog-wash, a few pails more of water were poured, and some meal stirred in; and the disgusting mess was served out for supper or the next day's breakfast, as circumstances required. Blincoe declared that the stench of this broth was often so powerful as to turn his stomach, and yet, bad as it was, keen hunger forced him to eat it. From all these and other sources of sickness and disease, no one will be surprised that contagious fevers arose in the mill; nor that the number of deaths should be such as to require frequent supplies of parish children to fill up the vacancies. That such numerous draughts made for mills where there was no increase of building or of machinery, or no apparent call for more infant labourers, should not have caused parish officers to institute inquiry as to the fate of their predecessors, goes far toward confirming the worst imputations cast by the surviving sufferers upon their parolial guardians. The evidence given by Sir Robert Peel and others, before

Parliamentary committees, will throw still farther light on this important subject, and prove how generally the offspring of the poor have been abandoned by their legal guardians, and left at the disposal of greedy and unfeeling sons of traffic! This neglect on the part of parish officers was the producing cause of many of the avaricious cotton-masters escaping punishment, for offences which richly merited the gallows.

Contagious disease, fatal to the apprentices, and dangerous to society, was the degree of magnitude at which the independent rich—more, perhaps, from selfish than social feelings—took alarm; and the public prints exposed a part of the existing abuses in cotton-mills, of which parish children were the victims. So horrid were these recitals, and so general and loud the indignation which they excited, that it reached the inmost recesses of the flinty hearts of the great cotton-masters: their fears taught them mercy, when no longer able to withstand or silence the accusations brought against them by public-spirited and disinterested opponents. Some of the greatest delinquents yielded, and even became advocates for the interference of the legislative power between themselves and their servants: a reference to the Appendix will show that they were accused by the genuine friends of humanity of aiming, by this concession, to insinuate themselves into the confidence of their opponents, and thereby neutralize and subdue the fine spirit by which they found their grasping, vile, insatiate avarice controlled. Be this as it may, those individuals who took so much pains to obtain the Act of 1802, seem to have given themselves no manner of trouble to see it enforced: almost before the first year expired, it was absolutely considered a dead letter!

Just at this crisis, the cruelties exercised on apprentices at Litton Mill were at their height: excess of toil, of filth, and of hunger, led to the poor children being visited by contagious fevers; and this calamity, which often broke, by premature death, the bands of this vile thralldom, prevailed to such an extent as at last to stop the works! Such was the declaration of Blincoe, who had known forty boys sick at once, being a fourth of the whole number employed in the mill. From the combined testimony of many apprentices,

none were considered sick till it was found impossible, by menaces or by corporal punishment, to keep them to their work. The medical gentleman who sometimes attended the sick, aware of the cause of the deaths, used to say, and like a sensible man he spoke—"It is not drugs, but kitchen physic, they want; and his general prescription was plenty of good bread and beef soup or mutton broth. When I questioned Blincoe and others, why this medical man did not represent the horrid plight they were in to the magistrates, he said, the surgeon and magistrates were friends and guests of the master, and in the frequent habit of feasting with him. Blincoe was among the number of the sick, and remembers pitch, tobacco, &c. being burnt in the chamber, and vinegar sprinkled on their beds and on the floor; circumstances which sufficiently denote the malignity of the disease, and the serious apprehensions that were entertained. So great has the mortality been, that Mr. Needham has felt it advisable to divide the burials; and a part of the dead were buried in Tadington church-yard, although the burial-fees were double the charge on those at Tideswell. Notwithstanding this extraordinary degree of sickness and mortality, Blincoe declares that the local magistracy took no manner of notice thereof.

It might be hazardous to trust so far to the memory, the integrity, or the judgment of Blincoe, or to affirm that the conduct of the local magistracy really was thus culpable; but the imputation is corroborated by the total silence of the magistrates of this part of Derbyshire, as to the character and conduct of the owners of Litton Mill, during the Parliamentary investigation of 1816, 17, 18, 19. The concurrent testimony of Blincoe and several of his fellow-sufferers confirms the fact of contagious fevers having occurred in this mill; of the numerous deaths it occasioned; of the consequent division of the funerals; and of the remarks of the clergyman by whom the last sad rites were performed; and also, that, *once*, there was a coroner's inquest held! There exists some difference of opinion, as to the material fact—whether the body had not been first deposited in the earth, afterwards taken up. Not a spark of pity was shown to the sick of either sex: they were worked to the very last moment

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was possible for them to work; and when
it was no longer possible, if they dropped
down, they were put into a wheelbarrow,
and wheeled off to the apprenticew-house.
According to Blincoe, they were then
left in the common room below, or carried
to their birth in the bed-room, and there
left to live or die! In this melancholy
state, all the change that took place in the
state, was an allowance of some *treacle-tea*;
that is, hot water sweetened with treacle.
The doctor was seldom called till the
patient was in the agonies of death: it
generally speaking, the dying experienced
less attention than a sheep or a hog!
The owner of Litton Mill was more ten-
der to those animals, because they cost
money; and the anxiety of a character
like Mr. Needham could only be excited
by the prospect of a loss of capital!
This solicitude was proportioned to the
extent of the risk; and as parish children
and destitute orphans could be had at a
less price than sheep or pigs, to supply
the place of those that died, it followed
that they were less thought of. I would
not willingly exaggerate the atrocities I
am depicting; I would not act so unwisely
as to overcharge the picture I am drawing;
and it is with some degree of diffidence I
state, in consequence of combined and
positive testimony, that no nurses or *nurs-
ing* was allowed to the sick, farther than
what one invalid could do for another!
That neither candle nor lamp-light was
allowed, nor the least sign of sympathy
or regret manifested! These facts, I
admit, are so repugnant to every feeling
of Christian charity, that they wear the
aspect of greatly embellished truths, or—
what is little worse—of inalignant fabri-
cations. If they are such, the fault is
not mine; for repeatedly, and in the
most impressive manner in my power,
I admonished Blincoe and his fellow-
sufferers to abstain from falsehood; tell-
ing him and them, it would be sure to
be detected and lead to their disgracc.
What I thought might have more influ-
ence with such persons—I also urged the
triumph such baseness on their part would
confer on the master cotton-spinners most
distinguished by cruelty and tyranny:
and Blincoe and the whole of his former
comrades perseveringly and consistently
adhered to the truth of the horrid impu-
tations, and declared, if they were called
upon, they would at any time confirm

their statements. I was bound to give
them publicity; and if they are founded
in truth, if their great features are cor-
rectly delineated, no lapse of time ought
to be allowed to shelter the delinquents.
They should be brought to a public trial;
for the imputations extend to too many
acts of torture and of wilful and deliberate
murder; and to the indulgence of propen-
sities such as to overpower scepticism.
They embrace atrocities exercised upon
poor and friendless boys and girls, of a
nature no less abominable than the worst
of those which apply to that disgrace to
womanhood, Elizabeth Brownrig; or, more
recently, to the unhappy culprit, Govern-
or Wall. There are yet living, perhaps
a hundred witnesses who have been par-
takers of these ferocious inflictions: many
of them, though in the prime of life, are
reduced to such a state of decrepitude as
to flash conviction, upon the most incred-
ulous, that it could have resulted from
nothing but the most unexampled and
long-continued cruelty; from the contin-
ued and reckless exercise of unlimited
despotism upon the truly insulted and
most friendless of human beings—upon
those for whose especial protection a law
had been then recently enacted, which,
had it been enforced, would efficiently
have prevented the occurrence of these
crimes: and if I were to assert, that it
would be difficult, if not impossible, from
the record of sufferings inflicted upon
Negro slaves, to quote instances of greater
atrociousness than I have developed, or am
about to develop, I should not exagger-
ate; nor should I be guilty of bombast,
were I to affirm that the national charac-
ter has been and is seriously dishonoured
by that system of boundless commercial
avarice, in which these detestable crimes
originated: it will continue thus shaded,
till a full and a fair investigation takes
place.

There never yet was a crisis when, in
the commercial world, the march of ava-
rice was so rapid, or its devastations so
extensive upon the morals and well-being
of society, as within the period embraced
by this narrative; a march that seems to
acquire celerity in proportion to the in-
creasing spread of its malefic influence,
and to derive impunity from the prodig-
ious wealth it accumulates in the hands
of a few great and unfeeling capitalists,
at the expense of the individual happiness,

health, and morals of the million! This iniquitous system is the prolific parent of that tremendous flood of vice which has saturated the manufacturing populace, with the most appalling depravity. This has reduced those many hundred thousand weavers to a state of destitution so extreme, as to render the condition of the most destitute portion incomparably worse than that of the field-slave, in the West India plantations, who has the good fortune to belong to a humane proprietor. This baleful and wide-wasting system throws upon the crown the undeserved odium of being the cause or the abettor of these dreadful evils, by which the poor weaver is oppressed—an impression that has neutralized the loyalty of myriads, and fitted them to become, in the hands of unprincipled demagogues, the source of popular commotions, of foul and iniquitous conspiracies, of deep and radical disloyalty. So indurated, so inveterate is the loathing—the aversion cherished towards the executive government, in all its ramifications, by a large portion of weavers, that it has induced multitudes wholly to renounce—to vilify in every practicable manner—to degrade Christianity! I do not, in this declamation, indulge in light, personal, or selfish motives: for whatever I assert, as positive matter of fact, I hold myself morally responsible; and I stand publicly pledged to substantiate my assertion, by adducing, if requisite, not alone the authorities on which I make them, but also *proof* of the validity of these authorities.

With this digression I close the present chapter: in those that follow there will be found a narrative of crimes that cannot fail to excite, in an equal degree, horror and incredulity—at the recital of acts of wanton, premeditated, gross, and brutal cruelty, scarcely to be equalled in the annals of the Inquisitorial tribunals of Portugal or Spain. Yet all those acts of murder and wanton cruelty have been perpetrated by a solitary master cotton-spinner, who, though perhaps one of the worst of his tribe, did not stand alone; as will be shown by evidence which cannot be successfully rebutted. Nor was it to be expected that the criminality of that master spinner should fail to produce corresponding depravity amongst the wretched apprentices subjected to his rude and savage dominion. In the event-

ful life of W—Pitt, the depth and extent of that depravity will be strikingly illustrated! It will be seen that acts of felony were committed in the vicinity of Little Mill, by the parish apprentices—not, if I am rightly informed, from a *dishonest intention*, but from a desire to be transported to Botany Bay; deeming even that alternative preferable to the endurance of the accursed horrors of the servitude which, as parish apprentices, they had been so thoughtlessly consigned.

(To be continued.)

THE DANGER OF VISITING A HELL.

NEVER visit a hell. If you do, however, be careful to take no money with you otherwise the chances are that you run it all on the game, and, in all probability, get fleeced for your folly.

The fascination of gambling is most unaccountable, and exceeds that of the basilisk: the sight of the thing tempts lookers on to try their luck; and, when they once fairly begin, and more especially if the chance goes against them, they absolutely lose all idea of the value of money. An accursed demon is constantly whispering in their ears "Play, play, play!" and, urged by the infernal advice, they risk everything—their cash, houses, pictures, lands. Were their souls gameable, or of any use to the other party, there cannot be a doubt that they would gamble them away in this train of ruination and madness.

Mortgaged estates, pennyless ruined bankrupt landlords—what brings millions of them into these conditions but gambling, whether it be in the shape of faro, rouge et noir, horse-racing, or other infinite modifications of this destructive propensity?

Many a man has entered the gaming-house endowed with all manner of wealth and happiness; and left it, fleeced by an hour's insanity, to drink the poisoned cup, or apply a loaded pistol to his distracted head; or, if he shun these alternatives, to live a life of poverty and contempt, and perhaps a ruined family to deplore the infatuation of their wretched parent. Such is gambling!

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 34.

OCTOBER 19, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

SLAVERY IN ENGLAND. THE FACTORY SYSTEM. N^o. 8.
THE HORRORS OF A COTTON-MILL EXHIBITED IN A MEMOIR OF
ROBERT BLINCOE.



[BLINCOE STEALING THE PIG'S MEAT.]

CHAPTER VI.

RECURRING to the description given me by Robert Blincoe of the dreadful state of thralldom in which, with a multitude of juvenile companions, he was involved at Litton Mill, I am instructed to say, that, as excessive toil, the want of proper time for rest, and the absence of nourishing and wholesome food, gave rise to contagious disease, so a liberal supply of good provisions and a cessation from toil quickly restored many to health; but, instead of taking warning by the results of these terrible examples, no sooner were the invalids sent back to the mill than the system of over-toil, boundless cruelty,

starvation, and torture, was at once resumed. Let it not, however, be supposed that anything in the shape of dainties had been dispensed to the sick: wheaten bread, coarse pieces of beef boiled down in soup, or mutton for broth, with good milk or butter-milk, sparingly distributed, formed the extent of those indulgences. This diet, luxurious as it was considered in Litton Mill, did not surpass the ordinary standard of the daily fare that Blincoe had enjoyed at St. Pancras workhouse, as well as during the latter period of his stay at Lowdham Mill.

I have not yet done more than mention the cuffs, kicks, or scourging to which, in

common with many other of his unhappy comrades, Blincoe stood exposed; since, by his account, almost from the first hour in which he entered the mill, till he arrived at a state of manhood, it was one continued round of cruel and arbitrary punishment. Blincoe declared, he was so frequently and immoderately beaten it became quite familiar; and if its frequency did not extinguish the sense of feeling, it took away the terror it excited on his first entrance into this den of ignorance and crime. I asked him, if he could state an average number of times in which he thought he might, in safety, say he had suffered corporeal punishment in a week. His answer invariably was, his punishments were so various and so frequent it was impossible to state with anything approaching to accuracy. If he is to be credited, during his ten years of hard servitude his body was never free from contusions and wounds, inflicted by the cruel master whom he served, by his sons, or by his brutal, and ferocious, and merciless overlookers.

It is already stated that he was put to the back of a stretching-frame when he was about eleven years of age, and that often, owing to the idleness or the absence of the stretcher, he had his master's work, as well as his own, to perform. The work being very coarse, the motion was rapid, and he could not keep up to the ends: for this he was sure to be unmercifully punished, although they who punished him knew the task assigned was beyond what he could perform! There were different stretchers in the mill; but, according to Blincoe's account, they were all of them base and ferocious ruffians: Robert Woodward, who had escorted the apprentices from Lowdham Mill, was considered the worst of those illiterate, vulgar tyrants. If he made a kick at Blincoe, so great was his strength, it commonly lifted him off the floor: if he struck him even a flat-handed blow, it floored him; if with a stick, it not only bruised him, but cut his flesh. It was not enough to use his feet or his hands; he must wield a stick, a bobby, or a rope's end. He and others used to throw rollers, one after another, at the poor boy, aiming at his head, which was of course uncovered while at work; and nothing delighted the savages more than to see Blincoe stagger, and to see the blood gushing out in a stream! So far

were such results from deterring the masters, that long before one wound had healed similar acts of cruelty produced other wounds; so that, on many occasions his head was excoriated and bruised to a degree that rendered him offensive to himself and others, and was so intolerably painful as to deprive him of rest at night however weary he might be. In consequence of such wounds, his head was overrun by vermin. Being reduced to this deplorable state, some brute of a quack doctor used to apply a pitch cap, or plaster, to his head. When it had been on a given time, and its adhesion was supposed to be complete, the terrible doctor used to lay forcibly hold of the corner and tear the whole scalp from off his head at once! This was the common remedy; and I should not exaggerate the agonies it occasioned were I to affirm that it must be equal to anything inflicted by the American savages, on helpless prisoners, with their scalping-knives and tomahawks.

This same ruffian, Robert Woodward, who, by the concurrent testimony of many sufferers, stands depicted as possessing that innate love of cruelty which marked a Nero, a Caligula, or a Robespierre, used, when Blincoe could not or did not keep pace with the machinery, to tie him up by the wrists to a cross-beam and keep him suspended over the machinery till his agony was extreme. To avoid the machinery, he had to draw up his legs every time it came out or returned: if he did not lift them up, he was cruelly beaten over the shins, which were bare. Next was he released till, growing black on the face, and his head falling over his shoulder, the wretch thought his victim was near expiring! Then, after some gratuitous knocks and cuffs, he was released and instantly driven to his tool, and forced to commence with every appearance of strength and vigour, though he were so crippled as to be scarcely able to stand. To lift the apprentices up by the ears, shake them violently, and then dash them down upon the floor with the utmost fury, was one of the many inhuman sports in Litton Mill, in which the overlookers appeared to take delight: frequently has Blincoe been thus treated till he thought his ears were torn from his head; and this for very trivial offences or omissions. Another of their diabolical

amusements consisted in filing the apprentices' teeth! Blincoe was once constrained to open his mouth to receive this punishment, and Robert Woodward applied the file with great vigour! Having punished him as much as he pleased, the brute said with a sneer—"I do this to sharpen thy teeth, that thou mayst eat thy Sunday dinner the better."

Blincoe declared, that he had often been compelled, on a cold winter's day, to work *naked*, having no covering on him besides his trousers, loaded with two half-hundred weights slung behind him, hanging one at each shoulder. Under this cruel torture he soon sunk, when, to make the *sport* last the longer, Woodward substituted quarter-hundred weights, and thus loaded, by every painful effort, Blincoe could not lift his arm to the roller. Woodward has forced him to wear these weights for hours together, and still to continue at his work! Sometimes he has been commanded to pull off his shirt and get into a large square skip, when the savage, being sure of his mark, and that not a blow would be lost, used to beat him till he himself was tired! At other times Blincoe has been hoisted upon other boys' shoulders, and beaten with sticks, till he has been shockingly discoloured and covered with contusions and wounds.

What spinners call a *draw off*, at one of those frames at which Blincoe worked, required about forty seconds: Woodward has often insisted upon Blincoe cleaning all the cotton away under the whole frame in a single draw, to go out at the farther end, under pain of a severe beating. On one of these occasions Blincoe nearly lost his life: being caught between the faller and the head-piece, his head was jammed between them. Both his temples were cut open, the marks of which are still to be seen, and the blood poured down each side of his face! it was considered next to a miracle that he escaped with his life! So far from feeling the least compassion, Woodward beat him cruelly, because he had not made *more haste*! Blincoe says, to the best of his recollection, he was twelve years of age when this accident happened!

It is a fact, too notorious to be denied, that the most brutal and ferocious of the spinners, stretchers, rovers, &c., have been in the habit, from mere wantonness, of

inflicting severe punishments upon piecers, scavengers, frame-tenters, winders, and others of the juvenile class subjected to their power, compelling them to eat dirty pieces of candle, to lick up tobacco spittle, to open their mouths for the filthy wretches to spit into; all which beastialities have been practised upon the apprentices at Litton Mill! Among the rest, Blincoe has often suffered these indignities. What has a tendency to display human nature in its worst state, is, that most of the overlookers, who acted thus cruelly, had arrived in the mill as parish apprentices, and, as such, had undergone all these offensive inflictions!

There was, however, one diversion which, in all my inquiries as to cotton-mill *amusements*, I never found paralleled: of this, Robert Woodward, if I mistake not, has a claim to the honour of being the *original inventor*. It was thus executed—A tin can or cylinder, about three feet high, to receive the rovings, and about nine or ten inches in diameter, was placed in the midst of the alley or wheel-house, as the space is called, over which the frames travel at every draw, and pretty close to the race. Upon this can or hollow cylinder Blincoe had to mount, and there to stand upon one foot, holding a long brush extended in the opposite hand, until the frame came out, about three times in two minutes, invariably knocking the can from under him, when both fell upon the floor! The villain used to place the can so near the race that there was considerable danger of Blincoe falling on it; had he done so, it would probably have lamed him for life, if it had not killed him on the spot: the victim had, with the utmost celerity, to throw himself flat upon the floor, that the frame might pass over him! During this short interval, the amateurs (Robert Woodward, Charnock, Merrick, &c.) used to set the can upright again; and it required no small share of ingenuity in them to keep time. The frame being returned, poor Blincoe had to leap on his feet, and again to mount nimbly on the hollow column of tin, again to extend his arm, holding the long hair brush, and again sustain a fall, amidst the shouts and yells of these fiends! Thus would the villains continue to persecute and torment him, till they were tired, notwithstanding the *sport* might

have been his death. He ran the risk of a broken bone, or the dislocation of a limb, every time he was thus thrown down; and the hours the monsters thus wasted, they afterwards made up by additional labour wrung from their wretched victims!

Another of their diversions consisted in tying Blincoe's hands behind him, and one of his legs up to his hands: he had then only one leg left free to hop upon, and no use left of his hands to guard him, if he chanced to fall; and if Blincoe did not move with activity, the overlooker would strike a blow with his clenched fist, or cut his head open by flinging rollers: if he fell, he was liable to have his leg or arm broken or dislocated. Every one conversant with cotton-spinning machinery knows the danger of such *diversions*; and of their cruelty, every one can judge.

There seemed to exist a spirit of emulation—an infernal spirit, it might with justice be designated—among the overlookers of Litton Mill, to invent and inflict the most novel and most singular punishments. For the sake of being the better able and the more effectually to torment their victims, the overlookers allowed their thumb and fore-finger nails to grow to an extreme length, in order that, when they *pinched their ears*, they might make their nails meet—*marks to be seen!*

Needham himself, the owner of the mill, stands arraigned of having had the cruelty to act thus, very frequently, till their blood has run down their necks; and so common was the *sport* it was scarcely noticed. As it regarded Blincoe, one set of wounds had seldom time to heal before another set was inflicted; and the general remedy that Blincoe applied was the oil used for the machinery. The despicable wretches who thus revelled in acts of lawless oppression would often, to indulge the whim of a moment, fling a roller at a boy's head, and inflict deep wounds; and this, frequently, without even a shadow of a fault to allege, or even a plausible reason to assign in *justification!* At another time, if the apprentices stood fair for the infliction of a stripe, with a twig or the whip, the overlookers would apply it, with the utmost vigour, and then, bursting into laughter, call it a *good hit!* Blincoe declared he has, times innumerable, been thus assailed,

and has had his head cut severely, without daring to complain of the cause. Workward and others of the overlookers used to beat him with pieces of the thick leather straps made supple by oil, having an iron buckle at the end, which drew blood almost every time it was applied, and caused severe contusions.

Among Blincoe's comrades in affliction was an orphan boy, who came from St. Pancras workhouse, whose proper name was James Nottingham; but better known as "*Blackey*," a nickname given him on account of his black hair, eyes, and complexion. According to Blincoe's testimony, this poor boy suffered even greater cruelties than fell his own share! By an innumerable number of blows, chiefly inflicted on his head! by wounds and contusions, his head swelled enormously, and he became an idiot! To use Blincoe's significant expression, "*his head was as soft as a boiled turnip!*" *the scalp on the crown pitting everywhere on the least compression.* This poor boy, being reduced to this most pitiable condition by unrestrained cruelty, was exposed to innumerable outrages, and often plundered of his food, and was at last incapable of work. Melancholy and weeping, he used to creep into holes and corners, to avoid his tormentors. From mere debility, he was afflicted by incontinency of stools of urine! To punish this infirmity, conformably, as Blincoe declared, with the will of Ellice Needham, the master, his allowance of broth, butter-milk, porridge, &c., was withheld! During the summer time, he was mercilessly scourged! and in winter he was stripped quite naked, and slung, with a rope tied round his shoulders, into the dam, and dragged to and fro till he was nearly suffocated. They would then draw him out, and sit him on a stone, under a pump, and pump upon his head, in a copious stream, while some stout fellow was employed to strike the poor wretch with pails of water, flung with all possible fury into his face. According to the account I received, not alone Blincoe, but several other of the Litton Mill apprentices, when these horrid inflictions had reduced the poor boy to a state of idiotism, his wrongs and sufferings, his dismal condition, far from exciting sympathy, only increased the mirth of these vulgar tyrants! His wasted and debilitated frame was seldom, if ever,

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free from wounds and contusions; and his head, covered with running sores and swarming with lice, exhibited a loathsome object! In consequence of this miserable state of filth and disease, poor Nottingham has many times had to endure the excruciating torture of the pitch and scalping-cap already noticed!

Having learnt, in 1822, that this forlorn child of misery was then at work in a cotton-factory near Oldfield Lane, I went in search of and found him. At first, he seemed much embarrassed; and when I made inquiries as to his treatment at Litton Mill, to my surprise, he told me, "he knew nothing whatever about it." I then related what Blincoe and others had named to me, of the horrid tortures he endured. "I dare say," said he, mildly, "he told you truth, but I have no distinct recollection of anything that happened to me during the greater part of the time I was there! I believe," said he, "my sufferings were most dreadful, and I nearly lost my senses." From his appearance, I guessed he had not been so severely worked as others of the poor crippled children whom I had seen: as well as I can recollect, his knees were not deformed, or, if at all, but very little! He is much below the middle size, as to stature; his countenance is round; and his small and regular features bore the character of former sufferings and present tranquillity of mind. In the course of my inquiries respecting this young man, I was much gratified, by hearing the excellent character given him in the vicinity of his lodging. Several persons spoke of him as being serious and well inclined, and his life and conduct as being irreproachable.

We frequently, said my informants, had our best dinner on a Sunday, and it was generally broth, meat, and turnips, with a little oat-cake; the meat was of as coarse a sort as could be bought. This being our extra dinner, we did not wish to part with it too soon; therefore it was a general practice among the apprentices to save some of it till Monday, leaving it in the care of the governor of the apprentice-house, each one to know his own: the practice was to cut some mark in the oat-cake, and lay it on the wooden trencher. It happened one Sunday we had our dinner of bacon broth and turnips, with a little oat-cake: this Sunday, Thomas

Linsey, a fellow apprentice, thought he should like a snack early in the morning; he therefore took a slice of bacon between two pieces of oat-cake to bed with him, and put it under his head—I cannot say, under his pillow, because we never were allowed any. The next morning, about three or four o'clock, (as it was a usual practice in the summer time, when short of water, for a part of the hands to begin their work sooner, by which contrivance we were able to work out our full time, or nearly so,) Linsey was found dead in bed; and as soon as some of the apprentices knew of his death, as they slept about fifty in a room, there was a great scuffle who should have the bacon and oat-cake from under his head: some began to search his pockets for the tin he used to eat his victuals with; some had pieces of broken pots, as no spoons were allowed! It was reported that this Sunday's pig had died in the Lees, a place so called at the back of the apprentice-house. There was no coroner's inquest held over Linsey to know the cause of his death. I shall leave the reader to judge for himself this distressing sight, at so early an hour in the morning. This occurred at Litton Mill.

It might be supposed that these horrid inflictions had been practised in Litton Mill unknown to the master and proprietor; but the testimony, not of Blincoe alone, but of many of his former associates, given without his knowledge, is decisive on this point: the latter, like Blincoe, described Ellice Needham, the master, as equalling the very worst of his servants in cruelty of heart! So far from taking any care to stop their career, he used to animate them by his own example to inflict punishment in any and every way they pleased. *Mr. Ellice Needham* stands accused of having been in the habit of knocking down the apprentices with his clenched fists, and kicking them when down; beating them to excess with sticks, or flogging them with horse-whips; seizing them by the ears, lifting them from the ground and forcibly dashing them down on the floor, or pinching them till his nails met! Blincoe declares his oppressors used to seize him by the hair of his head, and tear it off by a handful at a time, till the crown of his head had become as bald as the back of his hand! *John Needham*, following the

example of his father, and possessing unlimited power over the apprentices, lies under the imputation of crimes of the blackest hue, exercised upon the wretched creatures from whose laborious toil the means of supporting the pomp and luxury in which he lived were drawn. To the boys, he was a tyrant and oppressor! To the girls, the same, with the additional odium of treating them with an indecency as disgusting as his cruelty was terrific: these unhappy creatures were at once the victims of his ferocity and lust!

For some trivial offence, Robert Woodward once kicked and beat Robert Blincoe till his body was covered with wheals and bruises. Being tired, or desirous of affording his young master the *luxury of amusing* himself on the same subject, he took Blincoe to the counting-house and accused him of wilfully spoiling his work! Without waiting to hear what Blincoe might have to urge in his defence, young Needham eagerly looked about for a stick: not finding one at hand, he sent Woodward to an adjacent coppice, called the Twitchell, to cut a supply, and laughingly bade Blincoe strip naked, and prepare for a *good flanking!* Blincoe obeyed; but, to his agreeable surprise, young Needham abstained from giving him the promised flanking! The fact was, the poor boy's body was so dreadfully discoloured and inflamed by contusions, its appearance terrified the young despot; and he *mercifully* spared him, thinking that mortification and death might ensue if he laid on another "flanking." Hence his unexpected order to Blincoe to put on his things! There was not, at the time, a free spot on which to inflict a blow! His ears were swollen and excoriated; his head was in the most deplorable state imaginable; many of the bruises on his body had suppurated; and so excessive was his soreness, he was forced to sleep on his face, if sleep he could obtain in so wretched a condition!

Once a-week, and generally after sixteen hours of incessant toil, the eldest girls had to comb the boys' heads; an operation that, being alike painful to the sufferer and disgusting to the girls, was reluctantly endured and inefficiently performed: hence arose the frequency of scald heads and the terrible scalping remedy! Upon an average, the children were kept to work during a great part, if

not all, the time Blincoe was at Litton Mill, sixteen hours in the day: the result of this excessive toil, superadded to hunger and torture, was the death of many of the apprentices, and the entailment of incurable lameness and disease on numerous others.

The store pigs and the apprentices used to fare pretty much alike; but when the swine were hungry, they used to squeal and grunt so loud that they obtained the wash first, to quiet them: the apprentices could be intimidated, and made to keep still. The fattening pigs fared most luxuriously, compared with the apprentices! They were often regaled with meal-balls made into dough, and given in the shape of dumplings! Blincoe and others, who worked in a part of the mill whence they could see the swine served, used to say to one another—"The pigs are served: it will be our turn next." Blincoe and those who were in a part of the building contiguous to the pigsties, used to keep a sharp eye upon the fattening pigs and their meal-balls, and as soon as he saw the swineherd withdraw he used to slip down stairs, and, stealing slyly towards the trough, plunge his hand in at the loopholes, and steal as many dumplings as he could grasp! The food thus obtained from a pigs' trough, and perhaps defiled by their filthy chops, was exultingly conveyed to the privy or the duck-hole, and there devoured with a much keener appetite than it would have been by the pigs: but the pigs, though generally esteemed the most stupid of animals, soon hit upon an expedient that baffled the hungry boys: for the instant the meal-balls were put into their troughs they voraciously seized them, and threw them into the dirt, out of the reach of the boys! Nor this alone: made wise by repeated losses they kept a sharp look out, and the moment they ascertained the approach of the half-famished apprentices, they set up so loud a chorus of snorts and grunts, that it was heard in the kitchen, when out rushed the swineherd, armed with a whip; from which combined means of protection for the swine, this accidental source of obtaining a *good dinner* was soon lost! Such was the contest carried on for a time, at Litton Mill, between the half-famished apprentices, and the well-fed swine.

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rational to rob the pigs, when they were destined to bleed to supply them with food as soon as they grew sufficiently fat! "Oh! you're mistaken," said he; "these pigs were fattened for master's own table, or sold at Buxton! We were fed upon the very worst and cheapest of Irish-fed bacon."

There was, it seems, a small dairy at Litton Mill; but the butter was all sent to his house: the butter-milk alone was dispensed, and but very scantily, to the apprentices. About a table-spoonful of meal was distributed once a-week to the apprentices, with which to wash themselves, instead of soap; but in nine cases out of ten it was greedily devoured, and a piece of clay or sand, or some such thing, was substituted: such was the dreadful state of hunger in which these poor children were kept in this mill.

To attempt a specific statement, how often Blincoe has been kept to work from five in the morning till midnight, during his period of servitude, would be hazardous! According to his own testimony, supported by that of many others, it was, at times, of common occurrence, more especially on the Saturday! In most mills, the adult spinners left off on that day at four in the afternoon; whilst in these, where parish apprentices were employed, it was often continued, not only till midnight, but till six o'clock on the Sunday morning!

Exertion so incessant could not fail to reduce the majority of apprentices to a state of exhaustion and lassitude, so great as nearly to disqualify them to benefit by such instructions as an illiterate clown could afford, who officiated on Sunday as schoolmaster, or by divine worship when they were allowed to attend. Nothing could be more cheerless than the aspect of these juvenile sufferers, these helpless outcasts; nor more piteous than the wailings and lamentations of that portion, chiefly of the most tender years, whom long familiarity with vice and misery had not rendered wholly callous.

A blacksmith or mechanic, named William Palfrey, who resided at Litton, worked in a room under that where Blincoe was employed: he used to be much disturbed by the shrieks and cries of the boys, whom the manager and overlookers were almost continually punishing. According to Blincoe's declaration, and that of others, human blood has often run from an upper

to a lower floor, shed by these merciless taskmasters. Unable to bear the shrieks of the children, Palfrey used to knock against the floor so violently as to force the boards up, and call out—"For shame! for shame! are you murdering the children?" He spoke to Mr. Needham, and said he would not stay in the mill if such doings were allowed. By this sort of conduct, the humane blacksmith was a check on the cruelty of the brutal overlookers as long as he continued in his shop; but he went home at seven o'clock, and as soon as Woodward, Merrick, and Charnock knew that Palfrey was gone, they used to pay off the day's score, and beat and knock the apprentices about without moderation or provocation, giving them black eyes, broken heads, &c.; saying—"I'll let you know old Palfrey is not here now!" To protract the evil hour, the boys, when they used to go down stairs for roavings, would come back and say—"Palfrey and the joiner are going to work all night;" and sometimes by this manœuvre they have escaped punishment.

(To be continued.)

WILLIAM DUCE, JAMES BUTLER, AND OTHERS.

THE gradations of vice are repeatedly shown in depicting the characters of criminals. The boy, when abandoned to profligacy, commences his career of theft by picking pockets, and a single handkerchief is then the extent of his hopes; hardening with his age, he advances a step in villany and becomes a footpad; and if success should for a while attend his enormities he proceeds to steal a horse, and, throwing away the footpad's bludgeon or knife, he appears mounted on the highway, armed with a brace of pistols. Arrived now at the highest rank of thievery, he despises the lower posts, and stiles himself a gentleman highwayman: to do honour to his station, he scorns to use that violence which he often exercised as a footpad.

William Duce was a native of Wolverhampton, and by trade a buckle-maker, which business he followed some time in London; but being imprisoned in Newgate for debt, he there made connexions which greatly tended to the corruption of his manners. He was no sooner at large than he commenced footpad, and, in

company with another man, robbed a gentleman in Chelsea Fields of 4 guineas. After this he connected himself with John Dyer and James Butler, in concert with whom he committed a variety of robberies. Their plan was to go out together; but one only attacked the party intended to be robbed, giving a signal for his accomplices to come up in case of resistance.

After committing a variety of robberies in the neighbourhood of London, they joined in a scheme, with four other villains, to rob Lady Chudleigh, between Hyde Park Corner and Kensington; but her ladyship's footman shot one of the gang, named Rice, which prevented the intended depredation.

Their robberies had now been so numerous, that the neighbourhood of London became unsafe for them; in consequence of which they went on the Portsmouth road, where they committed a variety of robberies, and even proceeded to the perpetration of murder, with a view to prevent detection. Meeting Mr. Bunch, a farmer, near a wood on the road side, they robbed him of his money, and then dragging him into the wood they stripped him. Darker, Wade, and Meads, three of the gang, were hanged at Winchester; but Butler was sent to take his trial at the Old Bailey, for robberies committed in the county of Middlesex.

James Butler was the son of reputable parents, of the parish of St. Anne, Soho, and was apprenticed to a silversmith; but being of an ungovernable disposition, his parents were obliged to send him to sea. After making several voyages, as an apprentice to the captain, he ran from the ship at Boston, in New England, and went to New York, where he entered on board another ship, from which he likewise ran away, and embarked in a third vessel, bound to Martinique. This he also quitted, on a dispute with the captain, and then sailed to Jamaica, where he was impressed into the royal navy, and served under the celebrated Admiral Vernon. On his return to England, he married a girl of Wapping; and having soon spent the little money he brought home with him, he engaged with the gang above mentioned, with whom he was likewise concerned in several other robberies.

They appear to have been very desperate villains. On the road to Gravesend, they stopped four gentlemen, who, on

refusing to be robbed, met the resentment of Meads, one of those hanged at Winchester, by his shooting a servant who attended them so that he died in a few days. Disappointed of their booty in this attempt, their passions were so irritated, that, meeting a gentleman on horseback, they fired, and wounded him in the head and breast, and the next day he expired.

They committed numerous other robberies attended with circumstances of cruelty; but we shall proceed forthwith to mention those for which they suffered. Butler having been acquitted at the Old Bailey of the crime for which he was transmitted from Winchester, he, Duce, and Dyer immediately renewed their depredations on the road. Meeting Mr. Holmes, near Buckingham House, they robbed him of his money, hat, and handkerchief, which laid the foundation of one of the indictments against them.

On the following evening they stopped a hackney-coachman near Hampstead, and robbed him of 9s. Jonathan Wild being informed of these robberies, caused the offenders to be apprehended, at a house kept by Duce's sister.

Dyer being admitted an evidence, Duce and Butler were brought to trial, where the latter pleaded guilty to both the indictments preferred against him; and the former, after spending some time in denying the robberies, and arraigning the conduct of Jonathan Wild, was found guilty, and both of them received sentence of death.

Duce was urged by the ordinary to discover the names of some of his accomplices; but this he refused to do, because they had left their practices, and lived honest lives.

A few moments before they were launched into eternity, Butler declared that the circumstances of cruelty with which their crimes had been attended gave him more pain than the thought of death; and Duce acknowledged the enormity of his offences, and begged the forgiveness of all whom he had injured. They finished their career at Tyburn on the 14th of August, 1723.

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N^o. 35.

OCTOBER 26, 1836.

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SLAVERY IN ENGLAND. THE FACTORY SYSTEM. N^o. 9.
THE HORRORS OF A COTTON-MILL EXHIBITED IN A MEMOIR OF
ROBERT BLINCOE.



[BLINCOE AT WORK WITH HAND-VICES TO HIS NOSE AND EARS.]

CHAPTER VII.

It happened one day, at Litton Mill, when Blincoe was about twelve years old, having gone to the counting-house with a cop, such being the custom at every doffing, while Blincoe was there, another apprentice, named Isaac Moss, arrived on the same errand. Upon the floor stood the tin treacle-can, with about fourteen pounds of treacle; the sight of which arrested the attention of Blincoe, who said softly, "Moss, there is the treacle-can come from Tideswell!" "Eh," Moss exclaimed, "so it is." Blincoe said, "I have no spoon." Moss rejoined, "I have two." Putting his hand to his bosom, and pulling out the bowl of an iron spoon, and another

which he kept for another person, down they sat on the floor, opposite to each other, with the can between them, and began operations, lading away as fast as they could! Blincoe had a large-sized mouth, in good condition; but the ruffianly manager, William Woodward, brother to Robert Woodward, having struck Moss a severe blow on the mouth with a large stick, it had swollen so much that the poor lad had the mortification of hardly being able to use it; and Blincoe could stow away at least three spoonsful to Moss's one! While the conscious pair were thus employ'd, the enemy, unheard and unperceived, stole upon them. It was a dark night; but there was a fire

in the counting-house, by the light of which, over some glass above the top of the door, that grim spectre, the terror and curse of these poor boys, Woodward, saw their diversion! He stood viewing them for some time, when, suddenly rushing upon them, he seized upon them as a cat pounces upon cheese-eating mice! Blincoe, being most active with his feet as well as with his spoon, after receiving a few kicks and cuffs, ran off to the factory, leaving Moss in the power and at the mercy of William Woodward.

At ten o'clock the factory bell rang, and Blincoe went off to the apprentice-house, trembling with apprehension, and looking wildly round amongst the apprentices, in the hope of seeing his comrade Moss; but Moss was not to be seen! Presently an order arrived from Woodward for the master of the apprentices to bring down Blincoe! Richard Milner, the then governor of the apprentices, a corpulent old man, said, "Parson, what hast thou been doing?" "Nothing," said Parson; his tremulous voice and shaking limbs contradicting his laconic reply; and away they trudged. When they got to the counting-house, they found Moss stuck erect in a corner, looking very poorly, his mouth and cheeks all over treacle. William Woodward, in a gruff voice, said, "So you have been helping to eat this treacle?" "I have only eat a little, sir." Upon this he hit Blincoe one of his flat-handed slaps, fetching fire from his eyes, and presently another, another, and another, till Blincoe began to vociferate for mercy, promising never to eat forbidden treacle any more! Woodward was full six feet high, with long arms, huge raw bones and immense-sized hands; and when he had tired himself with beating Blincoe, he exclaimed—"D—n your bloods, you rascals, if you don't lap up the whole can of treacle I'll murder you on the spot." This denunciation was music to Blincoe's ears, who had never before received such an invitation. To accommodate the young gentlemen, the governor sent to his own kitchen for two long spoons, and then, with renewed execrations, Woodward bade them set to. Moss then crept softly and silently out of his corner, having been cruelly beaten in Blincoe's absence! Looking ruefully at each other, down the culprits knelt a second time, one on each side of the

treacle-can! Blincoe had still the best of the sport; for poor Moss's mouth remained deprived of half its external dimensions; and from its being so excessively sore he could hardly get in a tea-spoon, whereas Blincoe could shovel in large table-spoonsful! Moss kept fumbling at his lame mouth, and looking rather spitefully at Blincoe, as if he thought he would eat all the treacle. Meanwhile Milner and Woodward sat laughing and chatting by the fireside, often looking at the treacle-eaters, and anxiously waiting an outcry for quarters! Blincoe eat in a masterly style; but poor Moss could not acquit himself half so well, the treacle trickling down his chin, on both sides of his mouth; seeing which, Woodward suddenly roared out, "D—n you, you villain, if you don't open your mouth wider I'll open it for you." Poor Moss trembled, but made no reply; and Blincoe being willing to make hay while the sun shone, instead of falling off, seemed, at every mouthful, to acquire fresh vigour! This surprised and mortified Woodward not a little, who, seeing no signs of sickness, hearing no cry for quarter, and being apprehensive of an application for another can, got up to reconnoitre, and, to his amazement, found that the *little Parson*, who was not a vast deal higher than the can, had almost reached the bottom, and displayed no visible loss or diminution of appetite!

Inexpressibly vexed at being thus outwitted before the governor, he roared out in a tremendous voice to Milner, "Why, d—n their bloods, they'll eat the whole!—Halt, you d—ned rascals, or I'll kill you on the spot!" In a moment Blincoe ceased his play, and licked his lips and spoon to show how keen his stomach still was! Milner and Woodward then took stock, and found that out of fourteen pounds not three remained. Milner laughed immoderately at Woodward, to think what a luscious mode of punishment he had found out for treacle-stealers! Woodward, being extremely exasperated, ordered Samuel Brickleton, an overlooker, to fasten Moss and Blincoe together with handcuffs, of which, as well as of fetters, there were plenty at Litton Mill, and then forced them to carry the can to the apprentice-house between them. When they arrived at the door, his hand being small, Blincoe contrived to withdraw it

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from the handcuff, and ran nimbly off into the room amongst the apprentices, leaving the treacle-can in Moss's hand. Brickleton, unconscious of Blincoe's escape, arrived in the kitchen, where the governor and his family resided, looked round, and, seeing only one prisoner, cried out, "Eh! where's Parson gone?" Moss said, he believed he was gone into the apprentice-house. Brickleton examined the handcuffs, and, finding they were locked, was much puzzled to think how the Parson had contrived to get his hand out. The kind and careful Mrs. Milner, knowing there was money due to Blincoe, for working his dinner-hour, (namely, a farthing a-day,) proposed to have it stopped, to pay for the treacle which Woodward had compelled him to eat, on pain of putting him instantly to death. Such was the law and equity which prevailed at Litton Mill! That night, in consequence of his sumptuous supper, Blincoe was forbidden to enter his bed; and he lay all night, in the depth of winter, on the hard cold floor.

This part of the subject requires an explanation, as to the equivalent given by the owner to the apprentices, in lieu of their dinner-hour. This hour consisted, in general, of forty minutes, and not always so many! The master, to induce the apprentices to work all day long, promised each three-pence per week, if they worked the whole of the dinner-hour; and they had to eat it, *bite and sup*, at their work, without spoon, knife, or fork, and with their dirty, oily fingers! They were thus kept on their feet, from five o'clock in the morning, till nine, ten, and even eleven o'clock at night; and on Saturdays sometimes till twelve, because Sunday was a *day of rest!* Frequently, though almost famishing, the apprentices could not find time to eat their food at all; but carried it back with them at night, covered with *flue* and filth. This liberality did not last long: the halfpenny was reduced to a farthing, and this farthing was withheld till it amounted to several shillings, and then, when the master *pleased*, he would give a shilling or two, and none dare ask for more. Those whom the overlookers pleased to order so to do, had to work their dinner-hour for nothing, and their comrades used to fetch their dinners, who, not unfrequently, pilfered a part. The money thus earned, the poor apprentices

used to reserve, to buy wheaten cakes and red herrings, to them luxuries of the most delicious kind. Such was the miserable manner in which they were fed, that when one of them gave pence to Palfrey, (the smith,) to bring the tempting cake of wheaten flour and the herring in the morning, he used to say to his comrades, "Old Palfrey is to bring me a cake and herring in the morning; oh! how greedily shall I devour them." They commonly dreamed of these anticipated feasts, and talked of their expected luxuries in their sleep. When Palfrey arrived, they would, if they dared, have met him on the stairs, or have followed him to the smithy; but, in an anxious whisper, inquiry was made—"Have you brought my cake and herring?" "Ay, lad," said Palfrey, holding out the expected provisions. Eagerly the cake and herring were seized; and the first full bite generally took off head or tail, as it came to hand, while the cake was thrust inside the bosom; for the apprentices worked with the shirt-collar open and generally without any jacket. The poor souls who, having no pence, could have no dainties, would try to snatch a piece slyly, if it were possible; and if that failed, they would try to beg a morsel: if the possessor gave a taste, he held the herring so tight, that only a very small portion could be bit off, without biting off the ends of the owner's fingers; and their whole feast was quickly finished, without greatly diminishing their appetite. It happened, by some extraordinary stroke of good fortune, Blincoe became possessed of a shilling, and he determined to have what he termed a proper blow out: he, therefore, requested Palfrey to bring him six penny wheaten cakes, and half a pound of butter. Blincoe was then a stretcher, and had, as such, a better opportunity to receive and eat his dainties unobserved. The cakes he pulled out one by one from his bosom, and placing them upon the frame he spread the butter on them with a piece of flat iron; then giving his two comrades a small part each, he set to and devoured all the rest; but the unusual quantity and quality nearly made him ill. Blincoe had no appetite for his dinner or supper, and he therefore let another comrade eat it, who engaged to give Blincoe his when he happened to lose his appetite. Such were the prospective and contingent

negotiations carried on by these wretched children, relative to their miserable food.

If Blincoe happened to see any fresh cabbage leaves, or any potato or turnip parings, thrown out upon the dunghill, he has run down with a can-full of sweepings as an excuse, and, as he threw that dirt on the dunghill, he would eagerly pick the other up, and carry it in his shirt or in his can into the mill, wipe the filth off as well as he could, and greedily eat it up. At other times, when they had rice puddings boiled in bags for dinner, the rice being very bad and full of large maggots, Blincoe, not being able to endure such food, used to go into one of the woods near the factory and get what the boys called bread and cheese, (that is, hips and hipleaves,) clover, or other vegetable, and, filling his bosom, run back to the mill, and eat his trash, instead of the foul rice, with which neither butter-milk, milk, treacle, nor even a morsel of salt was allowed.

Amongst the most singular punishments inflicted upon Blincoe, was that of screwing small hand-vice, of a pound weight, more or less, to his nose and ears, one to each part; and these have been kept on, as he worked, for hours together. This was principally done by Robert Woodward, Merrick, and Charnock. Of these petty despots, Merrick was the most unpardonable, as he had been a parish apprentice himself. This Merrick was a stretcher, and Blincoe, when about eleven or twelve years of age, used to stretch for him, while he, Merrick, ate his dinner. Out of kindness, or because he could not eat it himself, Merrick used occasionally to leave a small part of his allowance, and tell Blincoe to go and eat it. On Mondays, it was the custom to give the boys bread and treacle, and turnip broth made the day before, which generally stunk to such a degree that most of the poor creatures could only pick out the oat bread, the broth being loathsome. Whenever Merrick left a bit of bread and treacle in the window, Blincoe used to run eagerly at the prize and devour it voraciously. One Monday, this overlooker, who was a most inhuman taskmaster, sent Blincoe down to the card-room for a basket of rovings, a burden of considerable weight, the descent being four or five stories deep. During the lad's absence, Merrick rubbed some tar upon a piece of oat-cake, and put it in the window, as usual. When

Blincoe returned, the brute said, "Eat what lies in the window." Blincoe, seeing, as he supposed, so much treacle on the bread, was surprised, for Merrick was in the habit of licking it clean off: to his bitter mortification, he found tar instead of treacle. Unable to endure the nauseous mouthful, Blincoe spat it out, while Merrick, laughing at him, said, "What the devil are you spitting it out for?" Poor Blincoe, shaking his head, said, "You know, mon;" leaving the remainder of the tarred cake in the window; when his comrade, Bill Fletcher, a poor lad since dead, who had come from Peak Forest, took up the bread, scraped off the tar as well as he could, and ate it—apparently with a good appetite! To such dreadful straits were the apprentices driven by hunger, they have been known to pick turnips out of the necessary, (which others, who had stolen them, had thrown there for concealment,) and, washing them, they have devoured the whole, thinking it too extravagant even to waste the peeling.

Palfrey, the smith, had the task of rivetting irons upon such apprentices as the masters directed, and these were much like the irons usually put upon felons! Even young women, if suspected of intending to run away, had irons rivetted on their ankles, which reached by long links and rings up to the hips; and in these they were compelled to walk to and from the mill, to work, and to sleep! Blincoe asserts that he has known many girls served in this manner. A handsome-looking female, about the age of twenty years, who came from the neighbourhood of Cromford, whose name was Phœbe Rag, being driven to desperation by ill treatment, took the opportunity one dinner-time, when she was alone, and when she supposed no one saw her, to take off her shoes and throw herself into the dam, at the end of the bridge, next the apprentice-house. Some one passing along, on seeing a pair of shoes, stopped. The poor girl had sunk once, and just as she rose above the water he seized her by the hair. Blincoe thinks it was Thomas Fox, the governor, Milner's successor, who rescued her: she was nearly gone, and it was with some difficulty her life was saved! When Mr. Needham heard of this, being afraid the example might be contagious, he ordered James Durant, a

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journeyman spinner, who had been apprenticed there, to take her away to her relations at Cronford, and thus she fortunately escaped!

When Blincoe's time of servitude was near expiring, he and three others (John Emery, Thomas Gully, and William Haley) formed a resolution to go out of the factory at a fixed hour, meaning not to work so many hours; but, according to Blincoe's account, neither he nor his comrades had ever heard, up to that time, of any law which regulated the hours of apprentices working in cotton-mills; nor did they know what an Act of Parliament meant, so profound was the ignorance in which they had been reared! Blincoe and his mutinous comrades, having left work at the expiration of fourteen hours' labour, went off to the apprentice-house; upon which, the manager, William Woodward, sent off an express to the master, (Mr. Needham,) at Highgate Wall, about four miles distant. Orders came back to turn all four out of the apprentice-house that night, without giving them any provisions! Being thus turned out, Blincoe got a lodging with Samuel Brickleton: one or two of his comrades slept in the woods, being hay-time. Brickleton's hospitality did not include provisions; and having had no food since twelve o'clock the day before, Blincoe was sorely hungry in the morning, but still he had naught to eat!

About nine o'clock, all four, agreeably to the orders they received the day before, went to the counting-house at the mill. Mr. Needham was there in a terribly ill humour: as soon as he saw Blincoe enter he took from his body his waistcoat and jacket, and fell upon him with his thick walking-stick, which he quickly broke by the heavy blows laid on Blincoe's head and shoulders, and he kept on swearing the while, "I'll run you out, you damned rascal." As soon as he could escape, Blincoe ran off to his work; when Haley and Emery, who were apprentices, like Blincoe, caught their share of the tyrant's fury. At noon, Blincoe went eagerly to the apprentice-house, having had no food for twenty-four hours. Having in a few minutes devoured his portion, he ran off at full speed, without hat, jacket, or waistcoat, his head and body greatly bruised, towards the residence of a magistrate, named Thornelly, who resided at Stanton Hall, a place about six miles beyond

Bakewell, and eleven from Litton Mill! There resided, at this time, at Aslford, about four miles from Litton Mill, a man named Johnny Wild, a stocking-weaver, who had been Blincoe's overlooker when first he went to Lowdham Mill. Filled with the fond hope of being made at once a gentleman, thither poor Blincoe, now twenty years of age, directed his course. Johnny Wild was sitting at his frame, weaving stockings, and was surprised to see Blincoe run up to the door like a wild creature, terror in his looks and reeking with perspiration, without hat, coat, or waistcoat. To him, Blincoe told the cruel usage he had met with, and the wounds and bruises he had just received, which were sufficiently visible! Wild and his wife seemed touched with compassion at the sad plight Blincoe was in, gave him a bowl of bread and milk, lent him a hat, and directed him on his way. Thus refreshed, the fugitive set off again, running as fast as he could, looking often behind him. As he passed through Bakewell, Blincoe thought it best to slacken his pace, lest some mercenary wretch, suspecting him to be a Litton Mill apprentice running away, should, in the hope of receiving a reward of a half-crown piece, seize him and send him back to prison! As he passed along many seemed to eye him intently; but no one stopped him.

About six o'clock in the evening, being thoroughly jaded, Blincoe arrived at the house of Mr. Thornelly. It happened that the magistrate was at dinner; but some person in his employ, understanding that Blincoe came to seek redress for alleged violence, went to the supplicant in the yard, saying, "Who do you want?" "Mr. Thornelly." "What for?" "I am an apprentice at Litton Mill: master has beat me cruelly; do look at my shirt?" "Never mind, never mind," said this person; "you cannot see Mr. Thornelly to-day; he is at dinner: there will be a bench of justices to-morrow, about eleven in the morning, at the sign of the Bull's Head, facing the church at Heam; you must go there." This place lay about five miles from Litton Mill, on the Sheffield road. Finding there was nothing to be done at Stanton Hall, poor Blincoe began to measure back his weary steps to Litton Mill! He called at Johnny Wild's as he returned, who allowed him to rest; but,

of food, he could not offer any: having a large family, and being but a poor man, he had none to spare! Blincoe gave back his hat, and arrived at the apprentice-house between nine and ten, being then giving-over time! William Woodward, the manager, whose heavy hand had inflicted blows and cuffs beyond calculation on poor Blincoe, was about the first by whom he was accosted! In a tone about as gentle as that of a baited bear, and with an aspect much more savage, he said, "Where have you been?" "To Mr. Thornelly's." "I'll Thornelly you to-morrow," said he, and turned away.

Not knowing what the next day might bring forth, Blincoe applied for his mess of water porridge, which, after a journey of two-and-twenty miles, tasted highly savoury; and then he retired to his bed, praying God to end his life or mitigate its severity—a prayer that was common at Litton Mill! Sore as he was, he slept; but it was on his face, his back being too much bruised to lie in that position or even on his side! In the morning, he arose and went to his stretching-frame. Between seven and eight o'clock Blincoe saw Woodward going to the apprentice-house, from the window of the factory. Seeing this opportunity, without waiting for breakfast, Blincoe again made a start, still without hat, waistcoat, or coat, towards Heam, to state to the magistrates the cruel treatment he had received. The day was fine: the hay was about; and miserable as was poor Blincoe, he could not but feel delighted with the sweet air and romantic scenery. Having been thus expeditious, Blincoe was at Heam an hour and a half too soon: to amuse himself he went into the churchyard. As soon as the magistrates arrived, from whose hands he came to supplicate for justice, Blincoe went to the Bull's Head. The officiating clerk was an attorney named Cheek, who resided at Whetstone Hall, a mansion situated within half a mile of Tideswell. To this person, Blincoe began unbosoming his grief; and in the earnestness of his harangue, fearful that the attorney did not catch every syllable, the half-naked Blincoe crept nearer and nearer; but Mr. Cheek, not relishing the dense foul scent of oil, grease, and filth, said, "Well, well, I can hear you; you need not come so near; stand back." Poor

Blincoe, not a little mortified, obeyed his command, and, by the time Blincoe's piteous tale was ended, the magistrates had mostly arrived, to whom Mr. Cheek, the clerk to the magistrates, read the paper, which Blincoe supposed contained his intended deposition: Blincoe was then sworn.

One of the magistrates (Blincoe believes it was Mr. Middleton, of Learn Hall) said, "Where is Mr. Needham?" Blincoe replied, "He's gone to-day (Tuesday) to Manchester market." This prevented their sending a man and horse to fetch him. One of the magistrates then said to Blincoe, "Go straight to the mill, to your work." Oh, sir, he'll leather me! meaning, Mr. Needham would beat him again. "Oh, no! he durst na—he durst na!" said one of the magistrates in reply. Upon this, some one advised that a letter should be sent to Mr. Needham, in whose much-dreaded presence Blincoe had no inclination to appear! Blincoe cannot recollect who wrote the letter, but thinks it was Mr. Middleton, who said, "If he leathers you, come to me." This gentleman resided at a distance of about eight miles from Litton Mill. Having this powerful talisman in his possession, Blincoe returned direct to the mill, and, advancing boldly to Woodward, the manager, said, "Here's a letter for Mr. John Needham," the son of the old master, who was now resident in Tideswell! Blincoe told Woodward that he had been at a justice-meeting at Heam, and as a justice had sent this letter Woodward did not dare to lay violent hands upon him. This day poor Blincoe had to fast till night, making a complete round of another twenty-four hours of fasting!

On Wednesday, John Needham returned from Manchester market, and appeared, as usual, at Litton Mill. The letter, from which Blincoe anticipated such beneficial results, was handed to the young squire by William Woodward, the manager. He broke the seal, read it through, and ordered Blincoe to be called out of the factory from his work. Obedient to the summons, and not a little alarmed, he appeared before his young master, whose savage looks showed, ere he spoke a word, a savage purpose. The first words were, "Take off your shirt, you damned rascal!" Blincoe obeyed, his head and back being still very sore. *John Needham instantly*

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began flogging him with a heavy horse-whip, striking him with his utmost force, wherever he could get a blow. It was in vain Blincoe cried for quarters—in vain he promised never again to go to a magistrate, in any case whatever. John Needham kept on flogging, swearing horribly, and threatening furiously, resting between while, till he had fully satisfied his sense of justice! He then unlocked the door, and—saying, “You’ll go again, will you?—” bade Blincoe put on his shirt, and go to his work.

Away went Blincoe, scarcely able to stand, and covered with additional bruises from head to foot. Even this horrid flogging did not deprive Blincoe of his appetite, nor of his determination to seek redress of the magistrates; and accordingly the next Sunday night, when some of the time-outs were let out of the prison, Blincoe, availing himself of the darkness of the night, watched the opening of the yard-door, and, crouching almost on his hands and knees, crept out unperceived. Shortly after, the order was given to sit down to supper. Every apprentice, male and female, knew his or her own place; and in about two minutes two hundred half-famished creatures were seated. The names were called over, to see that none were missing, when little Parson could not be found. Governor Thomas Fox, on learning this event, ordered the door-warder to be called, who declared most vehemently that he had not let Blincoe out, and, farther, that he had not passed the door. Upon this, a general search was made in all the rooms and offices, high and low; but nowhere was little Parson to be found.

Meanwhile, as soon as Blincoe got outside the hated walls he set off again up Slack, a very steep hill close to the mill, made the best of his way to Litton, and went to the house of Joseph Robinson, a joiner, who worked in Litton Mill, and who had known Blincoe at Lowdham Mill, and was well acquainted with the horrid cruelties he had suffered: heartily compassionating Blincoe’s miserable state, he gave him a good supper, and let him sleep with his sons. In the morning, Robinson, who was really a humane man, and a friend to the poor children, gave Blincoe some bread and meat; and, after a strict injunction not to own where he had slept, Blincoe set off, about six o’clock

in the morning, to Mr. Middleton’s. The morning was showery, and Blincoe had neither hat, coat, nor waistcoat; and he had about eight miles to go in search of justice. He arrived at the house long before the magistrate’s hour of appearance: at last, Mr. Middleton came; and Blincoe, approaching—crawling like a spaniel, said, “Sir, I am come again; Mr. Needham has been beating me worse than ever—as soon as he read your letter over.” Seeing the truly miserable state in which Blincoe stood before him—drenched with rain, and half naked—Mr. Middleton said, “Go into the kitchen and rest yourself. You should not have come here first; you should have gone to Mr. Cheek, of Whetstone Hall, and he would have given you a summons.” Upon this poor Blincoe said mournfully, “Eh, sir, he will do naught for me, he is so thick with my master: they are often drinking together.” “Pshaw, pshaw!” said the justice, “he’s like to listen to you—he must.” But then, as if recollecting himself, he said, “Stop, I’ll write you a letter to Mr. Cheek.” In the justice’s kitchen Blincoe got some bread and cheese, which was indeed a luxury to him.

Thus refreshed, Blincoe next set off to visit Mr. Cheek, who lived a distance of about eleven or twelve miles, bareheaded and dressed only in trousers and shoes; the rain continuing to pour down as it were in torrents. When Blincoe reached Whetstone Hall, one of the first persons he saw was a woman of the name of Sally Oldfield, whose husband, Thomas Oldfield, (then dead,) had been governor of the apprentices of Litton Mill. She was now housekeeper to Messrs. Shore and Cheek, of Whetstone Hall aforesaid. These gentlemen were amongst the most intimate friends and visitors of Mr. Needham; and Sally Oldfield, who recollected Blincoe, alias Parson, said, “Eh, Parson! what do want here?” “I have a letter from Mr. Middleton to Mr. Cheek.” “Eh!” said little old Sally again, “are you going against your master?” Blincoe told her he was, and how cruelly he had been treated. Sally could not comprehend the right of Blincoe to complain, and said, “Eh! thou shouldst not go against thy master.” Saying this, she took him to the kitchen, gave him some bread and cheese—and plenty too, and some good beer, and then said, “Parson, thou mun

never go against thy master. What do you have for dinner on Monday? do you have treacle now?" "No, we have dry bread and broth." "Ah," said she in reply, "*treacle is too dear.*" Blincoe could scarcely refrain from smiling, recollecting the feast of the treacle-can; but he said nothing, and not a soul came near him to speak to him as to the object of his visit. There Blincoe sat till night, when he began to think the magistrates were hoaxing him; and he thought there was no utility in waiting any longer for justice or for a possibility of obtaining redress—he would never more complain! Seven hours sat Blincoe in Lawyer Cheek's kitchen; and, not the least notice being taken of him or his letter, he made his solitary way back to the mill, where he arrived just as the mill had loosed. Going direct to Woodward, he told him where he had been; and, concealing the conviction he felt that it was not possible to obtain redress, he assured the tyrant, with tears and lamentations, that if he would intercede to prevent his being flogged again he would never run away more. "On these conditions," said Woodward, "I will if I can!" and from that day Blincoe cannot recollect that he was either flogged or beaten; but *still* Blincoe had no knowledge that there was any Act of Parliament for the protection of poor orphans like himself. He knew of the magistrates coming to the mill; but he had no distinct idea that they came to redress grievances! So great was the terror of the ignorant apprentices, no one dared to complain; and Blincoe cannot recollect that they ever gave themselves any other trouble than merely going over the mill! Everything was prepared and made ready. The worst of the cripples were put out of the way—the magistrates saw them not. The magistrates could never find out anything wrong, nor hear of a single individual who had any complaint to make!

When Blincoe was about twelve or thirteen years of age, he well remembers an apprentice, almost grown up, who lost his life in an attempt to escape: he had tied several blankets or sheets together, to reach the ground from the chamber-window, where he slept, which was three or four stories high. The line broke, he fell to the ground, and he was so much hurt by the fall that he died soon after.

Blincoe thinks some surgeon or doctor came to him; but he has not the least recollection of any coroner's inquest being held!

In addition to the punishments already stated, Robert Woodward and other overlookers have kicked him down a whole flight of stairs; at other times, he has been seized by the hair of his head and dragged up and down the room, his hair being torn off by handfuls, till he was almost bald! All such punishments as he suffered were inflicted upon others, and, in some cases, even to a worse degree than on himself. He even considers he came off tolerably well compared with others, many of whom, he believes, in his conscience, lost their lives, and died at the apprentice-house, from the effects of hard usage, bad and scanty food, and excessive labour.

(To be continued.)

WHY TO VALUE LIFE.

VALUE life, but not so as to love it for mere vulgar pleasures and despicable views of ambition. Prize it only for that something more important, more elevated and divine; because it is the arena of merit; dear to the eye of Omnipotence, glorious to him, glorious and necessary to ourselves. Love it then, notwithstanding its sorrows—or rather for its sorrows, since these lend it a beauty and dignity worthy of an imperishable mind. It is these which cause to spring up, to unfold, and to bear, the fruit of generous thoughts and noble determinations in the breast of man. Yet be ever mindful that this life, which you ought to estimate, is given you but for a brief period. Dissipate it not in too many relaxations or enjoyments. Give only to joy and pleasure what is necessary, so much as may seem good for your health and the comfort of others. Prefer, when you can, to make your pleasure chiefly consist in laudable employment; by serving your fellow-citizens with a spirit of magnanimous brotherhood, and in serving your God with the filial love and obedience which are due to him.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 36.

NOVEMBER 2, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

SLAVERY IN ENGLAND. THE FACTORY SYSTEM. N^o. 10.
THE HORRORS OF A COTTON-MILL EXHIBITED IN A MEMOIR OF
ROBERT BLINCOE.



[BLINCOE AND THE OLD SYBIL.]

CHAPTER VIII.

BLINCOE remained in Litton Mill a year after he had received his indentures, to get a little money to start with. His wages were only 4s. 6d. weekly, and this was to have been paid monthly; but, month after month elapsed, and, instead of an honest settlement, there was nothing but shuffling! The first money he received was 18s. 6d.; and being in possession of that sum, he thought himself incalculably rich! he scarcely knew what to do with it! it took away his appetite. After he was a little composed, he devoted

a few shillings to the purchase of some dainties, such as wheaten cakes and herrings! He then worked and lived like others, till his master owed him nearly half a year's labour. The pay-day came, and then he drew nearly 30s.—the rest was kept back; so that Blincoe seeing no prospect before him but perpetual slavery for a merciless master, made up his mind to be off; and on Tideswell May fair, which happens on the 15th of May, he put his plan in execution. He knew not where to go; but started the next morning at hazard! When he came to Chapel-

la-Frith he determined to visit a celebrated fortune-teller, called Old Becca. She lived in a small back-house—a haggard, black, horrid-looking creature, very old, having a long beard, and dressed like a person who lived in ages past! Her name was very influential all over Derbyshire. So very famous was Old Becca, that people came far and near to her, and she was reputed to be possessed of land and houses: she never took a smaller fee than a shilling, even from the very poorest of her votaries. Her name was well known at Litton Mill: if anything was stolen, Woodward, the manager, or Gully, or some one of the overlookers, used to go to Chapel-la-Frith, to consult Old Becca. To this sybil Blincoe repaired, holding a shilling between his thumb and finger! Perfectly understanding the object of his visit, she first took the shilling, and then said, "Sit down." He felt really frightened; and if she had bade him stand upon his head, he declared he should have obeyed! He had been told, that she had really enchanted or bewitched persons, who had endeavoured to cheat or deceive her, or by whom she had been offended, causing them to lose their way, and sending ill fortune in many shapes. Our novice was also told that ladies and gentlemen of high estate had come in their coaches, all the way from London, to learn their destiny; all which circumstances produced on his uncultivated mind the sensations described! No sooner was Robert Blincoe seated, than the witch of Chapel-la-Frith put a common tea-cup in his hand, containing a little tea-grounds. "Shake it well," said Becca; and Blincoe obeyed. The oracle then drained off the water; and, twirling the cup round and round, she affected, with the utmost gravity, to read his future fortune in the figures described in the sediment at the bottom. Assuming a wild stare, and standing erect over him, her eyes apparently ready to leap from their sockets, she exclaimed, in a hollow sepulchral tone of voice, "You came from the outside of London, did you not?" "Yea," said the astonished Blincoe, "I did." "You came down in a waggon, and have been at a place surrounded with high rocks and great waters, and you have been used worse than a stumbling-stone." Blincoe's mouth, and eyes, and ears, all seemed to open together, at this oracular speech, as

he said, "Yea, yea; it is true." Then she said, "Your troubles are at an end; you shall rise above those who have cast you down so low: you shall see their downfall and your head shall be higher than theirs. Poor lad! terrible have been thy sufferings. Thou shall get up in the world; you'll go to another place where there'll be a big water; and so go thy way in peace, and may God prosper thy steps!"

Filled with amazement, mingled with rising hopes of better fortune, Blincoe arose and departed, making a very low reverence to Old Becca as he went out, and impressed with the fullest conviction that she was truly a sorceress; the simpleton forgetting that his *costume*, his wild and pallid looks, and the *scent* of his garments, tainted as they were with the perfume of a cotton-factory, were more than sufficient to point out to the fortune-teller the past and present, from which she speedily fabricated the future fortune for her simple visitor! Blincoe thought he got but a very short story for his shilling! On the other hand, he was very well contented with its *quality*; since it promised him, and in such positive terms, that he should rise above his cruel oppressor, and become a great man: filled with these thoughts, he stepped briskly along, not much encumbered with luggage, for he carried all his wardrobe on his back. When he arrived at a spot called Orange End, where four ways met, he was perplexed which to take, the oracle of Chapel-la-Frith not having apprized him of this dilemma, nor which road to take! Being quite in an oracular mood, very happy that he had got so far away from Litton, and fully convinced that, go where he would, and befall him what would, he could not blunder upon a worse place, nor be oppressed by a more evil fortune, he tossed up a halfpenny in the air, making it spin round its own axis, and waiting its course as it rolled, resolved to follow in that direction. His course happening to be pointed towards New Mills, Derbyshire, thither he bent his course, but failed in his application for work. Blincoe therefore walked on till he came to Mr. Oldknow's cotton-factory, at Mellow, and there he crept towards the counting-house, in an humble mood, and said, in a very meek tone of voice, "If you please, sir, can you give me work?" The manager, Mr. Clayton,

a gentle self-respect you can see. "There's no getting up in the world; three generations and they're all the same; many children; "Indeed, his heart, it would kill them; put them had prov names of overseers officers; these officers exclaimed the atroc those mel infant ye that, in s he was to to live up to ride h watch in and nothi coe could "Where who, kno seductive far more c overseers, of this vic "Why, h not so wh "No, sir rest of th Lowdham Litton Mill what did ridge—sor a-day; so supper; n food." "F "From fit in the mo and someti nights, till wrote the comment, facts—that

a gentleman by no means deficient in self-respect, asked sharply, "Where do you come from?" "From Litton Mill, sir." "Where are your indentures?" "There they are, sir," said Blincoe, holding up the papers. There were two or three gentlemen in the counting-house, and they looked earnestly over the indentures and then at Blincoe, one of them saying, "Did you come from Paneras workhouse?" "Yes, sir." "Why, we are all come from thence: we brought many children the other day to this mill." "Indeed, sir," said Blincoe; pitying, in his heart, the poor creatures, and thinking it would have been more merciful to have killed them outright at once, rather than put them to such a place as Litton Mill had proved to him. Looking at the names of the subscribing officers and overseers, one of the Paneras parish officers said to Mr. Clayton, "Some of these officers are dead." Blincoe again exclaimed, "Indeed, sir!" recollecting the atrocious lies and cruel deceptions those men had practised upon him, in his infant years, by telling him to believe that, in sending him to a cotton-factory, he was to be made at once a gentleman; to live upon roast beef and plum-pudding; to ride his master's horses; to have a watch in his pocket and plenty of money, and nothing whatever to do! Poor Blincoe could not help thinking to himself— "Where are the souls of these men gone, who, knowing the utter falsehood of their seductive tales, betrayed me to a destiny far more cruel than transportation?" The overseers, looking at the distorted limbs of this victim of parochial economy, said, "Why, how came you so lame? you were not so when you left London, were you?" "No, sir; I was turned over, with the rest of the unclaimed apprentices, from Lowdham Mill, to Elliee Needham, of Litton Mill." "How did they keep you? what did you live upon?" "Water porridge—sometimes once, sometimes twice a-day; sometimes potatoes and salt for supper; not half enough, and very bad food." "How many hours did you work?" "From five, or occasionally six o'clock, in the morning, till nine, half-past ten, and sometimes eleven, and, on Saturday nights, till twelve o'clock." The person wrote these answers down; but made no comment, nor ever noticed the material facts—that Blincoe had not been taught

the trade he should have learnt, and that the parish officers of Paneras had utterly neglected him and his miserable comrades when the Lowdham Mill factory stopped! The manager then bade a person show Blincoe where he might get lodgings, and bade him come to work in the morning. Blincoe was too much afraid of giving offence, by asking questions in the counting-house, to venture to inquire as to his parentage; but as soon as he had obtained lodgings he strove to make out where the officers were to lodge that night, at Mellor, to inquire farther; but hearing they were just then gone he was deprived of the opportunity! This occurrence, filling his mind with melancholy reflections, he shed many tears in solitude that night! The next morning he went to his work, and found it was as hard as at Litton Mill; but of more moderate duration—the hours being from six in the morning till seven in the evening. The apprentices, whom he saw at work, seemed cheerful and contented, and looked healthy and well, compared with those at Litton! They were well fed, with good milk porridge and wheaten bread for breakfast, and all their meals were good and sufficient! They were kept clean, decently dressed, and every Sunday went twice to Marple Church, with Mr. Clayton, their under-master, at their head! On the whole, it struck Blincoe, that the children were in a Paradise compared with the unfortunate wretches whom he had left at Litton Mill, and he indulged in the humane hope that the lot of children just then brought down from London might escape the dreadful sufferings he had had to endure! Unfortunately, the trade which Blincoe had been fourteen or fifteen years articulated to learn, was by no means so good as husbandry labour: the wages Mr. Oldknow offered him were 11s. per week, at the time that a good husbandry labourer could earn from 16s. to 17!

After having been some months in Mr. Oldknow's factory, Blincoe learnt that, whilst he did as much work and as well as any man in the factory, which employed several hundred apprentices, Mr. Clayton had fixed his wages at 3 or 4s. per week less than any other person's. Blincoe could not impute this to any other cause than an idea, that he was in so crippled a state he dared not demand the same as

another! Such is the mean and sordid spirit that sways almost the whole of those establishments. When a poor creature has been crippled at one mill, and applies for work at another, instead of commiserating his condition and giving him the easiest and best work and best pay, it is a common custom to treat him with the utmost contempt; and though he may be able to do his work as well for his master, though not with the same ease to himself, as one who has escaped being crippled, the masters generally make it a rule to screw him down to the very lowest point of depression, and, in many cases, give only half the wages. On this principle was Blincoe dealt with at Mellor Factory; but as the wretched diet on which he had fed at Litton enabled him to live upon 3s. per week, he saved money each week. Having an independent spirit, and not being willing to work for less than his brethren, he took an opportunity one evening of going to the counting-house, and, doffing his hat to Mr. Clayton, said, "Sir, if you please, will you be so good to rise my wages?" Turning sharply round, he said, "Raise your wages! why, I took you in upon *charity only!*" "I am sure it was very good of you, sir," said Blincoe, who well knew that such hands as himself were scarce, "charity began at home." Hearing Blincoe speak in such humble yet somewhat ironical terms, for he possessed a rich vein of sarcastic humour, Mr. Clayton said, "Well, go to your work, I'll see." They paid every fortnight at the factory; and the next pay-night, Blincoe found himself paid at the rate of 13s., which was 2s. under the price of other workmen! This continued a few weeks, when an old servant, whom they had employed for many years, applied for work, and on the Friday night fortnight Blincoe's wages were sent up to him with an order to *depart*: this is what is called *getting the bag*. Blincoe, being alike surprised and hurt, and knowing he had done his work well, and had never lost a minute, set an inquiry on foot; and he was told, from very good authority, it was because he had applied for an advance of wages, and because Mr. Clayton thought it was taking an advantage of him. Curious logic! Mr. Clayton seems totally to forget the advantage he had, in the first instance, taken of poor Blincoe; and feeling very sore when

the young fellow applied for redress, he seized this opportunity, and in this petty way, to wreak his anger; and as the factory of Mr. Oldknow stood so very high, if compared with that of Ellers Neddham, of Litton, these blameworthy fellows fully prove how foul and corrupted is the spirit of traffic, since, in its best shape, it could not resist the temptation of taking a mean advantage of the necessities and misery of a fellow-creature.

Although the treatment of parish pauper apprentices was very liberal compared with what they had endured at Litton Mill, the journeymen were governed by a very tight hand. If they arrived only two or three minutes after the clock had struck, they were locked out; and those who were within were all locked in till dinner-time; and not only were the outward doors below, locked, but every room above; and there was a door-keeper kept, whose duty it was, a few minutes before the respective hours of departure, to unlock the doors, which were again locked as soon as the work-people arrived! In every door there was a small aperture large enough to let a quart can through, so that the food brought by parents and relations could be handed to those within—no one being permitted to go in or out; and, of course, the necessaries, two or three to each room, were inside the room where the people worked! Such was the rigid order and severe discipline of one of the most lenient master cottagers spinners! Mr. Oldknow caused a road to be made from the turnpike to his mill, which saved some length of way; and every stranger, or person not absolutely working in the mill, who used it, had to pay a halfpenny; and, as the road led to New Mills and Mellor, those work-people in common with all others, had to pay a halfpenny. There was a toll-house erected, and also a toll-bar; and the speculation, if not very neighbourly, is said to have been very profitable.

When Blincoe left this establishment, which seemed to vie with some of the largest factories in Manchester, both in its exterior grandeur and magnitude, he had contrived to save the greater part of his wages; and having a few pounds in his pocket, he felt less dismay at this harsh and unexpected treatment, than he had acted with less prudence and been destitute. He had served faithfully and

diligently a character ployer n appearan and, doff most low in his us "Will y racter?" manager, never gi thought i his fortun This circr pressive c It is clear hire Blin thing equi indenture served the for six n written to and the de getting ad law migh point, in a clause sl every mas except wh misconduct claim! From N Bollington from Mar miles dista shing upo shoulder. houses of thirst froi satisfying I In this wa at Bollingt a factory, a road, below was place reckoned tl some in th great quan lomax pro at the end having exp being reliev tan from th up his mind Saley Brid his conditio some fields by a couple

diligently upwards of half a year; and as a character from so respectable an employer might be serviceable he made his appearance once more before Mr. Clayton, and, doffing his hat, and assuming the most lowly and respectful attitude, said, in his usual slow and plaintive tone—"Will you please, sir, give me a character?" "O, no! O, no!" replied the manager, with an unfriendly aspect, "we never give characters here!" Blincoe thought it was better to be off and seek his fortune elsewhere, than stop and argue. This circumstance strongly marks the oppressive character of these establishments. It is clear Mr. Clayton did not choose to hire Blincoe without a character, or something equivalent, by requiring to see his indentures; and, after the young man had served the house diligently and honestly for six months, he surely should have written to certify that he had done so; and the denial *might* have prevented his getting another employer. However the law might stand at present, upon this point, in any future legislative measure, a clause should be introduced, to *compel* every master to give a written character, except where some positive act of gross misconduct interposed to neutralize the claim!

From Mellor Mill, Blincoe walked to Bollington, in Cheshire, a village not far from Macclesfield, and about eighteen miles distance, having a bundle, which, slung upon a stick, he carried on his shoulder. He passed several road-side houses of entertainment, allaying his thirst from the living fountains, and satisfying his hunger with a penny cake. In this way he travelled till he arrived at Bollington, where he obtained work in a factory, situated on the Macclesfield road, belonging to a Mr. Lomax. He was placed in the card-room, which is reckoned the most laborious and unwholesome in the factory, on account of the great quantity of dirt and dust; but Mr. Lomax promised him a stretching-frame at the end of a fortnight. The fortnight having expired, Blincoe saw no signs of being relieved from stripping off the cotton from the cards; on which he made up his mind to be off, and march towards Staley Bridge, in the hope of bettering his condition! As he was going along some fields, for a short cut, he was met by a couple of suspicious looking fellows,

who, stepping boldly up to Blincoe, said in a stern voice, "What have you got in that bundle?" "I dunna know, mester; but if you 'll ask the gentleman on horse-back, that is coming on the horse-road, at the other side of the hedge, he'll tell you." Hearing this, and marking the calm indifference of Blincoe, the interrogators took to their heels, and never once looked behind them, as he could perceive; and thus the poor little wanderer outwitted the marauders, and saved his shirt and stockings, and, by possibility, the hard-earned treasure he had in his fob. Having thus adroitly got rid of the thieves, Blincoe made the best of his way to the main road, and the best use of his legs, till he got in view of some houses, where he thought himself out of danger. Arrived at Staley Bridge, situate upon a river which separates Cheshire and Lancashire, and where there are many spinning-factories, he applied to a man named William Gamble, who had lived in Yorkshire. This man, twelve or thirteen years before, was one of the overlookers at Lowdham Mill; and very much addicting himself to kicking the apprentices, and dragging them about by the hair of the head, up and down the rooms, and then dashing them upon the floor, he was reprimanded and removed at the time the overseers of Pancras parish arrived there. Indeed, this man and one Smith were the terror of the poor children; but Blincoe wanting work, and knowing he was an overlooker in Mr. Harrison's factory, which, by way of pre-eminence, was called *the Bastille*, and having been so many years accustomed to bastiles, was not easily daunted. He therefore repaired to Gamble who, having bestowed so many marks of his *paternal* regard upon Blincoe, recognized him at once, and very kindly got him work at 10s. per week, which he drew for the *use* of Blincoe, during a few weeks, to whom he acted as *caterer*, and provided him with a bed; so that Blincoe had nothing whatever to do but his work, which was tolerably moderate—that is, compared with Litton Mill.

Notwithstanding its unseemly appellative, the work-people were not locked up in the rooms, as at Mellor. The master had another method of restraining his work-people from going-out, which saved the pay of a door-keeper: it was by the

counting-house being so placed that the people could not go in or out without being seen! At this place Blincoe worked some months; but not being fully satisfied with the condition in which the stewardship of William Gamble left him, he took the liberty to remove from his hospitable roof; and the result was, he could live upon one half of his wages, and put by the other. The wages paid at this mill were very low, and the work was very laborious, being the stripping of the top cards! The fixed quantity was six pounds per day, which is a severe task. After this, the master went up to Blincoe and others, as they were at work, and informed them he would have more weight of cotton stripped off the top cards, or turn them away; and Blincoe not feeling inclined to perform more work for that pay, asked for his wages and left the Bastille.

Blincoe then went to Mr. Leech, the owner of another factory at Staley Bridge, by whom he was engaged at 9s. a-week; but he found the cotton so foul and dirty, and the work so hard, he stayed there a very short time; and as the owner paid only once in three weeks, it required some privation before any wages could be had! After three days' toil, Blincoe went to the master and asked him to lend as much silver as his work came to, and, having obtained it, he took French leave, to the great annoyance of his employer.

Blincoe still remained at Staley Bridge, though unemployed. At length he met with employment at the mill of a manufacturer named Bailey, whose father had then recently had one of his arms torn off by the blower, and died in a few hours after the accident happened. Here poor Blincoe stayed, stripping cards, at 11s. per week, for several months; when, having saved a few pounds, he determined to try his fortune at Manchester, which celebrated town was only seven or eight miles distant. Of London, Blincoe retained but a faint recollection; and he thought Manchester the largest and grandest place in the world. He took lodgings in Saint George's Road, being attracted by the residence of James Cooper, a parish apprentice from the same workhouse with himself, who had been so cruelly flogged at Litton Mill. By this young man, Blincoe was received in a friendly manner; and he lodged in his house near

Shude Hill. Blincoe arrived at Manchester at a very depressed time, just at the return of peace; and he had some difficulty in getting work. His first place was in the factory of Mr. Adam Murray: there the engines worked only four days and a half a-week, for which he received no more than 7s. 1d. Blincoe suffered much from the heat of the factories at Staley; but in this of Mr. Murray's he found it almost suffocating; and if there had been as strong a heat in the factory at Litton, added to the effects of long days, and bad and scanty food, it would probably have cut him off in the first year of his servitude! Blincoe, thinking it was wise to risk the chance of bettering his fortune, left Adam Murray's gigantic factory at the end of the week, and next went to work in Robinson's factory, as it is called, in Water Street, which belongs to Mr. Marriett. There he was engaged to strip cards, at 10s. 6d. per week. He worked at this several months, living in a frugal manner, and never going into a public-house, or associating with idle company, except when he was engaged, being then, by a rule of the overlookers, forced to pay 2s., by way of footing; on which occasion he went to a public-house in Bread Street, where this silly and mischievous custom let Blincoe into the first and last act of drunkenness in which he was ever concerned, and he felt ill several days afterwards. At the same time, many of his comrades, who worked in the same room, and who contributed each so much money, also got drunk. This was spent contrary to Blincoe's wishes, who grieved that he was obliged to drink the ale; but if he had refused he would have been despised, and might have lost his employment; and if a poor fellow be ever so low, and want this money for the most essential purpose, it must not be refused. This is a pernicious custom, and should be abolished.

Blincoe continued several months in this factory, living as it were alone in a crowd, and mixing very little with his fellow work-people. While here, having, by denying himself even a sufficiency of the cheapest diet, clothed himself more respectably than he had ever been, and having two pound-notes in his pocket, he determined to spend a few shillings, and see the diversions of a horse-race, at Kersal Moor; but, not aware that such

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began to jest

beings as pickpockets were in the world, he put his pocket-book in his outside pocket, whence it was stolen by some of the light-fingered gentry; and Blincoe had to lament his want of caution.

Blincoe afterwards went to a factory at Bank Top, called Young's old factory, then occupied by Mr. Ramsbottom; and there, after a time, he was engaged as stoker, or engine-man, doing the drudgery for the engineer. In this situation he continued three years, sleeping, a great part of the time, on a flat stone in the fire-hole. If it rained in the night he was always drenched! but he had formerly suffered so much by hardships, and the pay was so small, he determined to do his best to save as much money as might suffice to enable him to try to live as a dealer in waste cotton; from which humble state many of the proudest and most prosperous of the master cotton-spinners of Manchester have emerged. His employer, liking him, raised his wages to 13s. a-week; and, while Blincoe was about as black as a chimney-sweeper in full powder, the hope of future independence induced him to bear his sable hue, his master behaving to him with more humanity than he had been accustomed to experience. He was, however, disturbed by some petty artifices of the manager in the year 1817; and, an attempt being made to lower his wages, (for which, on an average, he worked sixteen hours in the day,) Blincoe resolved to quit such hard, unremitting, and unprofitable servitude; and from that period he commenced dealer and chapman. At the end of the first year he found his little capital reduced full one-half; but, on the other hand, he gained in experience more than an equivalent to what he lost in money; and, being pretty well initiated into the "mysteries of trade," and having acquired a competent knowledge of raw or waste cottons, he commenced his second year in much better style, and at the end thereof he not only regained his lost capital, but added 5l. to it. Blincoe hired a warehouse and lived in lodgings.

In the year 1819, on Sunday, the 27th of June, he happened to be, with several other persons, at the christening of a neighbour's child, where several females were present; and an acquaintance of Master Blincoe's (no longer poor Blincoe) began to jest and jeer him as to his living

single. There was a particular female friend in company, whose years, though not near the verge of old age, far outnumbered Blincoe's; and the guests ran jokes upon her; while some cried out, "Blincoe, get married to-morrow, and then we'll have a good wedding, as well as a christening to-day." Blincoe, leering a little sideways at the lady, said, "Well, if Martha will have me, I'll take her and marry her to-morrow." Martha demurely expressed her assent. "Then," said Blincoe, though taken unawares, "if you'll stick to your word, I will." She then said, "I'll not run from mine, if you don't." This raised a great shout; upon the subsiding of which, the individual who commenced the quiz, a jolly butcher, offered to bet a leg of mutton that Blincoe would not get married on Monday, the 28th of June; and others bet on the same side; when Blincoe determined to win the bets and a wife in the bargain. Blincoe said to his comrades, "Well, that I may not be disappointed, I'll even go to see for a license to-night;" and two of the party went to see that all was fair. When they got about half way on their destination, Blincoe, fearful of a hoax on the part of Martha, hit on the device of holding back, telling her he could not get the license without her presence; and when she agreed to go, then still more securely to prevent his being laughed at, he said, "I have not money enough in my pocket: will you, Martha, lend me a couple of pounds?" In an instant she produced that sum, giving it to Blincoe, and they proceeded. Blincoe was so bashful he neither took her hand nor saluted her lips; but, accompanied by two of the persons who had laid wagers, went to the house, direct, of the very celebrated, though not *very reverend*, Joshua Brookes, lately deceased. The next morning they went in a coach from his lodgings in Bank Top, and were married in the Old Church! Blincoe won his bets and his wife! They have lived together with as great a share of conjugal tranquillity, as falls to the lot of many who are deemed happy couples, and he has ever since kept upon the advance in worldly prosperity. He has lived to see his tyrannical master brought to adverse fortune, to a state of comparative indigence; and, on his family, the visitation of calamities so awful, that it

looked as if the avenging power of retributive justice had laid its iron hand on him and them. In how short a time Blincoe's career will verify the prediction of the old sybil of Chapel-la-Frith remains to be seen; but it is in the compass of probability that he may, in the meridian of his life, be carried as high by the wheel of fortune, as in the days of his infancy and youth he was cast low!

In the year 1824 Blincoe had accumulated in business that sum of money he thought would be sufficient to keep his family, with the exception of his cotton-waste business: and shortly after he gave up a shop which he had occupied for a few years at No. 108, Bank Top, Manchester, and took a house in Edge Place, Salford. Whilst living there, he thought proper to place some of the money he had saved by industry to the purchasing of some machinery for spinning of cotton, and took part of a mill of one Mr. Ormrod, near St. Paul's Church, Tib Street: in this he was engaged six weeks, with the assistance of some mechanics, getting the machinery ready for work; and the first day it was at work an adjoining room of the building caught fire, and burnt Blincoe's machinery to the ground. Not being insured, this event nearly ruined him; and Blincoe declared he would have nothing to do with the spinning business again: what with the troubles endured when apprentice to it, and the heavy loss sustained by fire, he is completely sick of the business altogether.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

We have now concluded the Memoir of Robert Blincoe, who is still a resident of Manchester, and is, we believe, highly pleased at the thought of his tale of woe coming more prominently before the public than it has hitherto done, that the remedy for cotton-mill atrocities may be the more speedy and effectual. Confirmations of the veracity of his tale were forwarded to the original publisher by John Joseph Betts, who, in 1828, was living at Ashton-under-Line; and by Samuel Davy, then employed on the Westminster Gas-works; both of whom had passed through similar fiery trials. We have already expressed our conviction of the general truth of the statements which the Memoir contains; and it should be borne in mind that no public writer,

by name, would dare to malign the characters of purse-proud owners of cotton-mills, or steam-death dormitories, whose wealth would have been plentifully squandered in wreaking vengeance on the men who stood upon the breach, whether publishers, writers, or orators.

Mr. Richard Oastler, of Fixby Hall, near Huddersfield, a gentleman well known for his exertions in favour of the victims to factory misgovernment, on receiving information of our purpose with respect to reprinting Mr. Brown's pamphlet on infant slavery, replied, "I am glad Blincoe's Memoir is coming out in a popular form. Every man, woman, and child should read that book. Depend upon it, I will do my best to get the Short-time Committees to spread the sale."

Subjoined is an extract from the communication of John Joseph Betts, above referred to.

Ashton-under-Line, Feb. 24, 1828.

DEAR SIR—I have read the narrated sufferings of Robert Blincoe with mingled sorrow and delectation: with sorrow, because I know, from bitter experience, that they have really existed; with delectation, because they have appeared before the public through the medium of the press, and may, peradventure, be the means of mitigating the misery of the unfortunate apprentices, who are serving an unexpired term of apprenticeship in various parts of Lancashire and Derbyshire. In 1806-7, I was bound an apprentice, with twelve others, from the workhouse of St. James, Clerkenwell, London, to a Mr. J. Oxtop, at Arnold Mill, near Nottingham. From thence, after two years and three months servitude, I was sold to a Mr. Middleton, of Sheffield. The factory being burnt down at this place, I and many others were sold to Mr. Ellice Needham, of Highgate Wall, the proprietor of Little Mill. Here I became acquainted with Robert Blincoe, better known at Little Mill by the name of Parson. The sufferings of the apprentices were exquisite during Blincoe's servitude, both in point of hunger and acts of severity.

JOHN JOSEPH BETTS.

London: Printed, for the Proprietor, by Thomas Foale, 2, Upper Southampton Street, Pentonville, and Published by WILLIAM MARK CLARK, 19, Warwick Lane; and J. PATTIE, High Street, Bloomsbury: and to be had of all Booksellers.

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N^o. 37.

NOVEMBER 9, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE PRIVATE AND PERSONAL SWINDLING OF THE LATE KING.

[From "The Weekly Dispatch" of July 24, 1836.]



[THE ROYAL JONATHAN WILD.]

Mr. Editor—The immense circulation of *The Weekly Dispatch* has never been a greater source of gratification to me than when it has afforded me the opportunity, which I have so frequently derived from it, of exposing to this country the unfeeling private frauds, the personal swindlings of Royalty. I can derive no individual gratification from the performance of this duty, further than the useful and laudable pleasure of preventing future

depredations by an exposure of the past, and of opening the eyes of the people to the absolute necessity of ceasing to venerate institutions which merit execration, for sacrificing the lives and property of those whom they are bound and sworn to protect. A debate in the House of Commons has exposed another case of mean swindling and cruel robbery on the part of the late King, against a private family of the name of Troutbeck.

Before I enter into this truly mean and nefarious robbery, so illustrative of our recent days of Toryism, let me briefly revert to a few similar cases, which I have already exposed in detail, and all of which, in combination, so forcibly prove the absolute necessity of expunging every vestige of our old system of Tory domination.

I will not revert to that long and dreadful reign of special and common, of wholesale and retail swindling, under the pious George III.; but will confine myself to that of his son, who had not madness to plead for his crimes, nor ignorance or stupidity for his follies.

Your readers cannot but recollect my exposure in *The Dispatch* of the dastardly, ungrateful, and cruel robbery, by the late King, of the American Loyalists. If ever a class of men deserved commiseration, protection, support, and gratitude at the hands of a Prince, it was these unfortunate loyalists. These gentlemen had sacrificed their country, families, fortunes, and professions in the honourable service of the King. Their claims had been acknowledged in principle, and never objected to in detail for forty years. For that long period they had pined in misery, embittered by the retrospect of former affluence. Many of them had gone to the grave heart-broken at hope deferred, and leaving children in penury; whilst others had become too old to enjoy their property, even if it should be restored to them. Still did the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the pious Vansittart, wish to defeat by further delay, the claims which were too just to be openly opposed. When even a corrupt, a perjured Tory-packed House of Commons was sick of carrying dishonesty to a greater length against the unfortunate, and beat the Government of Liverpool and Vansittart upon a division, then, and not till then, did the King's Ministers consent to compromise the claims, by giving to the loyalists all the remaining balance of the Droits of the Admiralty. The word compromise in such a case infers ineffable baseness. The state ought to have paid all if just, and nothing if unjust; or it ought to have compromised with all public creditors, and not with only a meritorious and ill-used few, who were too poor to defend themselves. The balance of the Droits, amounting to 142,000*l.*, would

not have paid these gentlemen 5*s.* in the pound; and what was their surprise to find that between the time of the pledge and that of paying the money, 80,000*l.*, more than one-half of the amount, had been secretly purloined? The theft was attempted to be concealed, and when discovered was stoutly denied, until overwhelming proofs of the robbery were produced, and then it was confessed that the King had taken the 80,000*l.*, half of it to pay his travelling expenses to Scotland, and half those of his journey to Ireland. Human ingenuity may be defied to imagine a more cruel, ungrateful, and profligate robbery. Need I, Mr. Editor, revert to the shocking case of the Baron De Bode, from whom our late King took 350,000*l.* to build his Palace at Pimlico? This was a robbery cruel and private, and most infamous upon public grounds. The money had been intrusted to English honour by the Government of France, in order to satisfy certain claims. If there was any surplus it ought in honour to have been returned to France; but the King of England stole it all, and what he got like a rogue he expended like a fool. Does it need a ghost from the grave to tell us, that where a King or a set of Ministers can privately appropriate to their own uses the surplus of such a fund, they will soon find means to reduce or defeat claims, in defiance of all justice and in contempt of all decency? Even Lord Stanley declared, in the House of Commons, on his conscience, before his God, that the Baron De Bode's claims were just; and after a lapse of years, Sir Frederick Pollock, the King's Attorney-General, made the same declaration; but the roguish King had stolen the money, and the Baron De Bode may starve and enjoy the sight of Buckingham Palace!

It might have been supposed, Mr. Editor, that after the exposure of these and other similar acts of robbery on the part of the late King, surrounded by Tory Ministers, the Whigs would have been cautious of suffering another act of dishonesty to be brought to light against the late Sovereign. So far from it, they have suffered an exposure in one respect worse than the preceding, inasmuch as it was perpetrated after the public had expressed its execration at the King's prior robberies. What are the facts of this case?

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A poor man named Troutbeck had gone to India, and made a large fortune. He died in 1783, at the age of eighty-five. His property was remitted to England, when it eventually fell into the hands of Government. No account could be had of it for thirty years, when it was found in 1815—the glorious year of Waterloo, the year in which we spent one million per diem—to amount to about 140,000*l*. This Mr. Troutbeck had left the greater part of his fortune to establish a school for the benefit of the poor at the place of his nativity, and where he had received his education. This was a moral—a most righteous bequest; but the King put in the plea of the statute of Mortmain, set the will aside, and seized upon the whole property. The law of Mortmain was originally intended to prevent the Catholic clergy availing themselves of superstition in dispossessing the laity of their estates, which they had done to an enormous extent. But the spirit of the law never meant that property should not be left for purposes purely charitable and unconnected with priestcraft. One statute of Mortmain, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, made this excellent distinction. At all events, if the King did avail himself of the law to set the man's will aside and get his property, the question arises what ought he to have done with it? If it became the right of the Crown, it is clear, by the spirit and even the letter of the law, that the King held it only on trust for the good of the people. If the law were the reverse, and the property of this merchant became a forfeiture to the Crown, what, in the spirit of the age, ought the King to have done with it? Ought he not, as far as possible, to have fulfilled the intentions of the testator; or ought he not otherwise to have delivered it over to the Exchequer as public property, or, at all events, to have devoted it to charitable purposes for the benefit of that class of people amongst whom the testator had been born, or to do some good with it towards the people anologous to what the testator meant when he made the will? But nothing of the sort did the King do; smack the conduct of the Royal pilferer. Immediately this specimen of ermine dirt—this Royal Jonathan Wild—got the property it was advertised to be sold, and for what object? To make good the defects of the Civil List!!! Surely, after

the robbery of the West Indians, after the plunder of the droits of the Admiralty, after even the petty swindling of the people of Gibraltar, after the grants of Parliament to the Civil List, and after the exposure of the worthless wretches that were crowded as pensioners upon it, it was sufficiently infamous to attempt to recruit it in the *Shylock* style of cutting off the pound of the poor merchant's flesh! But although the people may think that infamy could be carried no farther, that villany could not take a more daring flight, it appears that this announcement of sale was meant only as a pure cloak to cover something infinitely more villanous. The foolish public, it was thought, would be indifferent to the robbery of a private estate, if it relieved them from farther contributions to the enormous Civil List. The bait was held out; but it appears that, so far from the Civil List being relieved, the pilfering King seized upon 20,000*l*. of the property to enlarge his grounds about his wigwam Pavilion at Brighton, and took 50,000*l*. more towards furnishing his tomfoolery baby-house. If downright drunken robbery can be more disgusting than this, our language conveys no sensible objects to the understanding. Good God! to what a lawless state of violence are we reduced; or, rather, under what a system of specious legal spoliation do we writhe, if a poor man, making by his talents and industry a large fortune many thousand miles off, is to have his will in favour of the poor of his native place set aside by the King, and to have the whole of his property seized by the King under the fiction of perverted laws, and under the pretence of benefiting the nation, by a relief of a burthensome Civil List, when the real object is to gratify the private luxuries of the most brutal sensualist and the most capricious profligate that a reformed nation can ever again tolerate. If a grant of 70,000*l*. had been asked of the House of Commons for a farther indulgence in the profligate villanies of Brighton Pavilion, the House, bribed and perjured as it was, to its teeth, could not have listened to such a monstrous proposition, and, therefore, the King's resort was to plunder this private estate. If this were a solitary instance, it would be bad enough; but this is only a specimen of the general system of Tory govern-

ment, and, perhaps, of Monarchical institutions.

It appears that Government offered to pay 50,000*l.* to the family of the deceased, by way of compromise—that is to say, 50,000*l.* for hush-money. The principle of the offer is infamous—it was rejected. Out of the 140,000*l.*, 70,000*l.* had been stolen by the King; and if we suppose that the King's servants and lawyers had followed the example of their royal master, there would remain the exact balance of 50,000*l.* to be given to the family, to induce them to avoid the expenses of law. Such is our free Government, when the King can seize upon a whole private estate as his prey, and when he is exposed, and in fear of shame, can offer one-third of that estate to the family in order to let him and his subordinate plunderers enjoy the other two-thirds without exposure.

I will not now enter into the litigated question, whether there are, or are not, strictly legal claimants to this estate. That there are is obvious; but let me waive this point for the present, or put it upon supposition. Suppose there are claimants, and that they can establish their claims, who is to pay 140,000*l.* as the demand? It is clear that the late King has stolen the money. And if the award be in favour of the claimant, who is to pay? Must there be a grant voted by the House of Commons, and a new tax imposed upon us? Suppose the Baron De Bode were by any machinery of law to get an award in his favour to the extent of his claims of 350,000*l.*, who is to pay? The old pilfering King—that beautiful specimen of modern Royalty, has spent the money on Windsor Castle. Suppose the American loyalists could recover their 80,000*l.*, who again is to pay? If these questions could be fairly brought before the House of Commons, I have no doubt that the representatives of the people would pay the sufferers; for individuals, or small classes of individuals, ought not to be made the victims of Royal swindlers, but then the representatives of the people ought to accompany the grant by conduct which would destroy any future incubus upon society.

I need not advert to the immense disadvantages which any man has to encounter in contesting the rights of property against the Crown; but, in spite

of these disadvantages, let us see the firm position in which the claimants of this property stand. The King's Advocate reports against the Treasury—that Treasury which had supported the King's plunder—that the relatives of the deceased had strong probable grounds of claim upon the property. A Master in Chancery reports that the grounds were not strong on technical objections—on objections merely technical. The Vice-Chancellor confirms the Master's report, an appeal is made to the Treasury, and no decent attention is paid to the appeal, for the Treasury are the creatures of the King, the dirty King who stole the money. The claimants (or the family) appeal to the Chancellor, who upsets the decision of the Master and of the Vice-Chancellor, and the case goes to a Jury. The Jury is against the claimants upon local prejudices, but the Judge who tries the case states “that MORALLY the claim of the petitioners is right.” The Judges state more—that the case is defeated by a rule of Court adopted since the case began, and not applicable to the case; and the Judge goes still farther, and declares “that it is derogatory to the honour and dignity of the Crown to resist the claim.” After this, what are we to conclude? Not only that it is a case of atrocious swindling, but that the Crown is a swindle, and its Ministers a machinery for swindling. Such are the curses of keeping up old systems; and yet, when we attack these systems, the Tories and the Bishops give out their yell against reform.

Mr. Editor, I have differed much with you in some points of politics, but in this case I thoroughly fall into your views. The Whigs are falling into all the worst crimes of the Tories in their worst of days. I know that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr. Spring Rice, is despised; but still, whilst he is the organ of the party, and, to his shame be it spoken, that he must be considered as the mouth-piece, “foul as it is,” of the House of Commons, he must be attended to. Let us mark the impudence, the disgusting impudence, and the *moral honesty* of Mr. Spring Rice. This man had the assurance—the impudent balderdash assurance, to say “that the Crown held the property in deposit for the rights of other persons!” A grosser falsehood—a more filthy, low-

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lived falsehood—was never spoken by a human tongue. Shame on the assembly that could listen to such a perversion—the money is not held in trust.

It is disputed that of the 140,000*l.*, 70,000*l.* has been taken (Anglicé, swindled) by the King; and when so large a portion has been spent, who can say that the money is held in trust? The land revenue is so jobbed and purloined that no crossing of the accounts can make up the amount. But when in an account of 140,000*l.*, 70,000*l.* has been swindled, to say that the money is held in trust is a falsehood so outrageous that it ought to exile any man from society.

Let me add that the member, Mr. Blackburn, states that the claims of the family are made out, and he adds what is very important, "*The Crown has got possession of a property that belongs to the subject.*" Mr. Blackburn goes farther, and says, "*If this money had not been spent it would have been given up to the claimants.*" More than this, Sir F. Pollock, the late Tory Attorney-General, a staunch Tory (my aversion), had the honesty to state that the case ought to be tried again, and "a more entire miscarriage—a more complete failure of justice, he never witnessed in the whole course of his life."

Now, Mr. Editor, I appeal to public opinion whether I am not justified in calling the late King and Commons swindlers, and in designating the whole Tory Government as a mere machinery of swindling. But are not the Whigs pursuing the same course, if, at least, Mr. S. Rice be the organ of the Whigs?

PUBLICOLA.

HERMAN STRODTMAN.

THIS culprit was a German of a respectable family from Revel, in Lisland, of good education. In 1694, he and a schoolfellow, named Wolter, were sent to London, and bound to a then eminent Dutch house, Stein and Dorien. They acted with diligence and assiduity till a sister of Wolter's married very advantageously, which so inflated her brother with pride that he assumed a superiority over his fellow-apprentice, which led to the fatal catastrophe the details will develop. This arrogance produced quarrelling; from words they proceeded to blows, and Wolter beat Strodtman twice—at one

time in the counting-house, and at another time before the servant-girls in the kitchen. Wolter likewise traduced Strodtman to his master, who in consequence denied him the liberty and the other gratifications that were allowed to his fellow-apprentice. Strodtman, on this account, conceived an implacable hatred against the other, and resolved to murder him in some way or other. His first intention was to have poisoned him; and with this view he mixed some white mercury with a white powder, which Wolter used to keep in a glass in his bed-room, as a remedy for the scurvy: but, this happening to be done in the midst of winter, Wolter had declined taking the powder; so that the other thought of destroying him by the more expeditious method of stabbing. This scheme, however, he delayed from time to time, while Wolter's pride and arrogance increased to such a degree that the other thought he should at length be tempted to murder him in sight of the family. Strodtman desired one of the maids to intimate to his masters his inclination to be sent to the West Indies; but no answer being given to this request, Strodtman grew again uneasy, and his enmity to his fellow-apprentice increased to such a degree that the Dutch maid, observing the agitation of his mind, advised him to a patient submission of his situation, as the most probable method of securing his peace. Unfortunately he paid no regard to this good advice; but determined on the execution of the fatal plan, which afterwards led to his destruction.

On the morning of Good Friday, Strodtman was sent out on business; instead of transacting which, he went to Greenwich, with an intention of returning on Saturday to perpetrate the murder; but, reflecting that his fellow-apprentice was to receive the Sacrament on Easter Sunday, he abhorred the thought of taking away his life before he had partaken of the Lord's Supper; and he therefore sent a letter to his masters on the Saturday, in which he asserted that he had been impressed, and was to be sent to Chatham on Easter Monday, and put on board a ship in the royal navy; but while he was at Greenwich, he was met by a young gentleman who knew him, and who, returning to London, told Messrs. Stein and Dorien that he believed the story of his

being impressed was all invention. Mr. Stein went to Chatham, to inquire into the real state of the case, when he discovered that the young gentleman's suspicions were but too well founded.

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

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

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

Awaking about twelve o'clock, he listened for a while; and, hearing no noise, he imagined that the whole family was fast asleep. He then descended to the room on the first floor, where the tinder-

box stood on a table, and, having lighted his candle, he went to the counting-house, and took a sum of money, and several notes and bills.

This being done, he took a piece of wood with which they used to beat tobacco, and going up stairs again he hastily entered the room where Peter Wolter was asleep, and advancing to his bed-side struck him violently on the head; and though his heart in some degree failed him, yet he continued his strokes. As the wounded youth groaned much, he took the pillow, and laying it on his mouth, sat down on the side of the bed, and pressed it hard with his elbow, till no appearance of life remained.

Perceiving Wolter to be quite dead, he searched his chest of drawers and pockets, and took as much money as, with what he had taken from his masters, amounted to above 80*l*. He then packed up some linen and woollen clothes; and, going down one pair of stairs, he threw his bundle into a house that was uninhabited.

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

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

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

On his return to his lodgings he ate his supper, said his prayers, and went to bed. On the following morning he went to the White Horse inn, Cripplegate, to receive cash for a bill of 20*l.*, which he had stolen from his masters' house; but the person who was to have paid it being gone out, he was desired to call again about twelve o'clock. In the interim he went to the house of a banker in Lombard Street, who requested him to carry some money to his (the banker's) sister, who was at a boarding-school at Greenwich. Strodtman said he could not go till the following day, when he would execute the commission; but before he left the house the banker told him that a young man, named Green, had been to inquire for him; on which Strodtman said, that if Mr. Green returned he should be informed that he would come back at one o'clock. Hence he went again to the White Horse inn, where he found the party, who told him that he had no orders to pay the money for the bill.

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

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

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

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

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

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

GRACE TRIPP.

IN the perpetration of the horrid crime for which Grace Tripp suffered, the reader must be greatly shocked to find base perfidy added to great cruelty in the breast of a female. In order to support the extravagance of a villain, with whom this wretched woman had secret amours, she betrayed her trust, and, in the hope of concealing the crime, caused her fellow-servant to be murdered.

Grace Tripp was a native of Barton, in Lincolnshire; and, after living as a servant at a gentleman's house in the country, she came to London, was some time in a reputable family, and then procured a place in the house of Lord Torrington. During her stay in this last service she became connected with a man named Peters, who persuaded her to be concerned in robbing her master's house, promising to marry her as soon as the fact should be perpetrated. It was therefore concerted between them, that she should let Peters into the house in the night, and that they should join in stealing and carrying off the plate.

Peters was accordingly admitted at the appointed time, when all the family, except the housekeeper, were out of town; but this housekeeper, hearing a noise, came into the room just as they had packed up the plate; on which Peters seized her, and cut her throat, while Tripp held the candle. This being done, they searched the pockets of the deceased, in which they found about 30 guineas; with which,

and the plate, they hastily decamped, leaving the street door open.

This shocking murder and robbery became the general subject of conversation, and no steps were left unattempted in order to apprehend the offenders, who were taken in a few days, when Peters was admitted an evidence for the crown, and Grace Tripp was convicted at the age of nineteen years, and executed at Tyburn on the 27th of March, 1710.

One cannot but lament that Peters, the greater culprit of the two—the actual murderer, in fact, should have avoided that punishment, by a means which so frequently screens the guilty, which he justly merited.

THE PARSON'S DUTY PERFORMED BY THE BELLMAN.

IN No. 13, page 102, we gave some verses which it was formerly the custom to repeat by way of advice to culprits under sentence of death in Newgate: the subjoined extract from Stowe's "Survey of London" shows that they ought to be repeated by a clergyman, and not by the bellman.

"Robert Doue, Citizen and Merchant Tayler, gave to the parish church of St. Sepulchres, the somme of 50*l*. That after the several sessions of London, when the prisoners remain in the gaole, as condemned men to death, expecting execution on the morrow following; the Clarke (that is, the parson) of the church should come in the night time, and likewise early in the morning, to the window of the prison where they lye, and there ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appointed for the purpose, he doth afterwards (in most Christian manner) put them in mind of their present condition and ensuing execution, desiring them to be prepared therefore as they ought to be. When they are in the cart, and brought before the wall of the church, there he standeth ready with the same bell, and after certain toles rehearseth an appointed prayer, desiring all the people there present to pray for them. The beadle also of Merchant Taylers' Hall hath an honest stipend allowed to see that this is duly done."

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 38.

NOVEMBER 16, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE LEADING ADVENTURES OF THE NOTORIOUS BURGLAR AND
PRISON-BREAKER, JOHN SHEPPARD.



[SHEPPARD ATTACKING THE BEADLE OF ST. GILES.]

No public robber ever obtained a greater degree of notoriety than the man whose life and adventures we are now about to record: no violator of the law had more "hair-breadth escapes" than "Jack Sheppard." He found employment for the bar, the pulpit, and the stage.

He was, indeed, for a considerable time, the principal subject of conversation in all ranks of society. A pantomime entertainment was brought forward at Drury Lane theatre, called, "Harlequin Sheppard," wherein his adventures, prison-breakings, and other extraordinary escapes were represented. Another dramatic work was published, as a farce of three acts, called "The Prison Breaker; or, The Adven-

tures of John Sheppard;" and a part of it, with songs, catches, and glees added, was performed at Bartholomew Fair, under the title of "The Quaker's Opera."

John Sheppard was born in Spitalfields in the year 1702. His father, who was a carpenter, bore the character of an honest man; yet he had another son, named Thomas, who, as well as Jaek, turned out a thief.

The father dying while the boys were very young, they were left to the care of the mother, who placed Jack at a school in Bishopsgate Street, where he remained two years, when he was apprenticed to a carpenter. He behaved with decency in this place for about four years, when,

frequenting the Black Lion alehouse in Drury Lane, he became acquainted with some abandoned women, the principal of whom was Elizabeth Lyon, otherwise called Edgworth Bess, from the town of Edgworth, where she was born.

While he continued to work as a carpenter, he often committed robberies in the houses in which he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess; but not being suspected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence housebreaker.

Exclusive of Edgworth Bess, he was acquainted with a woman named Maggot, who persuaded him to rob the house of Mr. Bains, a piece-broker, in White Horse Yard; and Jack having brought away a piece of fustian from thence, which he deposited in his trunk, went afterwards at midnight, took the bars out of the cellar-window, entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of 22*l.*, which he carried to Maggot.

As Sheppard did not go home that night, nor the following day, his master suspected that he had made bad connexions; and, searching his trunk, found the piece of fustian that had been stolen; but Sheppard, hearing of this, broke open his master's house in the night, and carried off the fustian, lest it should be brought in evidence against him. Sheppard's master sending intelligence to Mr. Bains of what had happened, the latter looked over his goods, and, missing such a piece of fustian as had been described to him, suspected that Sheppard must have been the robber, and determined to have him taken into custody; but Jack, hearing of the affair, went to him, and threatened a prosecution for scandal; alleging he had received the piece of fustian from his mother, who bought it for him in Spitalfields. The mother, with a view to screen her son, declared that what he had asserted was true, though she could not point out or describe the place where she had made the purchase. Though this story was not credited, Mr. Bains did not take any farther steps in the affair.

Sheppard's master seemed willing to think well of him, and he remained some time longer in the family; but after associating himself with the worst of company, and frequently staying out the

whole night, his master and he quarreled, and the headstrong youth quite absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship, and became connected with a set of villains of Jonathan Wild's gang.

Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the casier commission of robbery; and being employed to assist in repairing the house of a gentleman in May Fair, he took an opportunity of carrying off a sum of money, a quantity of plate, some gold rings, and four suits of clothes.

Not long after this, Edgworth Bess was apprehended, and lodged in the round-house of the parish of St. Giles's, where Sheppard went to visit her; and the beadle refusing to admit him, he knocked him down, broke open the door, and carried her off in triumph; an exploit which acquired him a high degree of credit with the women of abandoned character.

In the month of August, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, brother to Jack, was indicted at the Old Bailey for two petty offences, and, being convicted, was burnt in the hand. Soon after his discharge, he prevailed on Jack to lend him 40*s.*, and take him as a partner in his robberies. The first act they committed in concert, was the robbing a public-house in Southwark, whence they carried off some money and wearing apparel; but Jack permitted his brother to reap the whole advantage of this booty.

Not long after this, the brothers, in conjunction with Edgworth Bess, broke open the shop of Mrs. Cook, a linen-draper in Clarck Market, and carried off goods to the value of 55*l.*; and, in less than a fortnight afterwards, stole some articles from the house of Mr. Phillips, in Drury Lane.

Tom Sheppard, on going to sell some of the goods stolen at Mrs. Cook's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence, he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess, for whom a rigid but fruitless search was made. At length James Sykes, otherwise called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles, enticed him into a public-house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and while they were drinking, Sykes sent for a constable, who took Jack into cus-

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today, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him to St. Giles's roundhouse: but he broke through the roof of that place in the night, and made his escape.

A short time after this, as Sheppard and an associate, named Benson, were crossing Leicester Fields, the latter endeavoured to pick a gentleman's pocket of his watch; but failing in the attempt, the gentleman called out "A pickpocket!" on which Sheppard was taken and lodged in St. Ann's roundhouse, where he was visited by Edgworth Bess, who was detained on suspicion of being one of his accomplices. On the following day they were carried before a magistrate; and some persons appearing who charged them with felonies, they were committed to New Prison; and as they passed for husband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room called Newgate Ward.

Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintance, some of them furnished him with implements to make his escape; and early in the morning, a few days after his commitment, he filed off his fetters, and having made a hole in the wall he took an iron bar and a wooden one out of the window; but as the height from which he was to descend was twenty-five feet, he tied a blanket and sheet together, and making one of them fast to a bar in the window, Edgworth Bess first descended, and Jack followed her. Having reached the yard, they had still a wall of twenty-two feet high to scale; but climbing up by the locks and bolts of the great gate, they got quite out of the prison, and effected a safe escape.

Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower order of people by this exploit; and the thieves of St. Giles courted his company. Among the rest, Charles Grace, a cooper, begged that he would take him as an associate in his robberies, alleging as a reason for this request that the girl he kept was so extravagant that he could not support her on the profits of his own thefts. Sheppard did not hesitate to make this new connexion; but at the same time said he did not admit of the partnership with a view to any advantage to himself, but that Grace might reap the profits of their depredations.

Sheppard and Grace making an ac-

quaintance with Anthony Lamb, an apprentice to a mathematical instrument-maker, near St. Clement's church, it was agreed to rob a gentleman who lodged with Lamb's master; and, at two o'clock in the morning, Lamb let in the other villains, who stole money and effects to a large amount. They put the door open, and Lamb went to bed to prevent suspicion; but, notwithstanding this, his master suspected him, and had him taken into custody, when he confessed the whole affair, before a magistrate, and, being committed to Newgate, he was tried, convicted, and received sentence of transportation.

On the same day Thomas Sheppard (the brother of Jack) was indicted for breaking open the dwelling-house of Mary Cook, and stealing her goods; and being convicted he was also sentenced to transportation.

Jack Sheppard not being in custody, he and Blueskin committed a number of daring robberies, and sometimes disposed of the stolen goods to William Field. Jack used to say that Field wanted courage to commit a robbery, though he was as great a villain as ever existed.

Sheppard seems to have thought that courage consisted in villany; and if this were the case, Field had an undoubted claim to the character of a man of courage; for in October, 1721, he was tried upon four indictments, for felony and burglary; and he was an accomplice in a variety of robberies. He was likewise, on another occasion, an evidence against one of his associates.

Sheppard and Blueskin hired a stable near the Horseferry, in Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods, till they could dispose of them to the best advantage; and in this they put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr. Kneebone; for Sheppard was concerned in this robbery, and at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in August, 1724, he was indicted for several offences, and, among the rest, for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone, and stealing one hundred and eight yards of woollen cloth, and other articles; and being capitally convicted he received sentence of death.

Prior to this, Sheppard and Blueskin having applied to Field to look at these goods, and procure a customer for them, he promised to do so, nor was he worse

than his word; for in the night he broke open their warehouse, and stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan Wild; in consequence of which they were apprehended; they were tried, as already stated, and on Monday, the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for the execution of Sheppard, with other convicts who were, like himself, under sentence of death.

It is proper to observe that in the old gaol of Newgate there was within the lodge a hatch, with large iron spikes, which hatch opened into a dark passage, whence there were a few steps into the condemned hold. The prisoners being permitted to come down to the hatch to speak with their friends, Sheppard, having been supplied with instruments, took an opportunity of cutting one of the spikes in such a manner that it might be easily broken off. On the evening of the above-mentioned 30th of August, two women of Sheppard's acquaintance going to visit him, he broke off the spike; and thrusting his head and shoulders through the space, the women pulled him through, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge.

On the day after his escape he went to a public-house in Spitalfields, when he sent for an old acquaintance, called Page, a butcher in Clare Market, and advised with him how to render his escape effectual for his future preservation. After deliberating on the matter, they agreed to go to Warnden, in Northamptonshire, where Page had some relations; and they had no sooner resolved than they made the journey; but Page's relations treating him with indifference, they returned to London, after being absent only about a week.

On the night after their return, as they were walking up Fleet Street together, they saw a watchmaker's shop open, and only a boy attending: having passed the shop, they turned back, and Sheppard driving his hand through the window, stole three watches, with which they made their escape.

Some of Sheppard's old acquaintance informing him that strict search was making after him, he and Page retired to Finchley, in hope of lying there con-

cealed till the diligence of the gaol-keepers should relax; but the keepers of Newgate having intelligence of their retreat, took Sheppard into custody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings.

Such steps were now taken as were deemed effectual to prevent his escape this time; as he was put into a strong room, called the Castle, handcuffed, loaded with a very heavy pair of irons, and chained to a staple fixed in the floor.

The curiosity of the public being greatly excited by his former escape, he was visited by great numbers of people of all ranks, and scarcely any one left him without making him a present in money, though he would have more gladly received a file, a hammer, or a chisel; but the utmost care was taken that none of his visitors should furnish him with such implements.

Notwithstanding this disadvantageous situation, Sheppard was continually employing his thoughts on the means of effecting another escape. On the 14th of October the sessions began at the Old Bailey, and the keepers being much engaged in attending the court he thought that they would have little time to visit him, and that such a juncture would be the most favourable to carry his plan into execution.

About two o'clock in the afternoon of the following day, one of the keepers carried him his dinner; and having carefully examined his irons, and finding them fast, he left him for the day.

Some days before this Jaek had found a small nail in the room, with which he could, at pleasure, unlock the padlock that went from the chain to the staple in the floor; and in his own account of this transaction, he says, "that he was frequently about the room, and had several times slept on the barracks, when the keepers imagined he had not been out of his chair."

The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his handcuffs, and then opened the padlock that fastened the chain to the staple. He next, by mere strength, twisted asunder a small link of the chain between his legs, and then drawing up his fetters as high as he could, he made them fast with his garters.

He then attempted to get up the chim-

ney, but was stopp'd across it with a pair of two, & got out feet long very soon proceeded He in as to enter over the large net farther since the opened; lock in I into the In this j bolted o a hole i bolt bac Arriv broke o he kept into an lower le remarka large IC Sheppan dark; i tage, he in half this, ho still mo bolted a the file and the It wa found i ceeding to open was open over a His should and he place f turner's as it w have ju back fe to cov castle: stockin but noi pelled

ney, but had not advanced far before he was stopped by an iron bar that went across it; on which he descended, and with a piece of his broken chain picked out the mortar, and moving a small stone or two, about six feet from the floor, he got out the iron bar, which was three feet long and an inch square, and proved very serviceable to him in his future proceedings.

He in a short time made such a breach, as to enable him to get into the red room over the castle; and here he found a large nail, which he made use of in his farther operations. It was seven years since the door of this red room had been opened; but Sheppard wrenched off the lock in less than seven minutes, and got into the passage leading to the chapel. In this place he found a door which was bolted on the opposite side; but making a hole through the wall, he pushed the bolt back, and opened the door.

Arriving at the door of the chapel, he broke off one of the iron spikes, which he kept for his farther use, and he got into an entry between the chapel and the lower leads. The door of this entry was remarkably strong, and fastened with a large lock; and night now coming on Sheppard was obliged to work in the dark; notwithstanding which disadvantage, he forced open the box of the lock in half an hour, and opened the door: this, however, led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked; but he wrenched the fillet from the main post of the door, and the box and staples came off with it.

It was now eight o'clock, and Sheppard found no farther obstruction to his proceedings; for he had only one other door to open, which, being bolted on the inside, was opened without difficulty, and he got over a wall to the upper leads.

His next consideration was, how he should descend with the greatest safety; and he found that the most convenient place for him to alight on would be the turner's house adjoining to Newgate; but as it would have been very dangerous to have jumped from such a height, he went back for the blanket with which he used to cover himself, when he slept in the castle: he then endeavoured to fasten his stocking to the blanket to ease his descent; but not being able to do so, he was compelled to use the blanket alone, which he

made fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike he took out of the chapel, and sliding down he dropped on the turner's leads just as the clock was striking nine. It happened that the door of the garret next the turner's leads was open, on which he stole softly down two pair of stairs, and heard some company talking in a room. His irons clinking, a woman cried, "What noise is that?" and a man answered, "Perhaps 'tis the dog, or cat."

Sheppard, who was exceedingly fatigued, returned to the garret, and laid down for more than two hours; after which he crept down once more, as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking leave of the family, and saw the maid light him down stairs. As soon as the maid returned, he resolved to venture all hazards, and in stealing down stairs he stumbled against a chamber door; but instantly recovering himself he got into the street.

By this time it was after twelve o'clock, and passing by the watch-house of St. Sepulchre he bid the watchman good-morrow; then going up Holborn he turned down Gray's Inn Lane, and about two in the morning got into the fields near Tottenham Court, where he took shelter in a place that had been a cow-house, and slept soundly about three hours. His fetters being still on, his legs were greatly bruised and swelled, and he dreaded the approach of daylight, by which he would be discovered. He had above 40s. in his possession, but he was afraid to send any person for assistance.

At seven in the morning it began to rain hard, and continued to do so all day, so that no person appeared in the fields; and during this melancholy day he would, to use his own expression, "have given his right hand for a hammer, a chisel, and a punch." Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured into a little chandler's shop in Tottenham Court Road, where he got a supply of bread and cheese, small beer, and some other necessaries, hiding his irons with a long great coat. He asked the woman of the house for a hammer; but she had no such utensil; on which he retired to the cow-house, where he slept that night, and remained all the next day.

At night he went again to the chandler's shop, supplied himself with provisions,

and returned to his hiding-place. At six the next morning, which was Sunday, he began to beat the basils of his fetters with a stone, in order to bring them to an oval form, to slip his heels through. In the afternoon the master of the cow-house coming thither, and seeing his irons, said, "For God's sake, who are you?" Sheppard said he was an unfortunate young fellow, who, having had a bastard child sworn to him, and not being able to give security to the parish for its support, had been sent to Bridewell, from whence he had made his escape. The man said, if that was all it did not much signify; but he did not care how soon he was gone, for he did not like his looks.

Soon after he was gone Sheppard saw a journey-man shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard child, and offered him 20s. if he would procure a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, accordingly procured them, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening.

When night came on, our adventurer tied a handkerchief about his head, tore his woollen cap in several places, and likewise tore his coat and stockings, so as to have the appearance of a beggar; and in this condition he went to a cellar near Charing Cross, where he supped on roasted veal, and listened to the conversation of the company, all of whom were talking of the escape of Sheppard.

On the Monday he sheltered himself at a public-house, of little trade, in Rupert Street; and conversing with the landlady about Sheppard, he told her it was impossible for him to get out of the kingdom; and the keepers would certainly have him again in a few days; on which the woman wished that a curse might fall on those who should betray him. Remaining in this place till evening, he went into the Haymarket, where a crowd of people were surrounding two ballad singers, and listening to a song made on his adventures and escape.

On the next day he hired a garret in Newport Market, and soon afterwards, dressing himself like a porter, he went to Blackfriars, to the house of Mr. Applebee, printer of the dying speeches, and delivered a letter, in which he ridiculed the printer and the ordinary of Newgate, and in-

closed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate.

Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawnbroker, in Drury Lane, from whom he stole a sword, a suit of wearing apparel, some snuff-boxes, rings, watches, and other effects, to a considerable amount.

Determining to make the appearance of a gentleman among his old acquaintance in Drury Lane and Clare Market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tie-wig, wore a ruffled shirt, a silver hilted sword, a diamond ring, and a gold watch, though he knew that diligent search was making after him at that very time.

On the 31st of October he dined with two women at a public-house in Newgate Street, and about four in the afternoon they all passed under Newgate in a hackney-coach, having first drawn up the blinds. Going in the evening to a public-house, in May-pole Alley, Clare Market, Sheppard sent for his mother, and treated her with brandy, when the poor woman dropped on her knees and begged he would quit the kingdom, which he promised to do, but had no intention of keeping his word.

Being now grown valiant through an excess of liquor, he wandered from ale-houses to gin-shops in the neighbourhood till near twelve o'clock at night, when he was apprehended in consequence of the information of an ale-house boy who knew him. When taken into custody he was quite senseless, from the quantity and variety of liquors he had drank, and was conveyed to Newgate in a coach, without being capable of making the least resistance, though he had two pistols then in his possession.

His fame was now so much increased by his exploits that he was visited by great numbers of people, some of them of the highest quality. He endeavoured to divert them by a recital of the particulars of many robberies in which he had been concerned; and when any noblemen came to see him, he never failed to beg that they would intercede with the king for a pardon, to which he thought his singular dexterity gave him some pretensions.

Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the Court of King's Bench on the 10th of November, and the

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record of his conviction being read, and an affidavit being made that he was the same John Sheppard mentioned in the record, sentence of death was passed on him by Mr. Justice Powis, and a rule of court was made for his execution on the Monday following.

He regularly attended the prayers in the chapel; but though he behaved with decency there, he affected mirth before he went thither, and endeavoured to prevent any degree of seriousness among the other prisoners on their return. Even when the day of execution arrived, Sheppard did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice; for having been furnished with a penknife, he put it in his pocket, with a view, when the melancholy procession came opposite Little Turnstile, to have cut the cord that bound his arms, and, throwing himself out of the cart among the crowd, to have run through the narrow passage where the sheriff's officers could not follow on horseback, by which he had no doubt he should make his escape by the assistance of the mob. It is not impossible that this scheme might have succeeded; but before Sheppard left the press-yard, Watson, an officer, on searching his pockets, found the knife, and was cut with it so as to occasion a great effusion of blood.

Sheppard had yet a farther view to his preservation, even after execution; for he desired his friends to put him into a warm bed as soon as he should be cut down, and try to open a vein, which he had been told would restore him to life.

He was removed on the 23d of November, 1724, to Tyburn, where he behaved with great decorum, and confessed the having committed two robberies for which he had been tried and acquitted. He suffered in the twenty-third year of his age. He died with difficulty, much pitied by the surrounding multitude; and when he was cut down, his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public-house in Long Acre, whence he was removed in the evening, and buried in the churchyard of St. Martin in the Fields.

Thus closed the career of the notorious Jack Sheppard, a man unrivalled in the records of prison-breaking, if naught else. Hardened, too, in his repeated escapes from the hands of justice, he neglected to avail himself of a permanent escape by quitting the country.

Naval and Military Torture. N^o 4.

MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

I now come to that ticklish subject, the punishments in the army; from amongst which it is now quite clear that that of flogging must be expunged, or that the discipline must be destroyed, by the incessant complaints of the public with regard to the flogging. I know what this affair is as well as any man in England. I have drawn up, with my own hand, great numbers of charges upon which men have been tried and punished. I have always been of opinion that, as a Member of Parliament, I should not give way to these popular complaints without solid grounds; because, having by the Mutiny Bill given the power of inflicting this species of punishment, having stipulated for this as one of the conditions upon which the commissioned officers were to keep the men in order, it would be unjust in me to censure them for having made use of these means. But I hold it to be my duty to effect, if I can, a removal of this condition out of the Mutiny Bill, to refuse to give the power; and then it would be impossible for it to be abused. Flogging is a most severe punishment; a human back one piece of lacerated flesh, blood running into the shoes, may truly be called inhuman. At the flogging of a man, I have frequently seen seven or eight men fall slap upon the ground, unable to endure the sight and to hear the cries without swooning away. We used to lift them back a little way, take off their stocks, and unbutton their shirt-collars, and they came to after a little while. These were as stout, hardy, and bold men as were anywhere to be found.

During the war against France, nothing seemed to be unlawful that the Government chose to have done; and my treatment showed what the danger was of complaining of the flogging of soldiers; though the case was such as to justify any language made use of in the way of complaint; for here were lads called local militia-men, forced from their homes: their officers had detained the money from them in express violation of the Act of Parliament: they would not march till they got the money; and this was called *mutiny*; for which they were flogged under a guard of Hanoverian soldiers, sent for from Bury St. Edmund's, they

themselves being at Ely. Now, to what a depth of slavery must that nation have arrived, in which a man was to endure a two years' imprisonment in a felon's gaol, pay a thousand pounds' fine at the end of the time, to be held to bail afterwards for seven years, because he dared to complain of a thing like this. The nation was, in short, during that war, in the deepest hell of slavery. Now, indeed, men speak out on this subject; and their feelings bid them say that their countrymen shall no longer be flogged. But, though I shall oppose this practice of flogging with all my might, I will not join with any man who will not oppose it in the Mutiny Bill itself. Let us withhold the power to flog; not give it first, and then complain of its being exercised. Soldiers are now everywhere: they are, too, quite a different sort of creatures to what they were forty-five years ago: they had hats upon their heads; they had coats of the usual length; they could unbutton the facings, and button the coats across; their breasts were open, and you could see their shirts; they wore stockings, and stockings of any colour except they were on duty. They were not trussed-up things like a wild-fowl for the spit: they were all stout; and, taken by weight, worth twice their number of the present day. There were three barracks in the kingdom, instead of a hundred and two. With the French war began the Prussian, Austrian, Russian, and Devil-knows-what dresses and discipline; and that *everlasting restraint* which seems to be the chief thing on which their rulers now pride themselves; and which is a thing so detested by soldiers that they will break through it, even at the expense of flogging. But here we touch upon another encroachment of the aristocracy (always including the parsons); namely, *the excluding of soldiers from the possibility of becoming commissioned officers*. When I was in the army, the Adjutant-General, Sir William Fawcett, had been a private soldier; General Slater, who had then recently commanded the Guards in London, had been a private soldier; Colonel Pieton, whom I saw at the head of his fine regiment (the 12th, at Chatham), had been a private soldier; Captain Green, who first had the command of me, had been a private soldier. In the garrison of Halifax there were no less than seventeen officers who had been private soldiers.

In my own regiment the Quarter-master had been a private soldier; the Adjutant, who was also a Lieutenant, had been a private soldier. No man of sense need be told what powerful motive there was here for good conduct in the soldiers; for the acquirement of skill and adroitness amongst the non-commissioned officers, and for the maintenance of discipline by them. No one need be told of the immense effect of the experience of this description of officers, who were, of necessity, the most skilful, the most prudent, the most punctual; who, by their example, as well as by their knowledge, formed the great source for instructing those officers who had not been bred to arms. Wise and just as this was, however, it did not suit the aristocracy and the parsons, who had a parcel of sons and other relations and dependants that stood in need of the commission and the pay of these officers from the ranks. To get at these commissions and this pay, that thing called a Military Academy was erected upon Bagshot Heath, at the expense, to the people of this nation, of not less, first and last, than *two millions of money*; and as soon as these young sprigs of the aristocracy and the parsons had arrived in sufficient number, at an age fixed on for the purpose, they were taken to fill up the vacant posts in the army; and a rule was laid down, *that no new officer should come into the army hereafter, who had not come out of that Academy*, which rule is still most rigidly adhered to. And thus were the industrious classes taxed to furnish an education to the relations and dependants of the parsons and the aristocracy, in order that these relations and dependants might prevent the sons of this tax-paying and industrious class from ever becoming commissioned officers in the army! You think, perhaps, that your trussed-up wild-fowl do not perceive this. They do perceive it, and *talk* of it, too; and they give as pretty a name to these Academy chickens as you would wish to hear pronounced; and, mind, it is out of this nest that are now to come the men who are to order English soldiers to be flogged.—
COBBETT.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 39.

NOVEMBER 23, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE BANEFUL EFFECTS OF AVARICE AS SHOWN IN THE CONDUCT
OF JOHN YOUNG.



[ARREST OF JOHN YOUNG.]

THERE has seldom occurred a more extraordinary case than that of Serjeant-major and Paymaster John Young, the subject of the present chapter. The methods he took to avoid his fate, and the desperate resistance he made against being carried to execution, are, we believe, unparalleled in criminal chronology. The services he had rendered to the state could not, however, palliate his crime, which closed every avenue of mercy through his sovereign.

John Young was born of a Protestant family at Belfast, in Ireland, and received a liberal education. At the usual time of life he was apprenticed to a linen-draper residing in the town in which he was born; and when he had served about three years, his master died; on which,

the widow declining business, he engaged as clerk to a wholesale dealer, whose goods were principally sent to the London market and Chester fair. He remained with this employer till he arrived at manhood; when he soon absconded, in consequence of one of his master's servant-maids proving with child by him. He intended to settle in Dublin, but in his way to that city he met with a recruiting party belonging to the 4th regiment of foot, who urged him to drink till he became intoxicated, and then prevailed upon him to enlist.

Young, being handsome in person, and accomplished in manners, was soon distinguished by his officers, who upon the first vacancy promoted him to be a ser-

jeant. He marched from Tournay to join his regiment at Ghent, in Flanders, and arrived but a few days preceding that on which the terrible battle of Fontenoy was fought. His behaviour in that action was greatly commended by his officers, who, upon the return of the regiment to Ghent, conferred upon him many marks of particular respect, and appointed him paymaster to the company to which he belonged.

The regiment in which Young was a serjeant was one of those ordered into Scotland, for the purpose of suppressing the rebellion, which broke out soon after the battle of Fontenoy; but, as a considerable loss of private men had been sustained, he was ordered to go upon the recruiting service to Chester, Manchester, Liverpool, and other places.

The recruits engaged by Young were paid the bounty-money without the least deduction, and he would not encourage them to spend any part of it in an extravagant or usless manner. In the space of four months he raised one hundred and fifty men; and it is presumed that the strict integrity of his conduct greatly promoted his success. Upon joining his regiment in Scotland, his officers advanced him to the post of serjeant-major, as a reward for his services. At the battle of Falkirk he put several of the rebels to death with his halbert, and behaved in other respects with remarkable intrepidity.

Upon the command of the army being assumed by the Duke of Cumberland, the regiment to which Young belonged was ordered to march to the North. On account of the singular bravery they displayed at the battle of Culloden, and the great slaughter of men, this regiment was not ordered to return to Flanders, but permitted to remain in Scotland.

Upon tranquillity being re-established in the Highlands, the 4th regiment was ordered to perform duty in Edinburgh Castle, and Young was despatched to Bristol upon a recruiting expedition. He enlisted a considerable number of men at Bristol, and on his return to Scotland his officers complimented him with a handsome present. He was now sent to obtain recruits in Yorksbire; and while at Sheffield, in that county, he engaged in a criminal intercourse with the wife of an innkeeper, who, when he

was preparing to depart, secreted property to a considerable amount, and followed her lover to Scotland. In a short time the innkeeper came to Edinburgh in search of his wife, and complained in passionate terms of the cruel and treacherous treatment he had received. The nature of his connexion with the woman being made public, Young appeared to be greatly disconcerted whenever he met with persons to whom he supposed the matter had been communicated; but, in justice to his character, we must observe that, so far from encouraging the woman to rob her husband, he was entirely ignorant of everything relating to that matter till her husband's arrival in Edinburgh.

Notwithstanding the above affair, Young was still held in much esteem by his officers; and in a short time the regiment was ordered to proceed to the North, and remained in the royal barracks at Inverness for about twelve months.

Young being both serjeant-major and paymaster, many notes on the Bank of Scotland necessarily came into his possession. While looking over some of these notes in the guard-room, a man named Parker, whom he had enlisted in England, observed, that if he had a few tools he could engrave a plate for counterfeiting the notes on the Edinburgh Bank. Young seemed to give but little attention to what the other said; but took him to an ale-house on the following day, and requested an explanation as to the manner of executing the scheme he had suggested. Parker informed him, that, besides engraving an exact resemblance of the letters and figures, he could form a machine for printing such notes, as should not be known from those of the Scotch bank. In short, Young hired a private apartment for Parker, and supplied him with every implement necessary for carrying the iniquitous plan into effect; and, in a short time, some counierfeit notes were produced, bearing a near resemblance to the real ones; and upwards of six months elapsed before the fraud was detected.

Orders being issued for the regiment to march to England, Young determined to procure cash for as many notes as possible previous to his departure from Inverness, knowing that in the southern parts the forgery would be liable to immediate detection. With this view, he applied to Mr. Gordon, who was concerned in a

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printing-manufactory at Aberdeen, and prevailed upon him to give 60*l.* in cash for notes expressing to be of the same value.

On his journey from Inverness, Mr. Gordon parted with several of the notes at different places; but upon reaching Aberdeen, an advertisement in the newspapers convinced him that he had been deceived. In consequence of this Mr. Gordon wrote to the sheriff of Inverness, who immediately took Young into custody, and found in his possession three hundred notes, and the copper-plate from which they had been printed.

Parker was admitted an evidence for the crown, and Young was removed to Edinburgh for trial before the high court of judicature. After a trial that lasted a whole day, Young was pronounced to be guilty, and sentenced to suffer death.

While this malefactor was under confinement, he would not consent to be visited by the clergy, though several, from motives of humanity, were desirous of assisting their endeavours to prepare him for eternity. He was informed by his fellow-prisoners, that if he could procrastinate his execution beyond the appointed time his life would of necessity be preserved; so that the crown law of Scotland declared, that condemned prisoners should be executed between two and four o'clock in the days expressed. Being ignorant of the law, the unhappy man was amused by this story; and, hoping to escape punishment, he secured the strong iron door of the room in which he was confined in such a manner, that when the order came, in order to conduct him to the place of execution, he could not gain admittance.

Upwards of fifty carpenters, smiths, masons, and other artificers were employed to open a passage, but they all declined undertaking a business which they deemed to be impracticable; and they were unanimously of opinion, that no aperture could not be made in the wall without endangering the whole fabric.

Matters being thus circumstanced, the sheriff-provost and the rest of the magistrates assembled at the prison, and, after a long debate, it was determined to form an opening to the room by breaking through the floor of that immediately above. The opening being made, the

prisoner leaped up, and, seizing a musket from one of the city guards, declared, with an oath, that if any man attempted to molest him he would dash out his brains. Six of the soldiers, however, suddenly descended, and one of them received a terrible blow from the prisoner; but he was, immediately after, secured by the other five, and executed in Edinburgh on the 19th of December, 1748.

CONVICTION OF RICHARD THORNILL, ESQ., OF MANSLAUGHTER IN DUELLING.

The abhorred and sanguinary practice of duelling offers to the understanding, in the influence it is found to have over strong and enlightened minds, a paradox most bewildering and humiliating. While reason and common sense exclaim against the folly of duelling; while religion strongly condemns its iniquity; while the laws of a nation load it with penalties, and rank it as a foul crime; while the popular cry is loud against its mischiefs, and no one is hardy enough to defend it; we daily hear that men of the first rank in society make this appeal to violence, fearless of legal prevention and legal penalties. Husbands and fathers leave their wives and children in their morning's slumbers, stealing from their pillows, to obey the dictates of a false honour; and too often, as their families rise from their beds, are they presented with the bleeding bodies of those who had been their protectors. We see, too, seconds in this scene of blood, retailing, with daring effrontery, in the public prints, the particulars of the cruel encounter.

In some of the republican states of America these outrages to all the parties are punished with confiscation of their lands, and banishment, even on proof of sending or accepting a challenge; but, having the means of evading this severe but wholesome law, the Americans appear more eager, than otherwise, to settle their quarrels by duel. To accomplish their inhuman and unlawful purpose, they generally journey into another state, where, as each enacts its own laws, the murderers generally escape punishment, and save their lands, which cannot be confiscated for an offence committed out of their own state's jurisdiction. Sometimes they travel into Canada, that they

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

In many other parts of the world, duelling meets with severer punishment than that inflicted by the laws of England. The lands of the murderer, at least, should be divided between the injured country and the miserable family of the fallen. The English laws prepare, perhaps, an adequate punishment for every offence except duelling, for which the murderer too often escapes with impunity.

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

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

On the 9th of April, Sir Cholmondeley went to a coffee-house at Kensington and

asked for Mr. Thornhill, who was not there; in consequence of which he went to Mr. Thornhill's lodgings, and the servant showed him to the dining-room, to which he ascended with a brace of pistols in his hands; and soon afterwards Mr. Thornhill, coming to him, asked him if he would drink tea, which he declined, but drank a glass of small beer.

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

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

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

"April 8th, 1711.

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

"I am

Your humble Servant,

"RICHARD THORNHILL."

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

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

Several persons of distinction testified that Mr. Thornhill was of a peaceable

disposition, and that, on the contrary, the deceased was of a remarkably quarrelsome temper. On behalf of Mr. Thornhill, it was farther deposed, that Sir Cholmondeley being asked if he came by his hurt through unfair usage, he replied, "No: poor Thornhill! I am sorry for him: this misfortune was my own fault, and of my own seeking. I heartily forgive him, and desire you all to take notice of it, that it may be of some service to him, and that one misfortune may not occasion another."

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

THOMAS ESTRICK

Was born in the borough of Southwark in the year 1676. His father was a carrier, and instructed him in his own business; but the boy showed a very early attachment to pleasures and gratifications above his age, and incompatible with his situation. When the time of his apprenticeship expired he was of too unwholesome a disposition to follow his business, in consequence of which he engaged in the service of a gentleman of fortune at Hackney; but he had not been long in this place when his master was robbed of plate, and other valuable effects, to the value of above 80*l*. The fact was, that Estrick had stolen these effects; but such was the ascendancy that he had obtained over his master, and such the baseness of his own disposition, that he had art enough to impute the crime to one of the servant-maids, who was turned out of the house, with all the odium of unmerited disgrace.

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

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

As soon as he was at large he went to lodge with a person who kept his former house in Cock Alley; but, on taking possession of his lodgings, he found that a woman, who lodged and died in the room during his absence, had left a box containing cash to the amount of about 90*l*.

Having possessed himself of this sum, he opened a shop in Long Alley, Moorfields; but his old associates having propagated a report to the prejudice of his character, he thought he should not be safe in that situation; and he therefore took shipping for Holland, having previously disposed of his effects. On his arrival in Holland he found no opportunity of employing his little money to any advantage; and, after spending the greater part of it, he returned to his native country.

Not long after his return he found himself reduced to great distress, on which he had recourse to a variety of illegal methods to supply his necessities. He was guilty of privately stealing, was a housebreaker, a streetrobber, and a highwayman. In a short time, however, the career of his wickedness was at an end.

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

WILLIAM ELBY

Was born in the year 1667, at Deptford, in Kent, and served his time with a block-maker, at Rotherhithe, during which he became acquainted with some women of ill fame. After the expiration of his term of apprenticeship, he kept company with young fellows of such bad character that he found it necessary to enter on board a ship of war to prevent any fatal 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 housebreaking. Detection soon terminated his career; and he was indicted for robbing the house of Mr. Barry, and murdering his gardener.

Elby, it seems, having determined on robbing the house, arrived at Fulham soon after midnight. He 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 250*l.*, with which he immediately repaired to his associates in London.

Though this man, naturally inclined to gaiety, dressed in a style much above people of his profession in general, yet, being now 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 frequented a public-house in the Strand, where, being casually in company, the robbery and murder became the subject of conversation. Elby thereupon 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 was told him; and being remarked by the person who called, he was taken into custody the next day, and committed on suspicion of the robbery and murder.

On his trial he steadily denied the perpetration of the crimes with which he was charged, and his conviction would have been very doubtful had not a woman, with whom he cohabited, become an evidence, and swore that he came from Fulham with the money the morning after the commission of the fact.

Some other persons likewise deposed, that they saw him come out of Mr. Barry's

house on the morning the murder was committed; but as they did not know what had happened they had entertained no suspicion of him.

The jury deeming this circumstance sufficient to convict him, Elby received sentence of death; and having been executed at Fulham on the 13th of September, 1704, he was afterwards hung in chains near the place where the crime was committed.

ROGER LOWEN

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

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

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

In the course of the evidence, it appeared that, on the evening of the day preceding that on which the murder was committed, Lowen invited Lloyd and his wife to dine with him on the following day; that Mr. Lloyd being obliged to go to Acton, did not come very early; at which Lowen expressed a considerable degree of uneasiness; that when he came, Lowen introduced him into the parlour, with great apparent civility; that Mr.

Lloyd put his sword into a corner of the scabbard, some time after which Lowen entered him into the garden, to see his hands; after which they came together into the house, appearing to be good friends, and Lowen desired his wife to assist at the dinner; that while she went to obey his directions, Lowen drew Mr. Lloyd's sword a little way out of the scabbard, as if admiring it, and asked who was his cutler? and that while the deceased stood with his hands behind him, Lowen, stamping with his foot, drew the sword quite out of the scabbard, and stabbed Mr. Lloyd through the back; on which his wife (who was present at this horrid transaction) said to him, "Speak to me, my dear!" He was unable to do so; but having lifted up his eyes, he remained twice, and then expired.

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

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

While he lay under sentence of death, he was attended by Messrs. Idzardi and Aperti, two divines of his own country, who were assiduous to convince him of the atrocity of the crime which he had committed; and he became a sincere penitent, confessing, with his last breath, the crime he had committed in shedding innocent blood.

WILLIAM BURK.

This individual, though born of parents so poor that they were glad to get him into a charity-school, had a fair chance of becoming a useful member of society. Little doubt can be entertained that the fault of mothers, by a too great and too indulgent to their children, which they call kindness, was the primary cause which led this man to his wretched fate. Some unreflecting women, by mistimed kindness, would have their children, while they should be in search of a honest live-

lihood, still at home; or, to use the vulgar expression, "still within the length of their apron-strings." It is rare, indeed, to find a great boy, pampered by the mother, possessing the rare qualities of a good boy: over-indulgence to a youth at home uncraves him when abroad; and, subject to no control, he becomes insolent, weak, and contemptible to strangers.

William Burk was born in the parish of St. Catherine, and near the Tower of London. His temper, it was alleged, was bad when a boy; but who of us was not early wayward, until precept and correction taught us better? but it was also admitted that the mother, by ill-judged fondness and indulgence, made it much worse.

Having reached the eleventh year of his age, he was guilty of some faults that required severe chastisement, after the receipt of which he ran away from school, and went to the water-side, inquiring for a station on board a ship. A man observing his inclination, took him down to the Nore, and put him on board the Salisbury man of war.

The mother, learning where her darling boy was gone, followed him on board the ship, and endeavoured to prevail on him to return, but in vain; for 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; but a woman, the only one on board, having the curiosity to look on the deck, lost her life by a chain-shot, which severed her head from her body. The common men shared 15*l.* each prize-money on these captures; but some of the principal officers got sufficient to make them easy for life.

The ship was stationed for three years in the West Indies, during which Burk learnt the art of stealing everything that he could secrete without detection. At Jamaica there was a woman who had been transported from Newgate some years before, and who, having married a planter who soon died, was left in affluent circumstances, which led her to keep a tavern. Wanting a white servant, she prevailed on the captain to let Will attend

her customers. The boy was pleased with his new situation, and might have continued in it as long as he was on the island; but he could not refrain from defrauding his mistress; but she, who had been herself a thief, soon detected him; upon which he fell on his knees, and begged pardon, which was granted as to any legal proceedings; but he was ordered to depart the house immediately.

Alarmed at the danger from which he had escaped, he seems to have formed a temporary resolution to live honestly in future, and with that view he shipped himself for Maryland, where a merchant would have employed him, but the captain he sailed with would not permit him to accept the offer. Hence he made a voyage to the coast of Guinea, where he had a very narrow escape of his 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. They, however, reached the port in safety; and, notwithstanding the miseries they had endured, the captain resolved on another voyage to Guinea, in which Burk accompanied him. Having purchased a number of slaves, they set sail for the West India islands; but during the voyage, the negroes concerted a scheme to make themselves masters of the ship, and would have probably carried it into execution but that one of their associates betrayed them, in consequence of which they were more strictly confined than they had hitherto been.

Burk sailed from the West Indies to England, where he entered on board a man of war, and sailed up the Baltic, and afterwards to Archangel, to the north of Russia, where his sufferings, from the extremity of the cold and other circumstances, were so severe, that on his return to England he determined to abandon the life of a sailor.

Being now quite out of all honest methods of getting his bread he took to robbing passengers in and near Stepney;

but he continued his depredations on the public only for a short time, being apprehended for committing the fourth robbery.

He was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in February, 1723, for robbing William Fitzer, on the highway; and again, on the same day, for robbing James Westwood; and being found guilty on both indictments, he received sentence of death.

There was something remarkably cruel in the conduct of this malefactor; for he carried a hedge-bill with him, to terrify the persons whom he stopped; and, on one old man hesitating to comply with his demand, he cut him so that he fell to the ground.

After conviction he became sensible of the enormity of his crimes, and he received the sacrament with great devotion, declaring that if he obtained mercy from God it must be through the merits of Jesus Christ. He was executed at Tyburn on the 8th of April, 1723.

FEMALE INDUSTRY RECOMMENDED.

We should serve the cause of many a home, in which a toiling anxious father and husband struggles to support a wife and growing or grown-up daughters, in the lady-like habits of doing nothing, or worse than nothing, if we could persuade them that doing, or assisting to do, their household work is no derogation from their dignity, but the preservation of it, since, by so doing, they render themselves in a great degree independent of those on whom, in the present state of their education, little dependence can be placed; they would increase the measure of their comforts, and relieve themselves of many annoyances to which genteel poverty must submit, and which economy, and industry, and activity escape. Let them remember that the father and husband who goes to his daily toils is also travelling to his grave; and when, at last, he lies down to take his everlasting rest, how pleasant to their spirits will it be to think that they lightened the load he had to bear in life, instead of increasing the burden.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 40.

NOVEMBER 30, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS HIGHWAYMEN. N^o. 9.

HENRY SIMMS.



[SIMMS PURSUING HIS PREY BETWEEN TOWCESTER AND LONDON.]

Disobedience to parents generally leads to an ignominious fate. This man, losing his father at a tender age, ought to have been doubly grateful to his grandmother, who took the care of him upon herself; instead of which, we shall find him, while yet a boy, robbing his benefactress.

Henry Simms was born in the parish of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London, and was soon, as we have already observed, a helpless orphan. His grandmother, who was a dissenter, sent him first to a school kept by a clergyman of her own persuasion; but, as he frequently ran away, she placed him at an academy in St. James's parish, where he became a proficient in

writing and arithmetic, and was likewise a tolerable Latin and French scholar.

Before the boy had completed his tenth year, he gave a specimen of his dishonest disposition. His grandmother taking him with her on a visit to a tradesman's house, he stole 20s. from the till in the shop; which being observed by the maid-servant, she informed her master; and the money being found on the youth, he was severely punished.

He now began to absent himself from home at night, and to associate with the vilest company in the purlieus of St. Giles. His companions advising him to rob his grandmother, he stole 17*l.* from her, and

taking his best apparel he repaired to St. Giles, where his new acquaintance made him drunk, put him to bed, and then robbed him of the money and clothes he had so recently figured with. On his waking he covered himself with some rags he found in the room; and after strolling through the streets in search of the villains he went into an ale-house, the landlord of which, hearing his tale, interceded with his grandmother to take him again under her protection. To this, after some hesitation, she consented; and, buying a chain with a padlock, she had him fastened during the daytime to the kitchen-grate; and at night he slept with a man who was directed to take care that he did not escape.

After a month's confinement he had his liberty granted him, and new clothes were purchased, with which he immediately went among some young thieves who were tossing for money in St. Giles. On the approach of night they took him to a brick-kiln near Tottenham-court Road, where they broiled some steaks, and supped in concert; and they were soon joined by some women, who brought some Geneva, with which the whole company regaled themselves. Simms, falling asleep, was again robbed of his clothes; and when the brick-makers came to work in the morning they found him in his shirt only: while they were conducting him towards town, he was met by his grandmother's servant, who was in search of him, and who conveyed him to her house. Notwithstanding his former behaviour, the old lady received him kindly, and placed him with a breeches-maker, from whom, when corrected for his ill behaviour, he ran away; and taking his best clothes from his grandmother's house in her absence, he sold them to a Jew, and spent the money in extravagance.

The old gentlewoman now went to live at the house of Lady Stanhope, whither the graceless boy followed her; and being refused admittance he broke several of the windows. This, in some measure, compelled his grandmother to admit him; but that very night he robbed the house of as many things as produced him 9*l.*, which he carried to a barn in Mary-la-bonne Fields, and spent among his dissolute companions. For this offence he was apprehended, and after some hesitation he confessed where he had sold the

effects. From this time his grandmother gave him up as incorrigible. Being soon afterwards apprehended as a pickpocket, he was discharged for want of evidence.

Simms now associated with the worst of company; but, after a narrow escape on a charge of being concerned in sending a threatening letter to extort money, two of his comrades being transported for other offences, he seemed deterred from continuing his evil courses; and thereupon wrote to his grandmother, entreating a renewal of her protection. Still anxious to save him from destruction, she prevailed on a friend to take him into his house, where for some time he behaved regularly; but getting among his old associates, they robbed a gentleman of his watch and money, and threw him into a ditch in Mary-la-bonne Fields: some persons accidentally coming up prevented his destruction.

Two more of Simms's companions being now transported, he hired himself to an inn-keeper as a driver of a post-chaise; and after that he lived as postillion to a nobleman, from whose service he was soon discharged on account of his irregular conduct. Having received his wages, he went again among the thieves, who dignified him with the title of "Gentleman Harry," on account of his presumed skill and the gentility of his appearance.

Simms now became intimately acquainted with a woman who lived with one of his accomplices, in revenge for which the fellow procured both him and the woman to be taken into custody on a charge of felony, and they were committed to Newgate; but the court paying no regard to the credibility of the witnesses, the prisoners were acquitted.

Soon after his discharge, Simms robbed a gentleman of his watch and 17*l.* on Blackheath; and likewise robbed a lady of a considerable sum near the same spot. Being followed to Lewisham, he was obliged to quit his horse, when he presented two pistols to his pursuers; by which he intimidated them so as to effect his escape, though with the loss of his horse.

Repairing to London, he bought another horse, and travelled into Northamptonshire. Putting up at an inn in Towcester, he learnt that a military gentleman had hired a chaise for London; on which he followed the chaise the next morning,

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and kept up with it for several miles. At length the gentleman observing him, said, "Don't ride so hard, sir; you'll soon ride away your whole estate." Simms replied, "Indeed I shall not, for it lies in several counties;" and instantly quitting his horse, he robbed the gentleman of 102 guineas.

He now hastened to London, and soon dissipated his ill-acquired money at a gaming-table; after which he rode out towards Hounslow, and meeting the postilion who had driven the abovementioned gentleman in Northamptonshire, he gave him 5*s.*, begging he would not take notice of having seen him.

A reward being at length offered for apprehending Simms, he entered on board a privateer; but, being soon weary of a seafaring life, he deserted, and enlisted for a soldier. While in this station in life he knocked out the eye of a woman at a house of ill fame, for which he was apprehended and lodged in New Prison.

Soon after this, Justice De Veil admitted him an evidence against some felons, his accomplices, who were transported, and Simms regained his liberty.

He was next apprehended for robbing a baker's shop, on which charge he was convicted: and being sentenced to be transported, he was accordingly shipped on board one of the transport vessels, which sailed round to the Isle of Wight, where Simms formed a plan for seizing the captain and effecting an escape; but as a strict watch was kept on him, it was not possible for him to carry this plan into execution.

The ship arriving at Maryland, Simms was sold for 12 guineas; but he found an early opportunity of deserting from the purchaser. Having learnt that his master's horse was left tied to a gate at some distance from the dwelling-house, he privately decamped in the night, and rode thirty miles in four hours, through extremely bad roads; so powerfully was he impelled by his fears and a desire to escape the hands of justice.

He now found himself by the sea-side, and, turning the horse loose, he hailed a vessel just under sail, from which a boat was sent to take him on board. As hands were very scarce, the captain offered him 6 guineas, which terms were readily accepted, to work his passage to England.

There being at this time a war between England and France, the ship was taken by a French privateer, but soon afterwards ransomed; and Simms entered on board a man of war, where his diligence promoted him to the rank of a midshipman; but the ship had no sooner arrived at Plymouth than he quitted his duty, and, travelling to Bristol, he spent the little money he possessed in the most profligate manner.

His next step was to enter himself on board a coasting-vessel at Bristol; but he had not been long at sea when, on a dispute with the captain, he threatened to throw him overboard, and would have carried his threats into execution if the other seamen had not prevented him. Simms asked for his wages when the ship returned to port; but the captain threatening imprisonment for his ill behaviour at sea, he decamped with only 8*s.* in his possession.

Fertile in contrivances, he borrowed a bridle and saddle, and, having stolen a horse near a field in the city, went once more on the highway: taking the road to London, he robbed the passengers in the Bristol coach, those in another carriage, and a single lady and gentleman, and repaired to London with the booty.

Having put up the stolen horse at an inn in Whitechapel, from soon afterwards seeing it advertised he was afraid to fetch it; on which he stole another horse, from which, as he was riding through Tyburn turnpike, the keeper, knowing the horse, brought the rider to the ground. Simms presented a pistol, and threatened the man with instant death if he presumed to detain him. By this daring mode of procedure he obtained his liberty; and having made a tour round the fields, he entered London by another road.

On the following day he went to Kingston-upon-Thames, where he stole another horse, and robbed several people on his return to London; and the day afterwards he robbed seven farmers of 18*l.* His next depredations were in Epping Forest, where he committed five robberies in one day, but soon spent what he thus gained among women of ill fame.

Thinking it unsafe to remain longer in London, he set out with a view of going to Ireland; but he had rode only to Barnet when he crossed the country to Harrow-on-the-Hill, where he robbed

a gentleman named Sleep of his money and watch, and would have taken his wig, but that the other said it was of no value, and hoped, as it was cold weather, his health might not be endangered by being deprived of it. The robber threatened Mr. Sleep's life unless he would swear never to take any notice of the affair; but this the gentleman absolutely refused. Hereupon Simms said, if he had not robbed him two other persons would; and he told him to say "Thomas," if he should meet any people on horse-back.

Soon after this, Mr. Sleep, meeting two men whom he presumed to be accomplices of the highwayman, cried out, "Thomas:" but the travellers paying no regard to him, he was confirmed in his suspicions, and rode after them; and, on his arrival at Hoddesdon Green, he found several persons, all of them in pursuit of the highwayman.

In the mean time Simms rode forward, and robbed the St. Alban's stage; after which he went as far as Hockliffe; but being now greatly fatigued he fell asleep in the kitchen of an inn, whither he was pursued by some light horsemen from St. Alban's, who took him into custody.

Being confined for that night, he was carried in the morning before a magistrate, who committed him to Bedford gaol. By an unaccountable neglect his pistol had not been taken from him, and on his way to prison he attempted to shoot one of his guards: but the pistol missing fire, his hands were tied behind him; and when he arrived at the prison, he was fastened to the floor, with an iron collar round his neck.

Being removed to London by a writ of Habeas corpus he was lodged in Newgate, where he was visited, from motives of curiosity, by numbers of people, whom he amused with a narrative of his being employed to shoot the king. On this he was examined before the Duke of Newcastle, then Secretary of State; but his whole story bearing evident marks of fiction, he was remanded to Newgate, to take his trial at the ensuing Old Bailey sessions. Ten indictments were preferred against him: but being convicted for the robbery of Mr. Sleep, it was not thought necessary to arraign him on any other of the indictments.

After conviction he behaved with great

unconcern, and, in some instances, with insolence. Having given a fellow-prisoner a violent blow, he was chained to the floor. He appeared shocked when the warrant for his execution arrived; but soon resuming his former indifference, he continued it even to the moment of execution, when he behaved in the most thoughtless manner. He was hanged at Tyburn on the 16th of November, 1747.

Naval and Military Torture. N^o 5. HORRIBLE INSTANCES OF MILITARY TORTURE.

THE following facts are drawn from "A Letter addressed to the People of England, by John Teesdale, late of the 28th Regiment of Foot, and Staff Serjeant at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst, on the Use of the Cat-o'-nine-Tails in the British Army, describing Horrible Cases of Cruelty, and showing that Flogging is not necessary for the Maintenance of Discipline." The author, it seems, served for a long period in the above regiment, and held the rank of Serjeant for upwards of twenty years; and in his "Introduction" he says, "The cases herein cited are almost entirely confined to those of the regiment in which I served for twenty-three years. With two exceptions, every instance of cruelty recorded in this work occurred under my personal observation, and I solemnly pledge my word for the truth of all my assertions; and, however revolting to the feelings it may be to peruse such horrible cases of barbarity, I implore the earnest attention of my countrymen to the succeeding pages. It is only by exposing past infamies that we can hope to prevent the perpetration of future atrocities. I am convinced, that were the horrors of the savage system of Military Torture fully known to the humane and intelligent people of England, they would, with one voice, demand its abolition." We immediately proceed to place before the reader a portion of Serjeant Teesdale's harrowing narrative.

The author of this work enlisted into the Royal Army of Reserve in August, 1803. The first case of corporal punishment he was called upon to witness, was that of a recruit of the tenth battalion of reserve stationed at George's Square Barracks, Devonport, in the following

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month of September. This young lad was tried by a regimental court-martial, "for absenting himself from parade; and selling a shirt, being part of his regimental necessaries." On the 24th of September, 1803, a general parade of the battalion took place for muster. When the usual inspection of companies was over, the regiment was formed into square, the triangles were set up in the centre, and the prisoner, escorted by a corporal and part of the regimental guard, was marched in. The proceedings of the court-martial were then read by the Adjutant, the sentence of which was, that the unfortunate youth should receive three hundred lashes in the usual manner. The lad stripped, though reluctantly, the tears running down his cheeks at the revolting sight of the torture poles and instruments, which were before his eyes. The drum-major, assisted by the drummers, corded his arms and legs to the triangles: a cloth cap was then fixed on his head, with a peak in the front for a drummer to lay hold of, so that the delinquent's head might be kept close to the torturing frame. Before the first drummer commenced his brutalizing work, the lad looked round, sobbing, crying, and most piteously imploring forgiveness; but, alas! a deaf ear was turned to his supplications; the word "Go on!" was given. My readers will observe, that this square, composed chiefly of recruits, all young lads, amounting to about six hundred in number, had never before seen the flesh torn from the back of a fellow-creature. This youth had scarcely received fifty lashes, when first one, and then another, fainted in the ranks, and were consequently assisted to the rear. The poor fellow received a moiety of the punishment awarded; and during the whole time he was undergoing the punishment, his cries and shrieks, from intense agony of body and mind, were truly pitiable. He was conducted to Stoke Hospital, exclaiming as he went along, "My heart is broken, I shall never get over this." The poor lad however recovered, and the day after his discharge from the hospital he deserted.

During our stay at Fermoy, in 1804, two of the Grenadier company absented themselves from the regiment. A short time only elapsed before they were brought back prisoners, and consequently tried for

desertion. They were sentenced each to receive a thousand lashes, in such manner as the commanding officer might think proper! They were brought out the day after trial; the parade was commanded by a Major Groves. The first of these unfortunate men was tied up, and received six hundred and fifty lashes, counted slowly. The sufferer bore the horrible infliction without uttering a syllable, except towards the close of his punishment, and except begging now and then for a drink of water. The other man received six hundred—following the example of the former. What the characters of these men were prior to their desertion, the author is unable to state, but he will venture to say, that two more desperate and hardened men than they turned out to be *afterwards*, never existed: drunkenness and crime were their whole study; so that from one end of the year to the other they were either in confinement for punishment, or in hospital from the merciless flagellations inflicted. At the same barracks I remember the circumstance of a pay-serjeant, who had held that situation for ten years, being tried by court-martial for defalcation in his accounts with the Captain. He was sentenced to be reduced to the rank and pay of a private; to be placed under stoppages until the sum deficient was made good; and, further, to receive three hundred lashes. This brave man had been then upwards of fifteen years in the service, and was considered one of the most respectable non-commissioned officers in the regiment; but the excellence of his former character availed him not—he was tied up in pursuance of his sentence, and received two hundred lashes. Shortly after the above occurrence, another pay-serjeant, who was similarly circumstanced (being in arrears with his Captain), and dreading the ignominious punishment likely to overtake him, shot himself in his barrack-room. A corporal also of the Light Company, who had been entrusted with the "abstracts" of his messmates, finding himself a few shillings in debt, and being unable to account for the money, put an end to his existence in the same manner.

At the latter end of October, 1805, the regiment embarked at the Cove of Cork, to form part of the expedition to Germany, under Lord Cathcart. On

New-year's-day 1806, we disembarked at Broomila having been ten weeks on board transports crowded to excess; and on the 16th of January we reached the city of Bremen, where the troops were quartered upon the inhabitants, some two, some four, and others ten, in a house. During our stay in Bremen, which was about six weeks, we had a parade to attend, morning and afternoon. The officers commanding companies had received orders from the Major to inspect their men closely, and turn out such as they found dirty to the front: a square was then formed for punishment, and the men who had been found fault with were marched in, tried by a drum-head court-martial, and flogged to a man, without reference to character. There was no remission of sentence—no, not a lash! I have known from ten to fifteen and twenty-five young fellows flogged at a parade under this frivolous pretext, and this practice was continued at every parade until it was put a stop to by a higher authority. But my readers will probably ask, how it happened that this wanton, cruel, and barbarous treatment was checked at last? I will explain the cause: early in the month of February, a general parade of the regiment was ordered for the inspection of Brigadier-General the Honourable Edward Paget (now General Sir Edward Paget). After he had inspected the men under arms, his attention was drawn to the number of soldiers returned in the field state—viz., “Sick, present.” They were formed two deep in the rear of the battalion in their watch coats. The General commenced at the right of the squad—“What’s the matter with you?” “Punished,” was the reply. To another the same question; “Punished” was again the answer: and these interrogations were continued, until it was ascertained that most of the men returned “Sick, present,” had been flogged. The cruel system was then put a stop to, and I am decidedly of opinion that this was done through the interference of General Paget. At one of the above flogging parades, when we had been nearly two hours under arms witnessing the horrible scene of bloodshed, and when the hands and feet of every soldier in the regiment were benumbed from cold, and from remaining for such a length of time in one position; I say, at one of these parades,

a brave old soldier, whose character was unimpeachable, happened to cough in the ranks. He turned his head a little on one side to discharge the phlegm, and was instantly ordered into the centre of the square, stripped of his accoutrements, and placed in front of the halberts. He went through the mock form of a drum-head court-martial: Major Browne swore he was unsteady in the ranks; and on the *ipse dixit* of that tyrant, he was sentenced to receive fifty lashes! After the brave veteran was tied up, he implored hard for mercy, adding that he had been twenty years in the service, and was never till then brought to the halberts. The pale, worn, and dejected appearance of this man, from age and length of service, was in itself sufficient to excite compassion and sympathy even had he been guilty of a crime; his appeal was useless, he had every lash of his sentence, weeping and crying most bitterly during the infliction: and although he only received fifty lashes, he never looked up afterwards. It had wounded his best feelings; he was continually in hospital, and but a little time elapsed before he was discharged. Another brave soldier, who had been many years in the corps, received five hundred lashes, on a cold frosty morning, at the same place, on a charge of having been drunk on duty. A serjeant, also, at the same parade, was reduced to the ranks, and three hundred lashes were inflicted upon him for drunkenness. The former gave way to inebriety to such an extent, that he was shortly afterwards found dead in his tent.

The next case I shall proceed to notice, is that of a most wanton, cruel, and unwarrantable abuse of power on the part of an officer in the command of troops on board a transport, attended with loss of life. The period to which I am now alluding, was after the return of the regiment from Sweden, in the month of July, 1808, on board the brig Henry Addington, being at that time under orders for Portugal. On Sunday the 7th, we were becalmed off Beachy Head: the tide setting in strong against us, it was considered advisable to bring the vessel to anchor. After the officers had dined, and taken their quantum of wine and grog, or perhaps both, two of them made their appearance on the quarter-deck: one of the soldiers, who had just been to the

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scuttle-butt, which was lashed between the gangway and main chains, either by drinking too freely of his accustomed beverage, or taking too much time over it, so much offended one of these subalterns (Lieutenant West), that he instantly ordered him forward. The man did not leap quickly enough from the quarter-deck to please the officer, upon which he called him back, and ordered one of the drummers to start him with a rope's end. The man received a dozen stripes, when one of the men who had been an eye-witness of this occurrence, observed to another of his comrades, that such treatment was cruel. Lieutenant West overheard some one murmuring; he went down to the cabin and reported the circumstance to the officer in command (Captain the Honourable Edward Mullins), who instantly ordered a parade, at which every soldier on board attended. They were formed two deep. The Captain then commenced at the starboard side of the quarter-deck, asking each man individually, who it was that felt displeased at the conduct of Lieutenant West? They answered in succession in the negative, until the inquiry was drawing near the unfortunate youth who is the subject of this statement. His name was Joseph Lindsey, a native of Trowbridge, in Wiltshire; his age was twenty-three—height five feet nine inches—complexion fair, and in his figure and person he was remarkably handsome. In fact, he was one of the finest soldiers in the British army. While this Captain Mullins was interrogating the men, with a view to ascertain who it was that murmured at the starting, which the poor man had received for drinking at the scuttle-butt, this unfortunate lad said, "It was me, sir: I thought it hard, and named it to one of my comrades." Tie him up instantly, vociferated the Captain; "sic volo, sic Jubeo;" start *him* also! Mark! here was no trial—no form of proceeding, save the tyrant's will. The poor youth was accordingly lashed up—the drummer (Roberts) with a rope's end commenced his savage work, striking as hard as he could; but, scarcely had the sufferer received a moiety of the stripes ordered, when he disentangled himself from the ropes and jumped overboard. Two of the men (Lofties and Reilly), who were good swimmers, leaped over the

ship's side with a view to save him, and nearly lost their lives in the attempt, and although the jolly-boat was hoisted out for the same purpose, yet, ere it could reach poor Lindsey, he sunk to rise no more, and with his bruised and bloody back he met a watery grave! I shall ever remember the intense silence that prevailed throughout the troops on this occasion for some minutes, and the looks of sorrow that were visible in the countenance of every soldier, together with their expressions of general disgust at the conduct of the officer in command. By this cruel act of injustice the service was deprived of a man, who would have proved one of its brightest ornaments, and this, too, ere the bloom of boyhood had left his cheek. Reader, is it not time that a stop should be put to such tyranny? Inhabitants of Trowbridge, what think you of the treatment of your unfortunate townsman?

The 28th regiment disembarked at Peniche Bay, in Portugal, on the 26th day of August, 1808, in new clothing, supplied each with seventy-eight rounds of ammunition, and three days' provision. The heat was intolerable. Before we had been an hour on the march, one of the company to which I belonged, a man named Harris, fell dead on the road. We continued our course, and about six in the evening bivouacked. Here I was ordered for duty, and the pay-serjeant of the company likewise. Morgan, the pay-serjeant, was told off for the commissariat guard, and the author, for Lord William Bentinck's; but when relieved from his lordship's guard, near Torres Vedras, what was my astonishment to find that my pay-serjeant (Morgan) had been tried by a court-martial for being drunk on the commissary guard! He was brought out the same afternoon (I mean the afternoon of the day on which I was relieved). A square was formed—minutes of the court-martial were read, and it appeared that he was sentenced to be reduced to the ranks, and, further, to receive three hundred lashes. I wished I could have remained on duty another twenty-four hours, so that I might not have been an eye-witness of the scene. I knew under whose animosity the prisoner had fallen, and was fully aware of the tyrant's individual hatred of poor Morgan. It gives me pain to recite the circumstance, for

Morgan was a man who had been educated for the pulpit—he was principal usher at a boarding school, not far from Bristol, when he entered the army, and was a man of tender feeling, of undeviating and uncompromising principles, scrupulously honest and upright in all his dealings. After the badge, which distinguished him as a serjeant had been cut off, and before he was tied up, two of the Captains stepped to the front and earnestly implored the remittance of his corporal punishment; but Major Browne declared, that notwithstanding the excellent character which had been given by many officers in his favour, he would not forgive him a lash. “Strip, sir!” said this merciless tyrant, with a stentorian voice. He added, “Drum-major, do your duty!” with an emphasis that horrified my heart; and although the thermometer at the time, in the shade, stood at ninety-six, yet this unfortunate man received two hundred lashes, inflicted most severely! During the performance of this brutalizing torture, there was not a man, and but few officers, that did not sob at the pangs and sufferings of this poor man. He was conveyed to the general hospital at Queluz, which at that time was scarcely formed. On the 15th of September we encamped on the plains of Queluz, about two leagues from Lisbon. On the 20th, I was sent to Bellam for stores, and on my return called at the general hospital. Poor Morgan was still alive, but totally insensible; no hopes were entertained of his recovery; this was the last sight I had of him; how long he lived after, let the muster-rolls of the regiment answer. In this hospital he remained, till death released him from his horrible sufferings.

There is yet, my readers, another case of cruelty, at the recollection of which my mind recoils with anguish; nevertheless I will relate it. It is that of an idiot, named John Napham, who joined the 28th in the military barracks, Gosport, after our return from Waterloo, in 1816. He had not been long with the regiment when he absented himself, and was away for many days. I cannot state positively whether he was brought back a prisoner or whether he returned of his own accord. Be this as it may, he was tried by a court-martial and punished, under the command of Colonel Browne, who had about this time effected an exchange with Sir Charles

Belson. This unfortunate lad, Napham, accompanied the corps to Malta in 1817; he had not been long in that island before he committed himself by selling or making away with part of his regimental necessaries. He was, as a matter of course, brought to trial, and sentenced to two hundred lashes, the whole of which were inflicted. He was then conducted to the hospital in the Cottonera district; from which he had only been discharged a few days till he was detected in a repetition of the crime; upon this occasion he was sentenced to two hundred more lashes. When this lad stripped in the barrack-yard at St. Salvador, his back presented the most appalling spectacle, from the recent floggings he had undergone; but notwithstanding the mangled and unhealed state of his lacerated flesh, this unmerciful tyrant ordered him, after the delinquent had received fifty on the back, right and left, be it observed (that is, to make the punishment more awfully agonizing, the first twenty-five were inflicted by a right handed drummer, the second by a left), after this, I say, this poor fellow-creature received a hundred lashes on the breech, and fifty more on the calves of his legs!!! Before this unfortunate lad had received the first twenty-five, the blood ran down his back in streams; his cries and groans I shall ever remember, and during the punishment on his lower parts his shrieks rent the air. Here was usage for a poor creature in his state of mind! One proof of this lad's idiotcy is, that when he left the regiment at the military barracks, Gosport, he went home to the village he was enlisted in, and, if I am not mistaken, was brought back as a deserter by the very party that brought him to the corps as a recruit. After this poor insane mortal recovered from his last flagellation, he was discharged as “unfit for service!”

“AN OWRE TRUE TALE.”

At a gin palace in one of the great northern thoroughfares in London is the following appropriate notice: “A burial club here; fees are taken at the bar.”

London: Printed, for the Proprietor, by Thomas Foale, 2, Upper Southampton Street, Pentonville; and Published by WILLIAM MARK CLARK, 19, Warwick Lane; and J. PATTIE, High Street, Bloomsbury: and to be had of all Booksellers.

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OR.

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 41.

DECEMBER 7, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

EXECUTION OF A CULPRIT' AFTER NUMEROUS ESCAPES FROM
JUSTICE.



[COOPER AND HIS ACCOMPLICES ATTACKING A MAN CARRYING A SHOULDER OF VEAL.]

JAMES COOPER was allowed to run a long race of villany before he was overtaken by the arm of justice: he was guilty of several barbarous murders, and had committed many daring robberies, besides the crime for which he suffered; and what renders him still more criminal, is his having had a fair chance, in the outset of life, of living by honest means. He was the son of a butcher at Lexton, in Essex; and his father, who had wholly neglected his education, employed him in his own business when he was only ten years of age. Having lived with his father till he was twenty-two, he married, and opened a shop at Colchester, where he dealt largely as a butcher, and likewise became a cattle-jobber.

At the end of thirteen years Cooper, through neglect, found his losses so considerable that he could no longer carry on business; and one of his creditors arresting him, he was thrown into the King's Bench prison; but as his wife still carried on trade, he was enabled to purchase the rules. Soon after this, the marshal of the King's Bench died, and he was obliged to pay for the rules a second time.

He now sued for an allowance of the groats, and they were paid him for about a year; when, through neglect of payment, he got out of prison, and took a shop in the Mint, Southwark, where he carried on business successfully, 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, besides being fined 100*l.* for neglect, and the debtor was discharged.

Cooper having now obtained his liberty, and his wife dying about the same time, and leaving four children, he sent for them to London; and not long afterwards he married a widow, who had an equal number of children.

He now unfortunately became acquainted with Duncalf and Burrell, the former a notorious thief, and the latter a soldier in the guards; and these men advising him to commence robbing, he fatally complied with their solicitations, and was concerned with them in the robberies enumerated in the annexed list.

Between Stockwell and Clapham they overtook two men, one of whom, speaking of the probability of being attacked by footpads, drew a knife, and swore he would kill any man who should presume to molest them. The parties all drank together on the road, and then proceeded towards London, when Cooper threw down the man that was armed with the knife, and took it from him, and then robbed him and his acquaintance of a watch, about 20*s.*, and their handkerchiefs.

Their next robbery was on Mr. James, a tailor, whom they stopped on the road to Dulwich, and took from him his watch and money. He gave an immediate alarm, which occasioned a pursuit; but the thieves effected an escape. Two of the three robbers wearing soldiers' clothes, Mr. James presumed that they were of the guards, and going to the parade in St. James's park he fixed on two soldiers as the parties who had robbed him. As it happened that these men had been to Dulwich about the time that the robbery had been committed, they were sent to prison, and brought to trial, but were fortunately acquitted.

Cooper and his infamous accomplices in iniquity being in waiting for prey near Bromley, Duncalf saw a gentleman riding along the road; and, kneeling down, he

seized the bridle, and obliged him to quit his horse, when the others robbed him of his watch and 2 guineas and a half.

Meeting soon afterwards with a man and woman on one horse, near Farnborough, in Kent, they ordered them to quit the horse, robbed them of nearly 40*s.*, and then permitted them to pursue their journey. Soon after the commission of this robbery, they heard the voices of a number of people who were in pursuit of them; on which Cooper turned about, and they passed him, but seized on Burrell, one of them exclaiming, "This is one of the rogues that just robbed my brother and sister!" On this, Burrell fired a pistol in the air, to intimidate the pursuers, among whom were two soldiers, whom Duncalf and Cooper encountered at the same instant, and wounded one of them so dangerously by his own sword, which Duncalf wrested from his hand, that he was sent an invalid to Chelsea, where he finished the remainder of his days. The brother of the parties robbed, and a countryman, warmly contested the matter with the thieves till the former was thrown on the ground, where Burrell beat him so violently that he died on the spot. The robbers now took their way to London, where they arrived without being farther pursued.

Cooper and Duncalf then went to a farm-house, and stole all the fowls that were at roost, Duncalf saying to his companion, "The first man we meet must buy my chicken." They had not travelled far before they met with a man whom they asked to buy the fowls. He said he did not want any; but they seized his horse's bridle, knocked him down, and robbed him of above 12*l.*, his hat, wig, watch, and great coat.

In one of their walks towards Camberwell, they met a man of fortune named Ellish, whose servant was lighting him home from a club. They placed pistols to the gentleman's breast, but his servant attempted to defend him; on which they knocked him down with a bludgeon; and the master still hesitating to deliver his money, they threw him on the ground, and robbed him of his money, watch, and other articles; and then tied him and his servant back to back, and threw them into a ditch, where they lay in a helpless manner, till a casual passenger released them from their pitiable plight.

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The villains now returned towards London, and meeting a man with a sack of stolen venison they robbed him of his great coat and 1*l.* 16*s.*; and a few nights afterwards they robbed a man of a few shillings on the Hammersmith road, and destroyed a lantern that he carried, that he might not be able to pursue them.

On their return home they met a man on horseback, whom they would have robbed; but he suddenly turned his horse, rode to Kensington turnpike, and gave an alarm, while the thieves got through a hedge and concealed themselves in a field. In the interim, the man whom they had robbed of a few shillings brought a number of people to take the thieves; but not finding them, though within their hearing, the man went towards his home alone; on which the rogues pursued him, took a stick from him, and beat him severely, for attempting to raise the country on them.

Immediately afterwards they hastened towards Brompton, and stopped a gentleman, whom they robbed of his watch and money. The gentleman had a dog, which flew at the thieves; but Cooper contrived to coax the animal, and then immediately killed him.

Their next expedition was to Paddington, where they concealed themselves behind a hedge, till they observed two persons on horseback, whom they robbed of their watches, great coats, and 12 guineas; and though an immediate alarm was given, and many persons pursued them, they escaped over the fields as far as Hampstead Heath, whence they came to London.

Soon afterwards they stopped a gentleman between Kingsland and Stoke Newington, who whipped Duncalf so severely that he must have yielded, had not Cooper struck the gentleman to the ground. They then robbed him of above 17*l.*, and, tying his hands behind him, threw him over a hedge, in which situation he remained till the following morning, when some milkmen relieved him.

Meeting a man between Knightsbridge and Brompton, who had a shoulder of veal with him, they demanded his money; instead of delivering which, the man knocked down Cooper three times with his veal: but the villains soon got the advantage, and robbed the man of his hat and meat; but they could find no money in his possession.

Cooper being incensed against the person who had first arrested him, who was Mrs. Pearson, of Hill-farm, in Essex, determined to rob her; on which he and his accomplices went to the place, and, learning that she was on a visit, waited till her return at night, when they stopped her and her servant, and robbed them of 8 guineas. On the following day, Mrs. Pearson went to a magistrate, and charged a person named Loader with having committed this robbery; but, it appearing that this man was a prisoner for debt at the time, the charge necessarily fell to the ground.

Cooper and his associates meeting a farmer named Jackson in a lane near Croydon, he violently opposed them; on which they knocked him down, and dragged him into a field, and, after robbing him of his watch and money, tied him to a tree, and turned his horse loose on a common. For this robbery, two farriers, named Shelton and Kellet, were apprehended; and being tried at the next assizes for Surrey, the latter was acquitted; but the former was convicted on the positive oath of the person robbed, and suffered death. What an awful warning to prosecutors and witnesses, showing them that they cannot be too cautious in giving their evidence: many lives have been sacrificed to evidence arising from mistake.

The three accomplices being on the road near Dulwich met two gentlemen on horseback, one of whom got from them by suddenly spurring his spirited horse, while the other, attempting to do so, 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 returned to relieve his friend; but the robbers first knocked him down, and then shot him. Having stripped him of what money he had, they hastened towards London; but a suspicion arising that Duncalf was concerned in this robbery and murder, he was taken into custody on the following day; and Cooper being taken up on his information, Burrell surrendered, and was admitted an evidence for the crown.

William Duncalf was a native of Ireland, and had received a decent education. He was apprenticed to a miller, who would not keep him on account of his knavish disposition; and, being unable to

procure employment in Ireland, he came to London, where he officiated as a porter on the quays. Extravagant in his expenses, and abandoned in principle, he commenced smuggler; but, being taken into custody by the custom-house officers, he gave information against some other smugglers; by which he procured his discharge, and was made a custom-house officer. A variety of complaints respecting the neglect of his duty being preferred to the commissioners of the customs, he was dismissed, on which he again commenced smuggler. Among his other offences, he alleged a crime against a custom-house officer, who was transported in consequence of Duncalf's perjury.

We have already recounted many of his notorious crimes committed in conjunction with Cooper and Burrell; but he did not live to suffer the punishment he merited; for he had not long been in prison before the flesh rotted from his bones, and he died a dreadful monument of divine vengeance, though not before he had acknowledged the number and enormity of his crimes.

Cooper frequently expressed himself in terms of regret, that a villain so abandoned as Burrell should escape the hands of justice. In other respects his conduct was very resigned, and becoming his unhappy situation. He acknowledged that he had frequently deliberated with Burrell on the intended murder of Duncalf, lest he should become an evidence against them; but he now professed his happiness that this murder had not been added to the black catalogue of his crimes. When brought to trial he pleaded guilty, and confessed all the circumstances of the murder; and, after sentence had been passed against him, he appeared sincerely penitent for the errors of his past life. Being visited by a clergyman and his son, who had known him in his better days, he was questioned respecting the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, which he denied; but he had no sooner done so than he was seized with the utmost remorse of mind, which the goaler attributed to the dread of being hung in chains; and, questioning him on this subject, he said that he was indifferent about the disposal of his body, but wished to communicate something to the clergyman who attended him; and, when he had an opportunity, he confessed that his

uneasiness arose from the consciousness of having denied the robbery of Mrs. Pearson, of which, he was really guilty. He was executed on Kennington Common on the 26th of August, 1750.

JOSEPH BLAKE, ALIAS BLUESKIN.

THIS fellow was one of the most notorious and daring thieves of his day. He had offended in all the steps of villany, beginning in his boyhood as a pickpocket; but he confined himself to none, appearing in the streets, in houses, and on the highway, as booty presented itself to his grasp: his enormities, indeed, were the subject of public conversation, and rendered him the dread of the traveller.

Joseph Blake was a native of London: he was sent to school by his parents for the space of six years; but he made little progress in learning, having a very early propensity to acts of dishonesty. While at school he formed an acquaintance with a thief named William Blewit, afterwards entered into Jonathan Wild's gang, and became one of the most notorious villains of the age. He acquired the nickname of Blueskin from the dark complexion of his countenance.

No sooner had Blake left school than he commenced pickpocket; and he had been in all the prisons for felons before he was fifteen years of age. From this practice he turned street-robber, and associated with Oaky, Levey, and many other villains, who acted under the directions of Jonathan Wild. For some of their robberies they were taken into custody, and Blake was admitted an evidence against his companions, who were convicted.

In consequence of these convictions, Blake claimed his liberty and part of the reward allowed by government; but he was informed by the court that he had no right to either, because he was not a voluntary evidence; since, so far from having surrendered, he made an obstinate resistance, and was much wounded before he was taken; and therefore he must find security for his good behaviour, or be transported.

Not being able to give the requisite security, he was lodged in Wood Street compter, where he remained a considerable time, during which Jonathan Wild allowed him 3s. 6d. a-week. At length he prevailed on two gardeners to be his

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bail; but the court at the Old Bailey hesitating to take their security, they went before Sir John Fryer, who took their recognizance for Blake's good behaviour for seven years. A gentleman who happened to be present at Sir John's asked how long it might be before Blake would appear again at the Old Bailey; to which another gentleman replied, "Three sessions;" and his conjecture turned out to be correct.

Blake had no sooner obtained his liberty than he was concerned in several robberies with Jack Sheppard, and particularly in one for which two brothers named Brightwell were tried. The footpad robberies and the burglaries they committed were very numerous; but the fact for which Blake suffered was the robbery of a tradesman named Kneebone.

At the Old Bailey sessions in October, 1724, Joseph Blake, otherwise Blueskin, was indicted for breaking into and entering the dwelling-house of William Kneebone, and stealing therefrom one hundred and eight yards of woollen cloth, value 36*l.*, and other goods. The prosecutor having sworn that the bars of his cellar-window had been cut, and that the cellar-door, which had been bolted and padlocked, had been broken open, acquainted Jonathan Wild with what had happened, who went to Blake's lodgings with two other persons; but Blake refusing to open his door, it was broken open by Quilt Arnold, one of Wild's men.

Blake now drew a penknife, and swore he would kill the first man that entered. Arnold, entering, said, "Then I am the first man, and Mr. Wild is not far behind; and if you do not deliver your penknife immediately, I will chop your arm off." The prisoner then dropped the knife, Wild entered and had him taken into custody.

As the parties were conveying Blake to Newgate, they came by the house of the prosecutor; on which Wild said to the prisoner, "There's the ken;" and the latter replied, "Say no more of that, Mr. Wild, for I know I am a dead man; but what I fear is, that I shall afterwards be carried to Surgeon's Hall and anatomized." Wild said, "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 found the culprit guilty.

As soon as the verdict was given, Blake addressed the court in the following terms: "On Wednesday morning last Jonathan Wild said to Simon Jacobs, a fellow-prisoner, 'I believe you will not bring 40*l.* this time: I wish Joe (meaning me) was in your case; but I'll do my endeavour to bring you off as a single felon.' And then turning to me, he said, 'I believe you must die; I'll send you a good book or two, and provide you a coffin, and you shall not be anatomized.'"

Wild was to have been an evidence against this malefactor; but on the former going to visit the other in the Bail-dock, previous to his trial, Blake suddenly drew a clasped knife, with which he cut Wild's throat, and thereby prevented his giving evidence; but, as the knife was blunt, the wound, though dangerous, did not prove mortal: Jonathan was reserved for a different fate, as we have already shown in the details of his criminal career, in one of our previous Numbers.

While under sentence of death, Blake did not evince a concern proportioned to his calamitous situation. When asked if he was advised to commit the violence he had done on Wild, he said, No; a sudden thought entered his mind, or he should have provided himself with a knife which would have cut off his head at once.

Blake was executed at Tyburn on the 11th of November, 1724.

WILLIAM HAWKSWORTH.

This criminal was born of very reputable parents, who gave him such an education as was proper to qualify him for a creditable trade; but being of a disposition too unsettled to think of business, he enlisted for a soldier, in the hope of being promoted in the army. After he had served some time, and found himself disappointed in his expectation of preferment, he made interest to obtain his discharge, and then entered into the service of a gentleman, with whom he behaved in a proper manner for a considerable time; but, not being content with his situation, he repaired to London, and again 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, till an unexpected incident occasioned the crime for which he suffered.

At the period of which we are writing, 1722-3, the soldiery were frequently subject to the contempt and derision of the populace; and while Hawksworth was marching, with other soldiers, to relieve the guard in St. James's Park, a man named Ransom, who had a woman in his company, jostled him, and cried, "What a stir is here about King George's soldiers!" Hawksworth, imagining that the woman had incited him to this behaviour, quitted the rank, and gave her a blow on the face. Irritated thereby, Ransom called him a puppy, and demanded the reason of his behaviour to the woman.

The term of reproach enraged Hawksworth to such a degree, that he knocked the other down with his musket, and then the soldiers marched on to relieve the guard. In the mean time the crowd of people gathered round Ransom, and, finding he was much wounded, put him in a chair, and sent him to a surgeon, who examined him, and found his skull fractured to such a degree that there were no hopes of his recovery; and he died in a few hours.

A person who had been witness to what passed in the Park, now went to the Savoy; and, having learnt the name of the offender, caused Hawksworth to be taken into custody, and he was committed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the following sessions, the colonel whom he had served gave him an excellent character; but the facts were so clearly proved that the jury could not do otherwise than convict him, and judgment of death passed accordingly.

For some time after sentence he flattered himself with the hope of a reprieve; but when the warrant for his execution arrived, he seemed to give up all hope of life, and and seriously prepared himself to meet his fate. He solemnly averred that Ransom struck him first, and said he did not recollect the circumstance of leaving his rank to strike the blow that occasioned the death of the other. He declared that he had no malice against the deceased, and therefore thought himself acquitted, in his own mind, of the crime of murder. He however behaved in a very contrite manner, and received the sacrament with signs of the sincerest devotion. A few minutes before he was executed, he made a speech to the surrounding multitude, advising them to keep a strict guard over

their passions: he lamented the situation of the common soldiers, who are considered as cowards if they do not resent an insult; and if they do, are liable to be called to endure legal punishment for the consequences that might arise from such resentment. However, he advised his brethren of the army to submit patiently to the indignities that might be offered, and trust to the goodness of God to recompense their sufferings.

Although the crime for which Hawksworth suffered is such as ought not to be pardoned, yet the eye of humanity will drop a tear for the fate of a man who thought himself instigated to strike his victim, not considering, at the moment, that his rash blow would prove fatal.

Hence let us learn to guard against the first impulse of passion; to reflect that reason was given us for the moderation of our feelings, and that the higher considerations of morality and virtue ought to be a perpetual restraint on those violent emotions of the mind; which in numerous instances have led to destruction. That man is guilty of an egregious folly—a notorious weakness, as well as an enormous crime, who will permit the taunting word or aggravating conduct of another to tempt him to the dire commission of murder!

SARAH PRIDDON.

THERE is no state in human nature, in the aggregate, so wretched as that of the prostitute. Seduced, abandoned to an uncertain fate, the unhappy female falls a prey to want; or she must purchase her existence at a price degrading, in the last degree, to the mind of sensibility. Subject to the lust and debauchery of every thoughtless blockhead, she becomes hardened and shameless: hence modesty is put to the blush, by the obscenity of those once pure, perchance, as the sisters and daughters of our own hearth. Every public place swarms with this miserable set of beings, so that thoughtful parents dread to indulge their children with even a visit to any place of public amusement: the unhappy prostitute, heated by drink, acquires false spirits, in order to inveigle men to her purpose; and in so doing, she often takes apparent satisfaction in annoying, by looks and gestures, frequently by indecent language, the virtuous part of an

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audience. The law, while it assumes the guardianship of youth, by suppressing immorality, still permits these wantons to rove uncontrolled among the virtuous as well as the profligate. Nor this alone: the court of a former period of our history has fostered such beings, and given them pre-eminence; while the banquets of high life supplied them with everything which heart could wish! There ought, in public at least, to be some bounds set—some check—to their pernicious example. Is there no means of restraining them, at any rate to the outward show of decency, when in mixed company?

Yet, says the philanthropist, they claim our pity: they do, indeed. The cause, while nature progresses, cannot possibly be removed by human means; but the legislature might probably do more to make the evil less offensive to the tender feelings of public sympathy. It is by some held a necessary evil, tending, in its utmost extent, even to the benefit of the yet virtuous female; but a mind once formed by good precept and example will ever repel a liberty attempted by a profligate man, who is a mere coward when reproved with becoming indignation.

Mrs. Priddon (otherwise Salisbury, the name by which she was best known) was a woman of the town, well acquainted with the Hon. J—— F——; and on the 24th of April, 1723, she was indicted at the Old Bailey for making a violent assault on that gentleman, and stabbing him with a knife in his left breast, thereby inflicting a wound, with an intent to murder him.

It appeared on the trial that Mr. F—— having gone to the Three Tuns tavern, in Chandos Street, Covent Garden, at about midnight, Sarah followed him thither soon afterwards. The drawer, after he had waited on Mr. F——, went to bed; but at two o'clock in the morning he was called up, to draw a pint of Frontignac for Mrs. Salisbury: this he did, and carried it to her with a French roll and knife. The prisoner was then in company and conversation with Mr. F——: the drawer heard them disputing about an Opera ticket which Mr. F—— had presented to her sister, and while they were talking she stabbed him; on which he put his hand to his breast, and said, "Madam, you have wounded me."

No sooner had she committed the fact,

than she appeared sincerely to regret what she had done; and sent for a surgeon, who, finding it necessary to extend the wound, that the blood might flow outwardly, she seemed terrified, and calling out, "O Lord! what are you doing?" fainted away.

On her recovery, she asked Mr. F—— how he did; to which he answered, "Very bad, and worse than you imagine." She endeavoured to console him in the best manner she could, and after some time the parties went away in separate chairs; but not till the wounded gentleman had forgiven her, and saluted her in token of that forgiveness.

The counsel for the prisoner endeavoured to prove that she had no intention of wounding him with *malice propense*, and that what she did, arose from a sudden start of passion, the consequence of his giving an Opera ticket to her sister, with a view to ingratiate her affections and debauch her.

The counsel for the crown ridiculed this idea, and insinuated that a woman of Mrs. Salisbury's character could not be supposed to have any very tender regard for her sister's reputation. They allowed that Mr. F—— had readily forgiven her at the time, but insisted that this was a proof of the placability of his temper, and no argument in her favour. They said, that if the gentleman had died of the wound she would have been deemed guilty of murder, as she had not received the least provocation to commit the crime; and that the event made no difference with respect to the malignity of her intentions.

The jury, having considered the circumstances of the case, found her guilty of assaulting and wounding; but acquitted her of doing it with an intent to murder. In consequence thereof she was sentenced to pay a fine of 100*l.*, to be imprisoned for one year, and then to find security for her good behaviour for two years; but when she had suffered about nine months' imprisonment she died in Newgate, and was buried in the churchyard of Saint Andrew, Holborn.

ROBERT HALLAM.

This individual was a native of London: intended by his parents for a maritime life, they had him instructed in naviga-

tion, and then apprenticed him to the captain of a trading vessel, with whom he served his time with fidelity, and acquired the character of an able seaman. He afterwards served on board several vessels as a mate, and was held in great reputation: had he remained at sea, it is highly probable that his reputation would have been of greater service to him. But on his return to London he married a young woman who was averse to his going again to sea; on which he purchased two of the Gravesend wherries, and continued to get his living on the Thames nine years.

Several children having been gathered about him as the fruits of his marriage, he took a public-house, which was chiefly tended by his wife, while he still pursued his business as proprietor of the Gravesend boats; and the taking an alehouse was an unfortunate circumstance for Hallam; for, by its being frequented by the lowest of the people, and his wife being addicted to drinking, the place was a perpetual scene of riot and confusion.

Hallam, on returning from his business one evening, found his wife intoxicated; and being irritated by this circumstance he expressed himself with great freedom: she replied with some warmth; on which he beat her so as to leave evident marks of his resentment on her face.

Hallam's son now told his father that a waterman, who lodged in the house, frequently slept with his mother; and some persons present likewise hinting that this was probable, from some familiarities they had observed between the woman and the waterman, Hallam charged his wife with being unfaithful to his bed; when she confessed that she had been so; on which he beat her more severely than before.

Not long after this he came home late at night, and knocked at the door; but no one coming to let him in, he procured a ladder, with an intention to enter by the window, when his wife made her appearance and admitted him. On his asking the reason why she did not open the door sooner, she said she had been asleep and did not hear him; but she afterwards confessed that she had a man with her, whom she let out at a back window before she opened the door to her husband.

The infidelity of Hallam's wife tempted him to the like indulgence of irregular passions: he had illicit connexions with

several women, and, in particular, seduced the wife of a waterman, whose domestic happiness had been hitherto unbroken; and such was the effect of this atrocity on the part of Hallam, and disgraceful frailty on the part of his deluded victim, on the feelings of the greater victim, her husband, that he died of a broken heart.

On a particular night Hallam came home very much in liquor, and retired to bed, desiring his wife to undress herself and come to bed likewise. She sat partly undressed on the side of the bed, as if afraid to get in; on which her husband became quite enraged at her paying no regard to what he said. At length she ran down stairs, where he followed her and locked the street-door to prevent her going out. On this she ran up into the dining-room, whither he likewise followed her, and struck her several times. He then went into another room for his cane, and she locked him in.

Enraged at this, he broke open the door, seized her in his arms, and threw her out of the window, with her head foremost, and her back to the ground, so that on her falling her back was broken and her skull fractured, and she instantly expired. A person passing by just before she fell heard her cry out, "Murder! For God's sake! for Christ's sake! for our family's sake! for our children's sake! don't murder me, don't throw me out of the window!"

On being tried for the offence, the jury found Hallam guilty, and he accordingly received sentence of death; but he denied the fact, asserting that she threw herself out at the window before he got into the room; and he persisted in avowing his innocence to the last hour of his life.

After sentence of death, he was visited by his father, to whom he most solemnly declared that he did not throw his wife out of the window, though in other respects he confessed that he had treated her with great severity; and he made an equally solemn declaration to the same effect, to the ordinary of Newgate, at Tyburn, on the 14th of February, 1792, immediately before the awful period of his execution.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 42.

DECEMBER 14, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THEODORE GARDELLE.



[GARDELLE WITH HIS VICTIM AT HIS FEET.]

The individual whose name is given above committed a murder which considerably engaged the public mind; and though in the commission of the act itself there may be some extenuation afforded to the unhappy man, the means he took to conceal it were attended with circumstances truly horrible. We have to lament, that the woman might not have met her death at his hands had she allotted some discretion to the limits of her tongue—a weapon, we may call it, often goading a man to a frenzy of the mind, ending in horror. How earnestly would we entreat the weaker vessel not to run rashly upon the stronger; or, in other words, we would pray of females to let their tongues move in unison with the comfort which, by nature, they were formed to accord to man.

Theodore Gardelle was a foreigner, a man of education and talents in the profession of painting. That he was not a man of a bad disposition, or given to irregularities, appears from Mrs. King's receiving him back as an inmate, after he had once quitted her lodgings.

He was born at Geneva, a city famed for having given birth to great men in both the arts and sciences. He chose the miniature style of painting; and having acquired its first rudiments he went to Paris, where he made great proficiency in the art. He then returned to his native place, and practised his profession for some years with credit and emolument; but, being unhappy in his domestic concerns, he repaired to London, and took lodgings at Mrs. King's, in Leicester Fields, in the year 1760. Some time

afterwards, for the benefit of the purer air, he removed to Knightsbridge; but, finding that place too far from his business, he returned to his former residence, where he pursued his business till the fatal cause arose which brought him to an ignominious death. The particulars of this shocking transaction we have collected partly from evidence adduced for his trial, and partly from the repentant confession of the malefactor.

On Thursday, the 19th of February, 1761, in the morning, the maid got up at about seven o'clock and opened the front parlour windows. There is a front parlour and a back parlour, each of which has a door into the passage from the street-door, and there is also a door that goes out of one into the other: the back parlour was Mrs. King's bed-room, and the door which entered it from the passage was secured on the inside by a drop-bolt, and could not be opened on the outside when locked, though the drop-bolt was not down, because on the outside there was no key-hole. The door into the front parlour was also secured on the inside by Mrs. King when she went to bed, and the door of the front parlour into the passage was left open. When the maid had entered the front parlour by this door, and opened the windows, she went to the passage door of the back parlour, where Mrs. King was abed, and knocked, in order to get the key of the street-door, which Mrs. King took at night into her room. Mrs. King drew up the bolt, and the maid went in; she took the key of the street-door, which she saw lying upon the table by a looking-glass; and her mistress then shut the passage-door and dropped the bolt, and ordered the maid to open the door that communicated with the front parlour, which she did, and went out. She then kindled the fire in the front parlour, that it might be ready when her mistress arose; and about eight o'clock she went up into Gardelle's room, where she found him in a red and green night-gown at work. He gave her two letters, a snuff-box, and a guinea; and desired her to deliver the letters, one of which was directed to one Mozier, in the Haymarket, and the other to a person who kept a snuff-shop at the next door, and to bring him from the latter place a pennyworth of snuff.

The girl took the messages, and went

again to her mistress, telling her what Gardelle had desired her to do; to which her mistress replied, "Nanny, you can't go, for here is nobody to answer at the street-door." The girl being willing to oblige Gardelle, or being for some reason desirous to go out, answered, that Mr. Gardelle would come down and sit in the parlour till she came back. She then went again to Gardelle, and told him what objection her mistress had made, and what she had said to remove it. Gardelle then said he would go down, as she had proposed, and he did so. The girl immediately went on his errand, and left him in the parlour, shutting the street-door after her, and taking the key to let herself in when she returned.

Immediately after the girl was gone out, Mrs. King, hearing the tread of somebody in the parlour, called out, "Who is there?" and at the same time opened her chamber door. Gardelle was at a table, very near the door, having just then taken up a book that lay upon it, which happened to be a French grammar. He had some time before drawn Mr. King's picture, which she wanted to have made very handsome, and had teased him so much about it that the effect was just contrary. It happened, unfortunately, that the first thing she said to him, when she saw it was he whom she had heard walking about in the room, was something reproachful about this picture: Gardelle was provoked at the insult; and, as he spoke English very imperfectly, he, for want of a less improper expression, told her, with some warmth, that she was "an impertinent woman." This threw her into a transport of rage, and she gave him a violent blow with her fist on the breast; so violent, that he says he could not have thought such a blow could have been given by a woman. As soon as the blow was struck, she drew a little back, and at the same instant, he says, he laid his hand on her shoulder and pushed her from him, rather in contempt than anger, or with a design to hurt her; but her foot happening to catch in the floor-cloth, she fell backwards, and her head came with great force against the corner of the bedstead: the blood immediately gushed from her mouth, not in a continued stream, but as if by different strokes of a pump; he instantly ran to her and stooped to raise her, expressing his con-

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cern at the accident; but she pushed him away, and threatened, though in a feeble and interrupted voice, to punish him for what he had done. He was, he says, terrified exceedingly at the thought of being condemned for a criminal act upon her accusation, and again attempted to assist her by raising her up, as the blood still gushed from her mouth in great quantities; but she still exerted all her strength to keep him off, and still cried out, mixing threats with her screams: he then seized an ivory comb with a sharp taper point continued from the back, for adjusting the curls of her hair, which lay upon her toilet, and threatened her in his turn to prevent her crying out; but as she still continued to cry out, though with a voice still fainter and fainter, he struck her with this instrument, probably in the throat, upon which the blood flowed from her mouth in yet greater quantities, and her voice was quite stopped. He then drew the bedclothes over her, to prevent her blood from spreading on the floor, and to hide her from his sight: he stood, he says, some time motionless by her, and then fell down by her side in a swoon. When he came to himself, he perceived the maid was come in: he therefore went out of the room without examining the body to see if the unhappy wretch was quite dead, and his confusion was then so great that he staggered against the wainscot, and hit his head so as to raise a bump over his eye. As no person was in the house but the murdered and murderer while the fact was committed, nothing can be known about it but from Gardelle's own account: the circumstances related above contain the sense of what he related both in his defence, and in the account which he drew up in French to leave behind him, taken together as far as they are consistent; for there are in both several inconsistencies and absurdities, which give reason to suspect they are not true.

But however that may be, all was quiet when the maid returned, which, she says, was in quarter of an hour. She went first into the parlour, where Gardelle had promised to wait till she came back, and saw nobody. She had paid 3*s.* 9*d.* out of the guinea at the snuff-shop, where she had likewise delivered one of the letters; to the other she had no answer; and she laid the change and the snuff-box, with

the snuff she had fetched in it, upon the table: then she went up into Gardelle's room, and found nobody; and by turns she went into every room in the house, except her mistress's chamber, whither she never went but when she called, and found nobody. She then made some water boil in the kitchen, toasted some bread, and sat down to breakfast. In a short time she heard somebody walk over head in the parlour, or passage, and go up stairs, but did not go to see who it was. When she had breakfasted she went and stirred up the fire in the parlour against her mistress got up, and perceived that the snuff and change had been taken from the table: she then went up stairs again to Gardelle's room, to clean and set it to rights, as she used to do, it being then between ten and eleven o'clock. Soon after, Gardelle came down from the garret into his bed-chamber, which somewhat surprised her, as he could have no business that she knew of in the garret. When she first saw him, which was about an hour afterwards, she says, he looked confounded, and blushed exceedingly; and she perceived the bump over his eye, which had a black patch upon it as big as a shilling: he had also changed his dress, and had written another letter, with which he sent her into Great Suffolk Street, and ordered her to wait for an answer; she went directly, and when she returned, which was in about a quarter of an hour, she found him sitting in the parlour, and told him the gentleman would be there in the evening. He then told her that a gentleman had been in the room with her mistress, and that she was gone out with him in a hackney coach. It appears, by this, that Gardelle knew the maid was acquainted with her mistress's character. The maid, however, though she might have believed this story at another time, could not believe it now: she was not absent above a quarter of an hour; she left her mistress in bed, and the time would not have permitted her receiving a gentleman there, her being dressed, a coach being procured, and her having gone out in it: besides, when she came back she knew Gardelle was in her bedroom. This gave her some suspicion, but it was of nothing worse than that Gardelle and her mistress had been in bed together. She went, however, and looked at the door of the chamber, which opened into

the parlour, and which she had opened by her mistress's order, and found it again locked. About one o'clock Mr. Wright's servant, Thomas Pelsey, came and told the maid, at the door, that the beds must be got ready, because his master intended to come hither in the evening; but Pelsey did not go in. The maid still wondered that her mistress did not rise; and supposed that, knowing she came in from her errand while Gardelle was yet in her chamber, she was ashamed to see her. Gardelle, in the mean time, was often up and down stairs; and about three o'clock he sent her with a letter to one Broshet, at the Eagle and Pearl, in Suffolk Street. As he knew that it would be extremely difficult to conceal the murder if the maid continued in the house, he determined that he would, if possible, discharge her; but as the girl could not write, and as he was not sufficiently acquainted with our language to draw a proper receipt, he requested Mr. Broshet, in this letter, to write a receipt for him, and get the maid to sign it, directing her to deliver it to him when he paid her: he did not, however, acquaint her with his design. When Broshet had read the letter, he asked the girl if she knew that Mr. Gardelle was to discharge her; to which she replied in the negative. "Why," says he, "Mrs. King is gone out, and she has given Mr. Gardelle orders to discharge you; for she is to bring a woman home with her." At this the girl was surprised, and smiled, telling Broshet that she knew her mistress was at home. The girl was now confirmed in her first thought, that her mistress was ashamed to see her again; and thus she accounted for the manner of her dismissal. She returned between three and four to Gardelle, whom she found sitting in the parlour with a gentleman whose name she did not know: she continued in the house till between six and seven o'clock in the evening, and then Gardelle paid her 6s. for a fortnight and two days' wages, and gave her 5 or 6s. over; upon which she delivered him the receipt that Broshet had written, took her box, and went away. As she was going out Mr. Wright's servant came again to the door, and she told him that she was discharged, and was then going away; that her mistress had been all day in her bed-room without either victuals or drink, and if he stayed a little after she was gone

he might see her come out: the man, however, could not stay, and Gardelle about seven o'clock was thus left alone in the house.

The first thing he did was to go into the chamber to the body, which, upon examination, he found quite dead; he therefore took off the blankets and sheets with which he had covered it, stripped off the shift, and laid the body quite naked upon the bed. Before this, he said, his lincn was not stained; but it was much stained by his removing the body. He then took the two blankets, the sheet, the coverlet, and one of the curtains, and put them into the water-tub in the back wash-house, to soak, they being all much stained with blood; her shift he carried up stairs, put it in a bag, and concealed it under his bed; his own shirt, now bloody, he pulled off, and locked up in a drawer of his bureau.

When all this was done, he went and sat down in the parlour; and soon after, it being about nine o'clock, Mr. Wright's servant came in without his master, who had changed his mind, and was gone to a gentleman's house in Castle Street. He went up into his room, the garret, and sat there till about eleven o'clock: he then came down, and, finding Gardelle still in the parlour, asked if Mrs. King was come home; if not, who must sit up for her? Gardelle said she was not come home, and he would sit up for her.

In the morning, Friday, when Pelsey came down stairs, he again asked if Mrs. King was come home; and Gardelle told him that she had been at home, but was gone again. He then asked how he came by the hurt on his eye; and he said he got it by cutting some wood to light the fire in the morning. Pelsey then went about his master's business, and at night was again let in by Gardelle, who, upon being asked, said he would sit up that night also.

The next morning, Saturday, Pelsey again inquired for Mrs. King; and Gardelle, though he had professed to sit up for her but the night before, now told him she was gone to Bath or Bristol; yet, strange as it may seem, no suspicion of murder appears to have been entertained up to this period.

On Saturday, Mozier, an acquaintance of Gardelle's, who had been also intimate with Mrs. King, and had spent the even-

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ing with her the Wednesday before the murder, came by appointment about two or three o'clock, having promised to go with her that evening to the Opera. He was let in by Gardelle, who told him that Mrs. King was gone to Bath or Bristol, as he had told Pelsey. This man, and another acquaintance of Gardelle's, perceiving that he was chagrined, as they thought, and dispirited, seem to have imagined that Mrs. King's absence was the cause, and that if they could get him another girl they should cure him; and having picked up a prostitute in the Haymarket, they brought her that very Saturday to Gardelle, at Mrs. King's. The worthy, whose name is not known, told her that Mrs. King was gone into the country, and had discharged her servant. Gardelle made an apology for the confusion in which the house appeared, and Mezier (or Muzard, as he was sometimes called) asked her if she would take care of the house: she readily consented; and Gardelle acquiescing, they left her with him. He asked her what her business was; she said she worked plain-work: he then told her he had some shirts to mend, and that he would satisfy her for her trouble if she would mend them.

All this while the body continued as he had left it on Thursday night, nor had he once been into the room since that time. But this night, the woman and Pelsey having retired to their beds, he first conceived a design of concealing or destroying the dead body by parts, and went down to put it into execution; but the woman, whose name is Sarah Walker, getting out of bed and following him, he returned up stairs and went to bed with her. He arose on the Sunday morning between seven and eight, and left Walker in bed, saying it was too soon for her to rise; she fell asleep again, and slept till ten: it is probable that in the mean time he was employed on the body, for when she came down between ten and eleven he was but beginning to light the parlour-fire. He had spoken to her the night before to get him a char-woman, and he was now in so much confusion that he did not ask her to stay to breakfast: she went out, therefore, and hired one Pritchard as a char-woman, at 1s. a-day, victuals and drink. In the afternoon she brought Pritchard to the house, and found with Gardelle two or three men and two

women; Gardelle went up with her and stayed by her while she made his bed, and the company all went out together. The char-woman kept house, and about ten o'clock they returned and supped in Gardelle's room. She was then dismissed for the night, and ordered to come the next morning at eight.

The next morning, Monday, the char-woman was ordered to tell Pelsey, the footman, that Walker was a relation of Mrs. King's, who was come to be in the house till Mrs. King returned; but Pelsey knew that she and Gardelle had but one bed; for when he came down on Monday morning, Gardelle's chamber-door stood open, and, looking in, he saw some of her clothes. On Monday night he again inquired after Mrs. King, and Gardelle told him she was at Bath or Bristol, he knew not where; he differed at times in his account of her, but no suspicion of murder was yet entertained. On Tuesday morning, Pelsey, who was going up to his master's room, smelt an offensive smell, and asked Gardelle, who was shoving up the sash of the window on the staircase, what it was; Gardelle replied, somebody had put a bone in the fire: the truth, however, was, that while Walker was employed in mending and making some linen in the parlour, he had been burning some of Mrs. King's bones in the garret. At night, Pelsey renewed his inquiries after Mrs. King, and Gardelle answered with a seeming impatience, "Me know not of Mrs. King; she giv me a great deal of trouble, but me shall hear of her Wednesday or Thursday;" yet he still talked of sitting up for her, and all this while nobody seems to have suspected a murder.

On Tuesday night he told Mrs. Walker he would sit up till Mrs. King came home, though he had before told her she was out of town, and desired her to go to bed, to which she consented: as soon as she was in bed, he renewed his horrid employment of cutting the body to pieces, and disposing of it in different places: the bowels he threw down the necessary; and the flesh of the body and limbs, cut to pieces, he scattered about in the cock-loft, where he supposed they would dry and perish without putrefaction. About two o'clock in the morning, however, he was interrupted; for Walker, having waked, and not finding him, went down stairs,

and found him standing upon the stairs; he then, at her solicitation, went up with her to bed.

Wednesday passed like the preceding days, and on Thursday he told his female companion that he expected Mrs. King home in the evening, and therefore desired that she would provide herself a lodging, giving her, at the same time, two of Mrs. King's shifts; and, being thus dismissed, she went away.

Pritchard, the char-woman, still continued in her office. The water having failed in the cistern on the Tuesday, she had recourse to that in the water-tub in the back kitchen; upon pulling out the spigot a little water run out, but as there appeared to be more in, she got upon a ledge, and putting her hand in she felt something soft; she then fetched a poker, and pressing down the contents of the tub, she got water in a pail. This circumstance she told Pelsey, and they agreed the first opportunity to see what the things in the water-tub were; yet so languid was their curiosity, and so careless were they of the event, that it was Thursday before this tub was examined: they found in it the blankets, sheets, and coverlet that Gardelle had put in it to soak; and after spreading, shaking, and looking at them, they put them again into the tub; and the next morning when Pelsey came down, he saw the curtain hanging on the banisters of the kitchen-stairs. Upon looking down, he saw Gardelle just come out at the wash-house door, where the tub stood. When Pritchard, the char-woman, came, he asked her if she had been taking any of the clothes out of the tub, and found the sheets had been wrung out. Upon this the first step was taken towards inquiring after the unhappy woman, who had now laid dead more than a week in the house. Pelsey found out the maid whom Gardelle had dismissed, and asked her if she had put any bed-clothes into the water; she said, No, and seemed frightened; Pelsey was then also alarmed, and told his master.

These particulars also came to the knowledge of Mr. Barron, an apothecary in the neighbourhood, who went the same day to Mrs. King's house to inquire of Gardelle where she was. He trembled, and told him, with great confusion, that she was gone to Bath. The next day, therefore, Saturday, he carried the maid

before Mr. Fielding, the justice, to make her deposition, and obtained a warrant to take Gardelle into custody. When the warrant was obtained, Mr. Barron, with the constable, and some others, went to the house, where they found Gardelle, and charged him with the murder; he denied it, but soon after dropped down in a swoon. When he recovered, they demanded the key of Mrs. King's chamber; but he said she had got it with her in the country; the constable therefore got in at the window, and opened the door that communicated with the parlour, and they all went in. They found upon the bed a pair of blankets wet, and a pair of sheets that appeared not to have been lain in; and the curtain also which Pelsey and the char-woman had seen first in the water-tub, and then on the banisters, was found put up in its place wet. Upon taking off the clothes, the bed appeared bloody, the blankets also were bloody, and marks of blood appeared in other places; having taken his keys, they went up into his room, where they found the bloody shift and shirt.

The prisoner, with all these tokens of his guilt, was then carried before Fielding; and, though he stiffly denied the fact, was committed. On the Monday, a carpenter and bricklayer were sent to search the house for the body, and Mr. Barron went with them. In the necessary they found the bowels of a human body; and in the cock-loft they found one of the breasts, some other muscular parts, and some bones. They perceived also that there had been a fire in the garret; and some fragments of bones, half consumed, were found in the grate, so large as to be known to be human. On the Thursday before, Gardelle had carried an oval chip-box to one Perronneau, a painter in enamel, who had employed him in copying, and, pretending it contained colours of great value, desired him to keep it; saying, he was uneasy to leave it at Mrs. King's while she was absent at Bath. Perronneau, when he heard Gardelle was taken up, opened the box, and found in it a gold watch and chain, a pair of bracelets, and a pair of ear-rings, which were known to be Mrs. King's. To this force of evidence Gardelle at length gave way, and confessed the fact, but signed no confession. He was sent to New Prison, where he attempted to destroy himself by

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swallowing some opium, which he had kept several days by him as a remedy for the tooth-ache. He took at one dose forty grains; which quantity was so far from answering his purpose, that it did not procure him sleep; though he declared he had not slept once since the commission of the fact, nor did he sleep for more than a fortnight after this time. When he found the opium did not produce the effect he desired, he swallowed halfpence to the number of twelve; but neither did these bring on any fatal symptom, whatever pain or disorder they might cause; which is remarkable, because verdigris, the solution of copper, is a very powerful and active poison, and the contents of the stomach would act as a dissolvent upon them.

On the 2d of March he was brought to Newgate, and dilligently watched, to prevent any further attempts upon his life. He showed strong marks of penitence and contrition, and behaved with great humility, openness, and courtesy to those who visited him.

On Thursday, the 2d of April, he was tried at the Old Bailey; and in his defence, he insisted only that he had no malice to the deceased, and that her death was the consequence of the fall. He was convicted, and sentenced to be executed on Saturday, the 4th. The account which he wrote in prison, and which is mentioned in this narrative, is dated the 28th of March, though he did not communicate it till after his trial. The night after his condemnation his behaviour was extravagant and outrageous; yet the next morning he was composed and quiet, and said he had slept three or four hours in the night. When he was asked why he did not make his escape, he answered, that some innocent person might then suffer in his stead. He declared he had no design to rob Mrs. King, but that he removed some of the things merely to give credit to the story of her journey to Bath; he declared, too, that he never had any sentiments of love or jealousy with respect to Mrs. King; though it is evident his friends, who prescribed for his looseness of spirits, supposed he had.

He affirmed, that he regarded the woman they brought him with horror, but that he did not dare to refuse her, lest it should produce new suspicions with respect to the cause of his uneasiness.

It is, however, certain that he felt the ill effects of her company in more ways than one to his last hour.

He was executed on the 4th of April, 1761, amidst the shouts and hisses of an indignant populace, in the Haymarket, near Panton Street, to which he was led by Mrs. King's house, where the cart made a stop, and at which he just gave a look. His body was hung in chains on Hounslow Heath.

One reflection, upon reading this dreadful narrative, will probably rise in the mind of the attentive reader; the advantages of virtue with respect to social connexions, and the interest that others take in what befalls us. It does not appear that, during all the time Mrs. King was missing, she was inquired after by one relation or friend; the murder was discovered by strangers, almost without solicitude or inquiry; the murderer was secured by strangers, and by strangers the prosecution against him was carried on. But who is there of honest reputation, however poor, that could be missing a day, without becoming the subject of many interesting inquiries, without exciting solicitude and fears, that would have no rest till the truth was discovered, and the crime punished?

THOMAS COOK.

This individual, who was a rioter and murderer, was the cause of his own apprehension. How frequently do we find that the guilty, in the interval of time between the commission and discovery of a murder, are compelled by an irresistible infatuation to introduce the subject of their crime into conversation with strangers. Many years ago a mail robber was apprehended in a remote part of Cornwall, on suspicion, from his frequently speaking upon the nature and danger of plundering the public mail, and executed for that offence; and the subject of the present memoir was taken into custody at Chester for a crime committed in London, merely from his constant relation of the riot in which he had committed the murder. Thus by a kind of mental *ignis fatuus*, the murderer was led on to his own detection. These are the workings of conscience—that carthly hell which torments those who, with intentional malice,

have spilt the blood of a fellow-creature. How strongly, too, did this mental agony appear in the conduct of Governor Wall: after twenty years had elapsed from the commission of the murder, and while he lived in personal security in a foreign country, his conscience afforded him no peace of mind; he voluntarily returned to London, sought his own apprehension, was convicted, and executed.

Thomas Cook was the son of a butcher, a man of reputation, at Gloucester: when he was about fifteen years of age, his father put him an apprentice to a barber-surgeon, in London, with whom he lived two years; then running away, he engaged himself in the service of Mr. Needman, 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, 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 Mayfair. At this time, Mayfair was a place greatly frequented by prize-fighters, thieves, and women of bad character. Here puppet-shows were exhibited, and it was the favourite resort of all the profligate and abandoned. At length, the nuisance increased to such a degree that Queen Anne issued her proclamation for the suppression of vice and immorality, with a particular view to this fair; in consequence of which the justices of the peace issued their warrant to the high constable, who summoned all the inferior constables to his assistance. When the constables came to suppress the fair, Cook, with a mob of about thirty soldiers and other persons, stood in defiance of the peace-officers, at whom they threw brickbats, by which some of the latter were wounded. Cooper, the constable, being the most active, Cook drew his sword and stabbed him in the belly; and he died of the wound at the expiration of four days. Hereupon Cook fled to

Ireland, and (as 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 Mayfair, there was a noise which I went out to see—six soldiers and myself; the constables played their parts with their staves, and I played mine; and when the man dropped, I wiped my sword, put it up, and went away."

Cook, having repeatedly talked in this boasting and insolent manner, was at length taken into custody, and sent to Chester, whence he was removed by a writ of habeas corpus to London; and, being tried at the Old Bailey, was convicted, and sentenced to death.

After conviction he solemnly denied the crime for which he suffered, declaring that he had no sword in his hand the day the constable was killed, and that he was not in the company of those who committed the deed.

Having received the sacrament on the 21st of July, 1703, he was taken from Newgate to be carried to Tyburn; but when the conveyance reached that part of High Holborn which is situated in Bloomsbury, a reprieve arrived for him till the following Friday.

On his return to Newgate he was visited by numbers of his acquaintance, who at once rejoiced at his narrow escape; while those who were anxious to direct his mind to devotional exercises were not without doubts as to the final result.

On Friday he received another respite till the 11th of August, when he was executed.

IMPROMPTU ON GIN-DRINKING.

"How is your mistress, Mr. Priest?" I cried.

"Ah, sir, her goings on are quite a sin!"

"What, does she love the bottle?" I replied.

"The bottle, bless you! No; she loves the gin."

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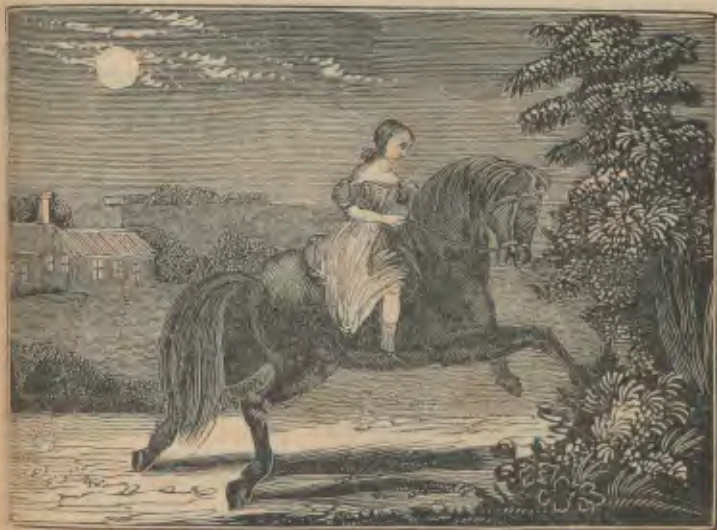
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 43.

DECEMBER 21, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

ROBBERY OF MR. PORTER, OF RAIKE FARM-HOUSE, NEAR
CHESTER, BY IRISH HAYMAKERS.



[MR. PORTER'S LITTLE GIRL GIVING AN ALARM.]

It is well known, that as the harvest approaches numbers of the lowest class of Irish come over to the nearest counties in England to be hired, as they receive better wages and live better than in their own country; and a wild, ferocious, and unamiable set generally mixes among the industrious and honest, for the purpose of plundering their employers.

Mr. Porter, a wealthy farmer, of Cheshire, had engaged a number of these people, in the year 1752, in his harvest-fields. One evening his house was beset by a gang of them, named M'Cannelly, Morgan, Stanley, Boyd, and Neill, who forcibly broke open his doors, advanced to him while at his supper-table, seized and bound him with cords, at the same time, with horrid threats, demanding his

money. They also seized his eldest daughter, pinioned her, and obliged her to show them where her father's money and plate were deposited. In the confusion, the youngest daughter, an heroic little girl of thirteen years of age, made her escape, ran through the stable, got astride the bare back of a horse, only haltered; but not daring to ride past the house, beset by the thieves, she galloped over the fields, leaping hedges and ditches, to Pulford, to inform her eldest brother of the danger they were in at the village. He and a friend named Craven determined on attacking the villains, and for that purpose set off at full speed, the little girl accompanying them.

On entering his paternal roof, the son found one of the villains on guard, whom

he killed so instantaneously that it caused no alarm. Proceeding to the parlour, they found the other in the very act of setting his father on fire, after having robbed him of 14 guineas, in order to extort more. They had stripped down his breeches to his feet, and his eldest daughter was on her knees supplicating for his life.

What a sight was this for a son! Like an enraged lion, and backed by his brave friend, he flew upon them. The delinquents fired two pistols, and wounded both the father and the son, and a servant-boy whom they had also bound, but not so as to disable them, for the son wrested a hanger from one of them, cleft the villain to the ground, and cut the others. The eldest daughter having unbound her father, the old man united his utmost efforts by the side of his son and friend; and so hard did they press, that the thieves jumped through a window, and ran off.

The young men pursued, and seized two more on Chester Bridge, who dropped a silver tankard. The fifth got on board a vessel at Liverpool, of which his brother was the cook, bound for the West Indies, which sailed, but was driven back by adverse winds.

The account of the robbery, with the escape of the remaining villain, having reached Liverpool, a king's boat searched every vessel, and at length the robber was found, by the wounds he had received, and he was sent in fetters to Chester gaol.

Mr. Porter had a servant-man in the house, at the time, a countryman of the robbers, who remained an unconcerned spectator; and as he afterwards run away, he was also sent to prison, charged with being an accomplice.

The culprits were brought to trial at Chester assizes, in March, 1752, and condemned.

Boyd, on account of his youth, and his having endeavoured to prevail upon the others not to murder Mr. Porter, had his sentence of death remitted for transportation.

The hired servant of Mr. Porter was not prosecuted.

On the Thursday previous to the day fixed for execution, Stanley slipped off his irons, and, changing his dress, escaped out of gaol, and got clear off.

On the 25th of May, 1752, M'Cannely and Morgan were brought out of prison, in order to be hanged. Their behaviour was as decent as could be expected from such low-bred men. They both declared that Stanley, who escaped, was the sole contriver of the robbery.

They died, it is said, in the Catholic faith, and were attended by a priest of that persuasion.

THOMAS WILFORD.

IN this malefactor we find the passion of love inflamed by the "green-eyed monster," jealousy; which, knowing no bounds, often works up the mind to madness and desperation. The murder, in such instances, of the fair—and perhaps frail—partner of the heart frequently ensues.

Thomas Wilford was born of very poor parents, at Fulham, in the county of Middlesex; and coming into the world with only one arm, he was received into the workhouse, where he was employed in going errands for the paupers, and occasionally for the inhabitants of the town; and was remarkable for his inoffensive behaviour.

A girl of ill fame, named Sarah Williams, being passed from the parish of St. Giles in the Fields to the same workhouse, had art enough to persuade Wilford to marry her, though he was then only seventeen years of age; and their inclinations being made known to the churchwardens, they gave the intended bride 40s., to enable her to begin the world.

The young couple now went to the Fleet and were married, after which they took lodgings in St. Giles; and it was only on the Sunday succeeding the marriage that the murder was perpetrated. On that day, the wife, having been out with an old acquaintance, stayed till midnight; and on her return, Wilford, who was jealous of her conduct, asked her where she had been. She said she had been to the Park, and would give him no other answer; a circumstance that inflamed him to such a degree, that a violent quarrel ensued, the consequence of which was fatal to the wife; for Wilford's passions were so irritated that he seized a knife, and, she advancing towards him, threw her down, knelt on her, and cut her throat so that her head was almost severed from her body.

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He had no sooner committed the horrid deed than he threw down the knife, opened the chamber-door, and was going down stairs, when a woman, who lodged in an adjacent room, asked who was there? to which Wilford replied, "It is me; I have murdered my poor wife, whom I loved as dearly as my own life."

On this the woman went down to the landlord of the house, and was immediately followed by Wilford, who said he had killed the woman that he loved beyond all the world, and was willing to die for the crime he had committed: and he did not make the slightest effort to escape.

On this the landlord called the watch, who, taking Wilford into custody, confined him for that night; and on the following day he was committed to Newgate by Justice Fielding.

Being arraigned on the first day of the following sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty; but the court refusing to record his plea, he was put by till the last day, when he again pleaded guilty, but was prevailed on to put himself on his trial. Accordingly the trial came on; during which the prisoner did not seek to extenuate the crime of which he had been guilty: on the contrary, his penitent behaviour and flowing tears seemed to testify the sense he entertained of his offence. Every person present seemed penetrated with grief for his misfortunes.

This malefactor was the first that suffered in consequence of an Act that passed in the year 1751, for the more effectual prevention of murder, which decreed that the convict shall be executed on the second day after conviction; for which reason it has been customary to try persons charged with murder on a Friday; by which indulgence, in case of conviction, the execution of the sentence is necessarily postponed till Monday: and by the same Act it is ordained, that the convicted murderer shall be either hung in chains or anatomized.

The jury having found Wilford guilty, sentence against him was pronounced in the following terms: "Thomas Wilford, you stand convicted of the horrid and unnatural crime of murdering Sarah, your wife. This court doth adjudge, that you be taken back to the place from whence you came, and there to be fed on bread and water till Wednesday next, when you

are to be taken to the common place of execution, and there hanged by the neck until you are dead; after which your body is to be publicly dissected and anatomized, agreeably to an Act of Parliament in that case made and provided. And may God Almighty have mercy on your soul!"

Both before and after conviction Wilford behaved as a real penitent, and at the place of execution he exhibited the most genuine signs of contrition for the crime of which he had been guilty. He was executed at Tyburn on the 22d of June, 1752.

DEBORAH CHURCHILL.

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

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

Deborah Churchill was born about the year 1678 in a village near Norwich. She had several children by her husband, Mr. Churchill; but, her temper not being calculated to afford him domestic happiness, he repined at his situation, and destroyed himself by intoxication.

Deborah, after this event, came to London; and, being much too idle and too proud to think of earning a subsistence by her industry, she ran considerably in debt; and, in order to extricate herself from her incumbrances, had recourse to

a method which was formerly as common as it is unjust. Going to a public-house in Holborn, she saw a soldier, and asked him if he would marry her. The man immediately answered in the affirmative, on which they went in a coach to the Fleet, where the nuptial knot was instantly tied.

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

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

One night as Mr. Hunt and one of his associates were returning from the theatre in company with Mrs. Churchill, a quarrel arose between the men, who immediately drew their swords; for in those days every well-dressed man wore his sword, a fashion productive of infinite mischief. Mrs. Churchill, anxious for the safety of Hunt, interposed, and kept his antagonist at a distance; in consequence of which, being off his guard, he received a wound, of which he died almost immediately.

No sooner was the murder committed, than Hunt effected his escape, and, eluding his pursuers, arrived safely in Holland; but Mrs. Churchill was apprehended on the spot, and, being taken before a magistrate, committed to Newgate.

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

Mrs. Churchill, being convicted, pleaded a state of pregnancy in bar to her execution; and a jury of matrons being impanelled, declared that they were ignorant whether she was with child or not.

The court, willing to allow all reasonable time in a case of this nature, respited judgment for six months; at the end of which time she received sentence of death, as there was no appearance of her being pregnant.

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

CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD.

This very singular case will excite different opinions respecting this unhappy man's commission of the deed for which he was executed. He was the son of a miller at Westbury Green, in Surrey, who apprenticed him at Godalming. His time having expired, he lived in several situations, and at length took a malt-house at Shalford, when his aunt became his house-keeper, and by his industry he acquired a moderate sum of money.

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

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

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

During the next term, he was tried by a Surrey jury in the Court of Queen's

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Bench, before Lord Chief-justice Holt, the appeal being lodged in the name of Henry Young, brother and heir to the deceased. The evidence given on this second trial was the same in substance as on the first; yet so different were the sentiments of the two juries, that Slaughterford was now found guilty, and received sentence of death.

It may be proper to mention the heads of some of the depositions, that the reader may judge of the propriety of the verdict.

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

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

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

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

In contradiction to this, the aunt of

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

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

As soon as the executioner tied him up, he threw himself off, having previously delivered to the sheriff a paper containing a solemn declaration; a copy of which is subjoined.

"Guildford, July 9, 1709.

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

"CHRISTOPHER SLAUGHTERFORD."

We have already observed that the case of Slaughterford is very extraordinary. We see that he surrendered himself to the justices when he might have run away; and common sense tells us that a murderer would endeavour to make his escape: but we find him a second time surrendering himself, as if anxious to

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

COLONEL JOHN HAMILTON'S FATE,
THROUGH BEING A SECOND IN A DUEL.

No occurrence at the time engaged the attention equal to the memorable duel between the Duke of Hamilton and Lord Mahon; and no crime of this nature, probably, was ever committed with more sanguinary dispositions. The principals murdered each other, and Col. Hamilton was one of the seconds. Upon the iniquity of duelling we briefly expressed our opinion in the case of Mr. Thornhill (see No. 39, p. 307).

John Hamilton, esq., of St. Martin in the Fields, was indicted at the sessions held at the Old Bailey, on the 11th of September, 1712, for the murder of Charles Lord Mahon, Baron Oakhampton, on the 15th of November preceding; and at the same time he was indicted for abetting Charles Lord Mahon, and George Macartney, esq., in the murder of James Duke of Hamilton and Brandon; and

having pleaded "Not guilty" to these indictments, the evidence proceeded to give their testimony.

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

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

But the evidence who saw most of the transaction was William Morris, a groom, who deposed, that as he was walking his horses towards Hyde Park he followed a hackney-coach with two gentlemen in it, whom he saw alight by the lodge, and walk together towards the left part of the ring, where they remained about a quarter of an hour, when he saw two other gentlemen come up to them: that, after having saluted each other, one of them, who he was since told was the Duke of Hamilton, threw off his cloak; and one of the other two, who he now understands was Lord Mahon, his surcoat coat, and all immediately drew: that the Duke and the Lord pushed at each other a very little while, when the Duke closed, and took hold of the Lord by the collar, who fell down and groaned, and the Duke fell upon him: that just as Lord Mahon

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was dropping, he saw him lay hold of the Duke's sword, but could not tell whether the sword was at that time in his body; nor did he see any wound given after the closing, and was sure Lord Mahon did not shorten his sword. He declared he did not see the seconds fight, but they had their swords in their hands, assisting the Lords.

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

Henry Amie, a surgeon, swore, that he found the Duke of Hamilton had received a wound by a push, which had cut the artery and small tendon of his right arm; another very large one in his right leg, a small one in his left leg, near the instep; and a fourth in his left side, between the second and third ribs, which ran down into his body most forward, having pierced the skirt of his midriff, and gone through his caul; but that the wound in his arm caused his so speedy death; and that he might have lived two or three days with the wound in his breast, which wound could not be given but by an arm that reached over or was above him. He farther deposed, that he also viewed the Lord Mahon's body, and found that he had a wound between the short ribs, quite through his belly, and another about three inches deep in the upper part of his thigh; a large wound, about four inches wide, in his groin, a little higher, which was the cause of his immediate death; and another small wound on his left side; and the fingers of his left hand were cut.

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

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

At the time the lives of the abovementioned noblemen were thus unfortunately sacrificed, many persons thought they fell

by the hands of the seconds; and later writers on the subject have affected to be of the same opinion. Others maintain that nothing appears in the written or printed accounts of the transaction, nor did anything arise on the trial, to warrant so ungenerous a suspicion.

HUGH DAWSON AND JOHN GAMMEL.

As we have so freely commented on the bad effects of idleness, extravagance, and drunkenness, in bringing such numbers to the gallows, we pass over many cases without observation, that we may avoid a tedious and unnecessary repetition.

Hugh Dawson was an Irishman, and born of respectable parents; his father having been a bookseller in Londonderry. John Gammel was a Scotchman, of Greenock. Both of them were lazy, worthless fellows.

The father of Dawson, finding his son would settle at no business in his own country, sent him to sea. After the first voyage he remained some time at home, and did not seem to entertain any farther thoughts of going to sea; but falling in love with a young woman in the neighbourhood, she promised him marriage, but advised him to follow his former occupation some time longer. In consequence of this advice, he went again to sea, and, on his return from each voyage, visited his favourite girl; but at length it was discovered by her parents that she was pregnant by her lover. Alarmed by this circumstance, they proposed to Dawson's father to give him a fortune proportioned to what they would bestow on their girl; but this the old man obstinately refused, though the son earnestly entreated him to accede to the proposal.

Young Dawson now left his parents, swore he would never again return home, and went once more to sea. Having made some voyages, the vessel in which he sailed put into the harbour of Sandwich; on which Dawson resolved to quit a seafaring life, and married a girl of fortune, who bore him two children, which were left to the care of her relations at her death, which happened six years after her marriage. After this event, Dawson went again to sea, and was in several naval engagements. When his ship was paid off he went to Bristol, where he was arrested for a debt he had contracted.

At this period he heard of the death of his father, and that his mother's affection for him was in no degree diminished; on which he wrote her an account of his situation, and she sent him 50*l.*, which relieved him from his embarrassments. Having procured his liberty, he went to London, and marrying the widow of a seaman, who possessed some money, they lived comfortably a considerable time, till he became connected with dissolute companions, and commenced that line of conduct which led to his ruin.

Gammel, who had been a shipmate with Dawson, was one of these companions; and being now out of employment, he advised the other to go on the highway. He hesitated for some time, but having drank freely his resolution failed him, and he agreed to the fatal proposal.

These accomplices dressed themselves as sailors, and, concealing bludgeons under their jackets, knocked down the persons they intended to rob, and stripped them of their effects.

The robbery which cost them their lives was committed near New Cross turnpike, on a gentleman named Outridge, from whom they took his money and watch, and treated him with great barbarity. Being pursued by some people whom Mr. Outridge informed of the robbery, Dawson was taken and confined; and having given information where Gammel lodged, he likewise was apprehended; and both of them being conveyed to the New Gaol, they recriminated each other.

On the approach of the assizes for Surrey the prisoners were carried to Croydon, where they were both tried and capitally convicted.

On the night preceding the execution, Dawson was visited by his wife, who had been sitting some time with him, when the turnkey came, and intimated that he must retire; on which he refused to go, and knocked the fellow down; but some other keepers coming in, he was secured. His wife would now have taken a final leave of him; but he said, if she did not depart he would murder her.

As the keepers were conducting him through the court-yard to his cell, he called to the other prisoners, saying, "Hollo, my boys! Dawson is to be hanged to-morrow."

The prisoners were conveyed to the

place of execution, Kennington Common, on the 22d of August, 1749, in the same cart; and when there, Dawson expressed his hope of salvation through the merits of Jesus Christ, and declared he died in charity with all men. Gammel addressed the surrounding multitude, particularly hoping that his brother seamen would avoid the commission of such crimes as led to his deplorable end: he hoped for forgiveness from all whom he had injured, and acknowledged that he fell a victim to the equity of the laws.

THE TURPIN ADDENDA. No. 1.

OUR readers generally, we presume, will recollect that in the history of the notorious Turpin we promised some occasional sketches of his proceedings not furnished in the report then given. Though a considerable time has since elapsed, we now for the first time proceed to fulfil the promise.

After Turpin had been some time in the line of life in which he figured so notoriously, he had the hardihood to venture his presence at Suson, in Essex, shortly after his robbery of the churches of Barking and Chinkford, where he resided with his wife unnoticed for about six months. At length, on being discovered, he retreated secretly by night; and at no distant period from his retreat he formed one of the party in the robbery of Farmer Laurence, which we have already recorded with tolerable minuteness. The following anecdote connected with that robbery, shows such a trait in the "hero" as few would be inclined to impute to him.

Some of the goods stolen from Mr. Laurence were lost by the way, for the rogues were in such haste to get off that they looked back for nothing; and some were afterwards found in Field Lane, and others in Chick Lane and Saffron Hill, where the gang mostly resided, and where some were taken. Turpin by this robbery got but little; for out of 27*l.* they got in the whole, he distributed among his companions all but 3 guineas and 6*s.* 6*d.*

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

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NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 44.

DECEMBER 28, 1836.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE FATE OF WILLIAM STROUD, A NOTORIOUS SWINDLER.



[THE FLOGGING SCENE.]

This specious robber was well born and educated; but very early in life he took to little tricks of cheating, which sufficiently marked his character. When but a schoolboy he used to purloin blank leaves from the books of his companions, and he was remarkable for robbing them of their marbles. This disposition continued while he was an apprentice; and at length he embarked in business for himself: but he had not been long a master before he considered trade a drudgery; on which he sold off his stock, took lodgings in Bond Street, and assumed the character of a first-rate gentleman. He now lived in a most expensive manner, supplying the extravagances of women of ill fame; which soon reduced him to indigent circumstances; when he fixed on

a plan of defrauding individuals. He got credit with a tailor for some elegant suits of apparel, took a genteel house, and hired some servants, by which he imposed himself upon the public as a man of large estate. An extensive credit, enabling him to carry on a splendid mode of living, was the consequence of his elegant appearance; but, on some tradesmen bringing in their bills, which he was equally unable and unwilling to discharge, he sold off his household furniture and privately decamped.

He now took handsome lodgings in Bloomsbury; and dressing himself in velvet clothes, he pretended to be the steward of a nobleman of high rank. He likewise took a house in Westminster, in which he placed an agent, who ordered

in goods as for the nobleman; and the tradesmen who delivered these goods were directed to leave their bills for the examination of the steward; but the effects were no sooner in possession, than they were sold to a broker, to the great loss of the respective tradesmen.

Stroud used to travel into the country in summer; and having learnt the names of London traders with whom people of fortune dealt, he used to write in their names for goods; but constantly meeting the waggons that conveyed them, he generally received the effects before they reached the places to which they were directed.

It would be endless to mention all the frauds of which he was guilty. London and the country were equally laid under contribution by him; and jewellers, watch-makers, silversmiths, lacemen, tailors, drapers, upholders, silk-mereers, hatters, hosiers, &c., were frequent dupes to his artifices.

It was impossible for a man, proceeding in this manner, to evade justice for any great length of time. He was at length apprehended as a common cheat, and committed to the Gatehouse, Westminster. On his examination, a coach-maker charged him with defrauding him of a gilt chariot; a jeweller, of rings to the amount of 100*l.* value; a tailor, of a suit of velvet trimmed with gold; a cabinet-maker, of some valuable goods in his branch; and other tradesmen, of various articles.

The grand jury having found bills of indictment against him, he was tried at the Westminster sessions; when hosts of witnesses, who had been duped and plundered by him, appeared to give their evidence; and he was instantly found guilty.

The court sentenced him to hard labour in Bridewell for six months, and in that time to be whipped through the streets of Westminster six times; which was inflicted with the severity which they intended in the month of March, 1752.

WONDERFUL DISCOVERY OF A CRIMINAL.

DURING the persecution of the Protestants by the Roman Catholics in the seventeenth century, some children were playing on the banks of the Suir, near Golden, in the county of Tipperary, when a man came up to them, knowing them to be

born of Protestant parents, and, with a pike, threw most of them into the river, where they were instantly drowned. One of the children, however, a girl about eleven years of age, ran off and escaped to Clonmell, thirteen miles distant.

At Waterford a ship lay bound to America, taking in servants and passengers: an agent of the captain's was at Clonmell, who, finding the child unprovided for, took her as an indented servant, with many others in equal indigence. The rectitude of her conduct, her amiable disposition, and comeliness of person, so attracted her master's affections that, after her time was expired, he proposed to marry her; which proposal she, at length, acceded to, and they lived together in much happiness for several years, during which she brought him six children. She then declined in health and spirits; a deep melancholy overspread her mind, so as greatly to distress her husband. He observed her, particularly when she thought him asleep, to sigh deeply, as if something very weighty lay upon her spirits. After much entreaty and affectionate attention, she related to him what she saw when she was a girl in Ireland, and said that scarce a day or night had passed for the last twelve months, but she had felt a pressure on her mind, and had, as it were, heard distinctly a voice, saying, "Thou must go to Ireland, and bring the murderer of the children to justice." This, at times, she believed to be a divine intimation, yet on reasoning about it she thought the effecting of it by her to be impossible, and consequently that the apprehension of its being required by God must be a delusion. Thus she was tossed to and fro in her mind, uncertain how to determine, and her agitation was such that it was apprehended her dissolution was near at hand. Her husband strongly encouraged her to fulfil what he had no doubt was a divine injunction; and as the Governor's brother was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he thought it a suitable season. He waited upon the Governor, who obliged him with letters of recommendation to his brother and such gentlemen as would enable her to bring this man to justice; whose name she did not know, but whose person was indelibly stamped on her memory. Her kind husband prepared every accommodation for the voyage, encouraging her by

his sympathy a few weeks health suitable a Dublin.

On the Viceroy's letters.

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The Viceroy judges, justice circuit she had requested in this business with great their vigour murderer know the dwelt, if in the manner not to be the Viceroy assizes for very numerous take care convenient day at Clonmell there, she opportunity of arrival the sitting, she of the judicious anxious person.

to try a called over come forward to be the and then suitable that the them his adjourned to the jury at their lordship On sitting "Madam gentleman the Lord Justice Castle."

The lady face, said, I saw that seven little

his sympathizing tenderness, so that in a few weeks she recovered her former health and spirits, and embarked with suitable attendants on board a vessel for Dublin.

On her arrival, she waited upon the Viceroy at the castle, and delivered her letters. He entered warmly into the matter, as worthy of public concern; yet he thought great secrecy and prudence requisite to effect the desired purpose. The Viceroy, as a wise man, sent for the judges, just then appointed for the Munster circuit, and showed them the letters she had brought from his brother, and requested they would interest themselves in this business. The judges treated her with great respect, and assured her of their vigorous assistance to bring the murderer to justice; but as she did not know the man's name, nor where he now dwelt, if living, they saw much difficulty in the matter. She was desired, however, not to communicate with any one but the Viceroy and themselves; and as the assizes for the county of Tipperary were very numerous attended, they would take care she should be placed in such a convenient part of the court-house every day at Clonmell, that, if he should be there, she could not but have an opportunity of seeing him. The day after her arrival there, and during the first of their sitting, she was placed, by the direction of the judges to the sheriff, in a commodious place for her purpose. With anxious solicitude she watched for the person. At length a jury was returned to try a cause: on their names being called over to be sworn, she saw a man come forward, whom she instantly knew to be the person she came to prosecute, and then heard his name called. At a suitable time she informed the judges that the man was in court, and gave them his name. The judges instantly adjourned the court, and sent the sheriff to the juryman to meet them immediately at their lodgings, where they soon arrived. On sitting down, one of the judges said, "Madam, be pleased to relate to this gentleman what you related to us and the Lord Lieutenant, last week, in Dublin Castle."

The lady, looking the juryman in the face, said, "My lords, when I was a girl, I saw that man, now before you, throw seven little children into the river Suir,"

and proceeded with the particulars. Whilst she was speaking he grew pale, and trembled exceedingly; but, when she came to that part of her relation, respecting feeling a pressure of mind for more than a year, which she believed to be from God's requiring her to come to Ireland, and endeavour to bring him to justice for these murders, he was quite overcome, and confessed his guilt, and the truth of all which she asserted. On this the grand jury was sent for, and bills of indictment were found against him. Next day he was tried, found guilty, and executed at Clonmell.

She speedily returned to her husband and children, lived many years after in great happiness with them, fully restored to her health, in peace and serenity of mind.

This man had read his recantation from the Church of Rome, had professed himself a Protestant, and thus became qualified to be a juryman.

THOMAS BARKWITH.

The following is one of the most lamentable cases ever met with. This unfortunate young man was of an amiable disposition, and had received a very liberal education; but, through the allurements of a coquette, a character both despicable and dangerous, he was driven to commit the disgraceful deed for which he suffered, in order to supply the expenses which she incurred.

Thomas Barkwith was the descendant of a respectable family in the Isle of Ely. At a very early period of life he was observed to possess a strength of understanding beyond what could be expected at his years; and this determined his father to add to such extraordinary gifts of nature the advantages of a liberal education. The necessary attention was also given to impress upon his mind a just idea of the principles of religion, and the absolute necessity of practical virtue. Before he had arrived at his fourteenth year he obtained great proficiency in the Greek, Latin, French, and Italian languages; and afforded an indisputable proof of the depth of his penetration, and the brilliancy of his fancy, in the production of a variety of poetical and prose essays. His figure, naturally agreeable, was improved by a graceful deportment:

and his manner of address was insinuating, as he excelled in the art of conversation; which qualifications, added to his extensive knowledge in the several branches of polite literature, rendered him an object of esteem and admiration.

Soon after he had passed his fourteenth year he received an invitation to visit an aunt residing in the metropolis. He had not been many days in London before he became equally conspicuous, throughout the whole circle of his acquaintance, on the score of his mental powers and personal qualifications; and he was dissuaded by his friends from returning into the country, it being their unanimous opinion that London was, of all others, the place where opportunities, which the youth might improve to the advancement of his fortune, would be most likely to occur.

A short time after his arrival in the metropolis he procured a recommendation to a Master in Chancery of high reputation and extensive practice: this gentleman appointed him to the superintendance of that department of his business which related to money matters; and in this office he acquitted himself entirely to the satisfaction of his employer, who considered him a youth in whom he might safely repose an unlimited confidence. He possessed the particular esteem of all those who had the happiness of his acquaintance: and it was their common opinion that his fine talents and great capacity for business could not fail to introduce him to some considerable line of life.

The gentleman in whose service Barkwith had engaged, being under the necessity of going into Wales, on some business respecting an estate there, commissioned him to receive the rents of a number of houses in London.

In the neighbourhood of the solicitor lived a young lady, of whom Barkwith had for some time been passionately enamoured; and immediately upon the departure of his employer for Wales, he determined to avail himself of the first opportunity of making a declaration of honourable love.

Though the young lady did not mean to unite herself in marriage to Mr. Barkwith, she encouraged his addresses; and to her disingenuous conduct is to be attributed the fatal reverse of his fortune,

from the most flattering prospect of acquiring a respectable situation in the world, to the dreadful event of suffering an ignominious death at Tyburn.

So entirely was his attention engrossed by the object of his love, that his master's most important business was wholly neglected; and he appeared to have no object in view but that of ingratiating himself into the esteem of his mistress; to gratify whose extravagance and vanity he engaged in expenses greatly disproportionate to his income, by making her valuable presents, and accompanying her to the theatres, balls, assemblies, and other places of public entertainment. In short, he was continually proposing parties of pleasure; and she had too little discretion to reject such invitations as flattered the levity of her disposition, and yielded satisfaction to her immoderate fondness for scenes of gaiety.

Upon the return of the solicitor, he found the affairs which he had entrusted to Barkwith in a very embarrassed situation; and upon searching into the cause of this unexpected and alarming circumstance, it was discovered that the infuriated youth had embezzled a considerable sum. The gentleman, on making a particular inquiry into the conduct of Barkwith, received such information as left little hopes of his reformation; and therefore he, though reluctantly, yielded to the dictates of prudence, and resolved to employ him no longer: but, after having dismissed him from his service, he omitted no opportunity of showing him instances of kindness and respect; and generously exerted his endeavours to render him offices of friendship, and promote his interest on every occasion that offered.

Barkwith now hired chambers, in order to transact law business on his own account; but, as he had not been admitted an attorney, he was under the necessity of acting under the sanction of another person's name; whence it may be concluded that his business was not very extensive. He might, however, by a proper attention to his business, and a moderate economy in his expenses, have retrieved his affairs in a short time; but unhappily his intercourse with the young lady was still continued, and he thought no sacrifice too great for convincing her of the ardour of his affection.

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months; when, being arrested for a considerable sum, he put in bail to the action; and though he paid the money before the writ became returnable, his credit received a terrible shock, from a report of this circumstance being circulated amongst his creditors, who had not hitherto entertained the least suspicion of his being in pecuniary difficulties. They now became exceedingly importunate for him to settle their several demands immediately.

Thus distressed, he made application to the persons whom he considered as his most valuable friends; but his hopes were disappointed, the whole which he obtained amounting to a mere trifle: and what was particularly mortifying to him was, the repulse he met with from several on whom he had conferred considerable obligations on certain occasions.

His necessities were so pressing as to drive him almost to desperation; but it must be observed, that his greatest distress was occasioned by the reflection, that he was no longer in a capacity to indulge his mistress in that succession of pleasurable amusements to which she had been so long familiarized. The idea that poverty would render him contemptible in the opinion of his acquaintance, and that he should be no longer able to gratify the inclinations of the object on whom his warmest affections were fixed, was too mortifying for the pride of Barkwith to endure; and he therefore determined on adopting a desperate expedient, by which he vainly imagined that he should be enabled to provide for some pressing exigencies, flattering himself that before his expected temporary supply would be exhausted a more favourable turn would take place in his affairs, and remove every incitement to a repetition of guilt of the same description.

Barkwith took horse in the morning of the 13th. of November, 1739, pretending that he was going to Denham, in Buckinghamshire, in order to transact some important business with respect to an estate which was to devolve to a young lady then in her minority. It is not known whether he went to Denham; but about four o'clock in the afternoon he stopped a coach on Hounslow Heath, and robbed a gentleman who was inside of a sum in silver not amounting to 20s.

In a short time a horseman came up, who was informed by the coachman that

his master had been robbed by a highwayman, who was yet in sight. The horseman immediately rode to an adjacent farm-house, where he procured pistols, and persuaded a person to accompany him in search of the highwayman, whom, in about a quarter of an hour, they overtook, being separated from him only by a hedge. The gentleman, pointing a pistol at Barkwith, said, if he did not surrender he would instantly shoot him; upon which Barkwith urged his horse to the creature's utmost speed, and continued to gain so much ground, that he would have escaped had he not dismounted to recover his hat, which the wind had blown off. He regained the saddle, but soon observed that the delay occasioned by dismounting had enabled his pursuers nearly to overtake him; and he again quitted his horse, hoping to elude the pursuit by crossing the fields.

In order to facilitate his escape, he disencumbered himself of his great coat; but this circumstance raising the suspicion of some labouring people near the spot, they advanced to secure him, when he snapped two pistols at them; neither of them was loaded, but he thought the sight of fire-arms might perhaps deter the countrymen from continuing their pursuit. His spirits being violently agitated, his strength nearly exhausted, and there appearing little probability of effecting an escape, he at length surrendered, saying to the people who surrounded him, that he was a gentleman heavily oppressed with misfortunes, and supplicating in the most pathetic terms that they would favour his escape: but his entreaties had no effect.

He was properly secured during that night, and the next morning conducted before a magistrate for examination. He was ordered to London, where he was re-examined, and then committed to Newgate.

He was tried at the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, and condemned to suffer death. While he remained in Newgate, he conducted himself in a manner perfectly consistent with his unhappy circumstances: his unassuming and quiet behaviour secured him from the insults of his fellow-prisoners; and upon such of them as were not absolutely callous to the stings of conscience, the sincerity of his repentance had a favourable effect.

He was conveyed to Tyburn on the 21st of December, 1739. He prayed to God with great fervency, and exhorted young people carefully to avoid engaging in expenses beyond their incomes; saying, that the perpetrator of villany, however successful, was continually in a state of insupportable misery, through the silent upbraidings of an inward monitor; and that though justice was for a time eluded, imagination never failed to anticipate all the horrors attendant on public ignominy and a violent death.

EDWARD JOINES.

THOUGH nothing can be offered in extenuation of the horrid crime of murder, yet provocation and passion, creating a temporary madness, have sometimes precipitated men to do an act from which they would at any other time have recoiled with horror.

The parents of Edward Joines were respectable house-keepers in Ratcliffe Highway, who, being desirous that the boy should be qualified for business, placed him under the direction of the master of a day-school in Goodman's Fields, where he continued a regular attendance about five years, but without gaining any considerable improvement.

Soon after he had completed his fourteenth year he was removed from the school, and his father informed him that he was endeavouring to find some reputable tradesman who would take him as an apprentice; but the youth expressed an aversion to any occupation but that of a gardener. Finding that he had conceived a strong prepossession in favour of this business, the father bound him to a gardener at Stepney, whom he served in an industrious and regular manner for the space of seven years; and with whom he continued for some time afterwards in the capacity of a journeyman, his parents being so reduced through misfortunes, that they could not supply him with money to carry on business on his own account.

A short time after the expiration of his apprenticeship he married a milk-woman, by whom he had seven children in the course of twenty years, during which time he lived in an amicable manner with his wife, earning a tolerable subsistence by honest industry.

His children all died in their infancy, and upon the decease of his wife he procured employment at Bromley; and that he might lose but little time in going to and returning from his work, he hired a lodging at the lower end of Poplar, in a house kept by a widow, with whom he, in a few days, contracted a criminal familiarity. They had lived together about a twelvemonth, jointly defraying the household expenses, when she, more frequently than usual, gave way to the natural violence of her temper, threatening that he should not continue in the house unless he would marry her; which he consented to do, and they adjourned to the Fleet, where the ceremony was performed.

After their marriage their disagreements became more frequent and violent; and upon the wife's daughter leaving her service, and coming to reside with them, she united with her mother in pursuing every measure that could render the life of Joines insupportably miserable. On his return from work one evening, a disagreement, as usual, took place, and being aggravated by her abusive language he pushed her from him, and she fell against the grate, by which her arm was much scorched. In consequence of this she swore the peace against him; but when they appeared before the magistrate who had granted the warrant for the apprehension of Joines, they were advised to compromise their dispute, to which they mutually agreed.

By an accidental fall, Mrs. Joines broke her arm, about a month after the above affair; but timely application being made to a surgeon, she, in a short time, had every reason to expect a perfect and speedy recovery.

Joines being at a public-house on a Sunday afternoon, the landlord observed his daughter-in-law carrying a pot of porter from another alehouse, and mentioned the circumstance to him, adding that the girl had been served with a like quantity at his house but a short time before. Being intoxicated, Joines took fire at what the publican had imprudently said, and immediately went towards the house, which was on the opposite side of the street, with an intention of preventing his wife from drinking the liquor. He struck the pot out of her hand, and then seizing the arm that had

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The fracture was again reduced, but such unfavourable symptoms appeared that amputation was judged necessary for preserving the life of the patient. In a short time afterwards, however, she was supposed to be in a fair way of recovery; and, calling one day at the gardens where her husband was employed, she told his fellow-labourers that she had great hopes of her arm being speedily cured, adding, that she was then able to move her fingers with but very little difficulty.

The hopes of this unfortunate woman were falsely grounded; for on the following day she was so ill that her life was judged to be very precarious. She sent for Joines from his work; and, upon his coming to her bed-side, he asked if she had any accusation to allege against him; upon which, shaking her head, she said, she would forgive him, and hoped the world would do so too. She expired the next night, and in the morning Joines gave some directions respecting the funeral, and then went to work in the gardens as usual, not entertaining the least suspicion that he should be accused as the cause of his wife's death; but, upon his return in the evening, he was apprehended on suspicion of murder.

An inquest being summoned, to inquire whether the woman was murdered or whether she died according to the course of nature, it appeared in evidence, that her death was occasioned by the second fracture of her arm: the jury therefore brought in a verdict of wilful murder against Joines, who was, in consequence, committed to Newgate to be tried.

At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey he was arraigned on an indictment for the wilful murder of his wife. In the course of the trial it appeared, that the prisoner had frequently forced the deceased into the street, at a late hour of the night, without regard to her being without clothes, or the severity of the weather. The surgeon who attended her deposed, that a gangrene appeared on her arm, in consequence of its being broken the second time, which was indisputably the cause of her death.

Nearly three months had elapsed from the time of her arm being first broken to that of her decease; but not more than ten days had passed from the second frac-

ture to the consequent mortification. If a person violently wounded dies within twelve calendar months, the offender causing such wound or wounds shall be deemed guilty of a capital felony. As it was evident that his wife died in consequence of his cruelty, within the time limited by law, Joines was pronounced to be guilty of murder, and sentenced to suffer death.

During his confinement in Newgate he did not appear to entertain a proper sense of his guilt: as his wife did not die immediately after the fracture of her arm, it was with difficulty he could be persuaded that the jury had done him justice, in finding him guilty of murder. He had but a very imperfect notion of the principles of religion; but the ordinary of the prison took great pains to inspire him with a just sense of his duty towards his Creator. Though he was distressed for all the necessaries of life during the greater part of his confinement, his daughter-in-law, who had taken possession of his house and effects, neither visited him nor afforded him any kind of assistance; and he was violently enraged against the young woman on account of this behaviour.

He was executed at Tyburn in company with Thomas Barkwith, whose case furnishes the preceding chapter.

JAMES WELCH AND THOMAS JONES.

IN bringing the case of these criminals before the reader, we prove the innocence of the unhappy and unfortunate Richard Coleman, who, our readers will recollect, suffered death for the supposed murder of Sarah Green. We related his melancholy case in No. 31, page 246; and we shall now detail the real circumstances of this horrid murder, according to our promise.

Two years had passed, after Coleman had been ignominiously laid in his grave, before his memory was rescued from disgrace. Circumstances then, and not before, arose, which proved that James Welch, Thomas Jones, and John Nichols, the latter of whom was admitted an evidence for the crown, committed this shocking murder.

As Welch and a young fellow named James Bush were walking on the road to Newington Butts, their conversation happened to turn on the subject of those who had been executed without being guilty;

and Welch said, "Among whom was Coleman. Nichols, Jones, and I were the persons who committed the murder for which he was hanged." In the course of conversation, Welch owned, that, having been at a public-house called *Sot's Hole*, they had drank plentifully, and on their returning through *Kennington Lane* they met with a woman, with whom they went as far as the *Parsonage Walk*, near the church-yard of *Newington*, where she was so horribly 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." They then went to a public-house in the *Borough*, where *Bush* related the story to his father; which was scarce ended, when, seeing *Jones* at the window, they called him in, and desired him to drink with them.

He had not been long in company, when they told him they heard he was one of the murderers of *Sarah Green*, on whose account *Coleman* suffered death. *Jones* trembled and turned pale on hearing what they said; but, soon assuming a degree of courage, said, "What does it signify? The man is hanged, and the woman dead, and nobody can hurt us;" to which he added, "We were connected with a woman, but who can tell it was the woman *Coleman* died for?"

In consequence of this acknowledgment, *Nichols*, *Jones*, and *Welch* were soon afterwards apprehended; when all of them steadily denied their guilt; and the hearsay testimony of *Bush* being all that could be adduced against them, *Nichols* was admitted evidence for the crown; in consequence of which all the particulars of the horrid murder were developed.

The prisoners being brought to trial at the next assizes for the county of *Surrey*, *Nichols* deposed that himself, *Welch*, and *Jones*, having been drinking at the house called *Sot's Hole*, on the night that the woman was used in such an inhuman manner, they quitted that house, in order to return home; when, meeting a woman,

they asked her if she would drink; which she declined, unless they would go to the *King's Head*, where she would treat them with a pot of beer.

They thereupon went to the *King's Head*, and drank both beer and Geneva with her; and then, all the parties going forward to the *Parsonage Walk*, the poor woman was treated in a manner too shocking to be described. It appeared that at the time of the perpetration of the fact the murderers wore white aprons, and that *Jones* and *Welch* called *Nichols* by the name of *Coleman*; circumstances that evidently led to the prior conviction of that unfortunate man.

On the whole state of the evidence there seemed to be no doubt of the guilt of the prisoners, so that the jury did not hesitate to convict them, and sentence of death was of course passed.

After conviction these malefactors behaved with the utmost contrition, being attended by the *Rev. Dr. Howard*, rector of *St. George, Southwark*, to whom they readily confessed their offences. They likewise signed a declaration, which they begged might be published, containing the fullest assertion of *Coleman's* innocence; and, exclusive of his acknowledgment, *Welch* wrote to the brother of *Coleman*, confessing his guilt, and begging his prayers and forgiveness.

The sister of *Jones* living in the service of a genteel family at *Richmond*, he wrote to her to make interest in his favour; but the answer he received was to the effect, that his crime was of such a nature that she could not ask a favour for him with any degree of propriety. She earnestly begged of him to prepare for death, and implore pardon at that tribunal where alone it could be expected, where only his application for favour, humbly and contritely sought, would be likely to succeed, by the obtainment of an assurance of eternal salvation.

These culprits were executed on *Kennington Common* on the 6th of *September, 1751*.

This case certainly furnishes us with a conviction that an accused party should have the benefit of the least doubt.

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 45.

JANUARY 4, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES. N^o. 5.

SIR HENRY MORGAN.



[MORGAN'S TREATMENT OF THE NUNS, ETC.]

CHAPTER I.

This individual was born in Wales, being the descendant of a very good family there, as indeed are almost all of that name; and he perhaps distinguished himself in the freebooting way as much as any man that ever engaged in it, and had as large a share of personal courage and bravery.

His father was a rich yeoman or farmer; but young Morgan had no inclination to follow that employment, and he therefore left his country, and went to seek his fortune on the seas, which he imagined would better suit his temper. He was entertained in a certain port, where several ships lay at anchor, bound for the

island of Barbadoes. He resolved to go into the service of one of these ships, the master of which, according to what was commonly practised in those parts by the English and other nations, sold him as soon as he came on shore.

He served his time at Barbadoes; and when he had obtained his liberty he transferred himself to the island of Jamaica, there to seek his fortune. Here he found two vessels of pirates that were ready to put to sea; and, being destitute of employ, he put himself in one of these ships, with an intent to follow the exercises of those people. He learned in a little while their manner of living, and so exactly, that having performed three or four voyages

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with success, and saved some money, he agreed with some of his shipmates, who had also saved money, to join stocks and buy a ship. The vessel being bought, they unanimously chose him to be the captain and commander thereof.

With this ship he soon after set sail from Jamaica to cruise upon the coast of Campêché, in which voyage he had the fortune to take several ships, with which he returned triumphant to the same island. Here he found, at the same time, an old pirate, named Mansvelt, who was then busied in equipping a considerable fleet of ships, with design to land upon the Continent, and pillage whatever came in his way; Mansvelt seeing Capt. Morgan returned with so many prizes, judged him, from his actions, to be of an undaunted courage; and hereupon was moved to choose him for his Vice-Admiral in that expedition. Thus having fitted out fifteen ships, great and small, they set sail from Jamaica with five hundred men, both Walloons and French. With this fleet they arrived not long after at the Isle of St. Catherine, situated near the Continent of Costa Rica, in twelve degrees and a half Northern Latitude, and distant thirty-five leagues from the River Chagre, between North and South. Here they made their first descent, landing most of their men presently after.

Being now come to try their arms and fortune, they in a short time forced the garrison that kept the island to surrender, and deliver into their hands all the forts and castles belonging thereto. All these they instantly demolished, reserving only one; wherein they placed one hundred men of their own party, and all the slaves they had taken from the Spaniards. With the rest of their men they marched unto another small island, adjoining so near that of St. Catherine that they could get over with a bridge. In a few days they made a bridge, and passed thither, conveying also over it all the pieces of ordnance which they had taken on the great island. Having ruined and destroyed, with sword and fire, both the islands, leaving what orders were necessary at the castle above mentioned, they put to sea again, with the Spaniards they had taken prisoners. Yet these they set on shore, not long after, upon the firm land, near Puerto Velo. After this, they began to cruise upon the coasts of Costa Rica,

till finally they came to the River Colla, designing to rob and pillage all the towns they could find in those parts, and afterwards to pass to the village of Nata to do the same.

The President or Governor of Panama having had advice of the arrival of these pirates, and the hostilities they committed everywhere, thought it his duty to set forth to their encounter with a body of men. His coming caused the pirates to retire suddenly, with all speed and care; especially seeing the whole country alarmed at their arrival, and that their designs were known, and consequently could be of no great effect at that time. Hereupon they returned to the Isle of St. Catherine, to visit the hundred men they had left in garrison there. The Governor of these men was a Frenchman, named Le Sieur Simon, who behaved himself very well in that charge, while Mansvelt was absent; insomuch that he had put the great island in a very good posture of defence; and the little one he had caused to be cultivated with many fertile plantations, which were sufficient to revictual the whole fleet with provisions and fruits, not only for present refreshment, but also in case of a new voyage. Mansvelt's inclinations were very much bent to keep these two islands in perpetual possession, as being very commodious, and profitably situated for the use of the pirates; chiefly because they were so near the Spanish dominions, and easily to be defended against them.

Hereupon Mansvelt determined to return to Jamaica, with design to send some recruits to the Isle of St. Catherine, that in case of any invasion from the Spaniards the pirates might be provided for a defence. As soon as he arrived, he propounded his mind and intentions unto the Governor of that island; but he liked not the propositions of Mansvelt, fearing, lest by granting such things, he should displease his master, the King of England. Besides that, by giving him the men he desired, and other necessaries for that purpose, he must of necessity diminish and weaken the forces of the island whereof he was Governor. Mansvelt, seeing the unwillingness of the Governor of Jamaica, and that of his own accord he could not compass what he desired, with the same intent and design went to the island of Tortuga. But there, before

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he could accomplish his desires, or put in execution what was intended, death suddenly surprised him, and put a period to his wicked life; all things thereby remaining in suspense, till a subsequent occasion put them again in motion.

Le Sieur Simon, who remained at the Isle of St. Catherine, in quality of Governor thereof, receiving no news from Mansvelt, his Admiral, was greatly impatient and desirous to know what might be the cause thereof. Meanwhile, Don John Perez de Guzman, being newly come to the government of Costa Rica, thought it no ways convenient for the interest of the King of Spain that that island should remain in the hands of the king of the pirates; and thereupon he equipped a considerable fleet, which he sent to the island to retake it. But before he came to use any great violence, he wrote a letter to Le Sieur Simon, wherein he gave him to understand, that if he would surrender the island unto his Catholic Majesty he should be very well rewarded; but in case of refusal he should be severely punished when he had forced him to do it. Le Sieur Simon, seeing no appearance or probability of being able to defend it alone, nor any emolument that by so doing could accrue to him or his people, after some small resistance, delivered up the island into the hands of its true master, under the same articles as those by which they had obtained it from the Spaniards. A few days after the surrender of the island there arrived from Jamaica an English ship, which the Governor of the said island had sent underhand, wherein was a good supply of people, both men and women. The Spaniards from the castle having spied this ship, put forth English colours, persuaded Le Sieur Simon to go on board, and conduct the said ship into a port they assigned him. This he performed immediately with dissimulation, whereby they were all made prisoners.

In less than a month after this there arrived at the isle an English vessel, which, being seen at a great distance by the Major, he gave orders to Le Sieur Simon to go and visit, and tell those who were on board that the island belonged to the English. He performed the command and found in the said ship only fourteen men, one woman and her daughter, who were instantly made prisoners.

The English pirates were all transported to Puerto Velo, excepting only three, who, by order of the Governor, were carried to Panama, there to work in the castle of St. Jerom. This fortification is an excellent piece of workmanship, and very strong; being raised in the middle of the port of a quadrangular form, and of very hard stone.

Captain Morgan, seeing his predecessor, Admiral Mansvelt, was dead, endeavoured, by all possible means, to preserve and keep in perpetual possession the Isle of St. Catherine, seated near to Cuba. His chief intent was to consecrate it as a refuge and sanctuary to the pirates of those parts; putting it in a sufficient condition for being a receptacle or storehouse of their preys and robberies. To this effect he left no stone unmoved whereby to compass his designs, writing, for the same purpose, to several merchants that lived in Virginia and New England, and persuading them to send him provisions and other necessary things towards putting the said island in such a posture of defence as it might neither fear any external dangers, nor be moved at any suspicions of invasion from either side, that might attempt to disquiet it. At last, all his thoughts and cares proved ineffectual, by the Spaniards retaking the said island: yet, notwithstanding, Captain Morgan retained his ancient courage, which instantly put him on new designs. Thus he equipped at first a ship, with intention to gather an entire fleet, both as great and as strong as he could compass. By degrees he put the whole matter in execution, and gave orders to every member of his fleet that they should meet at a certain port of Cuba. Here he determined to call a council, and deliberate concerning what was best to be done, and what place they should first proceed against.

Morgan had been no longer than two months in the abovementioned port, South of Cuba, when he had got together a fleet of twelve sail of ships and great boats; wherein he had seven hundred fighting men, part of which were English, and part French. They called a council, and some were of opinion it was convenient to assault the city of Havannah, under covert of the night; which enterprise, they said, might be easily performed, especially if they could take any of the

ecclesiastics, and make them prisoners; that the city might be sacked, in fact, before the castles could put themselves in a posture of defence. Others pronounced, according to their several opinions, other attempts. Notwithstanding, the former proposal was rejected, because many of the pirates had been prisoners aforesaid in the said city; and these affirmed, that nothing of consequence could be done unless with fifteen hundred men: moreover, that with all this number of people, they ought first to go to the island De los Pinos, and land them in small boats about Matomano, fourteen leagues distant from the aforesaid city, whereby to accomplish and order their designs.

Finally, they saw no possibility of gathering so great a fleet; and, hereupon, with that they had, they concluded to attempt some other place. Among the rest was found, at last, one who pronounced that they should go and assault the town of El Puerto del Principe. This proposition he endeavoured to make them entertain, by saying, he knew that place very well; and that being at a distance from the sea it never was sacked by any pirates; whereby the inhabitants were rich, as exercising their trade for ready money with those of Havannah, who kept here an established commerce, which consisted chiefly in hides. This proposal was immediately admired by Captain Morgan, and the chief of his companions; and thereupon they gave orders to every captain to weigh anchor and set sail, steering their course towards the coast lying nearest El Puerto del Principe. Being arrived at this bay, a certain Spaniard, who was a prisoner on board the fleet, swam ashore by night, and came to the town of El Puerto del Principe, giving account to the inhabitants of the design the pirates had against them. This he affirmed to have overheard in their discourse, they thinking, at the same time, he did not understand the English tongue. The Spaniards, as soon as they received this fortunate advice, began instantly to hide their riches, and carry away what movables they could. The Governor, also, immediately raised all the people of the town, both freemen and slaves, and with part of them took a post by which, of necessity, the pirates were to pass. He commanded likewise many trees to be cut

down, and laid amidst the ways, to hinder their passage. In like manner, he placed several ambuscades, which were strengthened with some pieces of cannon, to play upon them on their march. He gathered, in all, about eight hundred men, of which he distributed several into the beforementioned ambuscades, and with the rest he begirt the town; displaying them upon the plain of a spacious field, whence they could see the pirates coming upon them.

Captain Morgan, with his men, being now upon the march, found the avenues and passages to the town impenetrable. They therefore took their way through the wood, traversing it with great difficulty, whereby they escaped divers ambuscades. Thus, at last, they came into the plain before mentioned, which, from its figure, is called by the Spaniards La Savannah (the Sheet). The Governor, seeing them come, made a detachment of a troop of horse; which he sent to charge them in the front, thinking to disperse them, and, by putting them to flight, pursue them with his main body. But this design succeeded not as they intended; for the pirates marched in very good rank and file, at the sound of their drums, with flying colours. When they came nigh to the horse they drew in the form of a semicircle, and thus advanced towards the Spaniards, who charged them like valiant and courageous soldiers for a while; but, finding the pirates very dexterous at their arms, and their Governor, with many of their companions, killed, they began to retreat towards the wood. Here they designed to save themselves with more advantage; but before they could reach it the greatest part of them were unfortunately killed by the hands of the pirates. Thus they left the victory to these newly arrived enemies, who had no considerable loss of men in this battle, and very few wounded, though the skirmish continued for the space of four hours. They entered the town, though not without great resistance from such as were within, who defended themselves as long as possible, thinking by their defence to hinder the pillage. Many of the inhabitants, seeing the enemy within the town, shut themselves up in their houses, and from thence fired several shots against the pirates; who, perceiving the disadvantage, presently began to threaten them, saying, "If you do not

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surrender voluntarily, you shall soon see the town in a flame, and your wives and children torn in pieces before your faces." At these menaces the Spaniards submitted entirely to the discretion of the pirates, believing they could not continue there long, and would soon be forced to dis-lodge.

As soon as the pirates had possessed themselves of the town, they shut up all the Spaniards—men, women, children, and slaves—in several churches, and then gathered all the goods they could find, for the purpose of pillage. They afterwards searched the whole country round, bringing in, daily, many goods and prisoners, with much provision. With this they fell to banqueting among themselves, and making great cheer, after their customary way, without remembering the poor prisoners, whom they permitted to starve in the churches for hunger. In the mean time they ceased not to torment them in an inhuman manner, thereby to make them confess where they had hid their goods, moneys, and other things; though little or nothing was left them. To this effect they punished all the women and children, keeping them without food, whereby the greatest part perished.

When they found no more to rob, and that provisions began to grow scarce, they thought it convenient to depart, and seek new fortunes in other places. Hence they intimated to the prisoners, "they should find money to ransom themselves, else they should be all transported to Jamaica; and if they did not pay a second ransom, for the town, they would turn every house into ashes." The inhabitants, hearing these severe menaces, nominated among themselves four fellow-prisoners to go and seek the above contributions. But the pirates, to the intent that they should return speedily with the ransom prescribed, tormented several in their presence, before they departed, with all the rigour imaginable. After a few days, the Spaniards returned from the fatigue of their unreasonable commission, telling Captain Morgan that they had run up and down, and searched all the neighbouring woods and places they most suspected, and yet had not been able to find any of their own party, nor consequently find any fruit of their embassy. "But if," said they, "you are pleased to have a little longer patience with us, we

shall certainly cause all that you demand to be paid within the space of fifteen days." Captain Morgan was contented, as it should seem, to grant this petition; but there came into the town, not long after, seven or eight pirates, who had been ranging in the woods and fields, and had got some considerable booty: these brought, among other prisoners, a certain negro, whom they found with letters about him. Captain Morgan, on perusing these letters, found that they were from the Governor of St. Jago, being written to some of the prisoners, advising them that they should not make too much haste to pay any ransom for their town or persons, or on any other pretext; but that they should, on the contrary, put off the pirates as well as they could with excuses and delays, expecting to be relieved by him in a short time, as he would certainly come to their aid without delay. This intelligence becoming known to Morgan, he immediately gave orders that all they had robbed should be carried on board the ships; and he intimated, withal, to the Spaniards that the very next day they should pay their ransoms; inasmuch as he would not wait one moment longer, but reduce the town to ashes in case they failed to procure the sum he demanded.

With this intimation, Captain Morgan made no mention to the Spaniards of the letters he had intercepted; and they made him answer, that it was totally impossible for them to give such a sum of money in so short a time, seeing their fellow-townsmen were not to be found in all the country thereabouts. Morgan knew their intentions full well, and withal thought it prudent not to remain there any longer: hence he demanded of them only five hundred oxen, together with sufficient salt wherewith to salt them.

To this he added only one more condition—that they should carry them on board his ships, to which they assented. Thus he departed with all his men, taking with him only six of the principal prisoners as pledges of what he intended. The next day the Spaniards brought the cattle and salt to the ships, and required the prisoners; but Morgan refused to deliver them till such time as they had helped his men to kill and salt the beeves: this was likewise performed in great haste, he not caring to stay there any longer, lest he should be surprised by the

forces that were gathering against him; and, having received all on board his vessels, he set at liberty the prisoners he had kept as hostages for his demands.

While these things were in agitation there happened to arise some dissensions between the English and French. A certain Frenchman being employed in killing and salting one of the beeves, an English pirate came to him and seized the marrow-bones he had taken out of the ox, which sort of meat these people esteem very much. Hereupon they challenged one another. Being come to the place of duel, the Englishman drew his sword treacherously against the Frenchman, wounding him in the back, before he had put himself in a just posture of defence; whereby he suddenly fell dead upon the place. The other Frenchman, desirous to revenge this base action, made an insurrection against the English. But Capt. Morgan soon extinguished this flame, by commanding the criminal to be bound in chains, and thus carried to Jamaica, promising them all, he would see justice done upon him; for although it was permitted him to challenge his adversary, yet was it not lawful to kill him treacherously, as he did.

As soon as all things were in readiness, and on board the ships, and likewise the prisoners set at liberty, they sailed from thence, directing their course to a certain island, where Captain Morgan intended to make a dividend of what they had purchased in that voyage. Being arrived at the place assigned, they found not much less than the value of fifty thousand pieces of eight collectively in money and goods. The sum, on being known, caused a general resentment and grief, to see such a small purchase, which was not sufficient to pay their debts at Jamaica. Captain Morgan thereon propounded to them, that they should think upon some other enterprise and pillage before their return home: but the Frenchmen, not being able to agree with the English, separated from their company, leaving Captain Morgan with those of his own nation, notwithstanding all the persuasions he used to induce them to continue in his company. Thus they parted with all external signs of friendship, Captain Morgan reiterating his promises to them that he would see justice done to the criminal before mentioned. This he performed;

for, being arrived at Jamaica, he caused him to be hanged; which was all the satisfaction the French pirates could expect.

Some, perhaps, may think, that the French having deserted Captain Morgan, the English alone could not have been sufficient to perform such great actions as before their divisions. But Captain Morgan, who always communicated vigour with his words, infused such spirit into his men as was able to put every one of them instantly upon new designs; they being all persuaded by his reasons, that the sole execution of his orders would be a certain means of obtaining riches. This persuasion had such an influence upon their minds, that with inimitable courage they all resolved to follow him. On the same plan did a certain pirate of Campêché act, who on this occasion joined with Captain Morgan, to seek new fortunes under his conduct, and greater advantages than he had found before. In a few days, a fleet of nine sail, ships and great boats included, was collected, having four hundred and sixty military men.

After all things were in a good posture of readiness, they put forth to sea, Capt. Morgan imparting the design he had in mind to no one for the present. He only told them severally on different occasions, that he held it as indubitable that he should make a good fortune by that voyage, if strange occurrences altered not the course of his designs. They directed their course towards the continent; and arrived in a few days upon the coast of Costa Rica, with all his fleet entire. No sooner had they discovered land than the commodore declared his intentions to the captains, and presently after to all the rest of the company. He told them that he intended in that expedition to plunder Puerto Velo, and that he would perform it by night, being resolved to put the whole city to sack, not the least corner escaping his diligenc. Moreover, to encourage them, he added, that this enterprise could not fail to succeed well, seeing he had kept it a secret in his mind, without revealing it to anybody, so that they could not have notice of his coming. To this proposition some made answer, by alleging that they had not a sufficient number of men with which to assault so strong and great a city. But Morgan

replied, " hearts are we are, we shall lated with they pron success, venture o reader m comparab may be i forehand which is province o of ten de distance Gulf of D the port o the stron Spain po excepting There ar nable, tha situated at ship or bo The garr soldiers, a of, was con dred fami chants dy there for a there from healthines certain va mountains chief war though the long at I brought tl times as t ships bel negroes ar Captain all the av the neighb dusk of th Puerto de wards the come to t river in t harbour, ca came to an selves imm leaving in keep them, day into j came to a longa Lem

replied, "If our number is small, our hearts are great; and the fewer persons we are, the more union and better shares we shall have in the spoil." Being stimulated with the ambition of the vast riches they promised themselves from their good success, they unanimously concluded to venture on that design. But, that our reader may better comprehend the incomparable boldness of this exploit, it may be necessary to say something beforehand of the city of Puerto Velo; which is a city in America, seated in the province of Costa Rica, under the altitude of ten degrees Northern latitude, at the distance of fourteen leagues from the Gulf of Darien, and eight Westward from the port called Nombre de Deos. It is the strongest place that the King of Spain possessed in all the West Indies, excepting Havannah and Carthagena. There are two castles, almost impregnable, that defend the city, they being situated at the entry of the port, so that no ship or boat can pass without permission. The garrison consisted of two hundred soldiers, and the town, at the time treated of, was constantly inhabited by four hundred families, more or less. The merchants dwelt not there, (only staying there for a while, when the galleons were there from Spain,) by reason of the unhealthiness of the air, occasioned by certain vapours that exhale from the mountains. Notwithstanding this, their chief warehouses were at Puerto Velo, though their habitations were all the year long at Panama; from whence they brought the plate upon mules, at such times as the fair began; and when the ships belonging to the company of negroes arrived there to sell slaves.

Captain Morgan, who knew very well all the avenues of this city, as also all the neighbouring coasts, arrived in the dusk of the evening at the place called Puerto de Naos, distant ten leagues towards the West of Puerto Velo. Being come to this place, they mounted the river in their ships, as far as another harbour, called Puerto Pontin, where he came to an anchor. Here they put themselves immediately into boats and canoes, leaving in the ships only a few men to keep them, and conduct them the next day into port. About midnight they came to a certain place called Estera longa Lemos, where they all went on

shore, and marched by land to the first watch of the city. They had in their company an Englishman, who had been formerly a prisoner in those parts, and who now served them for a guide. To him and three or four more they gave commissions to take the sentinel, if possible, and kill him on the spot. Accordingly, they laid hands on him, and apprehended him with such cunning that he had no time to give warning with his musket, or make any other noise. Thus they brought him, with his hands bound, to Captain Morgan, who inquired how things went in the city, and what forces they had; with many other circumstances, which he was desirous to know. After every question, they made him a thousand menaces to kill him in case he declared not the truth. Thus they began to advance towards the city, carrying the said sentinel, bound, before them. Having marched about a quarter of a league, they came to the castle, which is near the city; which presently they closely surrounded, so that no person could get either in or out of the said fortress.

Being thus posted under the walls of the castle, Captain Morgan commanded the sentinel, whom they had taken prisoner, to speak to those that were within, and charge them to surrender and deliver themselves up to his discretion; threatening that otherwise they should be cut to pieces, and that quarter should not be given to any one. But they would listen to none of these threats, beginning immediately to fire; which gave notice to the city, and instantly alarmed the garrison. Notwithstanding that the Governor and soldiers of the said castle made as firm a resistance as they possibly could make, they were constrained to surrender to the pirates, who had no sooner taken possession of the castle than they began to show themselves true to their word, by putting the Spaniards to the sword, thereby to strike a terror to the rest of the citizens. Having shut up all the officers and soldiers, as prisoners, in one room, they set fire to the powder, of which they found a great quantity, and blew up the castle with all its inmates. This being done, they pursued the course of their victory, falling upon the city, which was not yet prepared to receive them. Many of the inhabitants cast their jewels, moneys, and other valuables into wells or cisterns, or

hid them in other places under ground, to prevent, as much as possible, their being entirely robbed. One party of the pirates, being assigned to this purpose, ran immediately to the cloisters, and took as many religious people as they could find.

The Governor of the city, not being able to rally the citizens, through the great confusion of the town, retired to one of the castles remaining, and from thence began to fire incessantly at the pirates. But these were not in the least negligent either to assault him or defend themselves, with all the courage imaginable. Thus it was observable, that amidst the horror of the assault they made very few shots in vain; for, aiming with great dexterity at the mouths of the guns, the Spaniards were certain to lose one or two every time they charged a gun.

The assault of the castle in which the Governor had placed himself, continued very furious on both sides, from break of day till noon; and even then the case was very dubious which party should conquer or be conquered. At last, the pirates, perceiving they had lost many men, and, as yet, advanced but little towards the gaining either this or the other castles remaining, thought to make use of fire-balls, which they threw with both their hands; designing, if possible, to burn the doors of the castle. But when they were about to put this into execution, the Spaniards, from the walls, let fall a great quantity of stones, and earthen pots full of powder, and other combustible matter, which forced them to desist from that attempt. Captain Morgan, seeing this vigorous defence made by the Spaniards, began to despair of the whole success of the enterprise. Hereupon, many faint and calm meditations came into his mind; neither could he determine which way to turn himself in that distress of affairs. Being involved in these thoughts, he was suddenly animated to continue the assault, by seeing the English colours put forth at one of the lesser castles, which was just then entered by his men. A troop of these immediately came to meet him, proclaiming victory with loud shouts of joy. This instantly put him upon new resolves, of making fresh efforts to take the rest of the castles that stood out against him; especially seeing the chief citizens were fled to them, and had conveyed thither great part of their riches,

with all the plate belonging to the churches, and other things dedicated to divine service.

To bring about this, therefore, he ordered ten or twelve ladders to be made in all possible haste, so broad that three or four men at once might ascend by them. These being finished, he commanded all the religious men and women, whom he had taken prisoners, to fix them against the walls of the castle. Thus much he had beforehand threatened the Governor to perform, in case he delivered not the castle. But the answer of that gallant commander was, that he would never surrender himself alive. The captain's knowledge of the superstition of these people furnished him with this stratagem; for he persuaded himself that the Governor would not employ his utmost forces, seeing religious women and ecclesiastical persons exposed, in the front of the soldiers, to the greatest dangers. Thus the ladders, as we have said, were put into the hands of religious persons of both sexes; and these were forced, at the head of the companies, to raise and apply them to the walls.

Captain Morgan was, however, deceived in his judgment; for the Governor, who acted like a brave and courageous soldier, and who had little of the religious temper of his country, neglected not, in performance of his duty, to use his utmost endeavours to destroy whoever came near the walls. The religious men and women ceased not to cry to him, and beg of him, by all the saints of Heaven, to deliver up the castle, and spare both his and their own lives. But nothing could prevail with the resolution and fierceness that had possessed the Governor's mind. Thus many of the religious men and nuns were killed before they could place the ladders; which, at last, being done, though with great loss of their said brethren and sisters, the pirates mounted in great numbers and with no less valour, having fire-balls in their hands, and earthen pots full of powder; all which things, being now at the top of the walls, they kindled, and cast in among the Spaniards.

(To be continued.)

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 46.

JANUARY 11, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES. N^o. 6.

SIR HENRY MORGAN.



[MORGAN BEFORE PANAMA.]

CHAPTER II.

THE effort of the pirates before Puerto Velo was very bold and successful, inso-
much that the Spaniards could no longer
resist nor defend the castle, which was
now entered; whereupon the inmates
threw down their arms, and craved quar-
ters for their lives, except the Governor
of the city, who would neither admit nor
crave mercy, but continued to kill many
of the pirates with his own hands, and
not a few of his own soldiers because
they did not stand to their arms; and
though the pirates asked him if he would
have quarter, he constantly answered,
"By no means: I had rather die as
a valiant soldier, than be hanged as a
coward." They endeavoured, as much

as they could, to take him prisoner, but
he defended himself so obstinately that
they were forced to kill him, notwith-
standing all the cries and tears of his
own wife and daughter, begging of him,
upon their knees, to demand quarter, and
save his life. When the pirates had pos-
sessed themselves of the castle, which was
about night, they inclosed therein all the
prisoners they had taken, placing the men
and women separately, with some guards
upon them. All the wounded were put
into a certain lonely apartment, to the
intent their own complaints might be the
cure of their diseases, for no other was
afforded them.

This being done, they fell to eating
and drinking, after their usual manner;

that is to say, committing in both these things all manner of debauchery and excess. These two vices were immediately followed by many insolent actions of rape and adultery, committed upon numerous honest women, as well married as virgin; who, being threatened with the sword, were constrained to submit their bodies to the violence of their villainous oppressors. After such a manner they delivered themselves up to all sorts of debauchery of this kind, that if there had been found only fifteen courageous men they might have retaken the city, and killed all the pirates. The next day, having plundered all they could find, they began to examine some of the prisoners, who had been persuaded by their companions to say they were the richest of the town; charging them severally, to discover where they had hid their riches and goods. But not being able to extort anything out of them, as they were not the right persons that possessed any wealth, they at last resolved to torture them. This they performed with such cruelty, that many of them died upon the rack or presently afterwards. Soon after this the President of Panama had news brought him of the pillage and ruin of Puerto Velo. This intelligence caused him to employ all his care and industry to raise forces, with design to pursue and cast out the pirates from thence. But these cared little for what extraordinary means the President used, as having ships nigh at hand, and being determined to set fire to the city and retreat. They had now been at Puerto Velo fifteen days, in which space of time they had lost many of their men, both by the unhealthiness of the country, and the extravagant debaucheries they had committed.

The pirates at length prepared for a departure, carrying on board their ships all the pillage they had obtained. But, above all, they provided the fleet with sufficient victuals for the voyage. While these things were getting ready, Captain Morgan sent an injunction to the prisoners that they should pay him a ransom for the city, or else he would fire it, and consume it to ashes, and hlow up all the castles. He commanded them likewise to send speedily two persons to seek and procure the sum he demanded, which amounted to one hundred thousand pieces

of eight. To this effect, two men were sent to the Governor of Panama, to give him an account of all these tragedies. The President, having now a body of men in readiness, set forth immediately for Puerto Velo, to encounter the pirates before their retreat: but these people hearing of his coming, instead of flying away, went to meet him in a narrow passage, through which, of necessity, he must pass. Here they placed a hundred men, well armed, who, at the first encounter, put to flight a considerable party of those of Panama. This accident obliged the President to retire, for that time, as not being yet in a posture of strength to proceed any farther. Presently after this rencounter, he sent a message to Captain Morgan, to tell him, that in case he departed not suddenly, with all his forces, from Puerto Velo, he ought to expect no quarter for himself, nor his companions, when he should take them, as he hoped soon to do. Captain Morgan, who feared not his threats, as knowing he had a secure retreat in his ships, which were nigh at hand, made him answer, that he would not deliver up the castles, before he had received the contribution money he had demanded; and in case it was not paid down, he would certainly burn the whole city, and then leave it; demolishing, beforehand, the castles, and killing the prisoners.

The Governor of Panama perceived by this answer, that no means would serve to mollify the hearts of the pirates, nor reduce them to reason; on which he determined to leave them; and consequently those of the city, whom he came to relieve, were involved in the difficulties of making the best agreement they could with their enemies. Thus, in a few days more, the miserable citizens gathered the contribution in which they were fined; and brought the entire sum of one hundred thousand pieces of eight to the pirates, for a ransom out of the cruel captivity into which they were fallen.

After these transactions, Captain Morgan set sail from Puerto Velo with all his ships; with which he arrived, in a few days, at the island of Cuba, where he sought out a place wherein, with all quiet and repose, he might make the dividend of the spoil he had gotten. They found in ready money, two hundred and fifty thousand pieces of eight, besides

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a variety of merchandise; such as, cloth, linen, silks, and other goods. With this rich purchase they sailed again to the common place of rendezvous, Jamaica. Being arrived there, they passed some time in all sorts of vice and debauchery, according to their common practice, spending with prodigality what others had gained with no small labour and toil, though they, indeed, came to the possession of it as easily as they parted with it.

Not long after the arrival of the pirates at Jamaica, when they had stayed there precisely that short time they needed to lavish away all the riches above mentioned, they concluded upon another enterprise, whereby to seek new fortunes. To this effect the captain gave orders to all the commanders of his ships, to meet together at the South island, called De la Vaca (Cow Island), seated on the south side of the Isle of Hispaniola. As soon as they came to this place, there flocked to them great numbers of other pirates, both French and English, the name of Captain Morgan being now rendered famous in all the neighbouring countries, for the great enterprises he had performed. There was at that present time, at Jamaica, an English ship, newly come from New England, well mounted with thirty-six guns. This vessel, likewise, by order of the Governor of Jamaica, came to join Morgan, to strengthen his fleet, and give him more courage to attempt things of greater consequence. With this supply, Morgan judged himself sufficiently strong, as having the addition of a ship of such force, for it was really the greatest in his fleet. Notwithstanding this, there being in the same place another large vessel that carried twenty-four iron guns, and twelve brass, belonging to the French Captain Morgan, endeavoured as much as he could to join this ship, in like manner, with his own; but the French, not daring to repose and trust in the English, of whose actions they were not a little jealous, denied absolutely to consent thereto.

The French pirates belonging to this large ship had accidentally met at sea an English vessel; and, being at the time under an extreme necessity of victuals, they had taken some provisions out of the English ship without paying for them, having, peradventure, no ready money on

board: only they had given them bills of exchange, for Jamaica and Tortuga, to receive money there for what they had taken. Captain Morgan, having notice of this accident, and perceiving he could not prevail with the French captain to follow him in that expedition, resolved to lay hold of this occasion, as a pretext to ruin the French, and seek his own revenge; whereupon he invited, with a masterly dissimulation, the French commander and several of his men to dine with him, on board the ship that was come from Jamaica. Being come thither, he made them all prisoners, pretending that the injury before mentioned done to the English vessel, in taking away some few provisions without pay, was the cause.

Captain Morgan, in his proceedings with these Frenchmen, however, was less fortunate than usual; for soon after he had taken the French prisoners he called a council, to deliberate on what place they should first pitch, in the course of this new expedition. At this council it was determined to go to the Isle of Savona, there to wait the flota, which was then expected from Spain, and take any of the Spanish vessels that might chance to straggle from the rest. This resolution being taken, they began on board the large ship to feast one another, for joy of their new voyage and happy council, as they hoped it would prove; in testimony of which they drank many healths, and discharged many guns, as the common sign of mirth and jollity among them. Most of the men being drunk, the ship was suddenly blown up into the air, by what accident is not known, with three hundred and fifty Englishmen, besides the French prisoners above mentioned, that were in the hold; of all which number there escaped only thirty men, who were in the great cabin, at some distance from the main force of the gunpowder. Many more, it was thought, might have escaped, had they not been so much overtaken with wine.

Eight days after the loss of the said ship, Captain Morgan commanded that search should be made for the bodies of the miserable wretches who were blown up, as they floated upon the surface of the sea; not for the purpose of giving them Christian burial, but for the sake of their clothes, &c. If any had gold rings

upon their fingers, they were cut off, and their bodies left to the monsters of the deep.

At last they set sail for the Isle of Savona, to the place of rendezvous, consisting, in all, of fifteen vessels, carrying nine hundred and sixty men, Captain Morgan commanding the greatest, which had only fourteen guns. In a few days they arrived at the Cabo de Labos, on the south side of the Isle of Hispaniola, between the Capes of Tuberén and Punta de Espada; whence they could not pass, (there being contrary winds for three weeks,) notwithstanding all the endeavours of Captain Morgan. They doubled the Cape, and soon spoke with an English vessel, buying for ready money such provisions as they stood in need of.

Captain Morgan proceeded in the course of his voyage, till he came to the port of Ocoa. Here he landed some of his men, sending them into the woods to seek water and what provisions they could find; the better to spare such as he had already on board his fleet. They killed many beasts, and, among other animals, many horses. But the Spaniards not being well satisfied at their hunting, attempted to lay a stratagem for the pirates. To this purpose, they ordered three or four hundred men to come from the city of Santa Domingo, not far distant from this port, desiring them to meet to hunt in all the parts thereabouts adjoining to the sea, to the intent the pirates should find no subsistence. Within a few days the same pirates returned, with design to hunt; but, finding nothing to kill, about fifty of them straggled farther into the woods. The Spaniards, who watched their motions, gathered a great herd of cows, and set two or three men to keep them, which the pirates espied, and killed a sufficient number for their use. Though the Spaniards could see them at a distance, they would not interrupt them for the present; but, as soon as they attempted to carry them off, they set upon them with all imaginable fury, crying, "Mata, mata!" (that is, Kill, kill!) obliging the pirates to quit their prey, and retreat to their ships as fast as they could. This was performed in good order, retiring gradually; and, when they had a favourable opportunity, by discharging volleys of shot upon the Spaniards, killing many, though not without some loss on their

own side. The rest of the Spaniards, seeing what damage their companions had sustained, endeavoured to save themselves by flight, and carry off the dead and wounded. The pirates, perceiving the Spaniards give way, pursued them immediately to the woods, killing the greater part of those who remained.

The next day, Captain Morgan, being very much enraged, went with two hundred men into the woods, to seek for the rest of the Spaniards; but finding nobody, he revenged their death by burning the houses of the poor and miserable rustics in the fields near the woods. After this, he returned to his ships, well pleased he had done the enemy such considerable damage, which was always his most ardent desire.

The great impatience wherewith Captain Morgan waited so long for some of his ships, made him at length resolve to set sail without them, and steer his course for the Isle of Savona, the place against which he always had a design. Being arrived there, and not finding any of his ships yet come, he was more impatient than before, fearing they might be lost, or that he must proceed without them: nevertheless he waited their arrival some days longer. In the interim, having no great plenty of provisions, he sent a crew of one hundred and fifty men to the Isle of Hispaniola, to pillage some towns near the city of Santa Domingo: but the Spaniards, having had intelligence of their coming, were now so vigilant, and in so good a posture of defence, that the pirates thought it not convenient to assault them; choosing rather to return empty handed into Captain Morgan's presence, than perish in that desperate enterprise.

The captain, at last, seeing the other ships did not arrive, made a review of his people, finding only five hundred men or thereabouts; and but eight ships out of fifteen, and the greater part of those very small. Thus, having hitherto resolved to cruise upon the coasts of Caraccas, and plunder all the towns and villages he could meet, finding himself at present with such small forces, he changed his resolution, by the advice of a French captain belonging to his fleet, who had served under Lolonis, his countryman, in similar enterprises, and was at the taking of Maracaibo. Knowing all the

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entries, passages, forces, and means how to put in execution the same again in the company of Captain Morgan, he made a full relation of the matter; and Morgan concluded upon sacking it a second time, being persuaded, with all his men, of the facility with which they might execute what the Frenchman propounded. Hereupon they weighed anchor, and steered their course towards Curaçoa. Being come within sight of that island, they landed at another, which is nigh to it, called Ruba, seated about twelve leagues from Curaçoa, towards the west. This island was defended by a slender garrison, and was inhabited by Indians, who were subject to the crown of Spain, and spoke Spanish, by reason of the Roman Catholic religion, which was then cultivated by some few priests sent from time to time from the neighbouring continent.

Captain Morgan, having cast anchor before this island, bought of the inhabitants a great many sheep and lambs, and also wood, which he needed for all his fleet. Having been there two days he again set sail in the night time, to the intent that the people of the island might not know what course he steered.

The next day they arrived at the sea of Maracaibo, taking always great care of not being seen from Vigilia, for which purpose they anchored out of sight of the watch-tower. The night being come, they set sail again towards the land, and the next morning, by break of day, found themselves directly over against the bar of the lake last mentioned. The Spaniards had here lately built a strong fort, whence they now fired continually at the pirates while they were getting into boats for the purpose of landing. The dispute continued very hot on both sides, being managed with a great deal of courage, from morning till dark night. Evening being come, Captain Morgan in the obscurity thereof drew nigh to the fort; and, having examined it, he found no one in it, the Spaniards having deserted it not long before. They left behind them a match kindled, near a train of gunpowder, wherewith they designed to blow up the pirates, and the whole fortress, as soon as they were out of it. This design had taken effect, had the pirates failed to discover it in the space of one quarter of an hour. But Captain Morgan prevented the mischief, by snatching away the match

with all speed, whereby he saved both his own and his companions' lives. They found here a great quantity of gunpowder, with which he furnished his fleet; and he afterwards demolished part of the walls, and nailed up sixteen pieces of ordnance, which carried from twelve to twenty-four pound bullets. Here they also found a great number of muskets and other military stores.

The next day they commanded the ships to enter the bar; among which they divided the gunpowder, muskets, and other things they found in the fort. These things being done, they embarked again, to continue their course towards Maracaibo: but the waters were very low, so that they could not pass a certain bank that lies at the entry of the lake. Hereupon they were compelled to put themselves into canoes and small boats, with which they arrived the next day before Maracaibo, having no other defence than some small pieces, which they could carry in the said boats. Being landed, they ran immediately to the fort called De la Barra; which they found in like manner as the preceding, without any person in it; for all the garrison and inhabitants had fled before them into the woods, leaving the town without any people, except a few miserable, poor folk, who had nothing to lose.

As soon as they entered the town the pirates searched every corner thereof, to see if they could find any people that were hidden, who might break upon them unawares. Not finding anybody, every party, according as they came out of their several ships, chose what houses they pleased for themselves, in the best manner they could. The church was deputed for the common corps de garde, where they lived after a military manner, committing many insolent actions. The day after their arrival they sent a troop of one hundred men to seek for the inhabitants and their goods. These returned the next day following, bringing with them the number of thirty persons, men, women, and children; and fifty mules laden with several sorts of merchandise. All these miserable prisoners were put to the rack, to make them confess where the rest of the inhabitants were, and where their goods. Amongst other tortures then used, one was, to stretch their limbs with cords, and, at the same time, beat them

with sticks and other weapons. Others had burning matches placed between their fingers, and were thus burnt alive; others had slender cords, or matches, twisted about their heads, till their eyes burst out of the skull. Thus all sorts of inhuman cruelties were executed upon these innocent people. Those who would not confess, or who had nothing to declare, died under the hands of these tyrannical men; whose tortures and racks continued for the space of three whole weeks; in which time they ceased not to send out, daily, parties of men to seek for more people to torment and rob; they never returning home without booty and riches.

Captain Morgan, having now got into his hands, by degrees, one hundred of the chief families, with their goods, at last resolved to go to Gibraltar. With this design he equipped his fleet, providing it very sufficiently with all necessary things. He likewise put on board all the prisoners, and, weighing anchor, set sail for the said place, with resolution to hazard a battle. They had sent before them some prisoners to Gibraltar, to announce to the inhabitants that they should surrender; otherwise Captain Morgan would put them all to the sword, without giving quarter to any person he should find alive. Not long after, he arrived with his fleet before Gibraltar, whose inhabitants received him with the continual firing of great cannon: but the pirates, instead of fainting thereat, ceased not to encourage one another, saying, "We must make one meal upon better things, before we taste the sweetness of the sugar this place affordeth."

The next day, very early in the morning, they landed all their men; and, being guided by the Frenchman before mentioned, they marched to the town, not by the common way, but crossing through the woods; by which way the Spaniards scarce thought they would have come; for at the beginning of their march they made an appearance as if they intended to come by the next and open way that led to the town, hereby the better to deceive the Spaniards. But these remembering full well what hostilities had been committed upon them by pirates before, thought it not safe to wait their coming a second time; and therefore they all fled out of the town as fast as they could, carrying off their goods and riches,

as also all the gunpowder, having nailed up all the great guns; insomuch that the pirates found not one person in the whole city, excepting a poor and innocent man, who was born a fool. They asked this man whither the inhabitants were fled, and where they had carried their goods? Unto all which and the like questions he constantly made answer, "I know nothing, I know nothing." But they presently put him to the rack, and tortured him with cords; which torments caused him to cry out, "Do not torment me any more, and I will show you my goods and my riches."

They were persuaded, as it should seem, that he was some rich person, who had disguised himself under those poor clothes and innocent tongue. They went with him, and he conducted them to a poor cottage, wherein he had a few earthen dishes, and other things of little or no value; and amongst these, three pieces of eight, which he had concealed, with some other trumpery, under ground. After this, they asked him his name, and he readily made answer, "My name is Don Sebastian Sanchez; and I am brother to the Governor of Maracaibo." This foolish answer (for such it must be conceived) these men took for a certain truth; for no sooner had they heard it than they put him again upon the rack, lifting him up high with cords, and tying large weights to his feet and neck; besides using which cruel and stretching torment, they burnt him alive, applying palm-leaves burning to his face. Under these miseries he died in half an hour; after his death they cut the cords where-with they had stretched him, and dragged him forth into the adjoining woods, where they left him without burial.

The same day they sent out a party of pirates to seek the inhabitants, upon whom they might employ their inhuman cruelties. These brought back with them an honest peasant, with two daughters of his, whom they had taken prisoners, and whom they intended to torture, in case they showed not the places where the inhabitants had hid themselves. The peasant knew some of the said places, and, seeing himself threatened with the rack, went with the pirates to show them. But the Spaniards, perceiving their enemies to range everywhere up and down the woods, were already fled from thence,

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much farther off, into the thickest part of the woods, where they built huts, to screen themselves from the violence of the weather, with the few goods they had taken with them. The pirates judged themselves to be deceived by the peasant, and, therefore, to revenge their wrath upon him, notwithstanding all the excuses he could make, and his humble supplications for his life, they hanged him upon a tree.

After this, they divided into several parties, and went to search the plantations; for they knew the Spaniards who had hid themselves could not live upon what they found in the woods, without coming now and then to seek provisions at their own country houses. Here they found a certain slave, to whom they promised mountains of gold, and that they would give him his liberty, by transporting him to Jamaica, if he would show them the places where the inhabitants of Gibraltar lay hid. This fellow conducted them to a party of Spaniards, whom they instantly made prisoners, commanding the said slave to kill some of them before the eyes of the rest, to the intent that by this perpetrated crime he might never be able to leave their company. The negro, according to their order, committed many murders and base actions upon the Spaniards, and followed the unfortunate traces of the pirates; who, after the space of eight days, returned to Gibraltar, with many prisoners, and some mules laden with riches. They examined every prisoner by himself, (having in all about two hundred and fifty persons,) where he had concealed his goods, and if he knew of his fellow-townsmen. Such as would not confess were tormented after a most cruel and inhuman manner. Among the rest, there happened to be a certain Portuguese who, by the information of the negro, was reported, though falsely, to be very rich. This man was commanded to produce his riches: but his answer was, that he had no more than one hundred pieces of eight in the whole world, and that these had been stolen from him two days before by a servant of his; which words, though he sealed them with many oaths and protestations, would not satisfy these wretches: whereupon they dragged him to the rack, without any regard to his age, being three score years, stretched him with cords, and broke both his arms

behind his shoulders. This cruelty went not alone; for he not being able or willing to make any other declaration than the aforesaid, they put him to another sort of torment that was worse and more barbarous than the preceding. They tied him with small cords, by his two thumbs and great toes, to four stakes that were fixed in the ground, at a convenient distance, the whole weight of his body being pendent in the air upon those cords. Then they thrashed him, upon the cords, with great sticks, and all their strength, so that the body of this miserable man was ready to perish at every stroke, under the severity of those horrible pains. Not satisfied, as yet, with this cruel torture, they took a stone, which weighed about two hundred pounds, and laid it upon his belly, as they intended to press him to death. At which time they also kindled palm-leaves, and applied the flame to the face of this unfortunate Portuguese, burning with them the whole skin, beard, and hair. At last, these cruel tyrants, seeing that neither with these tortures nor others they could get anything out of him, untied the cords, and carried him, being almost dead, to the church, where was their corps de garde. Here they tied him anew to one of the pillars of the place, leaving him in that condition, without giving him anything to eat or drink for some days, unless very sparingly, so little as would scarce sustain life. Four or five days having elapsed, he desired that one of the prisoners might have the liberty to come to him, by whose means he promised to endeavour to raise some money to satisfy their demands. The prisoner whom he required was brought to him; and he ordered him to promise the pirates five hundred pieces of eight for his ransom. But they were both deaf and obstinate at such a small sum, and, instead of accepting it, beat him cruelly with cudgels, saying to him, "Old fellow, instead of five hundred, you must say five hundred thousand pieces of eight; otherwise you shall here end your life." Finally, after a thousand protestations that he was but a miserable man, and kept a poor tavern for his living, he agreed with them for the sum of one thousand pieces of eight. These he raised in a few days, and, having paid them to the pirates, got his liberty; although so horribly maimed in his body that it is

scarcely to be believed he could survive many weeks after.

Several other tortures besides these were exercised upon others, which this Portuguese endured not. Some were hung up by their privy members, and left in that condition till they fell to the ground, their private parts being torn from their bodies. If after this they were minded to show themselves merciful to those wretches, thus lacerated in the most tender parts of their bodies, their mercy was to run them through and through with their swords; and by this means rid them soon of their pains and lives; otherwise, if this were not done, they used to lie four or five days under the agonies of death. Others were crucified by these tyrants, and with kindled matches were burnt between the joints of their fingers and toes. Others had their feet put into the fire, and thus were left to be roasted alive. At last, having used both these and other cruelties with the white men, they began to practise the same over again with the negroes, their slaves, who were treated with no less inhumanity than their masters.

Among these slaves was found one who promised Captain Morgan to conduct him to a certain river belonging to the lake, where he should find a ship and four boats richly laden with goods, belonging to the inhabitants of Maracaibo. The same slave discovered likewise the place where the Governor lay hid, together with the greater part of the women of the town. But all this he revealed purely on account of the menaces wherewith they threatened him, in case he told not what he knew.

Captain Morgan presently sent away two hundred men in two great boats towards the abovementioned river, for the purpose of seeking what the slave had discovered. But he himself, with two hundred and fifty men, undertook to go and capture the Governor, who had retired to a small island, seated in the middle of the river, where he had built a little fort, after the best manner he could, for his defence; but, hearing that Morgan came in person, with a great force, to seek him, he retired farther off, to the top of a mountain, not far distant from that place, to which there was no ascent but by a very narrow passage. This refuge was so straight at its entrance, indeed,

that whoever attempted to gain the ascent must of necessity cause his men to pass one by one.

Captain Morgan spent two days before he could arrive at the little island above mentioned. From thence he designed to proceed to the mountain where the Governor was posted, had he not been told of the impossibility he should find in the ascent; not only from the narrowness of the passage that led to the top, but also that the Governor was very well provided with all sorts of ammunition. Besides, by the heavy rains which had fallen, all the gunpowder and ammunition belonging to the pirates was spoiled. By this rain they had also lost many of their men, at the passage over a river which was overflowed. Here perished likewise, some women and children, and many mules laden with plate and goods; all which they had taken in the fields from the fugitive inhabitants, in all directions: so that all things were in a very bad condition with the captain, and the bodies of his men were exceedingly harassed; and if the Spaniards at that juncture of time had but had a troop of fifty men, armed with pikes and spears, they might have entirely destroyed the pirates, without their being able to make any resistance. But the fears which the Spaniards had conceived from the beginning were so great, that if they only heard the leaves of the trees move they fancied the pirates were at hand. Finally, Morgan and his people, having sometimes in this march waded above thigh-deep in water, for a mile together, the greater part of them escaped; but of the women and children whom they made prisoners, the major part died.

Thus, twelve days after they set forth to seek the Governor, they returned to Gibraltar with a great number of prisoners. Two days after also arrived the two boats, which went to the river, bringing with them four boats and some prisoners. But as to the greater part of the merchandise in the boats, the Spaniards had removed them, and they were not to be found.

(To be continued.)

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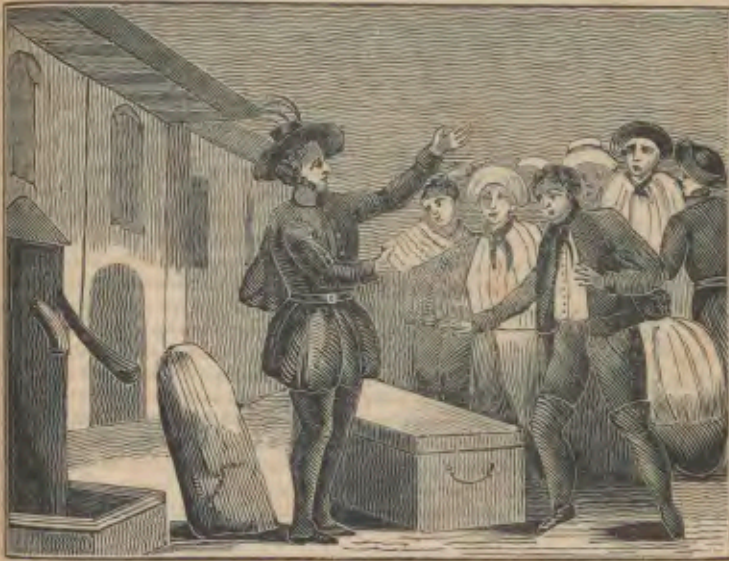
N^o. 47.

JANUARY 18, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE MOST NOTORIOUS PIRATES. N^o. 7.

SIR HENRY MORGAN.



[MORGAN READING ESPINOSA'S LETTER.]

CHAPTER III.

AFTER having been nine weeks at Gibraltar, the pirates began to think of their departure, preparatory to which they managed to obtain a heavy ransom for the town: then returning to their vessels, they again visited Maracaibo, where they found only one individual, an old sick man, who had been left behind. This person informed the pirates that a Spanish admiral was lying at the entrance of the river with three large ships—one of forty-eight, another of thirty-eight, and another of twenty-four guns; besides which the fort had been replaced in its state of defence.

This intelligence very much staggered the pirates, especially on its being con-

firmed by their commander sending two boats to the entrance of the river for the purpose of discovery. These boatmen, on their return, stated that they had been so near the ships as to be fired at from them, and they narrowly escaped receiving damage thereby. In this state of affairs the pirates knew not how to act, seeing that their own force was so weak, the largest of their craft, commanded by their chief, carrying only fourteen guns. Every one judged that Captain Morgan desponded in his mind, and was destitute of all hope, considering the difficulty of passing safely with his little fleet amidst those great ships and the fort, and the necessity he was otherwise under of

perishing. How to escape any other way than this, either by sea or land, they saw no opportunity nor convenience. Only they could have wished that those three ships had come over the lake to seek them at Maracaibo, than to remain at the mouth of the straights, where they were; for at that passage they must of necessity fear the ruin of their fleet, which consisted only for the greater part of boats.

Hereupon, being necessitated to act as well as he could, Captain Morgan resumed new courage, and resolved to show himself as yet undaunted with these terrors. To this intent, he boldly sent a Spaniard to the admiral of those three ships, demanding of him a considerable tribute or ransom for not putting the city of Maracaibo to the flames. This man returned two days after, bringing to Captain Morgan a letter from the said admiral, whose contents we subjoin.

"Having understood by all our friends and neighbours, the unexpected news, that you have dared to attempt and commit hostilities in the countries, cities, towns, and villages, belonging to the dominions of his Catholic majesty, my sovereign lord and master, I let you understand by these lines, that I am come to this place, where I have put things in a very good posture of defence, and mounted again the artillery which you had nailed and dismantled, with intent to dispute with you your passage out of the lake, and pursue you everywhere, to the end you may see the performance of my duty. Notwithstanding, if you will be contented to surrender with humility all the treasure you have taken, together with the slaves, and all other prisoners, I will let you freely pass, without trouble or molestation, upon condition that you retire home presently to your own country.

"DON ALONSO DEL CAMPO Y ESPINOSA."

As soon as Captain Morgan had received this letter, he called his men together in the market-place of Maracaibo, and after reading the contents thereof, both in French and English, he asked their advice upon the whole matter; and whether they had rather surrender all they had purchased, to obtain their liberty, than fight like men to keep what they were possessed of.

They answered all unanimously, they

had rather fight, and spill the last drop of blood they had in their veins, than surrender so easily the booty they had earned with so much danger of their lives. Among the company, one was found who resolutely spoke thus to Capt. Morgan: "Take you care for the rest, and I will undertake to destroy the largest of those ships with only twelve men. The manner shall be, by making a fire-ship of that vessel we took in the river of Gibraltar; and to the intent she may not be known for a fire-ship, we will fill her decks with logs of wood, standing with hats and Montera caps, to deceive their sight, with the representation of men. The same we will do at the port-holes that serve for the guns, which shall be filled with counterfeit caannon. At the stern we will hang out English colours, and persuade the enemy she is one of our best men of war, and comes to fight them." This proposition, being heard by the junta, was admitted and approved of by every one; nevertheless, their fears were not quite dispersed; for, notwithstanding what had been concluded there, they endeavoured the next day to see if they could come to an accommodation with Don Alonso. To this effect Captain Morgan sent him two persons, with the following propositions.

First, That he, Captain Morgan, would quit Maracaibo without doing any damage to the town, or exacting any ransom for the firing thereof.

Secondly, That he would set at liberty one half of the slaves, and likewise all other prisoners, without ransom.

Thirdly, That he would send home freely the four chief inhabitants of Gibraltar, whom he had in his custody, as hostages for the contributions those people had promised to pay him.

These propositions from the pirates, being understood by Don Alonso, were instantly rejected; neither would he hear a word more of any accommodation, but sent back this message: That in case they surrendered themselves not voluntarily into his hands, within the space of two days, under the conditions he had offered them in his letter, he would immediately come and force them to do so.

No sooner had Captain Morgan received this message from Don Alonso, than he put all things in order to fight, resolving to get out of the lake by main

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force without surrendering anything. In the first place, he commanded all the slaves and prisoners to be tied and guarded very well. After this, they gathered all the pitch, tar, and brimstone they could find in the town, with which to prepare the fire-ship above mentioned. They likewise made several inventions of powder and brimstone, with great quantities of palm-leaves, well anointed with tar. They also covered their counterfeit cannon very dexterously, laying under every piece thereof many pounds of gunpowder. Besides which, they cut down many out-works belonging to the ship, to the end the gunpowder might exert its strength the better. Thus they broke open also new port-holes; where, instead of guns, they placed little drums, of which the negroes make use. Finally, the decks were handsomely beset with pieces of wood, dressed up in the shape of men, with hats or monteras; and likewise armed with swords, muskets, and bandoleers.

The fire-ship being thus fitted to their purpose, they prepared themselves to go to the entry of the fort. All the male prisoners were put into one great boat, and in another of the greatest they placed all the women, plate, jewels, and other rich things they had. Into others they put all the bales of goods and merchandise, and other things of bulk. Each of these boats had twelve men on board, well armed. The fire-ship had orders to go before the rest of the vessels, and presently to fall foul of the great ship.

All things being in readiness, Captain Morgan exacted an oath of all his comrades, whereby they protested to defend themselves against the Spaniards, even to the last drop of blood, without demanding quarter at any rate; promising them withal, that whoever thus behaved himself should be very well rewarded.

With this disposition of mind, they set sail to seek the Spaniards, and found their fleet riding at anchor in the middle of the entry of the lake. Captain Morgan, it being now almost dark, commanded all his vessels to anchor, with a design to fight from thence, even all night, if they should provoke him thereto. He gave orders that a vigilant watch should be kept on board every vessel till the morning, they being almost within shot as well as within sight of the enemy.

The dawning of the day being come,

they weighed anchor, and set sail again, steering their course directly towards the Spaniards; who, observing them move, instantly did the same. The fire-ship sailing before the rest, fell presently upon the great ship, and grappled to her sides in a short time; when, being perceived by the Spaniards to be a fire-ship, they attempted to escape the danger by putting off; but in vain—it was too late; for the flames suddenly seized her timber and tacking, and in a short space consumed all the stern, the fore-part sinking into the sea, whereby she perished. The second Spanish ship, perceiving the admiral to burn, not by accident, but by the industry of the enemy, escaped towards the castle, where the Spaniards themselves sunk her; choosing this way of losing their ship rather than fall into the hands of the pirates, which they now held for inevitable. The third, as having no opportunity to escape, was taken by the pirates. The seamen that sunk the second ship, nigh to the castle, perceiving that the pirates came towards them, to take what remains they could find of their shipwreck (for some part of the hull was then above water), set fire in like manner to this vessel, to the end the pirates might enjoy nothing of that spoil. The first ship being set on fire, some of the persons that were in her swam towards the shore. These the pirates would have taken up in their boats, but they would neither ask nor admit of any quarter; choosing rather to lose their lives, than receive them from the hands of their pursuers.

The pirates were so extremely elevated by this signal victory, obtained in so short a time, and with so great inequality of forces, that they conceived greater pride in their minds than they had before; and thereupon they all presently ran ashore, intending to take the castle. This they found very well provided with men, great cannon, and ammunition; they having no other arms than muskets, and a few fire-balls in their hands. Their own artillery they thought incapable from its smallness, of making any considerable breach in the walls. Thus they spend the rest of the day, firing at the garrison with their muskets, till the dusk of the evening, at which time they attempted to advance nigher the walls, with intent to throw in the fire-balls. But the Spaniards, resolving to sell their lives as dear as they

could, continued firing so furiously on them, that they thought it not convenient to approach any nearer, nor persist any longer in the dispute. Thus having experienced the obstinacy of the enemy, and seeing upwards of thirty of their own men already dead, and as many more wounded, they retired to their ships.

The Spaniards, believing the pirates would return the next day to renew the attack, as also to make use of their own cannon against the castle, laboured very hard all night in digging down and making plain some little hills, and small eminences, from whence the castle might be acted against.

In the mean while Captain Morgan, with all his fleet, returned to Maracaibo, where he refitted the great ship he had taken of the three aforementioned. And now being well accommodated, he chose it for himself, giving his own bottom to one of his captains.

He now again sent a messenger to the admiral, who had escaped on shore, and got into the castle, demanding of him a ransom for the town of Maracaibo, to preserve it from fire; which being denied, he threatened entirely to consume and destroy it. The Spaniards, considering how unfortunate they had been all along with the pirates, and not knowing how to get rid of them, concluded among themselves to pay the said ransom, although Don Alonso would not consent to it. Hereupon they sent to Captain Morgan to ask what sum he demanded. He answered them that he would have thirty thousand pieces of eight, and five hundred beeves, to the intent his fleet might be well victualed with flesh. This ransom being paid, he promised them to give no farther trouble to the prisoners, nor to cause any ruin or damage to the town. Finally, they agreed with him upon the sum of twenty thousand pieces of eight, besides the five hundred beeves.

But Captain Morgan would not deliver for that present the prisoners, as he had promised to do, by reason he feared the shot of the artillery of the castle, on his going out of the lake. Hereupon, he told them he intended not to deliver them till such time as he was out of that danger; hoping, by this means, to obtain a free passage: and he told the prisoners, that it was necessary they should agree with the Governor to open the passage

with security for his fleet; to which point if he should not consent, he would certainly hang them all up in his ships.

After this warning, the prisoners met together to agree upon the persons they should depute to the said Governor Don Alonso; and they assigned some few among them for that embassy. These went to him, beseeching and supplicating the admiral that he would have compassion on those afflicted prisoners who were as yet, together with their wives and children, in the hands of Captain Morgan; and that to this end, he would be pleased to give his word to let the whole fleet of pirates freely pass without molestation. But Don Alonso gave them a sharp reprehension for their cowardice, telling them, "If you had been as loyal to your king in hindering the entry of these pirates, as I shall be in opposing their going out, you had never caused these troubles, neither to yourselves nor to our whole nation, which hath suffered so much through your pusillanimity. In a word, I shall never grant your request; but shall endeavour to maintain that respect which is due to my king, according to my duty."

Thus the Spaniards returned to their fellow-prisoners with much consternation of mind, and no hope of obtaining their request; telling Captain Morgan what answer they had received. His reply was, "If Don Alonso will not let me pass, I will find means how to do it without him." Hereupon he began presently to make a dividend of the booty they had taken in that voyage; fearing lest he might not have an opportunity of doing it in another place, if any tempest should arise and separate the ships; being also jealous that some of the commanders might run away with the best part of the spoil, which lay much more in one vessel than another.

The division being made, the question still remained, how they should pass the castle and get out of the lake: at last, they agreed to make use of a stratagem of no ill invention. On the day that preceded the night wherein they determined to get out, they embarked many of their men in canoes, and rowed towards the shore, as if they intended to land them. Here they concealed themselves under the branches of trees that hung over the coast, for a while, till they had laid them-

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selves down along in the boats. Then the canoes returned to the ships, with only the appearance of two or three men rowing them back, all the rest being concealed at the bottom of the canoes. Thus much only could be perceived from the castle; and this action of landing men was repeated that day several times. The Spaniards thereby were brought to the persuasion, that the pirates intended to force the castle by scaling it, as soon as the night should come. This fear caused them to place most of their great guns on that side which looked towards the land, together with the main force of their arms, leaving the contrary side, belonging to the sea, almost destitute of strength and defence.

Night being come, the pirates weighed anchor, and by the light of the moon, without setting sail, committed themselves to the ebbing tide, which gently brought them down the river, till they came near the castle. Being now almost against it, they spread their sails with all the haste they could possibly make. The Spaniards, perceiving them thus to escape, transported, with all speed, their guns from the other side of the castle, and began to fire furiously at the pirates. But these having a favourable wind, were past the danger before those in the castle could molest them; so that the pirates lost not any of their men, nor received any damage in their ships. Being now out of the reach of their guns, Captain Morgan sent a canoe to the castle with some prisoners; and the Governor thereof gave them a boat that every one might return to his own house. Just as he departed, Captain Morgan ordered seven great guns, with bullets, to be fired against the castle, as it were to take his leave of them. But they answered not so much as with a musket shot.

While Captain Morgan made his fortune by pillaging the towns above mentioned, many of his men left him, and took three of his ships, with which they intended to have made their fortunes; seeing, that whilst they were under the captain, he reaped the chief advantage from all their hazardous enterprises: besides, they found that the captain's intentions were to oppress them, and keep them entirely in subjection to his own arbitrary will.

Captain Morgan, finding that he was

become obnoxious to the greater part of his confederates, agreed with as many as he could influence, to take two or three of the ships, and steal privately off; assuring them that they should be able to make themselves masters of St. Catherine, where they would fortify themselves. But in this they failed; and after performing so many strange exploits, it seemed as if retributive justice had overtaken them, for committing so many unheard-of cruelties; for just at this juncture a new Governor arrived at Jamaica, who brought orders for the old Governor to be arrested, and sent home instantly, to give an account for his having encouraged the abominable outrages committed by the pirates.

This step was taken by the government, on receiving fresh complaints from the court of Spain, that the pirates were constantly supplied with ammunition and all sorts of necessaries from Jamaica, to enable them to commit depredations upon the ships and settlements of his Catholic majesty, although a profound peace subsisted between the two nations; and that at Jamaica the pirates were permitted to come into the port with the same freedom as the trading ships of any other nation whatsoever.

Upon this, Captain Morgan, being conscious of his guilt, on hearing of the vigilance and severity of the new Governor, and the measures he had taken to put a stop to their depredations, as also that a great many of the pirates had been taken and executed, thought it was high time to make his escape, and provide for his own safety; which he either effected, or, in attempting it, lost his life; for he was never afterwards heard of by his countrymen or any of those with whom he had heretofore associated.

Naval and Military Torture. No 6.

COLONEL EVANS IN SPAIN.

How long is Colonel (we beg pardon—General) Evans (“give him his due!”) to misrepresent the city of Westminster in Parliament? In the management of this publication, we interfere with political matters only so far as they bear upon particular or especial cases of delinquency; and we cannot forget that the *liberal* Colonel above named was one of

the most strenuous in quashing a Parliamentary inquiry into the Cold Bath Fields monstrosity. It was the complaint of some persons of respectability in life, that all classes of people were indiscriminately ill-treated by the police, and that, on notifying their grievances to the commissioners, these public servants or functionaries would not enter upon a survey of those grievances with a view to ulterior proceedings, positively refusing to entertain any accusation against a member of the *gen d'armerie*, however well attested. On the general subject being discussed in Parliament, with a view to the institution of an inquiry, this pseudo-radical gentleman was opposed to such inquiry, on the ground that "he knew the commissioners—he was personally acquainted with them; and he could therefore confidently speak as to their high respectability, which assured him that they were not capable of acting in the way which had been imputed to them, in reference to their inattention to well-grounded complaints." We deem this of sufficient weight to show that General Evans is not "a fit and proper person to represent the city of Westminster in Parliament." But there is that in his conduct which is of still greater weight, tending to the same point: he is an upholder of military torture, having countenanced the practice to excess as commander, during his "wanderings in Spain." Now, be it remembered, that the perpetuation of flogging in the army and navy, under the auspices of the ministry with which Sir John Hobhouse was connected, was one of the prime motives which led the electors of Westminster to supplant the last-named gentleman (who out of office had so violently denounced and publicly declaimed against the beastly practice,) in the person of the redoubtable General Evans, a name powerfully tied to the recollection of the officers and privates generally of the British Legion which he decoyed to Spain, to partake of his "glory!"—But, a sad tale to tell, these victims to a professed follower of Liberty have had to partake of his arbitrary power, in submitting themselves to the withering domination of the merciless use of the cat-o'-nine-tails! "O, Liberty! what crimes are committed in thy name!" should be inscribed on the banners which may be brought forward to *salute* the gallant com-

mander on his return from his *military* campaign. We present some brief details in confirmation of the foregoing remarks, and again inquire—How long is Colonel Evans to misrepresent the city of Westminster in Parliament?

"St. Francisco, at the time of which I am speaking," (says a writer in "The United Service Journal,") "was occupied by three regiments—the 1st, 7th, and 3d, or Westminster Grenadiers; the latter of which were barracked in the church, a splendid building of Gothic architecture, containing eight altars, besides the high one, to which you ascend by nine steps of beautifully tessellated marble, defended by iron railings of superior workmanship. Two pulpits, elaborately carved and exquisitely finished in azure and gold, and an organ of large size, richly gilt, and surmounted by a finely carved figure of St. Cecilia, were the first objects that attracted the eye on entering the sacred edifice; whilst the few fragments of stained glass that remained in the numerous windows, and remnants of the richest crimson silk curtains that waved as streamers mournfully in the blast, left no doubt in the mind of the beholder that it had been one of the most splendid conventual churches in the north of Spain. Here we lived, drilled (in wet weather), prayed on Sundays, and punished most days in the week. Lieut.-Colonel Renwick had been placed on the staff of the Legion; and Lieut.-Colonel Churchill, who succeeded him, seemed to have acquired his notions of discipline in a very different school; though he, too, had served in the British line. 'Spare the rod, and spoil the child,' said Solomon. 'Spare the cat, and spoil the soldier,' thought Colonel Churchill; and to so great an extent did he carry his zeal of discipline, that he has been known to take up the bloody instrument of castigation, find fault with its lightness, and ordered heavier to be manufactured. Some were wicked enough to whisper, it was a pity he had not an opportunity of a more intimate acquaintance with its weight. But be that as it may, men for trifling faults—such as coats not folded exactly to the regulation standard; cartridge-wrappers being broken in their cartouch-boxes; belts, brasses, or buttons not properly cleaned—have been taken out of the ranks, tied to the rails of the high altar, and flogged *a posteriori!*

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receiving from two to six dozen each, at the pleasure of the colonel."

A writer who spent "a few days at the head-quarters of Don Carlos," says, "I had heard so much of the dreadful treatment the prisoners taken by the Carlists were subjected to, that I begged permission to enter the gaol: the authorities granted my request. On entering, two Englishmen immediately advanced to me: they had been taken the preceding day, and were in terrible apprehension of being shot: I felt a little nervous myself, and, turning to the officer who accompanied me, expressed my fears. Hearing where the men had been captured, it suggested itself to me boldly to declare they were contemplating desertion at the very moment of their misfortune: my object was palpable enough, and at once seen through; but the officer smiled and replied, Perhaps this might be the case, and our discussion terminated in my procuring a passport for the poor fellows to Segura, where a regiment is formed from deserters from the different foreign corps: this regiment numbered at that time nearly three hundred men, a great portion of them English. The men were transported with gratitude: they told me, 'if it had not been for fear of being shot, they would have preferred remaining prisoners to permission to return to the Legion;' and they averred, 'that the daily allowance of food to them since their capture exceeded their rations for two days while with the Legion!'

"Proceeding on my journey, three more English deserters accosted me, passing also to Segura. These men were from Colonel Churchill's regiment; and it would be difficult indeed to portray their appearance: the unfortunate wretches were in a filthy condition, nearly naked, the very pictures of famine; chimney-sweepers would be libelled by comparison with this specimen of Colonel Churchill's battalion. Subsequently I had opportunities of conversing with many of the Legion, and however they might differ in detailing their motive for desertion, all agreed in picturing the abuse of the lash as excessive. This is not surprising. If one-half the evidence I have now before me be true, then the unfortunate men have been treated with a ferocity unparalleled. One fact, and it is a pretty strong one, I offer here in proof of my assertion. After re-entering France, I met by accident with

two members of the Legion, one a field-officer on leave, the other a subaltern, both returning to England; in talking with them of the state of affairs, and of the management (or rather mismanagement) of the English auxiliaries, one of them told me (it was no confidential communication) that the men were subjected to dreadful punishment: he said, that 'Every officer in the Legion possessed the discretionary power of ordering a soldier four dozen lashes, if he saw him misconducting himself!' This, too, without any form of trial, but simply at the caprice of any fuddled haberdasher's apprentice or aspiring shop-lad, who has been enabled to scramble together sufficient cash to buy a uniform, and now by radical legerdemain is metamorphosed into a 'British officer.'"

USHER GAHAGAN AND TERENCE CONNOR, COINERS.

How lamentable is the consideration that great geniuses are so often lost to common honesty; and how degraded is human nature, by the ignominious death of those whose attainments might have rendered them worthy and useful members of society!

Usher Gahagan and Terence Connor were natives of Ireland. The former received his education in Trinity College, Dublin, having been intended for the profession of the law, in which several of his relations had become eminent. He had been instructed by his parents in the Protestant religion; but, falling into company with some priests of the Romish persuasion, they converted him to their faith, which was a principal obstacle to his future advancement in life; for, as no gentleman could then be admitted a counsellor at law, without taking the oaths of supremacy and adjuration, and as Mr. Gahagan's new faith prevented his complying with these terms, he declined any farther prosecution of his legal studies. His parents and other relations were greatly offended with his conduct; and those who had particularly engaged themselves for the advancement of his fortune, forbade him to visit them, through indignation at the impropriety of his behaviour.

Thus reduced to an incapacity of supporting himself, he sought to relieve his

circumstances by a matrimonial scheme; and having addressed the daughter of a gentleman, he obtained her in marriage, and received a good fortune with her: being treated, however, with undeserved severity, she was compelled to return to her relations. His conduct having now rendered him obnoxious to his acquaintance in Dublin, he quitted that city, and repaired to London, with a view of supporting himself by his literary abilities. On his arrival in the metropolis, he made connections with some booksellers; for whom he undertook to translate Pope's "Essay on Man" into Latin; but becoming the associate of some women of abandoned character, he spent his time in a dissipated manner, and thus threw himself out of employment which might have afforded him a decent support.

He now formed an acquaintance with an Irishman, named Hugh Coffey, and they agreed on a plan for the diminution of the current coin. At this time Gahagan had a lodger named Connor; and it being agreed to receive him as a partner in this iniquitous scheme, they procured proper tools; and, having collected a sum of money, they filed it, and put it off; and, procuring more, filed that also, and passed it in the same manner.

Having continued this business for some months, during which they had saved a sum of money, they went to the Bank, and got some Portugal pieces, under pretence that they were intended for exportation to Ireland. Thus they got money repeatedly at the Bank; but at length one of the tellers suspecting their business, communicated his suspicion to the governors, who directed him to drink with them, as the proper method to discover who they were, and what was their employment.

In pursuance of this order, he, on their next appearance, invited them to drink a glass of wine at the Crown tavern, near Cripplegate; to which they readily agreed, and met him after the hours of office.

When the circulation of the glass had sufficiently warmed them, Gahagan, with a degree of weakness that is altogether astonishing, informed the teller that he acquired considerable sums by filing gold, and even proposed that he should become a partner with them. The gentleman seemed to accede to the proposal; and,

having learned where they lodged, acquainted the cashiers of the Bank with what had passed.

On the following day Coffey was apprehended; but Gahagan and Connor, being suspicious of the danger of their situation, retired to Chalk Farm, a noted resort on the road from London to Hampstead, where they carried their implements for filing. Coffey having been admitted an evidence, it was not long before the place of their retreat was known; on which they were apprehended and lodged in Newgate.

Terence Connor was a native of Ireland, and had likewise received a most liberal education. It is recorded of him, that he was so perfectly well read in Roman history, as to be able to turn to any part of it without the assistance of an index. He was, by birth, heir to a considerable fortune; but his father dying without a proper adjustment of his affairs, some intricate law-suits were the consequence, so that the whole estate was only sufficient to discharge the demands of rapacious lawyers.

Connor, being reduced in circumstances, came to London, and, becoming acquainted with Gahagan and Coffey, was concerned in diminishing the coin, as above stated.

On their trial, the evidence of Coffey was positive; and being supported by collateral proofs, the jury could not hesitate to find them guilty, and they received sentence of death.

After conviction, the behaviour of these unhappy men was strictly suited to their circumstances: they were extremely devout, and apparently resigned to their fate.

Gahagan, as we have already shown, was an excellent scholar. He was the editor of "Brindley's Edition of the Classics;" and he translated Pope's "Essay on Criticism" into Latin verse, "The Temple of Fame," and "The Messiah," when in prison; which he dedicated to the Duke of Newcastle, then prime minister, with the hope of obtaining a pardon.

These two criminals were executed on the 28th of February, 1749.

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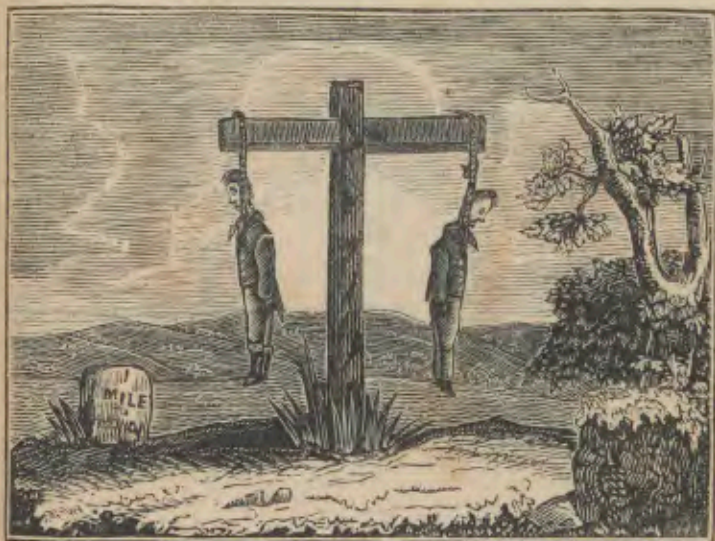
NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 48.

JANUARY 25, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE GIBBET.



It is well known that the gibbet or gallows (as it is most commonly called) is now used in England for carrying into effect the final sentence of the law upon murderers, that their bodies may hang a dreadful warning to the passenger. But the modern gibbet, or gallows, consists of two uprights supporting a cross-beam, whence the malefactor is launched into eternity; and the body is afterwards cut down and handed over for dissection. This gallows is erected on a temporary platform, which is removed generally within a hour after the execution.

The gibbet we find of doubtful derivation: the name is both English and French, having the same meaning—a post on which malefactors are exposed. We find this punishment recorded in Holy Writ, Joshua, viii., 28, 29: "And Joshua burnt Aï, and made it an heap for ever,

even a desolation unto this day. And the king of Aï he hanged upon a tree; and as soon as the sun was down, Joshua commanded that they should take his carcase down from the tree, and cast it at the entering of the gate of the city, and raise thereon a great heap of stones, that remaineth unto this day."

It appears, indeed, that this mark of the grossest infamy which can be inflicted on a criminal was not unknown to the Greeks. It is most probable, however, that we adopted this mode of punishment of the gibbet from the French; the people of that nation seldom taking any usage or custom from the English, at so early a period as the thirteenth century, when it was used there, and known by that name. "In the year 1242," says Matthew Paris, the historian, "William De Marisco, a knight, was judicially condemned and

ignominiously put to death. He was brought from the Tower to that penal machine vulgarly called the gibbet; and, after he had breathed his last, was hung on one of the hooks, and, being taken down after he was grown stiff, was bowelled. His bowels were burnt; and his body being divided into four parts, the quarters were sent to four cities." This evidently answers to our hanging, drawing, and quartering, with the intent of exhibiting a horrible spectacle to the people, just as our hanging a dead body in irons is meant to do. But it varies much, we observe, from after-gibbeting; the gibbet, in this case, serving only as a common gallows.

The same author, Matthew Paris, in speaking of the execution of two men, says, "Paratum est horribile patibulum Londini quod vulgus gibitem appellat."

One of these criminals, after he was dead, was hung upon a gibbet; and the other was gibbeted alive, to perish by pain and hunger. These cases come fully up to the point in hand, as the body of the first was put upon the gibbet when dead, in order to be a permanent spectacle of terror; and the other was not to die, as probably being the more guilty, by the mere simple act of suspension, but by a more lingering kind of death.

About the same period of which Paris gives a history, the King of France ordered that all clippers of the coin should be hanged, and then exposed to the wind; which, though irons be not mentioned, appears to be the very thing the English commonly did for years, although now grown into entire disuse. The first gibbet used in England, to expose criminals, after death, by hanging, was in the reign of Henry the Third.

We have shown that the ancient writer above quoted adduces an instance of a criminal being gibbeted alive, and left to perish by that miserable death; but the severing the hand from the body, and placing it above the carcass of the criminal, when gibbeted, the knife stuck through it with which the murder was committed, we believe to be almost exclusively Scottish; though we have found it practised occasionally by a few other nations, especially the Spanish.

It can hardly be believed that in any part of our habitable globe individuals, worked into frenzy by fanaticism, should

inflict upon themselves a temporary and more painful gibbeting; as though their torture would expiate their supposed sins. Yet true it is; and we present an account of this frightful penance, which places its truth beyond the shadow of a doubt. After reading accounts of the voluntary sacrifice of a widow of Malabar burning herself to ashes upon her husband's funeral pile, we may give credit to the horrid voluntary gibbeting of the same race of people.

The following account of this shocking spectacle has been well authenticated by several officers in the service of the East India Company, who have witnessed this religious rite among the Gentoos.

There were three voluntary victims. The first was attended by a numerous procession, and preceded by music and dancers. According to the custom of Indian festivals, they were adorned with flowers, clothed in their best apparel, and attended by their relations. They marched, or rather ran, round the apparatus several times, flowers being in the mean time strewed before them.

The engine of torture used upon this occasion was a stout, upright post, thirty feet in height. At the bottom was a stage, and about half way towards the top another, on which two priests, or rather executioners, were mounted with drawn sabres in their hands! Across the top of the post, or pole, was another stage, of about half the length and circumference, strongly lashed thereto with ropes. At each extremity were large iron hooks.

The sufferer was hoisted up to the executioners, who immediately proceeded to strip their prey of his robes, and then fixed the hooks into the fleshy part of his back, near the shoulder blades. The ropes were affixed to these hooks, and tied to the transverse beam, which received his great toes in separate loops. Over the penitent's head was suspended a kind of flat muslin canopy, with a narrow founce, just sufficient to shade his face from the sun, but not to conceal him from the public view. Thus prepared he was slung into the air, by means of ropes tied at the opposite end of the pole, and swung round to give full view to the surrounding crowd.

The air was now rent with shouts of applause, almost to adoration. The trumpets were sounded, drums beat, and pate-

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roes were fired. The transversed beam, turning upon a pivot, was slowly moved round, over the heads of the multitude; and notwithstanding the torture which the victims must feel, they supported it generally with patient firmness.

The writer of the account now quoted, says he was an eye-witness to three persons submitting to this punishment on one afternoon.

The first sufferer, continues the narrator, was a young man, about twenty-four years of age. He got upon the scaffold with affected indifference; but when launched into the air, I could distinctly hear him send forth some agonizing yells. Still he persevered, and described the circle three times. He held a fan in one hand, and a bundle of cajans (leaves of the palmira tree) in the other, which he continued waving with seeming composure, until he made a signal, and thereupon was let down.

There was no difference in the operation of suspending the other two, excepting that one beat a taum (great drum) the whole time; and that the second held a basket of flowers in one hand, and scattered them with the other among the spectators, who eagerly caught them. Either from the various accompanying noises, or from the superior fortitude of the two latter, I could not distinguish any expression of pain.

When let down their backs were rubbed with tumeric; and they were received by their friends with the highest marks of reneration and joy. I was informed that these men were thenceforward esteemed the particular favourites of Swamee (the deity), and entitled to particular privileges.

I was also present at this ceremony, says the same individual, at Madras, near Black Town. If I was to relate the many singular customs of the disciples of Brama, of which I have frequently been a spectator, I should only gain credit from Asiatic travellers, who know, from experience, the truth of Hamlet's observation—that "there are more things on earth, than are dreamt of in the philosophy of the many."

Not unconnected with this subject, we may notice the first use of the gallows in the Sandwich islands. Among the proofs of advancing civilization in these islands, the erection of a temporary gallows may

be mentioned: the occasion of this circumstance is worth relating. The crime of murder was committed by two of the natives on the person of a Spaniard, and merely for the sake of the clothes he wore. They were taken immediately after and confined to the fort, whence one of them contrived to escape. They were at first at a loss how to deal with the remaining culprit, but were persuaded by the consuls and missionary to proceed according to European law. A gallows was in the first instance constructed. It consisted of a rope extended from one cocoa-nut tree to another, 18 feet from the ground, and to the centre was attached a block, through which was run the halter by which the criminal was to be drawn up by the natives. The man was brought to trial under this gallows, where the chiefs and native missionaries were assembled. While these were deliberating and doubting the propriety of hanging him, the natives, anxious to witness so novel a spectacle, put the noose over his head, and saved the judges all farther trouble on this subject by running him up.

Slavery in England! The Factory System. No 11.

RECENT SPEECH OF MR. J. R. STEPHENS,
AT OLDHAM.

[We copy the following excellent and truly appropriate remarks on the factory question, from "The Christian Advocate," a staunch upholder of the cause of civil and religious liberty.]

Mr. Chairman, and good men of Oldham! This is what it ought to be. We are met to-night in the house of God, to help one another to do the work of God, which I trust we shall be found disposed and determined to do in God's own way. We have come together to see if anything can be done to restrain and reform a system, which has a tendency to impair the health, take away the comfort, shorten the life, and corrupt the morals of those who are unfortunately connected with it. We need but look at the means by which it was established in this country, to be satisfied both as to the merciless character of the mill-owner, and the unhappy destiny of those whose doom it was to become his hapless prey. Scores, if not hundreds

of thousands of little children, fatherless, motherless, friendless, helpless babes, have been bought, sold, and otherwise bargained for, by the mercenary mill-masters of the one part, and the hard-hearted parish overseer of the other part; by which traffic in the bodies of these children, the workhouses and foundling hospitals of our large towns have been cleared of their *incumbrance*; and the factories of Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Cheshire, supplied with the *raw material*, requisite to the production of a few overgrown monopolists. The blood of thousands has been spilt on Moloch's altar, that the high priests of his temple might wallow in wealth, and become drunken with power. Mr. Fielden, in his statesman-like address, so replete with instruction, so convincing in argument, and so tender in its tone, has adverted to the causes which influence the present race of factory operatives to consign their children to the toil and suffering of this system, at an age far below that allowed by the Act of Parliament; whereby they not only inflict the miseries inseparable from factory labour on their own offspring, but, by enabling the wicked mill-owner to carry on his business by their voluntary co-operation, render the act wholly inoperative, and thus deprive the children of others of all the benefits it would otherwise have conferred upon them. Amongst these causes, poverty, improvidence, and profligacy have been mentioned; and to a great extent, we are compelled to admit, with correctness and truth. But what, let me ask, sir, has been the *cause* of these *causes*? What has led the father to forsake, and the mother to forget, her child? What has made them so poor that they could not supply their household wants, so improvident that they could not husband their moderate resources, and so profligate that they should be declared bankrupt of the very first principles and instincts of nature? At the foot of this bloody monster I lay the vice and misery which he first created, and then charged upon the victims of his iron-handed tyranny. The despicable meanness which the abettors of the factory system have manifested, in their attempts to shift the blame of the evils they once attempted to deny, from themselves to the wretched beings whom they hold in bondage, can only be surpassed by their cold-blooded contempt of every previous

effort to procure their freedom, and their supreme indifference to everything connected with the subject, which does not begin with iron and end in gold. But this shall be sifted to the bottom. If we are to believe the statements of the mill-owners, that the cruelties of the factory are not committed by the master, but by the operative; that the *reason* why children of tender age find their way into the mill, is not to be sought in their own insatiable lust after gold, at any cost to the health and life of the poor and helpless, but in the wretched, forlorn, impoverished and debauched condition of the parents themselves, who come and freely offer children, nay, thrust them, with or without remunerating wages, into this branch of industry, merely because it is the glory of England and the envy of surrounding nations; if all this is to be believed, we will know what *can* have so awfully changed the character of a once virtuous and happy population, tearing up by the roots the lovely plants of domestic innocence and joy, and turning the earthly Eden of the yeomanry of England into a waste and howling wilderness. The answer to these questions is at hand. The right use of machinery has been prevented from the beginning. It was intended to do away with the drudgery, to lighten the toil, and to shorten the hours, of industrious labour, and thus give to the working man *his* full and proper proportion of the benefits accruing to the community from the wonderful discoveries and improvements of science. But this legitimate design has never been fulfilled—has been more than frustrated. The history of the steam-engine, so far as factory labour is associated with it, proves that the very reverse of this has always been the case. Instead of giving increased facilities of production to the *workman*, it has sent him adrift upon the world, and assigned his employment to the inanimate machine. It has then taken the employment that remained, as much as possible, out of the hands of the *MAN*, the only proper operative, and placed it in those of the *WOMAN*, whose province, according to God's original institution, is neither the field nor the mill, but the house, the home of her father, her husband, and her child. It has gone much farther than this: it has succeeded in dispensing not only with the assistance of the

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full-grown man, but even to a fearful extent with that of the full-grown woman also, and has laid the heavy burden of our industry on the shoulders of weak and helpless INFANCY. The father can no longer earn a livelihood for his household: his children must toil to find him bread, whilst he is thrown a wanderer and a wastril upon society. Is not this enough to make a nation poor, although its oppressors may be both powerful and rich? Bring back the good old times, I do not say when we were without machinery, but when the full-grown man, by his own labour, could maintain his family in comfort; and we shall then hear no more of the extreme poverty, improvidence, and profligacy of the operative classes. To charge upon them the consequences of the system itself, is but mocking them in their misery, and heaping insult upon the load of accumulated sufferings already too heavy to be borne. And, unless those who are more distinctly interested in the settlement of this question, come voluntarily and honestly forward to assist in restoring those plundered rights, I, for one, sir, will not be backward in chalking out the way by which they may be, and perhaps will have to be, obtained. Over and above all this, there is another reason for the pitiable destitution and apparent want of feeling manifested by the parents of these children. From the commencement they have had to sell the labour of their offspring in a market that was plentifully supplied with the fatherless and the foundling, whose labour was obtained for seven or fourteen years, in exchange for prentice food and clothing, and *no wages at all*. Let Blincoe's *Memoirs* save me the harrowing recital of this infernal practice—a practice, be it remembered, which has never been discontinued, which, in one shape or another, has always depressed the market of child labour, and even now exists, to my knowledge, both in Derbyshire and Cheshire. Why, in the very township in which both myself and the honourable member for Ashton reside, one form of this apprenticeship plan may be witnessed at this very hour, I believe. The honourable member has just told us that he has, within these few weeks, retired from business with an independent fortune—a fortune so ample as to enable him to maintain a distinguished position in society, and a useful

one in the senate. Will the honourable member ever forget that his tens of thousands have been drawn from the bowes and blood of these little helpless innocents? It is only a day or two since I heard, amongst other cases, of several children having been quite recently transferred from Hull, in Yorkshire, to a mill near Castletown, in Derbyshire; so that it is beyond dispute that this trade in human flesh is still carried on in the very heart of England, that Christian England, whose supply of piety is so much greater than the demand, that she is obliged to export a considerable portion of it to the ignorant heathen abroad, to make them so much less like God as they become more like ourselves. I would urge upon the two honourable members present to procure, so far as it can be procured, a return from all the workhouses and founding hospitals of England, of the number and ages of all children who have been bargained and bartered for by mill-owners and their agents, for the last fifty years. Sure I am, that this return, to whatever extent it is procurable, will unfold such a case of actual trading in the bodies of the children of this Christian country, as cannot be paralleled in the annals of any system of slavery, which has ever disgraced or depopulated the fair face of nature. To say nothing of the thousands who have been drawn into the vortex of our manufacturing towns from the neighbourhoods surrounding them, and the tens of thousands who have been driven into it by actual starvation from Ireland—all crowding into the market of labour, and deteriorating its value; the impoverished population of the factory districts are now obliged to encounter the same system of anti-social competition under the working of that worst of all bad laws—"The Poor Laws Amendment Bill." The droves of houseless and penniless poor who are disposed of to the mill-owners of the north, under the auspices of those legal slave-brokers, called Poor-Law Commissioners, agents for migration, at a price which barely affords the means of protracted existence, displace the resident labourer, and make him a vagabond in his turn, or otherwise compel him to accept the minimum wages which his southern countryman in his necessity was obliged to contract for. It was but the other day that a cargo of these cattle was sent to

Todmorden, and by mistake arrived at the house of some one of the family of the honourable member for Oldham. And what was the invoice price of a whole family of English labourers, consisting, I believe, of seven individuals (if wrong, there are those present who can correct me)? Why, for the first year, 19s. per week; for the second, 24s.; and for the third, 27s. per week. These poor wretches, deluded and betrayed by the false hopes held out to them on the one hand, worried and wearied out by complicated tyranny and suffering on the other, leap headlong out of the frying-pan of agricultural distress into the fire of manufacturing misery. Boat-loads and waggon-loads of these invoiced *work-things* have been thrown into our Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Cheshire factory neighbourhoods, to lower the wages of their already degraded brethren—along with them to be flung as the offal of society upon the dunghill of this hellish system of political economy. What is likely to be the end, when such are the beginnings of this system—this atrocious and anti-constitutional system of robbery, and plunder, and degradation? Already have the "Unions" made good their position within a few miles of us in every direction; and when the blunderbuss and the broadsword are ready for the hired band of the banditti police, then may we expect the consummation of the horrid tragedy. The connection between this cursed Poor Law Bill and the factory system is intimate and inseparable. I never omit to inform my countrymen of this fresh—this last invasion of their rights, and to arouse them to resist it. Would to God they would everywhere arise, and at least make their children what they themselves are not, but what their fathers were—the bold, the happy, and the free possessors of a land, which yields plenty for each, and contains enough for all! Mr. Fielden has marked with the strongest disapprobation the conduct of those mill-owners who prohibit to their workmen the right of associating together for the purpose of mutual consultation and protection—the right of spending their time, and appropriating a portion of their earnings, as they may deem best, after their work and working-hours are ended. But what species of intimidation, tyranny, oppression, and cruelty, do these

monsters forbear to exercise? Mention, if you can, a single instance in which the factory system has ceased to be what it always was, except in so far as the circumstances of society have altered the forms and varied the means of their despotic rule, and in so far as public opinion, the result of long-continued agitation, has compelled a slight and partial mitigation of its miseries. I met a man, this very day, who was going in search of employment at a distance from his home. His brother, a boy of some fourteen or fifteen years old, had been taken to task by the manager, about some flaw in his work. He told him his loom had been out of repair for some time, and that he had often requested the overlooker to get it put to rights, which he had neglected or refused to do. For this offence the manager fetched him blows on the eyes and face, and fined him besides a shilling for bad work. This fine he afterwards increased to eighteen-pence. The lad would not stand all this, and left the mill. And because he would not remain to be fined and beaten in this way, his father was told by the mill-owner that he might go after him. Thus was a whole family thrown, at one stroke, out of their bread, by the unprovoked cruelty of a passionate manager, and the despotic tyranny of a Christian master. This very day, too, (for I will not go far back, nor far away from the neighbourhood of the honourable member on my right,) I went to see a little factory boy, and asked him if he remembered a certain overlooker, and a certain master? "Ay," said the boy, "that I do. I 'st niver forget 'em, as long as I live; they've given me mony a good licking." "Do you recollect this?" said I. "Let me look at it," was his answer: "Ay, that's Toby." (Mr. Stephens here held up a whip, with two broad leathern thongs, or lashes, fastened to a wooden handle.) Now, with this whip, the master had again and again flogged the child, and another little boy whom I also examined. He had also struck them on the head with his stick; and the overlooker had *punched* them with his heavy shoes. The mother told me that there were the marks of the nails upon his body; and that the blow was severe enough to have dislocated the hip, if it had fallen there. Now, these acts of cruelty were not committed in Africa,

nor in millions but left slavery which the To who is l tered in ened, ve borough honou you; ar ligious C man, a porter of the hon on this nor poo call his facts, al immedi key (M which t tive spi enters I ducts tl pence a whether holder so much gives hi tenanted two, an and the is notori station a to expo serves? member him, to ing to-ni tyrant—despot. take this of Comi know soi he may knowled honou the Ho who, by have co the bon and the infernal all, and Peel, W Justice

nor in the West Indies, where twenty millions of money has changed the name, but left unchanged the character, of a slavery much milder than the slavery which exists on our own shores; not in the Tory borough of Sir Robert Peel, who is bloated with the blood of slaughtered innocents; but in the very enlightened, very liberal, and thoroughly Radical borough, so worthily represented by the honourable member who has just addressed you; and the perpetrator was a very religious church and chapel-going Christian man, a very zealous partisan and supporter of that honourable member. As the honourable member has declared, that on this question he will know neither rich nor poor, neither friend nor foe, I wish to call his attention to these statements of facts, all of which have transpired in his immediate neighbourhood. Here is a key (Mr. Stephens held up a house-key), which the mill-owner compels the operative spinner to receive, as soon as he enters his employ, and for which he deducts three shillings, or three and sixpence a-week, from his wages, no matter whether he be married or single, householder or lodger. If he be in lodgings, so much the better; for the master then gives him the key of a house already tenanted, by which means he receives two, and sometimes three, rents, at one and the same time. Now, this practice is notorious; but where is there a man of station and influence, who is bold enough to expose it, and denounce it, as it deserves? Will my friend, the honourable member, allow me to put the question to him, to test his sincerity, before this meeting to-night? Here is the key of a Tory tyrant—here is the whip of a Radical despot. Will the honourable member take this key, and show it to the House of Commons? One member at least will know something about it in theory, though he may find it convenient to deny all knowledge of it in practice. Will the honourable member take this whip into the House of Commons, and flog those who, by their base and unfeeling vote, have consigned these little children to the bondage and blows, the hardships and the sufferings unto death, of this infernal factory system—ay, flog them all, and flog them soundly, whether Tory Peel, Whig Thomson, Radical Hume, Justice O'Connell, or Anything Baines,

Phillips, and all the rest of them? Will he, dare he, become the *whipper-out* of men like these? If he will, he will do his duty by the people, and the people will thank and support him. If he will not, the sooner the key of *that* house is turned upon him, the better for us all: if he will not, why, then, I must keep this whip, and must add his name to the list of those whom I at least will flagellate at every ten hours' meeting I attend. It is high time this case of complicated wrong and wretchedness was opened and investigated. They greatly mistake who regard it as a mere question of *time*—a mere matter of a few minutes' longer or shorter endurance of the injuries to which factory slaves are handed over, and to which they are chained and bound by the present factory system. The whole case must be gone into. Who will undertake to lead it—to stand at his country's bar, the undaunted advocate of the poor, the helpless, and oppressed? Whilst in the same house, this very day, in conversation with a few neighbours on the wicked as well as the oppressive practices of the factory, some allusions having been made to a most revolting feature in this case, which should never be mentioned at such meetings as this were it not strictly part and parcel of the factory system, a respectable married woman related to me the way in which her master, knowing her to be married, had attempted her ruin. She spurned his filthy offers; and, because she manifested the noble indignation of a virtuous mind, the determined resistance of an honourable English matron, this wretch was heard to say to his manager, "If . . . has any flaw in her work, discharge her instantly;" and, in three weeks, she was discharged accordingly, and was thrown out of her bread, saying, as she went away, "Yes, and I know what this is for." Young women are decoyed, workmen's wives are annoyed; the price almost what they please, but the penalty their own discharge, and the discharge of father, brother, sister, husband, mother, as the case may be. The havoc in this, as well as in other ways, which has been made of the domestic virtues and morals of the people, is indeed awful; and, after their ruin for this world and the world to come has been all but effected beyond redemption, their betrayers torment them with their

fall, and leave them to their misery; their destroyers charge upon them all the blame and guilt of their own vices, and hold them up to the gaze of their fellow-countrymen as unfit for anything but drudgery, unworthy of sympathy, undeserving of assistance and support. Nay, more; they will not suffer, so far as they can hinder it, any one to attempt their recovery and restoration to better principle and better practice. Of the moral martyrdom which I have myself undergone, I will say nothing; but I am here to-night to witness that scores and hundreds, because they follow my advice, and become sober, careful, steady, and religious members of families and of general society, have had to bear, and are still passing through, persecutions and trials, unexampled in the history of Christian sufferings, since the time that fire and sword were the sovereign specific for the maladies of the body politic. Oh! this monster! this monster! None know how foul, how furious, how fiend-like, he is, when truth has but touched and roused him! But I will not detain you. I have been brief, and would have been yet more so (having but recently addressed you on this subject), but for the remarks which dropped from the two honourable members on my right, whose exertions in this cause are deserving of your gratitude; my heartfelt thanks they have, and shall always have. But I was anxious to show you what it is which has made the people what they are—to prove to you that the factory system has been from the beginning, and still is, a system of swindling, smuggling, cruelty, oppression, and blood; and all this exercised by professing Christians, upon, for the most part, the tender female, and innocent defenceless child; that the overworking, the fraud, the bolt and bar, the fine, the batement, and the yet more revolting features, at which I have but hinted, are still in full and disgraceful perpetration. I am disposed at all times to follow the advice of Mr. Fielden and others, to use soft words and hard arguments; but I confess I have not language at my command in which to express my hearty abhorrence and unqualified detestation of a system which has done, and still is doing, so much to destroy all that makes life desirable, all that constitutes man worthy the being God has given him, and capable

of the high and dignified destiny for which his Maker has designed him. It is, indeed, a bloody and a murderous system; and if it cannot be mended, it shall be ended: for God has spoken out its doom. 'This ten hours' bill is good, as a means to an end; but still, after all, it will be a barbarous and a cruel bill, and is only valuable and worth struggling for, because it will enable us to plant our foot on the first step of the ladder of social improvement and reformation. As such, I advocate it, and once more publicly pledge myself never to cease or slacken my efforts, until this 'Ten Hours' Bill is ours; and then, and then—why, then—I start for eight hours, and for all that follows.

PROFITABLE SPECULATION.

THE negro stealer takes the negro to the lower country, sells him for 800 dollars or 1,000 dollars cash, then tells the negro to run away and meet him at a place appointed, where they divide the money. He takes him to another section of the country, and sells him again; the negro runs away and they again divide the money. After having sold the negro in this way several times over, he takes him into the wood, murders him, and seizes the whole of the money.—*Worcester (American) Palladium.*

DISTRIBUTION OF LABOUR.

No man should be exempt from labour, nor any loaded with it; but, by distributing employment according to capacity, we might make labour a source of universal satisfaction, and a bond of union, realising, as regards the world's business, the old adage—that "many hands make light work." With these convictions, one man might believe in purgatory, and another in predestination, and yet not war with each other—each would follow his own peculiar form of worship, and the fiat as to its truth would be removed to that sphere in which the voice of man has no weight. With these convictions, each would desire only such leisure as healthy labour would give him means to enjoy.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 49.

FEBRUARY 1, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

TRIAL OF EUGENE ARAM, FOURTEEN YEARS AFTER THE COMMISSION OF THE DEED FOR WHICH HE SUFFERED.



[ARAM AND HIS VICTIM.]

The trial of Eugene Aram is probably one of the most remarkable on the records of guilt. The criminal was a man of extraordinary endowments, and of good education; therefore no one suspected him of having committed the horrid crime of murder, which was most singularly discovered.

Eugene Aram was born in a village called Netherdale, in Yorkshire, in the year 1704, of an ancient family; one of his ancestors having served the office of high sheriff for that county, in the reign of Edward the Third. The vicissitudes of fortune had, however, reduced them; as we find the father of Eugene, a poor but honest man, by profession, a gardener; in which humble walk in life he was,

nevertheless, greatly respected. The sweat of his brow alone, we must conclude, was insufficient both to rear and educate his offspring. From the high erudition of the unfortunate subject under consideration, he may be truly called a prodigy. On the very slender stock of learning, found in a day-school, he built a fabric which would have been worthy the shoulders, it has been said, of our literary Atlas, Dr. Johnson; and it may be farther averred, that, like M'Nally, the celebrated Irish barrister and admirable dramatist, he was self-taught: as the one excelled in his profession, an usher at an academy; so did the other, as an advocate at the bar of justice.

During the infancy of Aram, his parents removed to another village called Shelton, near Newby, in the said county; and when about six years of age, his father, who had laid by a small sum from his weekly labour, made a purchase of a little cottage, in Bondgate, near Rippon. When he was about thirteen or fourteen years of age, he went to his father in Newby, and attended him in the family there, till the death of Sir Edward Blackett. It was in the house of this gentleman, to whom his father was first 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, under which distemper he suffered severely. He afterwards returned into Yorkshire, in consequence of an invitation from his father, and there continued to prosecute his studies, but found in polite literature much greater charms than in the mathematics; which occasioned him now chiefly to apply himself to poetry, history, and antiquities. After this he was invited to Netherdale, where he engaged in a school and married. But this marriage proved an unhappy connexion; for to the misconduct of his wife he afterwards attributed the misfortune that befell him. In the mean while, having perceived his deficiency in the learned languages, he applied himself to the grammatical study of the Latin and Greek tongues; after which he read, with great avidity and diligence, all the Latin classics, historians, and poets. He then went through the Greek Testament; and, lastly, ventured upon Hesiod, Homer, Theocritus, Herodotus, and Thucydides, together with all the Greek tragedians.

In 1734, William Norton, esq., a gentleman who had a friendship for Aram, invited him to Knaresborough. Here he acquired the knowledge of the Hebrew, and read the Pentateuch in that language. In 1744, he returned to London, and

served the Rev. Mr. Plainblanc, as usher in Latin and writing, in Piceadilly; 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 parts of England; during which time he became acquainted with heraldry and botany. He also ventured upon Chaldee and Arabic, the former of which he found easy from its affinity to 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, English, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, and found a great affinity between them, he resolved to proceed through all these languages, and to form a comparative lexicon.

But, amid these learned labours and inquiries, it appears that Aram committed a crime which could not naturally have been expected from a man of so studious a turn. On the 8th of February, 1745, he, in conjunction with a man named Richard Houseman, murdered Daniel Clarke, a shoe-maker, at Knaresborough. This unfortunate man, having lately married a woman of good family, ostentatiously circulated a report that his wife was entitled to a considerable fortune, which he should soon receive. Hereupon, Aram and Richard Houseman, conceiving hopes of making advantage of the circumstance, persuaded Clarke to make an ostentatious show of his own riches, to induce his wife's relations to give him that fortune of which he had boasted. There was sagacity, if not honesty, in this advice; for the world in general are more free to assist persons in affluence than those in distress.

Clarke was easily induced to comply with a hint so agreeable to his own desires; on which, he borrowed, and bought on credit, a large quantity of silver plate, with jewels, watches, rings, &c. He told the persons of whom he purchased, that a merchant in London had sent him an order to buy such plate for exportation; and no doubt was entertained of his credit till his sudden disappearance in February, 1745, when it was imagined that he was gone abroad, or at least to London, to dispose of his ill-acquired property.

When Clarke was possessed of these goods, Aram and Houseman determined to murder him, in order to share the

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booty; and, on the night of the 8th of February, 1745, they persuaded Clarke to walk with them in the fields, in order to consult with them on the proper method to dispose of the effects. They walked into a field, at a small distance from the town, well known by the name of Saint Robert's Cave. When they came into this field, Aram and Clarke went over a hedge towards the cave, and when they had got within six or seven yards of it Houseman, by the light of the moon, saw Aram strike Clarke several times, and at length beheld him fall, but never saw him afterwards. This was the state of the affair, if Houseman's testimony on the trial might be credited.

On the murderers dividing the treasure, Houseman concealed his share in his garden for a twelvemonth, and then took it to Scotland, where he sold it; but Aram, after the lapse of about a month, set off to London, sold his share to a Jew, and then engaged himself as an usher at an academy in Piccadilly; where, in the intervals of his duty in attending on the scholars, he made himself master of the French language, and acquired some knowledge of the Arabic and other eastern languages. After this, he was usher at other schools in different parts of the kingdom; but, as he did not correspond with his friends in Yorkshire, it was presumed that he was dead.

Thus had nearly fourteen years passed on without the smallest clue being found to account for the sudden exit of Clarke; when, in the year 1758, a labourer was employed to dig for stone to supply a lime-kiln, at a place called Thistle Hill, near Knaresborough; and having dug about two feet deep, he found the bones of a human body; and the bones being still joined to each other by the ligatures of the joints, the body appeared to have been buried double. This accident immediately became the subject of general curiosity and inquiry. Some hints had been formerly thrown out by Aram's wife, that Clarke was murdered; and it was well remembered that his disappearance was very sudden.

This occasioned Aram's wife to be sent for, as was also the coroner, and an inquisition was entered into; it being believed that the skeleton found was that of Daniel Clarke. Mrs. Aram declared, that she believed Clarke had been mur-

dered by her husband and Houseman. The latter, when he was brought before the coroner, appeared to be in great confusion, trembling, changing colour, and faltering in his speech during his examination. The coroner desired him to take up one of the bones, probably to observe what farther effect that might produce; and Houseman, accordingly taking up one of the bones, said, "This is no more Dan. Clarke's bone than it is mine."

These words were pronounced in such a manner as convinced those present, that they proceeded not from Houseman's supposition that Clarke was alive, but from his certain knowledge where his bones really lay. Accordingly, after some evasions, he said that Clarke was murdered by Eugene Aram, and that the body was buried in St. Robert's Cave, near Knaresborough. He added farther, that Clarke's head lay to the right, in the turn, at the entrance of the cave; and a skeleton was accordingly found there exactly in the posture he described. In consequence of this confession, search was made for Aram, and at length he was discovered, in the situation of usher to an academy, at Lynn, in Norfolk. He was brought thence to York Castle; and on the 18th of August, 1759, he was brought to trial at the county assizes. He was found guilty on the testimony of Richard Houseman, who, being arraigned and acquitted, became an evidence against Aram; and his testimony was corroborated by Mrs. Aram and strong circumstantial evidence. The plunder which Aram was supposed to have derived from the murder was not estimated at more than 160*l*.

His defence, for ingenuity and ability, would have done credit to the best lawyers at the bar.

"My lord," he began, "I know not whether it is of right, or through some indulgence of your lordship, that I am allowed the liberty at this bar, and at this time, to attempt a defence, incapable and uninstructed as I am to speak; since, while I see so many eyes upon me, so numerous and awful a concourse, fixed with attention, and filled with I know not what expectancy, I labour not with guilt, my lord, but with perplexity. For having never seen a court but this, and being wholly unacquainted with law, the customs of the bar, and all judiciary proceedings, I fear I shall be so little capable

of speaking with propriety in this place, that it exceeds my hope if I shall be able to speak at all.

"I have heard, my lord, the indictment read, wherein I find myself charged with the highest crime, with an enormity I am altogether incapable of; a fact, to the commission of which there goes far more insensibility of heart, more profligacy of morals, than ever fell to my lot. And nothing possibly could have admitted a presumption of this nature, but a depravity not inferior to that imputed to me. However, as I stand indicted at your lordship's bar, and have heard what is called evidence adduced in support of such a charge, I very humbly solicit your lordship's patience, and beg the hearing of this respectable audience, while I, single and unskilful, destitute of friends, and unassisted by counsel, say something, perhaps, like argument, in my defence. I shall consume but little of your lordship's time; what I have to say will be short, and this brevity, probably, will be the best part of it: however, it is offered with all possible regard, and the greatest submission to your lordship's consideration, and that of this honourable court.

"First, my lord, the whole tenor of my conduct in life contradicts every particular of the indictment: yet had I never said this, did not my present circumstances extort it from me, and seem to make it necessary. Permit me here, my lord, to call upon malignity itself, so long and cruelly busied in this prosecution, to charge upon me any immorality, of which prejudice was not the author. No, my lord, I concerted no schemes of fraud, projected no violence, injured no man's person or property; my days were honestly laborious, my nights intensely studious. And I humbly conceive my notice of this, especially at this time, will not be thought impertinent or unseasonable; but, at least, deserving some attention; because, my lord, that any person, after a temperate use of life, a series of thinking and acting regularly, and without a single deviation from sobriety, should plunge into the very depth of profligacy, precipitately, and at once, is altogether improbable and unprecedented, and absolutely inconsistent with the course of things. Mankind is never corrupted at once; villany is always progressive, and declines from right step after step, till every regard of probity is

lost, and every sense of all moral obligation has totally perished.

"Again, my lord; a suspicion of this kind, which nothing but malevolence could entertain, and ignorance propagate, is violently opposed by my very situation at that time with respect to health; for but a little space before I had been confined to my bed, and suffered under a very long and severe disorder, and was not able, for half a year together, so much as to walk. The distemper left me, indeed; yet slowly, and in part; but so macerated, so enfeebled, that I was reduced to crutches: and so far from being well' at the time I am charged with this fact, I have never, to this day, perfectly recovered. Could then a person in this condition take anything into his head so unlikely, so extravagant? I, past the vigour of my age, feeble and valetudinary, with no inducement to engage, no ability to accomplish, no weapon wherewith to perpetrate such a fact—without interest, without power, without motive, without means.

"Besides, it must needs occur to every one, that an action of this atrocious nature is never heard of but, when its springs are laid open, it appears that it was to support some indolence, or supply some luxury; to satisfy some avarice, or oblige some malice; to prevent some real or imaginary want; yet I lay not under the influence of any of these. Surely, my lord, I may, consistently with both truth and modesty, affirm thus much; and none who have any veracity, and know me, will ever question this.

"In the second place, the disappearance of Clarke is suggested as an argument of his being dead; but the uncertainty of such an inference from that, and the fallibility of all conclusions of such a sort, from such a circumstance, are too obvious, and too notorious, to require instances; yet, superseding many, permit me to procure a very recent one, and that afforded by this castle. In June, 1757, William Thompson, for all the vigilance of this place, in open day-light, and double-ironed, made his escape; and, notwithstanding an immediate inquiry was set on foot, the strictest search made, and an advertisement issued in every direction, has never been seen or heard of since. If, then, Thompson got off unseen, through all these difficulties, how very

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easy was it for Clarke, when none of them opposed him? But what would be thought of a prosecution commenced against any one seen last with Thompson?

“Permit me next, my lord, to observe a little upon the bones which have been discovered. It is said, which perhaps is saying very far, that these are the skeleton of a man. It is possible, indeed, it may; but is there any certain, known criterion, which incontestibly distinguishes the sex in human bones? Let it be considered, my lord, whether the ascertaining of this point ought not to precede any attempt to identify them. The place of their deposition, too, claims much more attention than is commonly bestowed upon it; for, of all places in the world, none could have mentioned any one, wherein there was greater certainty of finding human bones than a hermitage, except he should point out a churchyard; hermitages, in time past, being not only places of religious retirement, but of burial too; and it has scarcely if ever 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 anchoress, hoped that repose for their bones when dead, they here enjoyed when living.

“All the while, my lord, I am sensible this is known to your lordship, and to many in this court, better than to me. But it seems necessary to my case, that others, who have not at all, perhaps, adverted to things of this nature, and may have concern in my trial, should be made acquainted with it. Suffer me then, my lord, to produce a few of many evidences, that these cells were used as repositories of the dead, and to enumerate a few in which human bones have been found as it happened in this question; lest, to some, that accident might appear extraordinary, and consequently occasion prejudice.

“1. The bones, as was supposed, of the Saxon St. Dubritius were discovered buried in his cell at Guy's Cliff, near Warwick, as appears from the authority of Sir William Dugdale.

“2. The bones thought to be those of the Anchoress Rosia were but lately dis-

covered in a cell at Royston, entire, fair, and undecayed, though they must have lain interred for several centuries, as is proved by Dr. Stukely.

“3. But my own county—nay, almost this neighbourhood—supplies another instance; for, in January, 1747, were found, by Mr. Stovin, accompanied by a reverend gentleman, the bones, in part, of some recluse, in the cell at Lindholm, near Hatfield. They were believed to be those of William of Lindholm, a hermit, who had long made this cave his habitation.

“4. In February, 1744, part of Woburn 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 two hundred years, and how much longer is doubtful; for this abbey was founded in 1145, and dissolved in 1538 or 9. What would have been said, what believed, if this had been an accident to the bones in question?

“Farther, my lord, it is not yet out of living memory, that a little distance from Knaresborough, in a field, part of the manor of the worthy and patriot baronet who does that borough the honour to represent it in Parliament, were found, in digging for gravel, not one human skeleton only, but five or six deposited side by side, with each an urn placed at its head, as your lordship knows was usual in ancient interments. About the same time, and in another field, almost close to this borough, was discovered also, in searching for gravel, another human skeleton; but the piety of the same worthy gentleman ordered both pits to be filled up again, commendably unwilling to disturb the dead.

“Is the invention of these bones forgotten, then, or industriously concealed, that the discovery of those in question may appear the more singular and extraordinary, whereas, in fact, there is nothing extraordinary in it? My lord, almost every place contains such remains. In fields, in hills, in highway sides, in commons, lie frequent and unsuspected bones; and our present allotments for rest for the departed is but of some centuries.

“Another particular seems to claim a little of your lordship's notice, and that of the gentlemen of the jury, which is, that perhaps no example occurs of more

than one skeleton being found in one cell: and in the cell in question was found but one; agreeably, in this, to the peculiarity of every other known cell in Britain. Not the invention of one skeleton, but of two, would have appeared suspicious and uncommon. But it seems another skeleton had been discovered by some labourer, which was as full as confidently averred to be Clarke's as this. My lord, must some of the living, if it promotes some interest, be made answerable for all the bones that earth has concealed, and chance exposed? and might not a place where bones lay be mentioned by a person by chance, as well as found by a labourer by chance? or is it more criminal accidentally to name where bones lie, than accidentally to find where they lie?

"Here, too, is a human skull produced, which is fractured: but was this the cause, or was it the consequence, of death? Was it owing to violence, or was it the effect of natural decay? If it was of violence, was that violence before or after death? My lord, in May, 1732, the remains of William, lord archbishop of this province, were taken up, by permission, in this cathedral, and the bones of the skull were found broken; yet certainly he died by no violence offered to him alive, that could occasion that fracture there.

"Let it be considered, my lord, that, upon the dissolution of religious houses, and the commencement of the reformation, the ravages of those times affected both the living and the dead. In search after imaginary treasure, coffins were broken up, graves and vaults dug open, monuments ransacked, and shrines demolished; and it ceased about the beginning of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. I entreat your lordship, suffer not the violence, the depredations, and the iniquities of those times, to be imputed to this.

"Moreover, what gentleman here is ignorant that Knaresborough had a castle; which, though now a ruin, was once considerable for its strength and garrison? All know it was vigorously besieged by the arms of Parliament; at which siege, in sallies, conflicts, flights, pursuits, many fell in all the places round it, and where they fell were buried; for every place, my lord, is burial-earth in war; and many, questionless, of these rest yet

unknown, whose bones futurity shall discover.

"I hope, with all imaginable submission, that what has been said will not be thought impertinent to this indictment; and that it will be far from the wisdom, the learning, and the integrity of this place, to impute to the living what zeal in its fury may have done; what nature may have taken off, and piety interred; or what war alone may have destroyed, alone deposited.

"As to the circumstances that have been raked together, I have nothing to observe, but that all circumstances whatever are precarious, and have been but too frequently found lamentably fallible; even the strongest have failed. They may rise to the utmost degree of probability, yet they are but probability still. Why need I name to your lordship the two Harrisons, recorded by Dr. Howell, who both suffered upon circumstances, because of the sudden disappearance of their lodger, who was in credit, contracted many debts, borrowed money, and went off unseen, and returned a great many years after their execution? Why name the intricate affair of Jaques du Moulin, under Charles the Second, 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 Dunn; the first of whom, in 1749, was executed at Winchester; and Loveday was about to suffer at Reading, had not Smith been proved perjured, to the satisfaction of the court, by the surgeon of Gosport hospital?

"Now, my lord, having endeavoured to show 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;

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the conclusion remains, perhaps, no less reasonably than impatiently wished for. I, at last, after a year's confinement, equal to either fortune, put myself upon the candour, the justice, and the humanity of your lordship, and upon yours, my countrymen, gentlemen of the jury."

Judge Noel, before whom he was tried, summed up the evidence with great perspicuity; and, in his comments on the prisoner's defence, declared it to be one of the most ingenious pieces of reasoning that had ever fallen under his notice. The jury, with little hesitation, found the prisoner guilty, and he received sentence of death.

After his conviction, he confessed the justice of his sentence to two clergymen, who were directed to attend him in York Castle, to whom he acknowledged that he had murdered Clarke. Being asked by one of them, what was his motive for committing that action, he answered, that he suspected Clarke of having an unlawful commerce with his wife; that he was persuaded, at the time when he committed the murder he did right; but that, since he thought it wrong. "After this, pray," says Aram, "what became of Clarke's body, if Houseman went home (as he said upon my trial) immediately on seeing him fall?" One of the clergymen replied, "I'll tell you what became of it: you and Houseman dragged it into the cave, and stripped and buried it there; then brought away his clothes, and burnt them at your own house." To this he assented. He was asked, whether Houseman did not earnestly press him to murder his wife, for fear she should discover the business they had been about: he hastily replied, "He did, and pressed me several times to it."

In the hope of eluding the course of justice, he made an attempt upon his own life, by cutting his arm in two places with a razor, which he had concealed for that purpose. On a table, in his cell, was found the following paper, containing his reasons for the above attempt: "What am I better than my fathers? To die is natural and necessary. Perfectly sensible of this, I fear no more to die than I did to be born. But the manner of it is something which should, in my opinion, be decent and manly. I think I have regarded both these points. Certainly, nobody has a better right to dispose of a

man's life than himself; and he, not others, should determine how. As for any indignities offered to my body, or silly reflections on my faith and morals, they are (as they always were) things indifferent to me. I think, though contrary to the common way of thinking, I wrong no man by this, and hope it is not offensive to that Eternal Being that formed me and the world; and, as by this I injure no man, no man can be reasonably offended. I solicitously recommend myself to that Eternal and Almighty Being, the God of nature, if I have done amiss. But perhaps I have not; and I hope this thing will never be imputed to me. Though I am now stained by malevolence, and suffer by prejudice, I hope to rise fair and unblemished. My life was not polluted, my morals were irrecroachable, and my opinions were orthodox. I slept soundly till three o'clock, awoke, and then wrote these lines:

"Come, pleasing rest! eternal slumbers,
fall;

Seal mine, that once must seal the eyes
of all!

Calm and composed my soul her journey
takes,

No guilt that troubles, and no heart that
aches!

Adieu, thou sun! all bright like her arise!
Adieu, fair friends! and all that's good
and wise."

These lines, found with the following letter, were supposed to have been written by Aram just before he attempted his own life.

"MY DEAR FRIEND—Before this reaches you I shall be no more a living man in this world, though at present in perfect bodily health; but who can describe the horrors of mind which I suffer at this instant? Guilt! the guilt of blood shed without any provocation, without any cause, but that of filthy lucre, pierces my conscience with wounds that give the most poignant pains! 'Tis true, the consciousness of my horrid guilt has given me frequent interruptions in the midst of my business or pleasures; but yet I have found means to stifle its clamours, and contrived a momentary remedy for the disturbance it gave me, by applying to the bottle, or the bowl, or diversions, or company, or business; sometimes one, and sometimes the other, as opportunity

offered; but now all these, and all other amusements, are at an end, and I am left forlorn, helpless, and destitute of every comfort; for I have nothing now in view but the certain destruction both of my soul and body. My conscience will now no longer suffer itself to be hoodwinked or browbeat: it has now got the mastery; it is my accuser, judge, and executioner; and the sentence it pronounceth against me is more dreadful than that I heard from the bench, which only condemned my body to the pains of death, which are soon over: but conscience tells me plainly, that she will summon me before another tribunal, where I shall have neither power nor means to stifle the evidence she will bring against me; and that the sentence which shall then be denounced, will not only be irreversible, but will condemn my soul to torments that will know no end.

"O! had I but hearkened to the advice which dear-bought experience has enabled me to give, I should not now have been plunged into that dreadful gulf of despair from which I find it impossible to extricate myself; and therefore my soul is filled with inconceivable horror. I see both God and man my enemies; and in a few hours I shall be exposed a public spectacle for the world to gaze at. Can you conceive any condition more horrible than mine? O, no! it cannot be! I am determined, therefore, to put a short end to trouble I am no longer able to bear, and deceive the executioner, by doing his business with my own hand; and I shall by this means at least prevent the shame and disgrace of a public exposure; and leave the care of my soul in the hands of eternal mercy. Wishing you all health, happiness, and prosperity, I am, to the last moment of my life,

"Yours, with the sincerest regard,

"EUGENE ARAM.

"August 5th, 1759."

The morning appointed for his execution arriving, (Monday, the 6th of August, 1759,) the keeper went to take him out of his cell, when he was surprised to find him almost expiring through loss of blood, having cut his left arm above the elbow and near the wrist, with a razor; but he had missed the artery. By proper application he was brought to himself, and, though weak, conducted to the scaffold; when, being asked if he had anything to say, he answered, "No." He was then

executed, and his body conveyed to Knaresborough Forest, and hung in chains, pursuant to his sentence.

How deeply to be lamented, that a man possessed of such abilities and application should have made so disgraceful an exit: the pride of human nature is hurt to find so excellent a head joined to so depraved a heart. The progress that Eugene Aram made in literature, considering the little instruction that he received, and the disadvantages under which he laboured, may be justly considered as astonishing: he, in fact, possessed talents and acquisitions that might have elassed him among the most respectable of human characters, if his moral character had been equal to his intellectual. But vice degraded him—not generally, it appears, but in the flagrant ease from the guilt of which he so ingeniously attempted to screen himself, and caused him, who might have been an ornament to his species, to fall deservedly by the hands of the common executioner.

THE PRESENT.

In order to enjoy the present, it is necessary to be intent on the present. To be doing one thing, and thinking of another, is a very unsatisfactory mode of spending life. Some people are always wishing themselves somewhere but where they are, or thinking of something else than what they are doing, or of somebody else than to whom they are speaking. This is the way to enjoy nothing, to do nothing well, and to please nobody. It is better to be interested with inferior persons and inferior things than to be indifferent with the best. A principal cause of this indifference is the adoption of other people's tastes instead of the cultivation of our own—the pursuit after that for which we are not fitted, and to which, consequently, we are not in reality inclined. This folly pervades, more or less, all classes, and arises from the error of building our enjoyment on the false foundation of the world's opinion, instead of being, with due regard to others, each our own world.

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 50.

FEBRUARY 8, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

DISCOVERY OF A MURDERER BY THE SAGACITY AND INTREPIDITY
OF A DOG.



[THE DOG ATTACKING MACAIRE.]

The fame of an English dog has been deservedly transmitted to posterity by a monument in basso relievo, which still remains on the chimney-piece of the grand hall at the castle of Montargis, in France. The sculpture represents a dog fighting with a champion, and was occasioned by the following circumstance.

Aubri de Mondidier, a gentleman of family and fortune, travelling alone through the forest of Bondi, was murdered, and buried under a tree. His dog, an English blood-hound, would not quit his master's grave for several days, till at length, compelled by hunger, he went to the house of an intimate friend of the unfortunate Aubri's, at Paris, and by his melancholy howling, seemed desirous of expressing the loss they had both sustained. He repeated his cries, ran to the door, then

looked back to see if any one followed him, returned to his master's friend, pulled him by the sleeve, and with dumb eloquence entreated him to go with him.

The singularity of all the actions of the dog; his coming there without his master, whose faithful companion he always had been; the sudden disappearance of his master; and, perhaps, that divine dispensation of justice and events, which will not permit the guilty to remain long undetected; made the company resolve to follow the dog, who conducted them to the tree, where he renewed his howling, scratching the earth with his feet, to signify that that was the spot they should search. Accordingly, on digging, the body of the unfortunate Aubri was found.

Some time after, the dog accidentally met the assassin, who is styled, by all his-

torians that relate the fact, the Chevalier Macaire; when instantly seizing him by the throat, it was with great difficulty he was made to quit his prey.

Whenever he saw him after, the dog pursued and attacked him with equal fury. Such obstinate virulence in the animal, confined only on Macaire, appeared extraordinary to those persons who recollected the dog's fondness for his master, and at the same time several instances wherein Macaire had displayed his envy and hatred to Aubri.

Additional circumstances increased suspicion, which at length reached the royal ear. The king, Lewis the Eighth, sent for the dog. He appeared extremely gentle, till, perceiving Macaire in the midst of twenty nobleman, he ran directly towards him, growled, and flew at him as usual.

In those times, when no positive proof of a crime could be procured, an order was issued for a combat between the accuser and accused. These were denominated the judgment of God, from a persuasion that heaven would sooner work a miracle, than suffer innocence to perish with infamy.

The king, struck with such a collection of circumstantial evidences against Macaire, determined to refer the decision to the chance of war, or, in other words, he gave orders for a combat between the chevalier and the dog. The lists were appointed in the aisle of Notre Dame: Macaire's weapon was a cudgel.

The dog had an empty cask allowed for his retreat, to recover breath. The combatants being ready, the dog no sooner found himself at liberty, than he ran round his adversary, avoiding his blows, menacing him on every side, till his strength was exhausted; then springing forward, he griped him by the throat, threw him on the ground, and forced him to confess his crime before the king and the whole court. In consequence of which the Chevalier, after a few days, was convicted upon his own acknowledgment, and beheaded on a scaffold in the aisle of Notre Dame.

The above curious recital is translated from the Memoires sur les Duels, and is confirmed by many judicious, critical writers, particularly Julius Scaliger and Montfaucon, neither of them relators of fabulous stories.

THE BLOOD-MONEY SYSTEM.

THE active exertions of Alderman M. Wood discovered in the first year of his mayoralty a conspiracy of the most atrocious nature—an organized plan of seduction to crime, and of traffic in human blood. The designs of the conspirators were chiefly executed in the neighbourhood of Tower Hill, where several of their victims were met at different times in great distress, by certain persons, who, under the mask of pity, furnished them with base shillings and Bank tokens for 3s. and 1s. 6d. The unfortunate creatures, nearly famishing, hastily rushed into a baker's or chandler's shop; but being previously placed under the eye of a lurking villain, who assumed the character of an officer, they were seized and searched, and the money which had just been heaped upon them as bounty, or for part of which they had perhaps entered into treaty, being found upon them, this was of course considered *prima facie* evidence of their guilt.

The blood-money system originated in the mischievous principles of a law which provided that, upon the conviction of a criminally-accused individual, a certain bonus should be paid to the party or parties bringing such accused individual to the bar of justice, which amounted generally to about 40l. This had the effect of producing a number of false accusations, or condemning comparatively innocent men of some crime, into the commission of which they had been purposely entrapped, for the sake of the prize held out: hence, the appropriate name of blood-money. But how deeply must the wretch who could thus gather riches be sunk in depravity!

Many cases of this description were brought to light at the time; and the following, which we have selected from them, exhibits a degree of cruelty which has seldom be equalled.

On the 20th of September, 1816, the trial came on of Thomas Brock, John Pelham, and Michael Power, charged with traitorously, feloniously, and deceitfully counterfeiting and colouring base coin, so as to make it resemble the current coin of the realm; and also with having aided and abetted Dennis Riorton, James Quin, and Thomas Connelly, who were convicted of the like crime at the Old Bailey Sessions.

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Upon the motion of the Attorney-General, Dennis Riorton, James Quin, and Thomas Connelly were called to the bar to receive his Majesty's pardon for the crime of which they had been convicted, in order that they might be able to give evidence against the prisoners.

Brock, Pelham, and Power then retired; and Riorton, Quin, and Connelly, at the bar, delivered in the pardon of his Majesty which was read by the clerk of the arraigns.

The prisoners were then again put to the bar.

The Attorney-General stated the principal facts of the case to the jury. Mr. Alley was counsel for the prisoners.

Baron Graham remarked, that the substantial charge against the prisoners was for high treason. The indictment contained two counts; but he did not see that the prisoners would be put to any inconvenience, because it was their object to prove that there was no high treason at all.

Daniel Barry lived in Ebenezer Place, Whitecross Street. He had known Power for eighteen years, and Pelham for five months. He saw Pelham first in Power's company; they both came to witness's house, and asked if he had any work, and requested him to go out with them. He did not go, but soon after Pelham came again to his house, and he went with him to a public-house, where he had something to drink. He asked witness if he knew any houses where thieves resorted, and said he would put him in a good thing, as he had done Power. He said, that if witness could get some men to break a window, he could obtain officers to take them up; and that if they were apprehended a good reward would be the consequence. He then asked if witness knew any man who could pass bad 3s. pieces. After a good deal more conversation, Pelham asked witness if he could get some men to make bad shillings, for that, if he could, Michael Power would make stuff to colour a quart pot. Witness said, that if he wanted men he should go to market for them. The market was in Cheapside, where poor Irishmen stood at the corner of King Street waiting for work. A few days after, having got to the market about a quarter past seven, witness saw Riorton and Quin, and asked them how work went on. They said, Very

badly, and were walking off with their tools; but Barry went with the men and talked to them in Irish. Power followed behind; and after they had got a little way, Power said to witness, "I dare say these men want work." Quin said, "Indeed we do." Power then replied, "Meet us at the sign of the Cat, in Whitecross Street, and I will ask my master if he wants workmen." They then parted. An appointment was made to meet the two men at six o'clock next morning, at the Red Cow, Long Lane, whence they were to go to the room which had been hired in Cow Cross. Next morning witness met Brock, his son, Power, Pelham, and the two men. Pelham was on the other side of the way, and called witness and Power over. He took the hammer and files from his bosom, and gave them to Power, as well as a pair of scissors, which he said he had borrowed from his landlady, adding, "I suppose she will never see them again." Witness and Power then went to Moorfields, met the men, and took them to the room. Power went out; and after some time he came in again, accompanied by witness's son, who brought with him a bottle, a paper with something like flour in it, another with something hard in it, some salt, some matches, and a candle. Power then said, "Where is the brass?" and young Barry gave it to him. Power then took the brass, marked it in straight lines the size of a shilling, and then cut it with scissors into strips. He gave it to the Irishmen, to file into squares, and Power rounded them like shillings with a file: he then gave them to the Irishmen to file and scour. Witness worked with them. When they were all done, Power rubbed all of them over with finer scouring paper. There were about thirty pieces altogether. As the men did their work, Power finished it, and made them to the similitude of a shilling he had in his hand. Connelly, who was the man who came in last, then said, "Barry, we are doing a job that will hang us all." Witness said, "Are we? then I will keep you another day at it." Brock and Pelham said to witness, they were quite safe, and need not fear. They then went down, as if for dinner, and left the men at work. He saw Brock and Taylor in Moor Lane, going to the room to take up the men. Soon after he heard that the men were apprehended,

and the whole was discovered. They were apprehended on the 30th of May last. When the men were tried, witness attended, and saw Brock and Pelham in the Old Bailey yard. In the evening of the apprehension, they all met at the George; and Brock said that Taylor had mentioned to him that it was a very good job indeed; and Brock added, that witness should be careful not to be together or near his house.

Nathaniel Barry was the son of the last witness, and corroborated the testimony of his father.

William Taylor was a constable belonging to the ward of Aldersgate. He knew Brock and Pelham. Brock on the 30th of May last came to witness, and asked him to go and apprehend some coiners in Angel Alley, Moor Lane. He asked how he knew it; and Brock said, "I have it from good authority." Witness then obtained a search-warrant, and in going down Little Britain with Brock, he saw a man leaning on a post. Brock said, "Pelham, how are they going on?" Pelham said, "It is all right." Brock made an affidavit before Alderman Cox that he knew of the coiners, and by that means the warrant was obtained. As witness was going with Brock to the room, he met Pelham again, and upon Brock asking if they were ready, Pelham said, "There is one missing." In passing Angel Court, witness saw a man going into the house: they then followed, went up two pair of stairs, and found Quin, Riorton, and Connelly, sitting on the floor, rubbing pieces of metal resembling shillings. There was no furniture in the room. All the men were handcuffed; and upon being searched, he found upon Riorton bad shillings wrapped very carefully up in paper for fear they should rub. Their hands were black with colouring. They seemed very much alarmed: Quin jumped round the room; and one of them said, "If you will wait, one of them has gone out for our dinners." He waited a minute or two, but thought it most prudent not to wait longer. In searching the room he found a hammer, two files, a pair of scissors, and a bottle of aquafortis, which last was found by Brock in a closet. He found also twenty-seven pieces of money altogether in the room.

The hammer, files, &c., were produced in court.

Anthony Harrison was an officer. Mrs. Brock gave him the files, and other things, now produced in court, at Brock's lodgings, on the 20th of July.

Randal M'Donnell was a labourer. He knew Riorton and Quin. One morning two men came up to Riorton and Quin, and asked if they wanted a job. They said they did, and went away with the two men. Power was one of them, and Barry was the other. Soon after he heard Quin and Riorton were in custody. Witness saw the two men who had taken Quin and Riorton away, in the yard of the Old Bailey, talking to Brock and Pelham. He showed them to Mr. Griffiths, and as soon as they saw him they went out at the gate. He followed them to Newgate Street, laid hold of Power and Barry by the coat, and said, "You are the two men who took the men from Cheapside Market." They said they were not. Power knocked him down, and both ran away as hard as they could. Witness cried out, "Stop coiners!" but the people, not understanding, took no notice. A man afterwards seized Barry, and witness taxed him again with taking the men from the market. He denied it, as he did before.

James Quin was an Irish labourer. He had been in England about fourteen months, and used to go to the marketplace in Cheapside to be hired for labour. One day he went to the market, and was met by the elder Barry, who asked him if he wanted a job. He said he did. Barry said, "My master wants one or two men."

The witness was unable to proceed any farther without an interpreter, and Griffiths, the Irish interpreter, was sworn.

The witness said that he was employed by Barry and Power to rub round pieces of copper, like shillings, and was taken up by the officer while he was doing it, together with Riorton and Connelly. While he was in the room young Barry brought something up into it.

The Attorney-General considered it unnecessary to call Connelly and Riorton.

Henry Ramand, an officer of the court, produced a copy of the record of the conviction of the three Irishmen, which was read by the clerk of the court.

The evidence for the prosecution being here concluded, the prisoners were called upon for their defence.

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Thomas Brock said, that Pelham came to him one morning and said, that he had found out some men of bad character. He told him to watch them; he did so, and came next day to his house, and then Pelham said, that he had watched them from Fore Street to Angel Alley. He was not certain, but he had reason to believe that they were coining money. Soon after, the prisoner continued, he went to Taylor upon Pelham's information, and told him he had found some coiners, gave his oath before Alderman Cox, and obtained a warrant. He gave his word to Taylor that he had the information from very good authority. In consequence of this the men were taken up, tried, and convicted; but he knew no more about it.

John Pelham, being called upon, confirmed Brock's statement.

Michael Power also declared that he never went to market at all for the men, and that he had never seen the face of McDonnell, who had sworn against him, before.

Mr. Justice Burroughs summed up at considerable length, and commented upon the various branches of the evidence. He detailed the various circumstances which came out in the evidence of the two Barrys. If their testimony was to be believed, then all the three prisoners, Brock, Pelham, and Power, were implicated in procuring the three Irishmen, getting them the implements, and setting them to work for the purpose of coining. It was not necessary to show them all three together in any one transaction; it was sufficient if we found them participating in all the main facts, and so connected in all the parts of the transaction, as that what they severally did contributed to the effect intended to be produced. The evidence of William Taylor, the constable, was the next that deserved the consideration of the jury. This witness proved that it was Brock who told him of the coiners being at work; and after this, witness had got a warrant for their apprehension, and was proceeding with Brock to the place, he saw Pelham lounging near a post in Little Britain, who, upon being asked by Brock how they were going on, replied, "All very well." Accordingly the three Irishmen were all found literally at work in the act of counterfeiting. The tools, also,

with which they were found at work were identified as having been procured by the prisoners; one female witness identifying the scissors as having been borrowed from her by Power; and another female proving that she had sold the two files and a hammer to Brock and Pelham. All this afforded strong circumstantial confirmation of the evidence of the two Barrys. The learned judge then commented on the evidence of Randal McDonnell, who, he remarked, had conducted himself extremely well, and had been the first instrument of discovering the conspiracy against his countrymen. The jury had also heard to-day the evidence of Quin, who was one of the three convicted of coining, but had since received a free pardon. The consideration of his being possibly actuated by a spirit of vengeance might weigh somewhat against his evidence; this the jury would, no doubt, take into their consideration; but it evidently went to attach all the three prisoners to the same transaction. Quin's evidence, if believed, proved that they were all engaged in it. If then the jury, from all the evidence they had heard, believed that the three Irishmen were set to work by the prisoners in the way that had been described, they would find them all guilty of the offence imputed. He did not think it necessary to point out any distinction or shade of guilt in the conduct of the different prisoners, as it was quite enough for the jury to be convinced that they were all engaged in one common concern. He, therefore, abstained from marking the conduct of any one of the prisoners in particular, as the whole was a joint charge; and it would be for the jury to consider whether any doubt could be entertained as to its being established. A point of law, however, had been raised in favour of the prisoners, on the ground that it did not appear that they meant to utter the counterfeit coin which they employed the three Irishmen to make. He should take care that this point should come under the consideration of the twelve Judges; and if this necessarily entered into the consideration of the crime with which the prisoners were charged, of course they would have the benefit of it. But in the mean time the jury would look merely to the facts proved in the course of the trial, and deliver their verdicts upon them.

The jury, after a few minutes' consideration, returned a verdict of "Guilty" against the three prisoners, who were immediately taken from the bar. They were afterwards respited during his Majesty's pleasure, and kept in confinement.

The Lord Mayor, after the trial, ordered the three Irishmen to be taken care of by an officer of the court, that they might receive a sum of money which had been subscribed for them.

After the discovery of the plots to which these three Irishmen were the victims, the Lord Mayor declared his conviction that theirs was not a solitary case. Viewing, as he did, the other atrocious scenes which were brought to light, he considered that the plans of the conspirators were too well organized, and too easily effected, to be confined to that offence; and he determined upon probing the matter if possible to the quick. This, by his indefatigable industry, coolness, and judgment, he in part effected.

In consequence of certain information which his lordship received, he proceeded to Newgate, and remained there between four and five hours. His lordship, who was assisted by Mr. Hobler, the chief clerk, entered into a minute investigation of the cases of nearly twenty persons who had been convicted at the previous October and April Old Bailey Sessions, on a charge of uttering counterfeit money, principally Bank of England tokens. Some of these poor creatures were of the lower order of illiterate Irish and English, but the chief part of them were foreign seamen, such as Russians, Germans, &c., and therefore the more likely to become the ready victims of designing men.

Those whom his lordship ascertained to have been such, were speedily discharged; but it is supposed that one unfortunate being, ensnared in a crime of which he was not morally guilty, suffered the most dreadful sentence of the law before the investigation took place; and fell a sacrifice to a system of police so liable to be abused by the hard-hearted and designing among its officers, if not calculated to make them blood-thirsty rather than usefully active, by offering an inducement to allow the misguided and dishonest to commit still greater crimes, rather than to stop them in their unlawful courses.

TRIAL OF EDWARD TURNER, A PUGILIST.

ON the 22d of October, 1816, a fight took place at Moulsey Hurst, between Turner, who made his "debut" on this occasion, and Curtis, designated the Dutch Sam of his weight from his public fighting. Betting was 5 to 2 and 3 to 1 on the event. Turner exhibited the traits of a British pugilist in more instances than one, when he had his adversary in his power. Curtis, from the attitude of Turner, could not get at him, and the more game the former exhibited the more he got punished. At length, after struggling against every disadvantage one hour and twenty-eight minutes, he fell, apparently lifeless; and being conveyed over the water to an inn, near Hampton, he betrayed the most alarming symptoms. Surgeons being promptly sent for, and a vein opened, he bled freely; but death had grasped him too firmly for mortal aid to prove efficacious.

An inquest was of course held on his body, and the evidence of two surgeons went to prove that he had died from the effects of the blows he received from Turner. Mr. Griffenhoofe did not arrive until long after the battle took place; but Mr. Jones was present upon the spot, and gave it as his decided opinion that the man could not live. The young man, assistant to Mr. Griffenhoofe, bled the deceased about half an hour after the fight, but there was nothing particular to narrate on the subject.

Mr. Coombes, of Hampton, proved that the deceased fought with Turner, that they shook hands before the battle took place, and that he assisted in taking the deceased from the ring in a senseless state. He proved, also, that the seconds, the umpire, and "the patrons" of fighting, strenuously urged Curtis to give in, and that he refused to do so; and that he even slipped away from his seconds when they were in the act of carrying him away, and fought again.

Mr. Kent stated, that for about twelve rounds before the termination of the contest he told Curtis he had no chance to win, and that it was a pity he should suffer himself to be beat to pieces. The reply of the deceased was, that he could not lose the battle; and he maintained this assertion against every remonstrance, until he fell in the last round, and never

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recovered from a state of stupor. Oliver, his second, advised him also in vain to resign long before the battle was decided; and the umpire refused to hold the watch any longer; but the deceased entertained a notion that he would win until the moment he fell. The evidence of this witness gave some explanation on the subject of the fall. He stated, that in the struggle for superiority both men were down, and that Turner had an opportunity of doing mischief to his adversary, by falling upon him, but he broke from him, and behaved in a manly manner, as he had done in other instances during the fight. After this fall, Curtis never recovered from the stupor; and witness believed him to be in a dying state before he reached the inn at Hampton. After being put to bed, Mr. Jones, the surgeon, pronounced him to be in a very dangerous state, and witness, together with the people at the inn, used every exertion in procuring medical aid. The deceased at this time was cold at the extremities, and appeared to be dying. Witness went on to state, that the deceased laboured under disease, and that he was advised rather to forfeit the stake for which he fought, than contend for it; but his reply was, that he was sure to beat his man. He died a quarter before twelve at night, but witness left him about twelve hours after the battle.

The jury without hesitation found a verdict of manslaughter against Turner, who was committed to Fothill Fields Bridewell, till the next Old Bailey sessions. The evidence on his trial was similar to the above; and in his defence he gave in a paper, in which he declared his aversion to prize-fighting; that though he was unfortunately goaded on to fight with Curtis, he had not the most distant intention of doing him any serious injury, but was, on the contrary, repeatedly desirous that Curtis should give up the contest. No man could feel more regret than himself at the awful result of that contest, but he declared himself innocent of the most distant intention to injure the deceased.

A great many witnesses were called by Mr. Andrews, who gave Turner an excellent character for humanity, and for a particularly mild temper. Many of them had known him from his infancy. One especially declared his belief that no indi-

vidual had ever been more insulted than Turner had been by Curtis, and no man could possibly exercise more moderation and forbearance than he did for a long time; and though Curtis was repeatedly assured that Turner refused to fight him, he still persisted in these insults, and, if possible, repeated them with a greater degree of aggravation.

Mr. Baron Graham summed up. He observed, that no person whatever could suppose the prisoner actuated by malice in what he had done on the present occasion, or that he had done it wilfully or designedly. It was equally clear, that he was not one of those desperate offenders in prize-fighting—a system which had unfortunately become too common in these days. Turner had the appearance of being a brave young man, and therefore was an object for Curtis to attack; ambitious, as every person belonging to the prize-fighting corps was, to acquire more renown, by defeating such a man as Turner. Though a person might disapprove of these battles, it was impossible to feel that horror at them which a person felt when two persons deliberately went out armed, for they could only be considered a trial of courage. It was a fact unquestionably true, that Turner had no hostility whatever to the deceased; for, on the contrary, he had shown himself actuated by the purest motives of humanity during the whole of the fatal contest. He (the judge) did not wish to throw any imputation on the deceased: at the same time, he deplored that obstinacy which he had shown during the fight, and he likewise deplored the numerous insults he had offered to Turner, and which Turner had long and patiently endured without offering any retaliation: that patience was honourable to him in every point of view. The consequences had indeed been fatal to that unhappy young man; but it would be extremely unjust to say Turner was responsible for these consequences, as being the cause of them. Turner had been very humane during the contest, declining on every occasion to take any advantage of what his superiority in point of strength and wind had given him. The jury could therefore do nothing more than find him guilty of manslaughter.

The jury, after two minutes' consultation, accordingly found the prisoner guilty of manslaughter; but earnestly recom-

mended him to mercy for his humanity in the contest, his sorrow for its issue, and his excellent character.

Mr. Baron Graham—"Gentlemen, the court are actuated by the same feelings, and will certainly not overlook the conduct of the young man at the bar when they give judgment."

He was sentenced to two months' imprisonment in Newgate.

THOMAS DOUGLAS.

THE case of this criminal presents one of the too frequent instances of the mischief resulting from drunkenness, which the law, as laid down on the trial, so far from admitting as a palliation, as the unhappy man conceived it should have done, considered an aggravation of the crime. Be this as it may, drunkenness is in itself a crime that cannot be too utterly loathed and abhorred, undermining, as it does, the health, happiness, and well-being at large of those who are addicted to its pursuit. Drunkenness is the fruitful, the prolific source of a host of evils which follow in his train: he is a demoniac, oft-times prepared to commit the foulest, the blackest, the most outrageous deeds! On the community generally of our own country, unfortunately, the vicious practice is a deep—but we vain hope, not imperishable—stain.

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

The prisoner was born at Berwick, in Scotland, and, having been educated by his parents according to the religious principles prevailing in that country, he was bound apprentice to a seafaring person at Berwick. When he was out of his time he entered on board a ship in the royal navy, in which station he acquired the pleasing character of an expert and valiant seaman.

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

It appeared, in the course of the evidence, that the parties had been drinking together, till they were inflamed with liquor, when the prisoner took up a knife,

and stabbed the other in such a manner that he died on the spot. The atrocity of the offence was such that Douglas was immediately taken into custody; and, being convicted on the clearest evidence, he received sentence of death.

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

THE PARIS EXECUTIONER.

IN this year, 1836, go to the street Des Marais, behind the Diorama, and knock at a pretty-looking house, which has no number over the door; you will be received by a person whose features bear a very strong resemblance to those of the unhappy Louis the Sixteenth; he will accost you very politely, and readily answer every question you propose to him. He will show you his library; for he is addicted to literature, and is a man of taste and refinement in such pursuits. If you press him closely, he will tell you earnestly, that he would sacrifice one half of his fortune to insure the abolition of capital punishments. Without any reluctance he will allow you to examine his museum, and will exhibit to you a little mahogany guillotine, and a large broad-bladed sword. The guillotine is the first model of this instrument that was ever made; and the sword is the weapon with which criminals of noble birth (who under the old regime enjoyed the privilege of not being hanged) were decapitated. He directs your attention to a large notch in the edge of the sword, and says—"In my father's time the noblemen and courtiers claimed the right to stand on the platform of the scaffold, to witness capital executions. When M. de Lally's head was cut off, a young lord jogged my father's arm, and the blade came in contact with a tooth, which made this notch."—*Traits of Paris in 1836.*

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ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 51.

FEBRUARY 15, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER AND ROBBERY OF WILLIAM WEARE, BY HIS
FELLOW-GAMBLERS.



[THURTELL ATTACKING HIS UNFORTUNATE VICTIM.]

The above illustration represents one of the most cold-blooded and atrocious murders ever recorded in the annals of human crime. Three gamblers, (flash "gentlemen," as they no doubt considered themselves,) Thurtell, Probart, and Hunt, having a dispute with one of their most intimate friends and associates, William Weare, respecting a certain sum of money at the gaming-table, conspired together to rob and murder him. Accordingly, having decoyed him away to a remote spot, in a by-lane, near Aldenham, in Hertfordshire, on the evening of Friday, the 24th of October, 1823, they inhumanly assassinated their ill-fated victim, by perforating his skull with the barrel of a pistol, the shot from the same, previously discharged by Thurtell, at the un-

fortunate Mr. Weare, not having proved effectual. After the committal of the atrocious act, they threw the body, for concealment, partly enveloped in a sack, into an adjoining pond, where it was subsequently discovered by Ruthven, the Bow Street officer, who was directed to the spot by the confession of Probart, who, as well as Hunt, turned king's evidence against the actual perpetrator, Thurtell.

When put upon his trial, Thurtell made what might be deemed an eloquent defence, and evinced powers of mind and proofs of a good education, which, it is to be regretted, were not turned to a better account. The murderers actually went from the gaming-table to the field of blood and assassination; which furnishes

an incontrovertible proof that the gamester is subject to the wildest and most demoniac passions that degrade humanity, rendering him, when driven to despair by losses, scarcely one degree above the level of an incarnate fiend. So with the murderers of Mr. Weare: from the convivial circle—from the festive board, urged by the impulse of imaginary wrong, they decoy away their friend, their companion, basely and treacherously to assassinate him.

Thurtell suffered the extreme penalty of the law, at Hertford, after a vain display of effrontery, obduracy, and impudence, on the 9th of December, 1823.

Probart, by turning king's evidence, escaped; but Providence pursued him, for, being convicted of horse-stealing, he was executed some years after at Newgate.

Hunt was punished by transportation for life, to the Australian Convict Colony in Van Dieman's Land.

* * * It was our intention to have given, with the above illustration, a full account of the whole proceedings in the case of atrocity of which it represents the most formidable part—that of the perpetration of the murder; but we are compelled to content ourselves this week with the foregoing outline. The truth is, one of our engravers has disappointed us, in not supplying the engravings for subjects previously chosen, and which should have taken precedence of this, the full development of which will probably be resumed in our next Number.

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI.

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

This unfortunate man was the son of Protestant parents, and was 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, he left his own country, on account of the persecution then prevailing there, and went to Geneva. Thence he travelled into Germany, and served as a horse-grenadier under the Elector of Brandenburg, who was afterwards King of Prussia. When he had been in this sphere of life about a year, he came over to England, and entered the service of Lord Haversham, with whom he remained about twelve months, and then enlisted as a soldier in the regiment of Colonel De la Meloniere.

Having made two campaigns in Flanders, the regiment was ordered into Ireland, where it was dismissed from farther service; in consequence of which Dramatti obtained his liberty.

He now became acquainted with a widow, between fifty and sixty years of age, who, pretending she had a great fortune, and was allied to the royal family of France, prevailed upon him to marry her, which he did, not only on account of her supposed wealth and rank, but also of her understanding English and Irish, thinking it prudent to have a wife who could speak the language of the country in which he proposed to spend the remainder of his life.

As soon as he had discovered that his wife had no fortune, he took a small house and a piece of ground, about ten miles from Cork, intending to turn farmer; but being altogether ignorant of husbandry, he found it impossible to subsist by that profession, on which he went to Cork, and worked as a skinner, being the trade to which he was brought up.

At the expiration of a twelvemonth from his coming to that city, he went to London, and offered his services again to Lord Haversham, and was admitted as one of his domestics.

His wife, unhappy on account of their separate residence, wished to live with him at Lord Haversham's, to which he would not consent, saying, that his lordship did not know he was married. She then 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

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that Dramatti had fixed his affections on some other woman; and a circumstance occurred which unfortunately aggravated the malignant disorder that preyed upon her mind. Dramatti being attacked with violent fever, about the Christmas preceding the time the murder was committed, his noble master gave orders that all possible care should be taken of him at his lordship's expense. At this period Mrs. Dramatti paid a visit to her husband, and again urged him to quit his service, which he positively refused. A servant-girl came into the room, bringing him some water-gruel; and the wife, suspecting 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. On learning this circumstance from another quarter, inflamed to the highest degree of rage, she went to Kensington, to reproach her husband with his unkindness to her, though he declared he always maintained her as well as he was able; and as a proof of it, he had given her three guineas but a little time before the murder was committed.

Frequent were the disputes between this unhappy man and his wife, till, on the 9th of June, 1703, Dramatti being went 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 lordship, 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; on which he beat her with his cane and sword, which latter she broke with her hands, as she was remarkable for her strength, and, if he had been unarmed, could have easily overpowered him. Having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion began immediately to subside, and, falling on his knees, he devoutly implored the pardon of God for the horrid sin of which he had been guilty.

Dramatti then went on to Kensington, when his fellow-servants, observing that his clothes were bloody, asked him how they became so. He said, he had been attacked by two men in Hyde Park, who would have robbed him of his clothes, but that he defended himself, and broke the head of one of them.

This story was credited for a short time, and on the following day Dramatti went to London, where he heard a paper read in the streets, respecting the murder that had been committed. Though he dreaded being taken into custody every moment, yet he did not seek to make his escape, but despatched 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 on the preceding evening with his sword broken, the hilt of it bruised, his cane shattered, and some blood being on his clothes.

Lord Haversham, with the view of engaging his attention, 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 the unfortunate culprit was examined before a justice of the peace, he confessed he had committed the crime; but, in extenuation of it, said, that his wife was a worthless woman who had entrapped him into marriage, by pretending to be of the blood-royal of France, and a woman of fortune.

On his trial, it appeared that he went to Lord Haversham's chamber late on the night on which the murder was committed, after that nobleman was in bed; and it was supposed, by some, that 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 steadfastly denied all intention of robbing his master; declaring, he only went into the room to fetch a silver tumbler which he had forgotten, that he might have it in readiness to take in some ass's milk in the morning for his lordship.

The body of Mrs. Dramatti was found in a ditch between Hyde Park and Chelsea; and a 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 and condemned; and on the 21st of July, 1703, he was executed at Tyburn.

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

* * An illustration was intended to have appeared with this subject: its non-appearance is explained in the preceding article.

WILLIAM CHETWYND.

To the following interesting but distressing narrative we particularly solicit the attention of the young, hoping that the example of this unhappy youth may warn them of the evil consequences of

passion, and the danger of indulging resentment when provoked by their companions.

This young gentleman was educated at a celebrated academy in Soho Square, and was about eighteen years of age at the time of his being tried for the murder of a school-fellow, and convicted of manslaughter. The case is a very remarkable one, and by a special verdict its decision was left to the opinion of the twelve judges.

At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in October, 1743, William Chetwynd was indicted for the murder of Thomas Ricketts, then in the nineteenth year of his age; he was likewise indicted on the statute of stabbing.

Mr. Chetwynd had in his possession a piece of cake, when Ricketts asked him for some of it, on which he gave him a small piece; but refusing to give him a second, which the other desired, he cut off a piece for himself, and laid it on a bureau, while he went to lock up the chief part of the cake for his own use.

In the interim Ricketts took the cake which had been left on the bureau, and when Chetwynd returned and demanded it, he refused to deliver it; on which a dispute arose, and Chetwynd having still in his hand the knife with which he had cut the cake, wounded the other on the left side of the abdomen.

Hannah Humphreys, a servant in the house, coming at that time into the room, Ricketts said he was stabbed, and complained much of the pain that he felt from the wound; on which Humphreys said to Chetwynd, "You have done very well;" to which the latter replied, "If I have hurt him, I am very sorry for it."

The wounded youth being carried to bed, languished three days under the hands of a surgeon, and then expired. In the interim, Chetwynd, terrified at what had happened, quitted the school; but as soon as he heard of the death of Ricketts, he went to a magistrate, to abide the equitable decision of a verdict of his countrymen; and he was accordingly brought to trial.

The counsel in behalf of the prisoner acknowledged the great candour of the gentlemen who were concerned for the prosecution, in their not endeavouring to aggravate the circumstances attending the offence. They confessed the truth of all

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that had been sworn by the witnesses; but insisted, in behalf of the accused party, that though his hand might have made an unhappy blow, his heart was innocent.

The substance of their arguments was, that the fact could not amount to murder at common law, which Lord Coke defines to be "an unlawful killing another man aforethought," either expressed by the party, or implied by the law. In this case, there was not the least malice, as the young gentlemen were friends, not only at the time, but to the close of Ricket's life, when he declared that he forgave the other. It being proved that there was a friendship subsisting, it would be talking against the sense of mankind to say the law could imply anything contrary to that which was plainly proved. Deliberation and cruelty of disposition make the essential difference between manslaughter and murder; and they quoted several legal authorities in support of this doctrine.

"Shall the young boy at the bar," said one of the counsel, "who was doing a lawful act, be said to be guilty of murder? He was rescuing what was his own: the witnesses have told you, that after he had given Rickets a piece of cake, Rickets went to him for more; and he refused to give it him. He had a right to keep his cake, and the other had no right to take it; and he had a right to retake it.

"There are cases in the books which make a difference between murder and manslaughter. If a man takes up a bar of iron, and throws it at another, it is murder; and the difference in the crime lies between the person's taking it up, and having it in his hand. Chetwynd had the knife in his hand, and upon that a provocation ensues, for he did not take the knife up; if he had, that would have shown an intention to do mischief. It may be doubted, indeed, when the lad had this knife in his hand for a lawful purpose, and in an instant struck the other, whether he considered he had the knife in his hand; for if in his passion he intended to strike with his hand, it is not striking with the knife.

"It was to be considered, whether there was not evidence to except this case from the letter of the statute 1 James 1."

Another counsel stated, that "at the beginning of the fray, Chetwynd had a

knife in his hand; and it was one continued act. Another question is, whether there was not a struggle: here was the cake taken, and in endeavouring to get it again this accident happens; at the first taking of the cake, it is in evidence, that Chetwynd was not forced to extend his arms, unless the other was coming to take it from him, and then a struggle is a blow.

"The act of 1 James 1 was made for a particular purpose: on the union of the two kingdoms, there were national factions and jealousies, when wicked persons, to conceal the malice lurking in their hearts, would suddenly stab others, and screen themselves from the law, by having the act looked upon as the result of an immediate quarrel. This statute has always been looked upon as a hard law, and therefore always construed by the judges in favour of the prisoner. When the fact only amounts to manslaughter at common law, it has been the custom of the court to acquit upon this statute."

The counsel for the crown, in reply, submitted to the court, "whether (since the only points insisted on by way of defence for the prisoner, were questions at law, in which the jury were to be guided by their opinion,) the facts proved and admitted did not clearly, in the first place, amount to murder at common law; and in the second place, whether there could be the least doubt, in point of law, that the case was within the statute 1 James 1.

"Upon the first it was admitted, that to constitute murder there must be malice.

"But it was argued, that malice was of two kinds, either expressed and in fact, or implied by law.

"But when one person kills another without provocation, it is murder, because the law presumes and implies malice from the act done. And therefore, whenever any person kills another, it is murder, unless some sufficient provocation appear. But it is not every provocation that extenuates the killing of a man from murder into manslaughter. A slight or trivial provocation is the same as none, and is not allowed in law to be any justification or excuse for the death of another. And therefore no words of reproach or infamy, whatever provoking circumstances they may be attended with; no affronting gestures, or deriding postures, however inso-

lent or malicious; are allowed to be put in balance with the life of a man, and to extenuate the offence from murder to manslaughter.

“For the same reason, no sudden quarrel, upon a sudden provocation, shall justify such an act of cruelty as one man’s stabbing another, though it be done immediately in the heat of passion. As, if two persons, playing at tables, fall out in their game, and the one upon a sudden kills the other with a dagger; this was held to be murder by Bromley, at the Chester assizes.

“In like manner, no trespass on lands or goods shall be allowed to be any excuse for one man’s attacking another in such a manner as apparently endangers his life, and could not be intended merely as a chastisement for his offence; because no violent acts beyond the proportion of the provocation receive countenance from the law. And therefore, if a man beats another for trespassing upon his goods or lands, and does not desist, he will be justified by law; because what he does is only in defence of his property, and no more than a chastisement to the offender.

“But, says the Lord Chief Justice Holt, if one man be trespassing upon another, breaking his hedges, or the like, and the owner, or his servant, shall upon sight thereof take up a hedge-stake, and knock him on the head, that will be murder; because it is a violent act beyond the proportion of the provocation.

“Applying the rules of law to the present case, it was plain, that the violent act done bore no proportion to the provocation. All the provocation given was taking up a piece of cake, which is not such an offence as can justify the prisoner’s attacking the person who took it up, with an instrument, that apparently endangered his life, or rather carried certain death along with it.

“On the second indictment it was said, that the counsel for the prisoner had in effect contended, that the statute 1 James 1 should never be allowed to comprehend any one case whatsoever, or extend to any one offender, which would entirely frustrate that statute; since it was only made in order to exclude such persons who stabbed others upon the sudden, from the benefit of clergy; and was intended as a sort of correction to the com-

mon law, by restraining such offenders through fear of due punishment, who were emboldened by presuming on the benefit of clergy, allowed by the common law. But if it is to exclude none from their clergy, who at common law would have been entitled to it, it can never have any effect, and may be as well repealed.

“And if the statute is to have any force or effect at all, there can be no doubt it must extend to the present case. It is expressly within the words: Mr. Ricketts was stabbed, having then no weapon drawn in his hand, and not having before struck the person who stabbed him. It is plainly within the intention; which is declared in the preamble to have been in order to punish stabbing or killing upon the sudden, committed in rage, or any other passion of the mind, &c.; and therefore it is submitted to the court, whether upon the facts proved, and not denied, the consequence of the law was not clear that the prisoner was guilty on both indictments.”

Mr. Baron Reynolds and the Recorder, before whom the prisoner was tried, taking notice of the points of law that had arisen, the learned arguments of the counsel, and the many cases cited upon this occasion, were of opinion, that it would be proper to have the facts found specially, that they might be put in a way of receiving a more solemn determination.

A special verdict was accordingly agreed on by all parties, and drawn up in the usual manner; viz., by giving a true state of the facts as they appeared in evidence, and concluding thus: “We find that the deceased was about the age of nineteen, and Mr. Chetwynd about the age of eighteen; and that of this wound the deceased died on the 29th of the said September; but whether, upon the whole, the prisoner is guilty of all or any of the said indictment, the jurors submit to the judgment of the court.”

In consequence of this special verdict, the case was argued before the twelve judges, who deemed Chetwynd to have been guilty of manslaughter only; on which he was set at liberty after being burnt in the hand.

Does not this furnish an illustration to the youthful reader, that “dire events from trivial causes spring?”

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JOSEPH STILL

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

Soon after this, he returned to his former way of life; and being taken into custody in Hertfordshire, he was tried, convicted, and punished by burning in the hand. After this he began the practice of robbing higlers on the highway, at which he became an adept.

At length almost all his companions were hanged, and he was reduced to such distress that he went once more on the road to supply himself with the means of procuring the necessaries of life. After drinking at an alehouse in Kingsland Road, one day, he proceeded to Stoke Newington, went into Queen Elizabeth's walk, and saw a gentleman's servant, whose money he demanded. The servant, determined not to be robbed, contested the matter with Still; a battle ensued, and the villain drew a knife, with which he stabbed the footman through the body.

Still was taken into custody, tried, convicted, and hanged on Stamford Hill on the 22d of March, 1717.

CAPTAIN CLARKE, R. N.

WE have before given our opinion of the destructive and wicked practice of duelling. The articles of war impose heavy penalties upon an officer giving or receiving a challenge; and yet, he who refuses to receive one, or being what is termed insulted, and not challenging the aggressor, is deemed a coward, and "sent to Coventry;" which is most humiliating to an officer, consisting in the unanimous determination of the other officers not to associate with him.

Captains Innis and Clarke were commanders under Admiral Knowles, the first of the Warwick, and the latter of the Canterbury, both line of battle ships, of sixty-four guns each, when he obtained a victory over a Spanish fleet of equal

force, and took from them the Conquestadore, and ran their vice-admiral on shore, where she blew up; and the rest escaped under favour of the night.

It was thought, that, had the admiral availed himself of an opportunity which at one time presented, of bringing up his fleet to bear at once upon the enemy, the whole might have been taken.

The issue of this battle was, therefore, unsatisfactory; and the admiral was summoned before a court-martial on board the Royal Charlotte, at Deptford.

The opinion of the court, being unfavourable to the admiral, caused a divided opinion among the officers. It did not, however, affect the personal bravery of that commander; but, on the contrary, as it appeared in evidence, he displayed the greatest intrepidity, and exposed his person to imminent danger after his ship was disabled; but it appeared, that in manœuvring, previous to the engagement, he had not availed himself of a certain advantage, and that he had commenced the action with four of his ships, when six might have been brought up. The court therefore determined, that he fell under the 14th and 23d articles of war—namely, the word "Negligence;" for which they sentenced him to be reprimanded.

This sentence caused much ill blood among the officers. The admiral had already been called out twice in duels with his captains, and had received more challenges of the same kind; but government, being apprized of the outrages, put a stop to them, by taking the challengers into custody.

Captain Clarke, it appears, had given evidence on the trial of the admiral, which displeased Captain Innis to so great a degree that he called him "a perjured rascal," and charged him with giving false evidence. This was certainly language less bearable by an officer, if honourable, than rankling wounds, or even death. Captain Clarke, being apprized that Innis in this way traduced and vilified him in all companies, gave him a verbal challenge, which the other accepted.

On the 12th of August, 1749, early in the morning, the parties, attended by their seconds, met in Hyde Park. The pistols of Captain Clarke were screw-barrelled, and about seven inches long; those of Captain Innis were common

pocket pistols, three inches and a half in the barrel. They were not more than five yards distant from each other, when they turned about, and Captain Clarke fired before Captain Innis had levelled his pistol. The ball entered the breast, of which wound Captain Innis expired at twelve o'clock the same night.

The coroner's jury found a verdict of wilful murder against Captain Clarke, who was consequently apprehended, brought to trial at the Old Bailey, found guilty, and sentenced to death. But the king, in consideration of his services, and the bravery he displayed in fighting his ship under Admiral Knowles, was pleased to grant him a free pardon. In strict justice, however, these considerations ought not to have weighed in favour of a murderer; and such the captain had been legally declared.

But it has been stated that there were other circumstances in this unfortunate—we should say, disgraceful—*rencontre*, which were in some degree favourable to Captain Clarke; for his firing on turning round, and his pistol being larger than that of Captain Innis, were not deemed unfair by—the sanguinary “rules” of duelling; as Captain Innis might have provided himself with a large pair, had he pleased. That, nevertheless, which pleaded most powerfully in the culprit's behalf, was the expression of the dying man, who forgave and acquitted him. When a soldier seized Captain Clarke, the former asked the wounded man what he should do with his antagonist; to which he faintly answered, “Set him at liberty, for what he has done was my own seeking.”

On the 1st of June, 1750, being the last day of the Old Bailey sessions then being held, Captain Clarke, among the other convicts, was brought up to receive sentence of death; when he pleaded his majesty's pardon, which was read to the court; and the prisoner was accordingly dismissed.

ABDALLAH, THE SHEDDER OF BLOOD.

IN the time of the Caliphs, when Abdallah, the shedder of blood, had murdered every descendant of Omiah within his reach, one of that family, named Ibrahim, the son of Soliman, the son of Abdelmelee, had the good fortune to escape, and

reached Koufa, which place he entered in disguise: knowing no person in whom he could confide, he sat down under the portico of a large house. Soon after, the master arrived, followed by several servants, alighted from his horse, and, seeing the stranger, asked him who he was.

“I am an unfortunate man,” replied Ibrahim, “and request an asylum from thee.”

“God protect thee,” said the rich man, “enter, and remain in peace.”

Ibrahim lived several months in this house, without being questioned by his host; but astonished to see him every day go out on horseback, and return at the same hour, he ventured to ask him the reason.

“I have been informed,” said the rich man, “that a person named Ibrahim, the son of Soliman, is concealed in this town: he has slain my father, and I am searching for him, to retaliate.”

“Then I knew” (said Ibrahim, when subsequently relating the event,) “that God had purposely conducted me to that place; I adored his decree; and, resigning myself to death, I answered—‘God has determined to avenge thee; behold thy victim at thy feet, offended man!’”

The rich man, astonished, replied, “O stranger, I see thy misfortunes have made thee weary of life; thou seekest to lose it, but my hand cannot commit such a crime.”

“I do not deceive thee,” said Ibrahim; “thy father was such a one, we met each other in such a place, and the affair happened in such a manner.”

A violent trembling then seized this rich man: his teeth chattered as if from intense cold; his eyes alternately sparkled with fury, and overflowed with tears. In this agitation he remained a long time: at length, turning to Ibrahim, he said, “To-morrow, destiny will join thee to my father, and God will have retaliated. But for me, how can I violate the asylum of my house? Wretched Ibrahim, fly from my presence! There, take these three hundred sequins, be gone quickly, and never let me behold thee more!”—*From an Arabic MS.*

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

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NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 52.

FEBRUARY 22, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

JOHN PETER DRAMATTI AND HIS UNFORTUNATE WIFE.



[DRAMATTI PRAYERFULLY EXPRESSING HIS SORROW AT THE FATAL ACT.]

THE above illustration represents the certainly unhappy John Peter Dramatti in the act of soliciting pardon, from the mercy-seat of his Maker, for the crime, if it be not paradoxical, of an unintentional act of murder. But we do not mean to acquit him of any degree of criminality whatever; for it was criminal in him to use a deadly weapon, at least, in the chastisement of one to whom he was enchained in the links of matrimony, baneful as she might have been to his personal comfort. So far Dramatti was a guilty character; but, as it was generally believed that the fatal turn which his sword took was purely unintentional, he was surely entitled, in consideration,

as well, of the gross and aggravating attack made upon him, to some sympathy on the part of the law.

His wife absolutely collared him, and would have strangled him, it appeared, had he not beat her. Then, having wounded her in so many places as to conclude that he had killed her, his passion 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.

The unhappy culprit was likewise suspected of having had an intention to rob his master; but from these suspicions he was satisfactorily exculpated.

See our last Number, page 402.

3 G

MURDER OF WILLIAM WEARE.
CHAPTER I.

WITH the engraving representing the perpetration of this most horrid and unnatural deed, we gave a mere outline of the fact, with the intention, as we stated, of resuming the subject, for the purpose of fully unfolding its history.

The murder was scarcely accomplished, it appeared, when it was discovered. Philip Smith, a farmer, was proceeding from Batler's Green, to his own residence, at Kemp's Row, Aldenham, in Hertfordshire, about fifteen miles from London, between eight and nine o'clock in the evening of the 24th of October, 1823, when he heard the report of a gun or pistol, and immediately afterwards groaning, which continued for three or four minutes. His wife was with him in a donkey chaise, and he would have gone to the spot from whence the noises proceeded, but was afraid to quit her, she being greatly agitated.

The same night, a man named Freeman, who was on his way to meet his wife, saw a gig, in which were two men, driving towards the lane, at a very rapid pace, the horse seemingly very much out of wind. He accosted them, observing, that they were driving hard; to which one of them made a slight answer, which Freeman could not distinctly hear. The gig stopped just as Freeman entered the lane.

At daybreak, on the following morning, a quantity of blood was found in a lane, in the same neighbourhood, by two labourers, who were going out to their work in the fields. The ground, for a considerable distance round the puddle of blood, was torn up and trampled, as though several persons had been violently struggling there; and near it was found a silk handkerchief, and a pistol clotted with blood and with a substance which an eminent surgeon pronounced to be human brains. The men were much alarmed at the sight of these things; and not doubting but some person had been murdered there, they determined to conceal themselves, and watch the spot, naturally supposing that the murderers would be anxious to recover the pistol, &c., lest they should lead to their detection. Presently, while it was yet twilight, two persons approached the spot where the blood was lying, and appeared to be

anxiously searching for something on the ground. When they had searched some time, the men left their hiding-place, and going towards them, carelessly inquired whether they had lost anything? To which one of the strangers as carelessly answered that they had lost a penknife; and in answer to farther questions put to them by the labourers, they replied, that they had been upset from a gig, in a bit of a lark, near that spot on the preceding night. They then went away towards Gill's Hill Cottage, occupied by Mr. Probart, and the labourers made the best of their way to communicate what they had seen.

An inquiry took place in consequence, from which it appeared that the two strangers, whom the labourers had seen searching the scene of the supposed murder, were John Thurtell and Joseph Hunt. It was ascertained, also, that these two persons, together with Thomas Thurtell, and some others, were on a visit at Probart's cottage on the night in which the murder was supposed to be committed. No person, however, was apprehended; but the inquiry was continued throughout the Saturday, Sunday, and Monday—diligent search being made at the same time after the murdered body without success; and, at length, on Tuesday afternoon, information of all the circumstances was transmitted to the magistrates at Bow Street. It was received about four o'clock in the afternoon of that day, and in half an hour after, Ruthven was authorized to take John Thurtell, Thomas Thurtell, Joseph Hunt, and William Probart, into custody. He left town immediately for Aldenham, and the same night lodged Thomas Thurtell and Probart in St. Alban's gaol, and before six o'clock in the morning he apprehended the other two in town—John Thurtell at a public-house in Conduit Street, Bond Street, and Joseph Hunt at his lodgings, at No. 19, King Street, Golden Square. Ruthven took Thurtell in bed, and on searching his apparel, the cuffs of his coat were found very much stained with blood on the inside; his waistcoat-pocket seemed to have had a bloody hand thrust into it, and the edges of his hat were marked with blood. Besides these suspicious appearances, his right hand was much scratched and bruised, and his upper lip was swelled and lacerated, as if by a

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violent blow. The two prisoners, after being examined at Bow Street, were conveyed, in separate chaises, to Watford, where they arrived between five and six o'clock on Wednesday afternoon. The magistrates, meanwhile, had been most actively engaged in procuring evidence; and by ten o'clock that night were prepared with a mass of testimony of a very strong nature. The investigation commenced at half-past ten. The prisoners were not brought into the room, it being thought best to keep them ignorant of the entire evidence against them, at least for a short time.

After the testimony of several witnesses had been taken, Hunt was called in; and Mr. Noel, who attended as solicitor for the prosecution, told him that the magistrates and he would feel it their duty to put some questions to him, but it was fit he should be warned that he was not bound to answer a single one unless he chose, and, above all, to say nothing to criminate himself. With this warning, he, of course, could exercise his own judgment.

John Thurtell was next called, and received the same warning, and also underwent a long interrogation. When it had nearly closed, he was asked if he ever carried pistols, and he said he never did: being pressed, he said he found a small pistol on a bank near Probart's house on Sunday morning last. Ruthven had found it upon him, and produced it.

Mr. Noel said, he had already cautioned the prisoner as to his answering questions, and he was now about to put to him some of a very important nature. "Do you," said Mr. N. suddenly, "do you know Mr. Weare?"—*Prisoner.* I do.

Do you know where he is?—I do not.
When did you see him last?—On Tuesday, last week, was the last time.

Did you see him last Friday?—No, I did not. I did not meet him by accident in the Edgware Road.

Now, Mr. Thurtell, you have said you found this pistol near Probart's; what would you say, when I tell you I can produce the fellow to it, found within a few yards of the same spot?—I know nothing about that.

The pistol, with the blood and hair adhering to it, was then slowly exposed to the view of the prisoner, from the paper in which it was wrapped, and his coun-

tenance and manner underwent a change too striking to escape the notice of the most careless observer. His complexion, naturally sallow, assumed a deadly pale, and he appeared to shudder and shrink backwards at the sight of the weapon; the state of which, however, was such as to be likely to produce a strong effect upon a perfectly innocent man. The pistols were then compared. They were of the same size; each had "Hill, London," thereon. In the make, ornament, and every part, they exactly resembled each other.

Mr. Noel. I can tell you, Thurtell, Mr. Weare is not to be found.—I am sorry for it, but I know nothing about him.

The prisoner was removed, and other evidence heard; after which Thurtell was recalled, and persisted in saying that he had never seen Weare since Tuesday, or Wednesday at the latest.

Hunt was then recalled, and, after some questions, was shown the two pistols. Mr. Noel, after acquainting him with the manner in which they were found, addressed him at some length, and desired him to retire. In a few minutes he sent for Mr. Noel, and shortly after he was again conducted before the magistrates, and made a very long confession. When he had finished, it was past nine o'clock on Friday morning; the investigation having continued, without intermission, through the night. He concluded, by offering to conduct the proper persons to the spot where the body of Mr. Weare would be found.

When Hunt had made his confession, the magistrates requested Mr. Noel (the solicitor), Ruthven, and a number of officers, to attend him to the pond, where the corpse was concealed. Hunt went in a post-chaise, accompanied by Ruthven; and on arriving near a pond, on the side of the road leading from to Elstree, Hunt put his hand out of the chaise, and said, "That is the place." A drag was provided by Mr. Field, the landlord of the Artichoke, at Elstree, and a man threw it into the water, and drew it out without finding anything. Hunt called out of the chaise, "It is not there, but further that way" (pointing on one side of the water.) The drag was again thrown in, and the body of a man, enveloped in a new sack, was drawn out,

placed on a ladder, and carried to the Artichoke public-house. The head, and as far as the abdomen, were enveloped in the sack, the body having been thrust into it head foremost; the feet were tied together with a piece of cord, to which was appended a handkerchief, filled with flint stones, about thirty pounds' weight. Another cord was tied over the sack, round the waist of the deceased, to which was affixed a very large flint stone, and in the end of the sack a great number of stones had been placed before the body was put into it. The magistrates gave orders for the body not to be examined till the jury were impanelled.

When Hunt was returning from the pond, he addressed himself to Mr. Field, the landlord of the Artichoke—"I and Probart were sitting under the tree in the front of your house for an hour, on the night of the murder, drinking: you know this?" Mr. Field replied in the affirmative. Hunt continued: "Probart wanted me to sing, but I was so very muzzy that I could not." Hunt was then conveyed to St. Alban's gaol.

The preliminaries given in the foregoing detail, in the matter of the murder of the unfortunate Weare, having been brought to a termination, the coroner for the county of Hertford, Benjamin Rooke, esq., issued summonses for a jury to assemble at the Artichoke, at Elstree, on the following morning, at eleven o'clock. A number of gentlemen of the neighbourhood accordingly met the coroner and magistrates at the appointed time; soon after which Hunt, Probart, and Thomas Thurtell arrived in different post-chaises, accompanied by police-officers. Hunt and Probart appeared void of feeling on the subject; but Thomas Thurtell, being innocent, was very much depressed.

The jury was then sworn; and after they had viewed the body the coroner proceeded to call witnesses.

Mr. Rexworthy, proprietor of the billiard-rooms, Spring Gardens, was called. He was a friend of the deceased, and had seen the body: he knew it to be the remains of Mr. W. Weare, of London, who took leave of him on Friday morning, the 24th instant, and then had, to the knowledge of witness, about 24l. Previously, deceased possessed bank post bills and other bills to a considerable amount. Witness left London as soon as

he heard of the murder of a man whose body was not found, as he knew Mr. Weare had been invited to accompany Thurtell on a shooting excursion.

P. Smith deposed to the facts which we have previously related; and added that, prior to hearing the report of the pistol, he heard a chaise coming in the direction from High Dross to Radlet.

James Freeman sworn.—He was going on the evening of Friday across a field leading into Gill's Hill Lane, by Probart's house, about eight o'clock, and saw two gentlemen in a gig; one of them alighted. Witness said to the gentlemen, "You have driven your horse very fast; it is very much out of wind." They gave no answer. Witness then said, "This is a very dark, crooked, bad lane to go down in the evening." No answer was made to that, and witness walked on. The man had a light great coat on, buttoned with a loop; there were no lights to the gig; it was a clear star-light evening, so that he could distinguish persons very plainly; it was a bay horse in the chaise, with a light face; the men had both black hats on; he followed them for some distance, and then returned to meet his wife.

Elizabeth Freeman, the wife of last witness, sworn.—She met two gentlemen, on the night of the murder, travelling in a chaise, along Gill's Hill Lane. On Sunday she met Probart's boy, and having heard that some gentlemen had met with an accident in the lane, she asked him if his master had met with a misfortune in his gig; and the boy said that the gentleman was overturned, and came home with spots of blood on his coat.

John Hetherington, a labourer, sworn.—Was at work in Gill's Hill Lane, about six o'clock on Saturday morning, and saw two men walking up the lane from Gill's Hill. One had a white and the other a black hat on; the former was a tall man, with black whiskers; and the other shorter, with a white coat: they grabbed in the hedge; witness, and a fellow-labourer named Hunt, spoke to the gentlemen: one of them said, "I was thrown out of my chaise here last night." Witness was sure he should know the tallest man with a white hat, if he were to see him again.

The witness, by order of the coroner, was taken into the room where Probart, Thomas Thurtell, Hunt, and other persons were, and pointed out Probart as

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one of the men; but could not identify amongst them the man with black whiskers, who answers the description of John Thurtell.

Witness heard his fellow-labourer, Hunt, ask the gentlemen if they were hurt, and the tall one replied that he was capsized; but neither horse or gig were overturned. After witness had breakfasted, he walked up the lane again, supposing, if the gentleman had been overturned, that some money might have been thrown out of his pocket, and, on searching, he found a knife, which was covered with blood. [The knife was produced.] About ten o'clock the same morning, he found a pistol in the hedge, near the spot where he had previously seen the gentlemen "grabbling." The pistol was bloody. Witness gave the pistol to Mr. Nicholls, his employer, who told him that Mr. P. Smith had informed him that he had heard the report of a gun in the lane on the overnight. On the spot where the pistol was found, witness kicked the leaves, and the more he kicked them the more blood was found; and Mr. Nicholls said, "I am afraid something very bad has been done here." Witness told Mr. Nicholls, who was at that time in his chaise, that he had seen two gentlemen "grabbling" there. Mr. Nicholls told him not to divulge anything he had seen. About eleven o'clock the same evening, witness saw the same two gentlemen come down Gill's Hill Lane, in a chaise; they were then neatly dressed, and both had black hats on. One of them (the same who, about six o'clock in the morning, had a white hat on) asked witness how he did? This person was John Thurtell, whom he saw on Thursday last at Watford. These were the only two persons who came down in a chaise that day. A man came down with a large dog soon afterwards.

William Hunt corroborated the testimony of his fellow-labourer, Hetherington; and added, the shortest of the two men who came in the morning, stooped in the hedge, and returned with something he had picked up, and which he carried in a yellow handkerchief on the end of a stick, when they went away.

Mr. Nicholls, a farmer, also corroborated the evidence of his tenant, Hetherington, as to receiving a bloody pistol from him, and discovering a "sprinkling"

of blood in the hedge. He received the pistol on Saturday morning, and did not give it up to the magistrates till Tuesday. Did not know that the magistrates sat at St. Alban's on a Saturday, or he should have given information to them. Was in company with Probart on Sunday, at his house, on private business; remembered saying on that occasion to Probart, "What the devil manoeuvres were you at last Friday evening?" Probart replied, "What manoeuvres do you mean? I know nothing of it." Witness replied, "I suspect some one at your house fired a pistol in Gill's Hill Lane on Friday night." Probart said, "What time was the pistol fired?" Witness said, "Eight o'clock." Probart said, "It was not me, or any one at my house, for I did not arrive at home till long after that time." Witness had his conversation with Probart before his making any communication to the justices, and previous to this time he had received the pistol from Hetherington, which had blood upon it. Had seen a bloody knife found upon the spot, and had seen the blood on the ground, and heard of the groans, and yet he did not suspect that a murder had been committed. Did not see the brains or the hair on the pistol till Monday morning. Witness had not wilfully done wrong in not communicating these facts earlier to Mr. Mason, the magistrate; for he thought that as there was a good deal of drinking going on at Probart's, that some of them were going to London, and that some one belonging to the family had concealed himself in the hedge, and fired to alarm his companions as they passed.

Coroner. You have told us part of what passed between you and Probart on Sunday evening; tell the remainder.—He was not there above half an hour, with Probart.

Coroner. Was not something said by Probart about dragging a pond?—There was. A Mr. Heward was present, and Probart spoke about filling up his pond. Witness said it would be a pity to have the pond filled up. To this it was replied, jokingly, "It shall be dragged first, and some large fish will be found in it." At the time, it appears, the body of the deceased was in this pond. Witness wrote on Monday, the 27th, to Mr. Mason, and informed him he suspected

a murder had been committed. The road to Probart's cottage was unfrequented by almost every one but Probart, and the persons at Probart's house. Witness had for some time had a bad opinion of the persons frequenting Probart's, but he did not suspect that they would murder one another.

The coroner reprehended the conduct of this witness, in not giving earlier information to the magistrates, and was surprised that after he had received the bloody pistol, heard of the groans, &c., that he did not instantly give information, instead of visiting Probart.

Mr. Nicholls regretted that he had delayed making the communication to the magistrates.

The coroner said, that he acquitted him of any intentional wrong.

Susan Ann Woodroofe, servant to Probart, proved that her master came home on Friday, about nine o'clock at night, with two other persons, viz., Hunt and John Thurtell, both of whom had white hats on when they arrived. Probart gave witness some pork chops to cook, and told her not to get them cooked till he came back; and he then went with the other two gentlemen, with a lantern and candle. Mrs. Probart told witness that they were gone to Mr. Nicholls's on business. They left the house about ten o'clock, and returned about eleven; and when witness took the chops into the parlour, all three were there, and supped. Hunt and John Thurtell sat up all Friday night, smoking and drinking; whether they went out in the night she could not say. On Saturday morning she saw John Thurtell sitting on a sofa in her master's room with her master's white hat on, and Hunt was asleep on a chair. Hunt and John Thurtell left the house about six o'clock, and Probart followed them; they returned before Probart, and were absent about half an hour. Probart has a large dog; she could not say that the dog went out with him on Saturday morning. Mrs. Probart and her sister, Miss Noyes, were at Probart's cottage on Sunday; also the two Thurtells, Hunt, and Noyes, Mrs. Probart's brother; Mrs. Probart was with the company in the parlour the greater part of the day; and on Monday morning, Thomas Thurtell and James, Probart's boy, went away in a chaise; witness had seen John Thurtell with a yellow hand-

kerchief. On Monday evening the Thurtells and Hunt came to Probart's again, and left soon afterwards in the chaise; Mrs. Probart let them out at the gate; she did not observe anything particular about the fishpond; she did not hear a report of a pistol on Friday night; Thomas Thurtell did not arrive at Probart's till Sunday last.

James Haddis, aged thirteen, sworn.— Had lived with Probart seven months, and looked after his horse and gig. Last Friday about ten o'clock at night, John Thurtell came to his master's house in a gig alone. It was a dark grey horse, and a dark green and black gig. He had a great coat on of a light colour. His outside clothes did not appear to be dirty. In half an hour Probart came in with another man. The gentleman with Thurtell had large black whiskers. The gig in which Thurtell came appeared very heavy, as if it had luggage in it. Thurtell never said anything to him about an accident. On Sunday, as witness was coming from Mr. Nicholls's, he saw several lumps of blood on the dirt heaps, and two holes in the hedge in Gill's Hill Lane. Thurtell brought a sponge with him. Probart, Hunt, and John Thurtell went out on Friday night, about ten o'clock, and were absent about three quarters of an hour, with a candle and lantern; they all returned together. Was not aware if Probart, Hunt, and John Thurtell went towards the pond on Friday night at ten o'clock. [A mahogany box, a double-barrelled gun, and a carpet-bag used for travelling, the property of the deceased, were shown the witness.] Witness saw the gun and mahogany case at Probart's on Saturday morning; he also saw a bag resembling the one now produced. Saw John Thurtell on Saturday morning when he went away with Hunt at seven o'clock; he then wore Wellington boots, very dirty all over, his trowsers were very dirty about the legs, his coat was dirty on the back and arms, and he appeared to have been on the ground. The same morning John Thurtell had his blue dress coat off, and Hunt was sponging it as it hung on the door in the kitchen; there was no blood on the blue coat, but there were spots of blood on his light great coat. [A coat found by Ruthven in Hunt's lodgings was produced.] Witness could not identify it; a large piece of sponge produced was

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identified by him to be that used by John Thurtell and Hunt in sponging the bloody clothes. On Sunday, Thomas Thurtell, John Thurtell, Hunt, Probart, Mr. Noyes, Mr. Heward, and Mr. Nicholls were at Probart's. On Monday morning Probart told him to clean himself to go to town with Hunt and Thomas Thurtell; he did so, and accompanied them to London; Hunt drove them to the Coach and Horses, Conduit Street; left witness there, and told him Probart would come to him in two hours; John Thurtell got out of the chaise, and Hunt drove away. Did not see Probart on the Monday or Tuesday; a police-officer took him away on Wednesday. Witness had never before been taken to town.

Thomas Abel Ward, of Watford, surgeon, sworn.—I was present at the examination of the body of the deceased person. The immediate cause of death was a wound on the anterior angle of the parietal bone, given by some instrument, which, from the marks, I am inclined to believe was the barrel of a pistol. Part of the skull was beat into the brains. There was another wound under the protuberance of the right check-bone, which had the appearance of a common gun or pistol-shot wound, and the ball repelled by the cheek-bone. I am of opinion that the wound on the right cheek was not of a nature to cause death; but that the deceased died from the beating on the skull with the pistol barrel. The injury was of that nature, that I conceive the pistol barrel must have been "punched" with desperate violence into the skull of the unfortunate man. [Witness here produced a piece of deceased's skull bone, which he had extracted from the brains of the deceased on opening the head.] I also observed a wound cut by a sharp instrument on each side of the throat; the jugular vein on the left side was divided, and the wound was sufficient to occasion death. The wound on the right side of the throat did not injure any parts of vitality, but merely severed the flesh under the ear.

Coroner. It seems, that after the deceased was shot he was able to struggle with his murderer, and that he received the blows on the head when resisting, and to make sure, as "dead men tell no tales," his murderers completed their horrid work by cutting his throat.

Thomas Joseph Ruthven, an officer of Bow Street, sworn.—In consequence of information which caused me to suspect he was concerned in the murder of Mr. Weare, I apprehended John Thurtell at Mr. Tetsall's, the Coach and Horses, Conduit Street, and found a pistol on his person, which I produce. It is the fellow to the one produced by Mr. Nicholls, found in the lane near Probart's house. In his waistcoat I found ten swan shot, a penknife, and a pistol key. When I entered his apartment, he knew me, and began to talk about the bill found against him and his brother for a conspiracy to defraud the Fire Office, and I did not undceieve him as to the nature of my errand till I had put the handcuffs on him. He offered no resistance. I found a muslin neckerchief also in John Thurtell's lodgings, which I produce; it is bloody, and is marked "T. Thurtell." He told me that he sometimes wore his brother's things. I also produce a shirt, with no marks on it, and a black waistcoat, which I took off his back; it is bloody, particularly about one of the pockets, as if a bloody hand had been thrust into it. I also produce a coat, which I took off his back, which is very bloody in several places. [These articles were exhibited to the jury.] I also produce a horse pistol, which I found at Mr. Tetsall's, and Mr. Tetsall told me that he had lost the fellow to it. On searching Hunt's lodgings I found a double-barrelled gun, maker's name "Manton," and a mahogany backgammon board, containing two dice-boxes and a pair of dice, also a large sponge, and a shooting-jacket, with a call or whistle. I also found a travelling-bag, containing shirts, marked "W. W.," the initials of the deceased; a variety of shooting implements, and a piece of cord.

The cord was produced by Ruthven, and on examination was found to correspond with that with which the legs of the deceased were tied together.

Mr. Rexworthy identified several of the articles found by Ruthven in Hunt's lodgings, as the property of Mr. Weare.

Mr. Ward, the surgeon, was of opinion that the wounds in the deceased's throat were inflicted by an instrument similar to the knife produced.

Ruthven. Mr. Coroner, I am requested by Probart, to say that he wishes to make some communication to you; he says

"that he will not die with lies in his mouth."

Coroner. If he has anything to say I can have no objection to hear him; but he must be warned that he does it at his own peril, without any promise or request on the part of the magistrates.

Thomas Bate, a boy in the employ of James Wardall, (the owner of Gill's Hill Cottage,) deposed that he was clearing out Probart's stable, and under a heap of dung found a torn and bloody shirt, and a sack tied in a bundle. The shirt found in John Thurtell's lodgings by Ruthven, on being compared with the bloody shirt, were of the same make, and marked with the deceased's initials. The sack was soaked with wet.

Ruthven entered the jury-room, and stated to the coroner that he had been with Probart again, and had told him that he understood that he (Probart) wished to make some communication. Probart replied, "I have no objection to see the coroner and magistrates." He (Ruthven) told him that he might have no objection; but the question was, did he wish to see them or not? Probart said, "What had I better do? can you advise me?" He answered he could not advise, for he must know his own situation best. Probart then expressed a decided wish to see the magistrates, and they went to him, and were with him for a considerable time; and he confessed all he knew of the matter. He stated that his was not the hand that committed the murder, and that after it was perpetrated John Thurtell threatened to murder him if he opened his lips on the subject; and told him that he had picked out seventeen persons of substance that he intended to rob and murder, and that the deceased was one of them.

The evidence was then read over to the different witnesses, and most of them were bound over to appear at the next Hertford assizes.

It being now come to a late hour in the day, and there being a vast fund of evidence still requiring to be heard, it was suggested that the inquest should be adjourned. The coroner agreed, and stated, that as it was impossible to go through the whole of the evidence that day, he would accordingly adjourn the inquest.

(To be continued.)

EXTORTION OF KINGS AND PRIESTS.

NEITHER Mr. Howitt, in "History of Priestcraft," nor Cobbett, in "Legacy to Parsons," has alluded to the following pretty specimen of clerical exaction.—William Warham, Archbishop of Canterbury, was appointed "supervisor" of the "will" of Sir William Compton, Knight (temp. Henry the Eighth), ancestor of the Marquis of Northampton, and was left by the testator "a cup and xx pounds." "In the 22d of Henry the Eighth," says Sir Harris Nicolas, in a note to the will, "when the extortion of the clergy became the subject of the consideration of the House of Commons, Sir H. Guilford, K.G., one of Sir William's executors, cited, in proof of the inordinate rapacity of the primate, that, notwithstanding he was appointed supervisor of Sir William Compton's will, and was bequeathed a legacy of considerable value, he nevertheless exacted 1,000 marks sterling of his executors for the probate of it." The same will contains a bequest to that kingly murderer, Henry the Eighth, "M marks," "to the intent that his highness would be so gracious to my lady and children as to permit my said will to be performed, as is expressed." On such subjects, Sir Harris, very properly remarks: "This bequest, and others of a similar nature, exhibit a frightful picture of society when a bribe was thought necessary to be given to the sovereign to insure the fulfilment of the will of a dying person."

ESQUIMAUX PHILOSOPHY.

AMONG the Esquimaux, according to Sir John Ross, the crime of murder very rarely occurs. When it does, the murderer's punishment consists in being banished to perpetual solitude, or shunned by every individual of the tribe. "On being asked why his life was not taken in return, it was replied that this would be to make themselves equally bad—that the loss of his life would not restore the other, and that he who could commit such an act would be held equally guilty."

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MARTIN'S
ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 53.

MARCH 1, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

THE TORTURE OF THE WHEEL.



THE above illustration represents a victim to the punishment of being broken on the wheel, a practice which at one period was of common occurrence in most parts of Europe. The wheel was likewise one of the instruments of torture employed in those inquisitorial courts, which had the blasphemous audacity to designate themselves "the holy;" but with them it was more frequently used in a similar manner to the rack, of which torture the wheel, as represented in the engraving, is a species. In the more barbarous ages, it was common for the criminal or victim (for with "The Holy Inquisition" the victim was more likely to be an upright character than otherwise) to be stripped naked for the operation: his feet were then fastened by leg-irons and chains to rings or staples securely fixed in the floor or ground near the wheel, his back was

turned towards the diabolical machine, to which his hands were fastened in a direction opposite to his feet, or, rather, in the course of the wheel, which, on being turned, immediately effected upon the body of the unhappy victim the displacement of his joints. This plan our readers will perceive is faithfully illustrated in the engraving, to which we have already referred.

Of the antiquity of this particular mode of employing the wheel as a torture we have no satisfactory information. On referring, however, to Proverbs xx., 26, we find it recorded, that "a wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them;" by which it is evident that the wheel was used as a mode of punishment in the days of Solomon, or even prior thereto, though by no means corresponding with the rack, as shown above.

We have an apt explanation of the manner in which the wheel was then employed, in another monster, self-styled holy or religious—Juggernaut, a brief account of which is subjoined. It will be seen in the one case the victims are judicial; and in the other, voluntary.

“Juggernaut, 18th June, 1806.

“I have returned from witnessing a scene which I shall never forget. At twelve o'clock of this day, being the great day of the feast, the Moloch of Hindostan was brought out of his temple amidst the acclamations of hundreds of thousands of his worshipers. When the idol was placed on his throne, a shout was raised by the multitude, such as I never heard before. It continued equable for a few minutes, and then gradually died away. After a short interval of silence, a murmur was heard at a distance; all eyes were turned towards the place, and, behold, a grove advancing! A body of men, having green branches, or palms, in their hands, approached with great celerity. The people opened a way for them; and when they came up to the throne, they fell down before him that sat thereon, and worshiped. And the multitude again sent forth a voice ‘like the sound of great thunder.’ But the voices I now heard were not those of melody, or of joyful acclamation, for there is no harmony in the praise of Moloch’s worshipers. The throne of the idol was placed on a stupendous car or tower about sixty feet in height, resting on wheels which indented the ground deeply, as they turned slowly under this ponderous machine. Attached to it were six cables, of the size and length of a ship’s cable, by which the people drew it along. Upon the tower were the priests and satellites of the idol, surrounding the throne.

“After the tower had proceeded some way, a pilgrim announced that he was ready to offer himself a sacrifice to the idol. He laid himself on the road before the tower as it was moving along, lying on his face, with his arms stretched forwards. The multitude passed round him, leaving the space clear, and he was crushed to death by the wheels of the tower. A shout of joy was raised to the god. He is said to smile when the libation of blood is made.”—*Dr. Buchanan’s Christian Researches in Asia.*

Several passages of Scripture, as well

as ancient history, also inform us, that the wheels of chariots used in warfare were so constructed as to be capable of destroying the enemy by wholesale, by running over them in masses, the wheels, which were of great dimensions, having weapons resembling swords, &c., placed round the circumference.

Having thus minutely noticed the forms of punishment by the wheel, we proceed to lay before our readers a remarkable instance of human depravity in an individual who was punished in accordance with the plan generally termed “breaking.” It would perhaps—nay, we may also venture to affirm that it would—be difficult to select another case, connected with this mode of punishment, which contains in itself the marks of so truly astonishing a feature as is here depicted.

In 1747, a man was broken alive on the wheel at Orleans, for a highway robbery; and not having friends to bury his body, when the executioner concluded he was dead, he gave him to a surgeon, who had him carried to his anatomical theatre, as a subject to lecture on. The thighs, legs, and arms of this unhappy wretch, had been broken; yet, on the surgeon’s coming to examine him, he found him reviving; and, by the application of proper cordials he was soon brought to his speech.

The surgeon and pupils, moved by the sufferings and solicitations of the robber, determined on attempting his cure: but he was so mangled, that his two thighs, and one of his arms were amputated. Notwithstanding this mutilation, and the loss of blood, he recovered: and in this situation, the surgeon, by his own desire, had him conveyed in a cart fifty leagues from Orleans; where, as he said, it was his intention to gain his livelihood by begging.

His situation was on the road side, close by the wood; and his deplorable condition excited compassion from all who saw him. In his youth, he had served in the army; and he now passed for a soldier, who had lost his limbs by a cannon shot.

A drover, returning from market, where he had been selling cattle, was solicited by the robber for charity; and, being moved by compassion, threw him a piece of silver. “Alas!” said the robber, “I

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cannot reach it; you see that I have neither arms or legs," for he had concealed his arm, which had been preserved, behind his back; "so, for the sake of heaven, put your charitable donation into my pouch."

The drover approached him: and as he stooped to reach up the money, the sun shining, he saw a shadow on the ground, which caused him to look up; when he perceived the arm of the beggar elevated over his head, and his hand grasping a short iron bar. He arrested the blow in its descent; and seizing the robber, carried him to his cart, into which having thrown him, he drove off to the next town, and brought his prisoner before a magistrate.

On searching him a whistle was found in his pocket; which naturally induced a suspicion, that he had accomplices in the wood: the magistrate, therefore, instantly ordered a guard to the place where the robber had been seized; and they arrived within half an hour after the murder of the drover had been attempted.

The guard having concealed themselves behind different trees, the whistle was blown, the sound of which was remarkably shrill and loud; and another whistle was heard from under ground, three men at the same instant rising from the midst of a bushy clump of brambles, and other dwarf shrubs. The soldiers fired on them, and they fell. The bushes were searched, and a descent discovered into a cave. Here were found three young girls and a boy. The girls were kept for the offices of servants, and the purposes of lust; the boy, scarcely twelve years of age, was son to one of the robbers. The girls in giving evidence deposed, that they had lived three years in the cave; that they had been kept there by force from the time of their captivity; that dead bodies were frequently carried into the cave, stripped, and buried, and that the old soldier was carried out every dry day, and sat by the road side for two or three hours.

On this evidence, the murdering mendicant was condemned to suffer a second execution on the wheel. As but one arm remained, it was to be broken by several strokes in several places; and a coup de grace being denied, he lived in tortures for near five days. When dead, his body was burned to ashes, and strewed before the winds of heaven.

MURDER OF WILLIAM WEARE.

CHAPTER II.

ON Saturday, the 1st of November, at twelve o'clock, the coroner and jury re-assembled, and the prisoners, Probart, Hunt, and Thurtell, who had been confined during the preceding night in St. Alban's gaol, arrived in three chaises, attended by the local police. A considerable crowd was collected in front of the inn, whose expressions evinced the strong indignation which this foul murder had excited. The prisoners were conducted into separate rooms, under the care of the officers. They were relieved from their irons, and from all unnecessary coercion. Soon after the magistrates had taken their seats, Mr. Noel, the solicitor, entered the room, and said that Thomas Thurtell had expressed a wish, before the examination proceeded, to have some communication with him (Mr. Noel) and the coroner; to which the magistrates said they saw no objection, if the prisoner wished it.

The new sack, in which the body was found, was then produced before the jury, and laid on the table. It was split from top to bottom, and at the bottom there was a large stain of blood; this was where the head had rested. A plan of Probart's cottage was then produced; it was neatly executed, and gave a complete key to the circumstances detailed by the witnesses.

Information was given to the magistrates, that Hunt and Probart, on their way down on the night of the murder, had purchased half a bushel of corn at Edgware; and that they had also stopped at the house of a publican of the name of Clarke, at Edgware, with whom they were acquainted.

This intelligence led to the following explanation. Hunt entered into conversation with Clarke, on the subject of the bill of indictment which had been preferred against the Thurtells, for conspiring to set their house on fire in Watling Street; Clarke, who knew the Thurtells, said it was a bad business; on which Hunt took out a newspaper, containing a contradiction to the statement that the bill had been found. Probart now seemed very impatient to be off; and Clarke, while they stood in the house, heard another horse and chaise drive by. They at last set off towards Elstree at great speed.

On the Sunday morning, Thurtell called at Clarke's, as he was going down to Probart's to dine; he asked if Mrs. C. had any lemons (Clarke being out), and took some with him, as he said, to make punch. He afterwards met Clarke in Edgware, and shook hands with him: Clarke remarked, that he looked very ill, and he assigned his agitated appearance to the pressure of his own private affairs: he then drove on. Clarke saw Hunt on Friday at Elstree; and in consequence of some suspicion that he had been conveying information from one prisoner to the other, he was called before the magistrates; but, upon being questioned, he stated, that he had been merely speaking to Hunt of the atrocity of his conduct. The magistrate asked what he had said to Probart? Clarke said, that the words he used were these: "Good God! how could you drink and joke the way you did at my house, when you had concerted and were about to commit such a horrid murder?" The magistrate asked, if that was all he had said? Clarke replied, that he believed he said to Probart, that "it was a horrid and brutal piece of business, and he believed they were all in it." Clarke declared that he had not spoken to the other prisoners. He was then dismissed, the magistrates expressing satisfaction at his explanation.

On Friday, Hunt was spoken to by a person who had been an acquaintance of the deceased, who asked him, how he could have joined in such a horrible transaction? Hunt replied, "I did not do the act; I certainly knew of its being concerted for some time before it took place; and a fortnight before, I went to Mr. Rexworthy's to inform him of the intention to murder and rob his friend Weare; but when I was about to communicate the fact to him, I had not the heart to do it."

The coroner gave orders that no person whatever should be admitted to the prisoners.

The inquest then proceeded; and Mr. Charles Lewin and Mr. George Jones proved the finding of the body in the pond in the way already described.

Mr. Heward was called in. He was proprietor of the cottage occupied by Mr. Probart, at Gill's Hill; it was a leasehold, and he let it furnished. Witness lives at 68, Hatton Garden. Had known

Probart for four years. On Wednesday last had Probart's goods seized for rent; witness saw a caravan in the yard on Tuesday morning before he had the seizure made, and understood Probart was going to move.

After the examination of this witness, some conversation took place between the magistrates, the coroner, and Mr. Noel, as to the course which it might be expedient to take with respect to the confession of Hunt.

The coroner said, it was his duty to inquire into all the circumstances of the murder, and use every exertion in his power to unravel the whole affair; he should, therefore, have Hunt brought before him, and whatever he thought proper voluntarily to state, it was his duty to hear; but he would hold out no promise, nor would he give him any hope from any disclosure he might choose to make.

The prisoner Hunt was then called in. He usually wore very large black whiskers, which had been shaved off, and he came forward apparently not much affected by his situation.

The coroner then addressed him to the following effect: "I have thought proper to send for you, Hunt, to ask you, whether you choose to make any statement to the inquest now assembled? I think it my duty, however, in the first instance, to explain in what manner I shall receive what you may think proper to say: I shall not receive it as evidence, nor shall I examine you on oath; if you think it right to say anything, I am ready to hear you; but from me you are to understand that you have no sort of promise either of reward or otherwise. I have nothing to do but to receive your voluntary account of the horrible transaction, to which our attention is now directed."

Hunt said, he was ready to repeat what he had already said.

Mr. Noel, who appeared anxious that the prisoner should not act under a misapprehension, interposed, and said, that the confession made by him before the magistrates, could not in any way interfere with the proceeding in which they were engaged that day. The magistrates would, in good faith, and at the proper time, submit the confession he had made to them to the consideration of the court. What he might now say in no way compromised the magistrates, and must come

from his coroner.

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from himself on the terms stated by the coroner.

Hunt. Thank you, gentlemen: I am ready to answer you any question.

Coroner. I am now ready to hear anything you have to say touching the death of William Weare.

Mr. Noel being still anxious that the prisoner should not be led into any mistake, desired that he might leave the room; a conversation then took place as to the expediency of taking his statement, when the coroner thought, that with the caution he had received his story might be fairly heard, and he was bound to receive it.

Hunt being recalled, Mr. Noel thus addressed him: "Since you have been out of the room, a discussion has taken place on the part of the magistrates to whom you made a confession under a pledge; and they think it proper that you should understand their pledge does not extend to anything you may say here. They will state your confession to the Under Secretary of State, with the circumstances under which it was taken, and it will no doubt receive a fit consideration. You will now use your own discretion, and either tell your story to the present jury or not, as you think proper."

Coroner. We are willing to receive any statement you may give us, but we do not ask you to commit yourself in any way whatever before this jury.

Hunt. I perfectly understand, and I shall tell the whole truth.

He then proceeded to give the following statement, in a cool, collected, and precise manner, sometimes sighing heavily, as he paused for it to be written down. "In consequence of an indictment against John Thurtell, and Thomas Thurtell, for defrauding the County Fire Office of 1900*l.* odd, Thomas and John Thurtell left the Cock Tavern in the Haymarket, and took their residence at a Mr. Tetsall's, the Coach and Horses, in Conduit Street, Bond Street. I was invited to dine with them. I called there on Fridaay morning, October 24, when John Thurtell invited me to take a walk. I walked with him as far as High Street, Mary-la-bonne. We stopped at a jeweller's shop; while we were looking there, John Thurtell observed a pair of pistols, which he said he would go and look at,

for he wanted to purchase some: they were marked *l. 17s. 6d.*

"John Thurtell asked me after dinner, if I knew where I could get a gig. He gave me *l. 10s.* for the gig. He told me not to say that the gig was going to Hertford, but to Dartford. I returned with the gig to the Coach and Horses about a quarter before five. John Thurtell immediately got into the gig, said he could not wait any longer, as he had a gentleman to meet. After he was gone, Probart said to me, 'As John Thurtell has gone down to the cottage, have you any objection to take a seat in my gig, as he (John Thurtell) is obliged to be out of the way, in consequence of the warrant out against him for conspiracy; most likely we should spend a pleasant evening together.'

"About six o'clock on Friday evening, Probart's gig was brought to the door of the Coach and Horses; I took a seat in the gig. We proceeded as far as Oxford Street: Probart said we must take something home for supper; we stopped at a pork-shop, where I got out and purchased a loin of pork. We proceeded from there as far as Mr. Harding's, a publican in the Edgware Road, where we had a glass of brandy and water. From thence we proceeded as far as Mr. Clarke's, another publican, and had two more glasses of brandy and water. From there we proceeded to this house (the Artichoke): we had three, but from what appears from the landlord, Mr. Field, we had five more glasses. We did not get out of the gig here. Probart observed to Mr. Field, that the friend that was with him could sing a very excellent song. Probart wished me to sing a verse, but I declined. We proceeded from this house about a quarter of a mile. Probart stopped the gig, and said to me, 'Hunt, you get out, and wait my return.' I did so. About half an hour or more might have elapsed when Probart returned, and desired me to get into the gig.

"When we arrived at the cottage, John Thurtell was in the stable. Probart said to me, 'Hunt, take that loin of pork out of the gig.' I took the pork into the kitchen, and remained in the kitchen about ten minutes, when John Thurtell and Probart followed. We went into the parlour; I was introduced to Mrs. Probart. John Thurtell then called me and Probart

into the garden, and said, 'I have killed that — that robbed me of 300*l.* at blind hooky.' 'Good God!' said Probart, 'John, surely you have not been guilty of so rash an act?' John Thurtell immediately took from his pocket a very handsome gold watch, and said, 'Do you believe me now? If you will go with me, I will show you where he lies dead behind a hedge.' Probart then said, 'This has taken such an effect on me, that I must retire and get some brandy.'

"We then went into the parlour; the supper was brought in, which consisted of pork chops, the loin I brought down having been cut into chops. I ate five chops, and so did Probart. John Thurtell declined eating any, as he complained of being extremely sick. Probart and I then went into the garden again, when Probart said to me, 'Surely, Hunt, this man has not been guilty of murder?' I observed, it looked very suspicious, he (John Thurtell) having so valuable a watch. John Thurtell followed, and asked Probart and myself if we would accompany and assist him in carrying the dead man. During this time Mrs. Probart was gone to bed. John Thurtell said, if neither of you will assist, I will go myself. He accordingly went by himself, and was gone about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour. During the time he was gone, Probart said to me, 'If this is the case, Hunt, that John Thurtell has murdered the man, it will, ultimately, be the ruin of me and my family.'

"After this conversation was over between me and Probart, John Thurtell returned, saying, 'This — is too heavy for me; and if you won't assist me, I shall put the bridle on my horse, and throw the dead man across his back.' He accordingly put the bridle on his horse for that purpose. Probart and me, while he was gone the second time, went into the parlour, and he (Probart) said to me, 'Hunt, this has taken such an effect on me, and I am so agitated, that I don't know what to do.' He said, 'What will my wife think?' John Thurtell then returned to us in the parlour, and said to Probart and myself, 'I have thrown the dead man into your fish-pond.' 'Then, by —, sir,' said Probart, 'I insist upon your immediately going and taking him away off my premises, for such conduct will evidently be my ruin.' Me and Pro-

bart, and John Thurtell, went to the pond, where we saw the toes of a man. John Thurtell then got a line or rope, and threw it round the feet, then dragged it to the centre of the pond. John Thurtell then said to Probart, 'Don't give yourself a moment's uneasiness, the man shall not remain here long; you well know, Probart, that I would not do anything that would injure you or your family.' We then went into the parlour; John Thurtell threw himself upon some chairs; Probart went up to his wife, I believe; I sat in an arm chair. Next morning, after breakfast, Probart said, 'You are going to town,' to me and John Thurtell; 'but I shall expect you to return to-morrow (Sunday) to dinner,' which I promised, and did. Probart said to John Thurtell, 'Mind and bring a piece of roast beef with you, or we shall have nothing for dinner.' We then left the cottage and went to London. I left John Thurtell at Mr. Tetsall's, the Coach and Horses, with his brother Thomas.

"On Sunday morning, we left Mr. Tetsall's in a gig, taking with us a piece of roast beef and two bottles of rum. John Thurtell said to me when we got as far as Tyburn, 'My brother Tom is a-head, and Thomas Noyes.' (Thomas Noyes is the brother-in-law of Probart.) When we got to the bottom of Maida Hill we took up Thomas Thurtell, who joined us for the express purpose of seeing his two children, that had been on a visit to Probart's. When we had travelled three or four miles from Maida Hill, we met Thomas Noyes. John Thurtell got out of the gig, leaving me and Thomas Thurtell together in it, to make the best of our way to the cottage, in order that Thomas Thurtell might put Probart's horse into his gig to fetch John Thurtell and Mr. Noyes. When we arrived at the cottage, the horse that we went down with, was taken out of the gig, and Probart's put in. After Thomas Thurtell was gone to fetch Mr. Noyes and John Thurtell, Probart said to me, 'I have not had a moment's peace since I saw you last, in consequence of that man lying in my pond.' My reply was, 'I am sure you have not had a more restless night than myself.' Shortly after that Thomas and John Thurtell and Mr. Noyes arrived at the cottage.

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us, (Hunt, Thomas and John Thurtell, and Noyes,) walked across a ploughed field into a lane, and returned to the cottage. When we arrived at the cottage, there was a gentleman whose name I do not know, but I believe him to be the gentleman that owns the estate, came in. Mr. Noyes, the Thurtells, and myself, walked about the grounds till we were called in by one of Thomas Thurtell's children to dinner. After dinner we had some rum and water, and sat for the space of three hours, and then had tea. After tea we had some more rum and water, and then went to the stable to see the horses. We then had supper. John Thurtell, myself, Thomas Noyes, and Probart sat up till about half-past one. Probart and Thomas Thurtell then went to bed, leaving me, John Thurtell, and Noyes up.

"About half and hour after they were gone to bed, Thomas Noyes followed, leaving John Thurtell and myself in the parlour. I said to Thurtell, 'I shall lie down on the sofa.' He said, he would sit up and smoke. I left him smoking by the fire, with his back towards me, and I laid down, pulling my great coat over me. About half-past six in the morning the servant came into the room. John Thurtell asked if the boy Jem was up. The servant said, 'No.' During this time, Probart came down stairs, and the boy followed. He desired the boy to put the horse in his own gig, which was done immediately, and Thomas Thurtell and myself went to town, bringing with us the boy called Jem. When we got as far as the Bald-faced Stag, we breakfasted. From thence we went to Mr. Tetsall's, where Thomas Thurtell was informed, that the bail he had put in was not accepted. About half-past eleven I called at my mother's, in Cumberland Street, New Road. After I had seen her, going from the New Road toward the Yorkshire Stingo, I met John Thurtell, Thomas Noyes, and Miss Noyes, his sister. John Thurtell asked me if the bail was accepted? I said 'No.' He then got out of the gig, and Noyes and his sister drove away. I and John Thurtell walked to Mr. Tetsall's. Thomas Thurtell asked me if I would return on that day and inform Probart that his bail had been refused; to which I consented. About half-past four I started; as I was going along, John

Thurtell came to the end of the street to me, and said, 'If you are going to Probart's I may as well go with you, and get that man away' (meaning the man that was left in the pond). I said, 'If you are going upon that business, don't expect me to aid or assist in any way.' We came and stopped at this house; and went to Probart's. I informed Probart, in the presence of his wife, that Thomas Thurtell had requested me to come down, that evening, to know whether he could appoint any other person to become bail? Probart said it was useless for him to write, for that he would be up in town as early as possible the following morning. We then had part of a cold duck and some ale. John Thurtell then called Probart out; Probart was absent about ten minutes, and then returned by himself. Shortly after that, John Thurtell asked me and Probart if we would put his horse in the gig, and take it round to the second gate? We put the horse to, and did so. John Thurtell then came across a small field, with a dead man in a sack, with his legs hanging out; he then asked Probart to assist him to put the dead body into the chaise, which Probart refused to do. Probart immediately ran away, and said, 'I cannot stop any longer, my wife will think it very strange.' He then asked me to assist him; I refused, saying, 'the sight of a dead man was quite enough, without touching it.' John Thurtell then put the corpse in the chaise, and tied the feet to the dashing-iron. He asked me if I would get into the gig, but I declined, and told him that I would walk on, and he would overtake me. When I got within a short distance of this house, John Thurtell told me he had thrown the corpse into that marshy pond I had just passed. I then got into the gig, and left John Thurtell about two o'clock that morning, at the house where he then lodged, and went home myself immediately. That, gentlemen, is the whole of the evidence I have to give to-night."

Coroner. Now, Mr. Hunt, I will ask you a few questions arising out of your statements, which I think I have a just right to do. I do not observe that you stated that any property was divided between you?

Hunt. There was 6*l.* given to me, which I considered as paying for my professional duties.

What professional duties?—I was taken down there to sing to Probart and his company.

Who gave you this sum?—John Thurtell.

Did he give money to any one else?—He gave the same sum to Probart.

Was any agreement made with you by Probart, before you went out of town? Did you go down to the cottage for the purpose of singing?—Yes, sir, certainly.

Where was this agreement entered into?—It was talked of when we were at Mr. Tetsall's, at the Coach and Horses. Myself and John Thurtell and Probart were present.

Did you observe Probart lend John Thurtell any money that afternoon?—No, sir.

Then, when Probart asked you to go down to the cottage, you considered you were going down for the purpose of singing?—Certainly.

Did you sing?—Yes, sir.

To whom?—To Mrs. Probart, her sister, Thomas and John Thurtell, and Mr. Noyes.

Were Probart and John Thurtell in the room?—Yes, sir.

What day was this?—This was on Friday night, or, more properly speaking, early on the Saturday morning. It was after twelve.

Was that after John Thurtell came into the room and informed you that the murder had been committed?—Yes.

Did you hear John Thurtell say he kept 6*l.* for himself?—No, sir.

Then, after John Thurtell had called you and Probart out, and told you of the diabolical deed, you returned quietly to sing in the parlour?—Yes, sir.

How long were you absent?—About ten minutes.

You did not say anything in your statement to-day of your being employed to sing?—No, I did not.

Did you not go out with a lantern?—No.

Did Probart go out with a lantern?—Not to my knowledge. I never saw any lantern, with the exception of that in the stable.

Who was in the stable?—The boy cleaning the horses.

And no farther conversation passed about the murder?—None whatever. I was introduced to Mrs. Probart, who knew very well on what business I had come down.

You were fully aware of the murder?—I was not fully aware of it. I was told of it by John Thurtell.

You saw the watch?—Yes, and I thought that was suspicious.

In the presence of John Thurtell, Probart, &c., and after the former had told you he had murdered this unfortunate person, you amused yourself, singing?—Yes, sir.

And you made yourselves merry during the evening?—Yes, sir.

And you considered the 6*l.* you received was for your exertions on this evening?—I was there on the Sunday.

Did you consider that you received the 6*l.* for no other reason?—No, certainly not.

You have stated that you saw the pistols bought. After he bought them, did nothing pass between you and him?—Nothing whatever.

Do you know where the sack was bought?—Yes.

Who bought it?—I did.

Do you know where the cord was bought?—Yes.

Who bought it?—I did.

Where did you buy the sack?—In Broad Street, Bloomsbury.

After you bought the sack, what did you do with it?—I took it to John Thurtell. He said it was for the purpose of putting game in.

The cord, what was that for?—I am sure I can't tell you; to tie up the game, I suppose.

Did you see him start?—Yes, sir.

Where from?—The Coach and Horses.

Where did he say he was going to?—He said a gentleman was to meet him, but he did not say where he was going to.

Did he say anything about Mr. Probart's house at the time?—No.

You received the 6*l.* from John Thurtell?—Yes.

Were you going away after you got the 6*l.*, and finished your professional labours?—No, sir; it was too late an hour. It was one or two in the morning. It was after Mrs. Probart was gone to bed.

(To be continued.)

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o. 54.

MARCH 8, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF MR. FRANCIS BLANDY BY HIS DAUGHTER.



[MISS BLANDY BEGGING FORGIVENESS OF HER FATHER.]

THE unfortunate criminal, Mary Blandy, was seduced by a profligate wretch professing honourable intentions, to whom she became so attached that she blindly followed what his vicious inclination prompted him to advise. Having, however, committed herself so far as to take the life of her father, for the wretch's sake, she ingenuously and penitently confessed what she had done; and there is much reason to believe her assertion, that she did not think the powders were poisonous; or, what is still more probable, that she did not think at all about it.

Mary Blandy was the only daughter of Mr. Francis Blandy, an eminent attorney at Henley-upon-Thames, and town-clerk of that place. She had been educated

with the utmost tenderness, and every possible care was taken to impress her mind with sentiments of virtue and religion. Her person had nothing in it remarkably engaging; but she was of a sprightly and affable disposition, polite in manners, engaging in conversation, and much distinguished by her good sense. She had read the best authors in the English language, and had a memory remarkably retentive of the knowledge she had acquired. In a word, she excelled most of her sex in those accomplishments which are calculated to grace and dignify the female mind.

The father being reputed to be rich, a number of young gentlemen courted his acquaintance, with a view to make an

interest with his daughter; but, of all the visitors, none were more agreeable, both to the father and daughter, than the gentlemen of the army; and the former was never better pleased than when he had some of them at his table.

Miss Blandy was about twenty-six years of age when she became acquainted with Captain William Henry Cranstoun, who was then about forty-six. He was the son of Lord Cranstoun, of an ancient Scotch family, which had made great alliances, by intermarriages, with the nobility of Scotland. Being a younger brother, his uncle, Lord Mark Ker, procured him a commission in the army; which, with the interest of 1500*l.*, was all he had for his support, Cranstoun married a Miss Murray in Scotland, in the year 1745, and received a handsome fortune with her; but he had no prudence. His wife was delivered of a son within a year after the marriage; and about this period he received orders to join his regiment in England, when he was sent on a recruiting party to Henley, which gave rise to the connexion that ended so fatally.

It may seem extraordinary, and it is, perhaps, a proof of Cranstoun's art, that he could ingratiate himself into the affections of Miss Blandy, for his person was anything but graceful; but he possessed that faculty of small talk which too often prevails over the fair sex.

Mr. Blandy, who was acquainted with Lord Mark Ker, was fond of being deemed a man of taste, and so open to flattery that it is not to be wondered at that a man of Cranstoun's artifice ingratiated himself into his favour, and obtained permission to pay his addresses to the daughter.

Cranstoun, apprehending that Miss Blandy might discover that he had a wife in Scotland, informed her that he was involved in a disagreeable law-suit in that country with a young lady, who claimed him as a husband; and so sure was he of the interest he had obtained in Miss Blandy's affections, that he had the confidence to ask her if she loved him well enough to wait the issue of the affair. She told him, that if her father and mother approved of her staying for him, she had no objection. This must be allowed to have been a very extraordinary declaration of love, and as extraordinary a reply.

Cranstoun endeavoured to conduct the amour with all possible secrecy; notwithstanding which, it came to the knowledge of Lord Mark Ker, who wrote to Mr. Blandy, informing him that the captain had a wife and children in Scotland, and conjuring him to preserve his daughter from ruin.

Alarmed by this intelligence, Mr. Blandy informed his daughter of it; but she did not seem equally affected, as Cranstoun's former declaration had prepared her to expect some such news; and when the old gentleman taxed Cranstoun with it, he declared it was only an affair of gallantry, of which he should have no difficulty to free himself.

Mrs. Blandy appears to have been under as great a degree of infatuation as her daughter, for she forbore all farther inquiry on the captain's bare assurance that the report of his marriage was false. Cranstoun, however, could not be equally easy. He saw the necessity of devising some scheme to get his first marriage annulled, or of bidding adieu to all the gratifications he could promise himself by a second.

After revolving various schemes in his mind, he at length wrote to his wife, requesting her to disown him for a husband. The substance of this letter was, that, having no other way of rising to preferment but in the army, he had but little ground to expect advancement there, while it was known he was encumbered with a wife and family; but could he once pass for a single man, he had not the least doubt of being quickly preferred; which would procure him a sufficiency to maintain her, as well as himself, in a genteel manner, ill as he was now able to do. "All therefore," adds he, "I have to request, is, that you will transcribe the inclosed copy of a letter, wherein you disown me for a husband, put your maiden name to it, and send it by the post. All the use I shall make of it shall be to procure my advancement, which will necessarily include your own benefit. In full assurance that you will comply with my request, I remain

"Your most affectionate husband,
"W. H. CRANSTOUN."

Mrs. Cranstoun, ill as she had been treated by her husband, and little hope as she had of more generous usage, was, after repeated letters had passed, induced

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to give up her claim, and at length sent him the requested paper, signed Murray, which was her maiden name.

The villanous captain being possessed of this letter, made some copies of it, which he sent to his wife's relations and his own; and the consequence of which was that they withdrew the assistance they had afforded the lady, which reduced her to an extremity she had never before known. Exclusive of this, he instituted a suit before the lords of session, for the dissolution of the marriage; but when Mrs. Cranstoun was heard, and the letters read, the artful contrivance was seen through, the marriage was confirmed, and Cranstoun was adjudged to pay the expenses of the trial. At the next sessions, Captain Cranstoun preferred a petition, desiring to be heard by council, on new evidence, which, it was pretended, had arisen respecting Miss Murray. This petition, after some hesitation, was heard; but the issue was, that the marriage was again confirmed, and Captain 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: this 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 the impudence to assert, that the cause was not finally determined, but would be referred to the house of lords.

Mr. Blandy gave very little credit to this assertion; but his wife assented at once to all he said, and treated him with as much tenderness as if he had been her own child; of which the following circumstance will afford ample proof.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter being on a visit to Mrs. Pocock, of Turville Court, the old lady was taken so ill as to be obliged to continue there several days. In the height of her disorder, which was a violent fever, she cried,

"Let Cranstoun be sent for." He was then with his regiment at Southampton; but her request being complied with, she no sooner saw him than she raised herself on the pillow, and hung round his neck, repeatedly exclaiming, "My dear Cranstoun, I am glad you are come; I shall now grow well soon." So extravagant was her fondness, that she insisted on having him as her nurse; and he actually administered her medicines. On the following day she grew better; on which she said, "This I owe to you, my dear Cranstoun; your coming has given me new health and fresh spirits. I was fearful I should die, and you not here to comfort that poor girl. How like death she looks!"

It would be ungenerous to the memory of Mrs. Blandy to suppose that she saw Cranstoun's guilt in its true light; but certainly she was a most egregious dupe to his artifices.

Mrs. Blandy and her daughter having come to London, the former wanted 40*l.*, to discharge a debt she had contracted unknown to her husband; and Cranstoun coming into the room while the mother and her daughter were weeping over their distress, he demanded the reason of their grief: on being informed, he left them, but quickly returned with the requisite sum, and 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 40*l.*, 10*l.* had been contracted by the ladies in London, for expenses in consequence of their pleasures; and the other 30*l.* by expensive treats to Cranstoun at Henley, during Mr. Blandy's absence.

Soon after this Mrs. Blandy died; and Cranstoun now complaining of his fear of being arrested for the 40*l.*, the young lady borrowed that sum, which she gave him, and made him a present of her watch; so that he was a gainer by his former apparent generosity.

Mr. Blandy now began to show evident dislike of Captain Cranstoun's visits, on which the captain went to Scotland; and on taking leave of the daughter prior to his departure, he complained of the ill treatment which he had received from

her father, insinuating that he had a method for gaining his esteem; and that when he arrived in Scotland he would send her some powders for that purpose; on which, to prevent suspicion, he would write, "Powders to clean the Scotch pebbles."

Cranstoun sent her the powders, according to promise; and Mr. Blandy being indisposed on the Sunday se'night before his death, Susan Gunnell, a maid-servant, made him some water-gruel, into which Miss Blandy put some of the powder, and gave it to her father: repeating this draught on the following day, he was seized with a violent pain 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, said to her father, "Banish me where you please, do with me what you please, so you do but forgive me; and as for Cranstoun, I will never see him, speak to him, or write to him; as long as I live if you will forgive me."

In reply to this, the father said, "I forgive thee, my dear, and I hope God will forgive thee: but thou shouldst have considered before thou attemptedst anything against thy father; thou shouldst have considered I was thy own father."

Miss Blandy now acknowledged that she had put powder in his gruel, but that it was for an innocent purpose; on which the father, turning in his bed, said, "O such a villain! to come to my house, eat of the best and drink of the best my house could afford; and in return take away my life, and ruin my daughter. O! my dear, thou must hate that man."

The young lady replied, "Sir, every word you say is like a sword piercing to my heart; more severe than if you were angry: I must kneel, and beg you will not curse me." The father said, "I curse thee, my dear! how couldst thou think I would curse thee? No; I bless thee, and hope God will bless thee, and amend thy life. Do, my dear, go out of the room; say no more, lest thou shouldst say anything to thy own prejudice. Go to thy uncle Stephens, and take him for thy friend: poor man! I am sorry for him."

Mr. Blandy dying in consequence of his illness, it was suspected that his daughter had occasioned his death: on

which she was taken into custody, and committed to the gaol at Oxford.

She was tried on the 3d of March, 1752, and after many witnesses had been called to give evidence of her guilt, she was desired to make her defence, which she did in the following speech.

"My lord—It is morally impossible for me to lay down the hardships I have received. I have been aspersed in my character. In the first place, it has been said, I spoke ill of my father; that I have cursed him, and wished him at hell; which is extremely false. Sometimes little family affairs have happened, and he did not speak to me so kind as I could wish. I own I am passionate, my lord; and in those passions some hasty expressions might have dropped; but great care has been taken to recollect every word I have spoken at different times, and to apply them to such particular purposes as my enemies knew would do me the greatest injury. These are hardships, my lord, such as yourself must allow to be so. It was said too, my lord, that I endeavoured to make my escape. Your lordship will judge from the difficulties I laboured under: I had lost my father; I was accused of being his murderer; I was not permitted to go near him; I was forsaken by my friends, affronted by the mob, and insulted by my servants. Although I begged to have the liberty to listen at the door, where he died, I was not allowed it. My keys were taken from me; my shoe-buckles and garters too, to prevent me from making away with myself, as though I was the most abandoned creature. What could I do, my lord? I verily believe I must have been out of my senses. When I heard my father was dead, I ran out of the house, and over the bridge, and had nothing on but a 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 distress, desired me to walk in till the mob was dispersed; the town-serjeant was there. I begged he would take me under his protection, to have me home: the woman said it was not proper; the mob was very great, and that I had better stay a little. When I came home, they said I used the constable ill. I was locked up for fifteen hours, with only an old servant

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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 than I am, my lord, I believe is not in existenc. Upon the report of my making my escape, the gentleman who was high-sheriff last year (not the present) came and told me, by order of the higher powers, he must put an iron on me. I submitted, as I always do, to the higher powers. Some time after, he came again, and said he must put a heavier upon me; which I have worn, my lord, till I came hither. I asked the sheriff why I was so ironed? He said, he did it by the command of some noble peer, on his hearing that I intended making my escape. I told them I never had any such thought, and I would bear it with the other cruel usage I had received on my character. The Rev. Mr. Swinton, the worthy clergyman who attended me in prison, can testify I was regular at the chapel, whenever I was well; sometimes I really was not able to come out, and then he attended me in my room. They have likewise published papers and depositions, which ought not to have been published, in order to represent me as the most abandoned of my sex, and to prejudice the world against me. I submit myself to your lordship, and to the worthy jury. I do assure your lordship, as I am to answer at the great tribunal, where I must appear, I am 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 last seven hours, and then the judge summed up the evidence, mentioning the scandalous behaviour of some people respecting the prisoner, in printing and publishing what they called depositions taken before the coroner, relating

to the affair before them; to which he added, "I hope you have not seen them; but if you have, I must tell you, as you are men of sense and probity, that you must divest yourselves of every prejudice that can arise from thence, and attend merely to the evidence that has now been given." The jury, after a few minutes' consideration, 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 5th of April, 1752, the day before the execution, declaring that she did not know there was anything hurtful in the powders she had given her father.

The night before her death she spent in devotion; and at nine in the morning she left her apartment, being dressed in a black bombazine, and having her arms bound with black ribbons.

The clergyman attended her to the place of execution, to which she walked with the utmost solemnity of deportment; and, when there, acknowledged her fault in administering the powders to her father, but declared that, as she must soon appear before the most awful tribunal, she had no idea of doing him any injury, nor any suspicions that the powders were of a poisonous nature.

Having ascended some steps of the ladder, she said, "Gentlemen, don't hang me high, for the sake of decency." Being desired to go something higher, she turned about, and expressed her apprehensions that she should fall. The rope being put round her neck, she pulled her handkerchief over her face, and was turned off on holding out a book of devotions which she had been reading.

The crowd of spectators assembled on this occasion was immense. When she had hung the usual time, she was cut down, and the body being put into a hearse, was conveyed to Henley, and interred with her parents at one o'clock on the following morning.

It will now be proper to return to the wretch who contrived the horrid murder committed by his weak-minded and deluded victim. Having heard of Miss Blandy's commitment to Oxford gaol, he concealed himself some time in Scotland, and then escaped to Boulogne, in France. Meeting there with Mrs. Ross, who was

distantly related to his family, he made her acquainted with his situation, and begged her protection; on which she advised him to adopt her maiden name, Dunbar.

Some officers in the French service, who were related to his wife, hearing of his concealment, vowed revenge if they should meet him, for his cruelty to the unhappy woman; on which he went to Paris, whence he fled to Furnes, a town in Flanders, where Mrs. Ross had provided a lodging for his reception.

He had been but a short time at Furnes when he was seized with a severe fit of illness, which brought him to a degree of reflection to which he had long been a stranger. At length he sent for a father belonging to an adjacent convent, and received absolution from his hands, on declaring himself a convert to the Romish faith.

Cranstoun died on the 30th of November, 1752; and the fraternity of monks and friars looked on his conversion as an object of such importance, that solemn mass was performed on the occasion, and the body was followed to the grave by the ecclesiastics and magistrates of the township.

By his death his wife came into the possession of the interest of the 1500*l.* before mentioned. His clothes were sold for the benefit of his creditors; and his papers were sent to his brother, Lord Cranstoun, in Scotland.

MURDER OF WILLIAM WEARE.

(Continuation of Chapter II. from page 424.)

It will be seen that the coroner's cross-examination of Hunt, was productive of the benefit of finding the real character of Hunt, his prevarications and contradictions showing him to have been a man on whose word no reliance whatever could be placed. The coroner proceeded—

He did not take the money from his pocket?—No; it was from a sort of note case. He paid Probart with a five pound note and a sovereign.

Do you know what he gave Probart money for?—No, sir; I do not.

Was there any observation made by Thurtell when he paid this money?—No.

Nothing respecting the murder?—Nothing passed the whole of the evening about that business.

You were all extremely cheerful?—Yes, sir.

Did you see a purse?—John Thurtell had a brown silk purse, as well as the small note case.

What did he do with the note case?—He threw it in the fire.

What did he do with the purse?—He threw that in the fire also.

Did you see any papers put in the fire?—There was a little betting book put in the fire.

There was nothing of this in your statement to us?—No, sir.

Were the 6*l.* given to you and Probart as your shares of the money found?—Yes, sir, it was.

What passed?—I do not recollect.

Where did you hire the horse?—At Probart's, at the Golden Cross Yard; no relation to the prisoner Probart.

Do you know where the clothes of the deceased were put?—Not of my own knowledge. I wish I did; but I considered near the pond.

Had he any clothes on?—No, sir; they were cut off. The clothes were taken off, for he was naked when he was brought into the lane and put into the gig.

Then you do not know from your own knowledge, or from information, what became of deceased's clothes?—I have not the slightest knowledge.

Had you ever any of the clothes of the deceased on your own back?—Never.

What became of them after he was dead?—That I don't know.

How do you know they were cut off?—Because I was told so by John Thurtell.

On Sunday evening had you any other person's clothes on except your own?—On Sunday evening I had a suit of black clothes on of John Thurtell's.

For what purpose did you exchange your dress?—As it was Sunday I wished to appear decent and respectable.

What dress had John Thurtell on?—A blue coat, light waistcoat, light small-clothes and gaiters.

Where did you change your clothes?—In a little room by Mr. Probart's bedroom.

Were you given to understand the clothes you put on in Probart's house on the Sunday were the property of the murdered man?—Why, yes, I have since been given to understand so, for I told the officer where to find them.

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When did you give the information?—
When I was at Watford.

After you were in custody?—Yes.

Had you any reason to believe that the property belonged to John Thurtell?—
Yes.

Did you go up with John Thurtell when he went to London?—Yes, sir.

Was there not a carpet-bag put in the gig?—When we left Probart's, there was a carpet-bag put into the gig, and a box coat, and a gun and a powder-horn, with a shooting-jacket.

Were there any other things in the gig when he left the Coach and Horses on the Friday night?—No, sir.

If you did not know what these things were, how did you know how to give a description of them when you ordered them to be given up?—I did not say I had not seen them.

Then you knew the contents of the carpet-bag?—Yes, John Thurtell sorted them up, and put them into my drawers, and desired them to be taken care of. The bag was left in the gig all night, and was brought to my house in the morning. I and John Thurtell walked on Saturday morning through a ploughed field, and broke through a hedge into a lane; it was not so late as seven o'clock. We saw two men in the lane, to whom John Thurtell said, he had lost a handkerchief and a knife: the lane was quarter of a mile from Probart's house. After leaving the lane we went to breakfast. I saw no handkerchief; I did not sponge my clothes, but I brushed John Thurtell's clothes, at his request. I took a spade down in the chaise with me; I was requested to do so, but don't know for what purpose. John Thurtell threw it over a hedge near the gate, where the body was brought out by him naked: I did not see it used: I supposed it was brought for Probart's use.

What is become of the box coat?—It ought to have been found at my lodgings by the officer, and also a backgammon board, which was left there.

Were you and John Thurtell down a lane near Probart's house on Friday night?—No, I was not. We walked on Saturday morning through a ploughed field, and broke through a hedge into a lane.

What time was this?—Not so late as eight o'clock.

Did you see two men in the lane?—
Yes. John Thurtell spoke to one of them.

What did he say to the man?—He said he had lost a handkerchief and a knife in the lane.

How far was this from Probart's house?—
About a quarter of a mile.

Had you and John Thurtell been looking about the lane for the knife, &c., for some time previously to his speaking to the man?—No, I didn't know that he had lost the knife till he spoke to the man.

Were you in that lane at any other time, with John Thurtell, after the murder?—No.

Have you told all the conversation that has taken place between you and John Thurtell in the parlour of Probart on the night of the murder, and elsewhere since the murder?—Every word that I recollect.

Did not John Thurtell say to you before he went with you down the lane, what he was going to look for?—No, he did not.

Where did you go after you left the lane?—To breakfast at Probart's.

By a Juror. What did John Thurtell say that he was going to do, when he left you for a quarter of an hour on the night of the murder?—He did not say where or what he was going to do; he merely asked me to wait there till he returned, and I did so.

Was the sack you bought in St. Giles's the one the body of Mr. Weare was put in after his murder by John Thurtell?—
I presume it was.

Coroner. What did Thurtell mean when he said, "That is your share of the money found;" where was it found?—
I can't say; I was not present when it was found. I was not very compos mentis on that night.

When you went down the lane with John Thurtell, you returned with a handkerchief?—No, I saw no handkerchief.

Did you see a large piece of sponge at Probart's?—Yes, I did. It belonged to John Thurtell; he bought it, I suppose; I saw it in the pail in the stable.

Did you not sponge some clothes?—
No. I brushed John Thurtell's clothes.

By a Juror. When you came down to Probart's on Friday you wore black whiskers and mustachios?—Yes.

What has become of them?—Why, you must see that they are cut off?

Why did you cut them off?—I have a hard beard, and cut them off for my own pleasure.

Have you been in the habit of cutting off your beard and whiskers?—Yes, I have.

Where did you cut them off?—At my lodgings in London, prior to my apprehension.

Coroner. Have you any objection to sign this as your voluntary statement?—None whatever.

Hunt then signed the statement which he had given, and retired.

During the whole of the above extraordinary detail, Hunt was as cool and collected as possible; he never changed countenance, and while every one shuddered with horror at his dreadful narration, he betrayed not the least emotion. After the examination was over, the handcuffs were put on him; and having thick wrists, as they were screwed on by the gaoler he cried out, "Curse it, don't torture me—don't put me in purgatory;" and appeared very angry.

Probart was then brought handcuffed into the room, and the coroner said, that as Hunt had made a statement he would be allowed also to make any confession he might think proper to the jury; but at the same time he (the coroner) thought proper to inform him that no promise was made, or threat used, on his part, to elicit anything from him.

Probart. Have you received a note I sent to you by Drayton, the officer, three hours ago?

Coroner. No.

Drayton then produced the note to the coroner, who read it.

Coroner. I now repeat, that you may make any statement you think proper, but you will not expect any favour from so doing.

Probart. I am ready to make a true statement of all that I know of the transaction.

Coroner. You do it at your own responsibility.

Probart. "I shall speak the truth." [His handcuffs were then taken off.] "On Friday afternoon I dined at Mr. Tetsall's, the Coach and Horses, Conduit Street, with the two Thurtells, Hunt, Mr. Noyes, and one or two more gentlemen

whose names I do not recollect. John Thurtell asked me to lend him 5 or 6*l.*; I borrowed 5*l.* of Mr. Tetsall, and Mr. Tetsall gave the 5*l.* to John Thurtell; I also gave Hunt 1*l.* for John Thurtell, which made 6*l.* I think about six o'clock I left to come down to Aldenham to my house. Thurtell asked me if I would drive Hunt to my home; if not, he said he would hire a horse for him. I said, that as I was going home I would drive him. John Thurtell said, 'I am coming to spend the day with you, and shall bring a friend with me.' I said, Very well; and I should be happy to see them. I then left Mr. Tetsall's, and came with Hunt to the Baldfaced Stag in the Edgware Road; Hunt said, 'I must not go in there, as I have not returned the two horse-cloths I borrowed.' He walked on to Mr. Clarke's, the tavern-keeper, which is near the Edgware turnpike, where I stopped and took him up, and drove him very near to Mr. Phillimore's lodge, and Hunt then said, 'I must wait here till Thurtell joins me, according to appointment.'

Coroner. Did you not call at this house on the way?

Probart. I beg pardon; yes, I drove Hunt to this house, and we drank several glasses of brandy and water, and remained there about an hour. We left this house about nine o'clock; I went from here to Mr. Phillimore's lodge, where Hunt got out and said, 'I must wait here for John Thurtell, and you may go on.' I went on till I was within a hundred yards of my house, when I met John Thurtell. He said, 'Where is Hunt?' I said I had left him on the road waiting for him. He said, 'You must turn back, then, and fetch him, for I have killed my friend, and don't want him.' I said, 'Good God, I hope you have not killed any person.' He replied, 'I have, and now I am happy, for he has robbed me of several hundreds.' I then returned with Hunt, and at my gates Hunt said to John Thurtell, 'Where could you pass me?' Thurtell replied, 'It don't matter where I passed you, for I have done the trick.'

(To be continued.)

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ANNALS OF CRIME;

OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 55.

MARCH 15, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF MR. WEARE.

(Continuation of Chapter II. from page 432.)



[ELSTREE CHURCH AND GRAVE-YARD.]

The statement and cross-examination of Probart will be found no less important than the statement and cross-examination of Hunt, tending equally to show that the one was as notorious a character as the other.

Probart went on to state—"I said, 'For God's sake, who is the man you have killed?' John Thurtell said, 'It don't matter to you—you don't know his name and never saw him; and if you ever say a single word about him, by G—, you shall share the same fate, for Joe and I (meaning Hunt and John Thurtell) meant to have had your brother-in-law that is to be the other day (Mr. Wood), only that he run so fast when he saw the house, and escaped.' he also said, 'I have more to kill, and you will be one of them if you

don't do what is right.' We then went into my parlour, and had something to eat and drink; afterwards John Thurtell pulled a purse out of his pocket, and said, 'This is all I have got for what I have done.' How much was in the purse I do not know. A gun and a watch he also produced, and several papers. John Thurtell and Hunt both examined the papers, and handed them from one to the other, and afterwards threw them into the fire. I had occasion then to go up stairs to Mrs. Probart, and I did not see anything more of the papers. John Thurtell said, 'Now we must go and fetch the body, and throw it into your pond.' I said, 'That you shall never do.' He said, 'You must do as I tell you, and I will come and fetch it away to-morrow.'

John Thurtell and Hunt then went and fetched the body, and threw it into my pond. I saw them throw it in. John Thurtell after that produced a note case made of silk or stuff, and took out of it three five-pound notes, and said to me, 'Here is the 6*l*. I borrowed of you yesterday, and he gave me a five-pound note and a sovereign. I am positive he said, on giving me the money, 'Here is the 6*l*. I borrowed of you yesterday, for which you are answerable to Mr. Tetsall.' That is all the money I saw, though there were some sovereigns in the purse. I believe in the course of half an hour I went to bed; I left both Hunt and Thurtell in the parlour, with a bottle of brandy on the table. Mrs. Probart and Miss Noyes had then gone to bed an hour and a half. Mrs. Probart pressed them (Hunt and Thurtell) to go to bed half an hour before she went to bed, and she said Miss Noyes would sleep with Thomas Thurtell's two children. One of them replied, 'We have got a good deal of nightwork to do, and want to use ourselves to it.' When I went to bed, I thought my wife had been in bed at least an hour and a half: as I entered the room she was not undressed; she was crying; and she said, 'For God's sake, what is it that Mr. Hunt, and Mr. Thurtell, and you are doing up? If I knew, I would inform against you.' This was about one o'clock in the morning. I said, 'My dear, I am doing nothing that will hurt me; I am not guilty of anything.' We both then went to bed, and I think I lay till past nine on the Saturday morning, but not an hour did I sleep the whole of the night, nor did Mrs. Probart, for she was fretting all night. I did not tell Mrs. Probart anything about the murder; I said to her, that I had done nothing that would injure me. When I came down to breakfast, I found Hunt and Thurtell standing up in my parlour, and the cloth laid for breakfast. About ten o'clock my boy put my horse to the chaise, and they left my house about half-past ten. The boy put the gun in the chaise, and one or two bundles of clothes tied up in handkerchiefs, and a striped carpet-bag with a padlock. I can't say if it was locked up. I can't say who these things belonged to; I suspected they belonged to the deceased, but was not certain. As they went out of the yard, they said, 'We shall come

down and dine with you to-morrow, and bring Thomas Thurtell and Noyes most likely.' They all four, John and Thomas Thurtell, Hunt, and Mr. Noyes, came down next day as we were sitting down to dinner. John Thurtell and Hunt both observed that I did not eat two mouths-full. John Thurtell said, 'You will never do for a Turpin.' This was said before Mrs. Probart and Miss Noyes, who did not know what it meant.

Coroner. They must have known what was meant; Turpin was a notorious highwayman and murderer, and what John Thurtell meant was obvious.

Probart. After dinner we walked in the garden. John Thurtell, pointing to Hunt, said, 'See how my Joseph is dressed up to-day: don't he cut a good figure?' He meant by this that Hunt was dressed in good clothes. He had on a buff waistcoat, and a black handkerchief; they were the deceased's clothes, I was told. I said to Hunt, 'If they are the deceased's clothes, good God! how can you wear them?' Hunt said, 'What is that to you whose clothes they are? they are not yours.' This was on the Sunday after the murder.

Coroner. I advise you, though I am not bound to sit here to give advice, that you should not say any more, for what you say of occurrences after this can only injure you.

Probart. I thank you, sir. I will only say, that I am not the murderer, and I declare solemnly before my God and Saviour that I never knew the man, or saw him, nor even knew the name of the man, or that he was coming down from London; God Almighty knows I am not guilty of this horrid murder. I knew of John Thurtell coming down, and, as he said to me, with a gentleman, but I did not know who the person was. He said they should shoot on Lord Essex's estate.

Coroner. I have a question or two to ask. Did you take part of the deceased's money?—No, I did not.

Did you see the deceased's clothes taken out of your house?—No, my boy put the gun into the chaise.

Did Hunt come down to sing professionally?—No.

Did he sing on the Friday night, after you had been informed of the murder, in your parlour?—I rather think he did sing one song, but I cannot swear.

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Thurtell on that night?—I think he did, but I am not positive.

Did you order John Thurtell to bring you a new spade down from London?—Never.

Did you ever see a spade that he brought down from London?—Yes, I found one on my grounds after the murder.

By a Juror. You called at this house on the Friday night with Hunt about the time of the murder?—Yes, I did.

You said to the landlord that Hunt was a good singer?—Yes, I did.

Were you both inebriated?—A little.

Probart then withdrew.

Mr. Noel said, that the confession of Hunt was disproved in many important parts; that he had grossly prevaricated; and though he had been admitted a witness for the crown by the magistrates, yet the Court of King's Bench had the power by law, upon proof of such confession being false, to reject it, and put the man upon his trial. This question was, however, quite distinct from the present inquiry.

The coroner asked if a gentleman named Wood, from London, was in the room; and was informed, that he had waited for some hours to give evidence, but supposing, from the length of time occupied in taking Hunt's evidence, that the inquiry would not terminate that night, he had returned in a chaise to London. One of the magistrates regretted the circumstance, as his evidence would have developed a most atrocious system, which had been planned in London for a series of murders.

Foreman of the Jury. It would be a pity if this cold-blooded villain (Hunt) should escape justice, for, in my mind, he is the most guilty of all. He evidently assisted in planning the murder, he bought the sack in which the victim was to be deposited after his murder, and also the spade to dig his grave, and the cord to tie up the sack, and assisted in buying the pistols. I consider Probart an innocent person in comparison with Hunt. The manner in which he made his statement to the jury, proves him to be the most unfeeling, cold-hearted wretch alive: he showed no signs of compunction for the horrid deed, no regret that he had assisted in the murder of a fellow-creature.

The coroner then proceeded to deliver his charge to the jury.

Gentlemen of the jury, such a body of evidence affecting the persons who are in custody, charged with the crime which you have, with such extraordinary patience, been employed for the last two days in investigating, has been laid before you, that it will be quite unnecessary, in my opinion, to detain you long in commenting upon the facts which have been detailed; for a more horrid, more cruel, more premeditated case of assassination and robbery, I think, never took place in this or any other country. Your first inquiry is this—are you of opinion that John Thurtell is the person who committed the murder? Of this fact, I think, there can be but one opinion. The second inquiry is—were Probart and Hunt accessaries *before* the fact? Gentlemen, I will offer a few words upon the law of murder, as laid down by the most eminent authorities; I shall take the opportunity of stating that a coroner's jury cannot take cognizance of a party accused who are accessaries *after* the fact; you come to the conclusion, that Hunt and Probart were accessaries *before* the fact, before you can return a verdict of murder against them; and I think that you, wishing as you evidently must do, to put these parties on their several trials, will not be long in coming to that conclusion. It is not necessary, to make them accessaries before the fact, that they should be on the spot, or near the place where the murder was committed, at the time of its perpetration; it is enough if they have in any way aided or countenanced the commission of the crime. That Hunt premeditated and concerted the assassination and robbery with John Thurtell cannot be doubted by any rational and thinking person. What could have been his object in purchasing the pistols, sack, cord, and spade, on the day of murder; and why should Hunt have been set down by Probart, from his chaise, near Phillimore lodge, but for the purpose of joining John Thurtell, to aid him in murdering Mr. Weare? That such was their object, gentlemen, that such was the previous agreement between Hunt and John Thurtell, is evident from the language used by Hunt and John Thurtell, at Probart's gate, directly after the murder was committed; and also from Hunt, stating to Probart, 'That he had to wait for John Thurtell by appointment.' The language used at Probart's cottage gate is

this: Hunt said to John Thurtell, 'Where could you pass me?' Thurtell replied, 'It don't matter where I passed you; I have done the trick.' What was meant by the trick is evident enough; it could mean nothing else but the murder and robbery previously planned. Now, gentlemen, what are the facts that inculpate Probart in this foul proceeding? These, gentlemen, are in my opinion the main facts, besides many circumstances of less prominence in the plot of this singular drama. First, his dining with the party in their lodgings in London, on the afternoon, and only a few hours before they left London with their victim. In the next place, Probart says, in his statement to you, that he 'agreed with John Thurtell to bring Hunt down to his cottage;' but instead of bringing him down to the cottage, he puts him down from the chaise at some distance from it, with the avowed purpose of waiting for John Thurtell. Why should he wait for John Thurtell? Was it possible that Probart could be ignorant of the intentions of the party? Did he not know that the intention of Hunt was to assist in despatching Weare? Is it possible he could be ignorant of it? I think not; and I think I am justified in that opinion, by an admission of Probart's, which I have a right to take advantage of, as he made it, after repeated warnings, given by Mr. Noel and myself, viz., that Thurtell said to him, 'This is all I got by the job;' after which he receives part of the money. Hunt also stated in his confession, that on Probart receiving the 6*l.*, John Thurtell said, 'This is your share of the money found.' Found where, gentlemen? found on him on whom Thurtell had 'just done the job,' as he had previously asserted to Probart. Gentlemen, the actual spot where the murder was committed, I think, is clearly identified. The place was in Gill's Hill Lane, by the side of the hedge which was broken, and where the blood was found in streams; in the ditch, adjacent to which, the pistol and knife were found; and I think it very likely, that after the deceased was murdered he was dragged by his murderers through the hedge into the ploughed field, where the body lay, till Hunt, Probart, and John Thurtell left the cottage while supper was being prepared (as is sworn to by Probart's cook and his boy, Haddis, with a lantern,

when they, no doubt, removed it to Probart's pond. In fact, gentlemen, Probart admits that he saw it put into his pond, and that was in less than an hour after the man is murdered. Another fact I will just advert to, affecting Probart. It is this: The men who saw John Thurtell and Hunt in the lane, looking about the spot where the pistol and knife were found, stated, that they saw a tall man come down the lane after Hunt and John Thurtell, with a large dog; and Probart's servants stated that Probart was in the habit of going out with his dog; and I draw this inference from that fact, that Probart's object in going down the lane at that time in the morning was the same as that of Hunt and Thurtell, viz., to recover possession of the lost pistol and knife, left there by the murderers. That it was Hunt who accompanied John Thurtell early in the morning down the lane, is proved by the witnesses stating that he had large black mustachios and whiskers, which he wore at that time, and has admitted he since shaved them off. And I must remark that Hunt went too far when he stated, that 'the clothes were cut off the dead body,' for that proves that he participated in its removal, which is farther confirmed by the fact of his discovering the pond, or pit, to which he states that John Thurtell removed the body, and in which the police-officers, by him directed, found it. In addition to these strong circumstances, all tending to show that Hunt, John Thurtell, and Probart were participators in the murder, we have another fact of very considerable importance—I mean the fact of the bloody shirt and handkerchief, cut off the deceased's body, in Probart's yard, after the body was taken out of the pond, being found under a heap of dung in Probart's stable. From the whole of these facts, developing an act of more than fiend-like barbarity, you can come but to one conclusion, in my mind; that John Thurtell is a principal in the murder, and that Hunt and Probart are accessories before the fact. If such be your opinion, you will say so; and if you cannot at present arrive at that conclusion, it will be necessary for me to read through the whole of the body of evidence, making such comments thereon as the case may require.

Juror. If we should be of opinion that Probart was only an accessory after the

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fact, or, in other words, that he did not know of the murderous intention of Hunt and John Thurtell, till after the deed was done, have you no power to send him for trial?

Coroner. I cannot commit him under the coroner's inquest without you find that he was an accessory *before* the fact, though, of course, the magistrates have the power to commit him for trial.

The jury consulted for a few minutes, and returned a verdict of wilful murder against John Thurtell as principle, and against Hunt and Probart as accessories before the fact.

Thomas Thurtell was then brought into the jury-room in handcuffs, which were ordered to be taken off; and the coroner congratulated him that he was not inculpated in the dreadful transaction then inquired into.

Thomas Thurtell for some time could not give utterance to a syllable. At last he said, "It was a horrible transaction; but I thank God I had not the remotest idea of the dreadful intentions of my brother, or that the murder was committed, till it was communicated to me after my apprehension."

This county magistrates then informed him, that they were about to commit him to the county gaol, upon a warrant brought from London, on a charge of conspiring to set fire to some premises in Watling Street.

He declared, that however guilty his brother might be, and he admitted that his brother had led a life the most wicked and dissolute for several years, yet he was himself innocent of the charge upon which he was about to be committed. He stated that his brother forged his acceptance to bills to the amount of 600*l.*, only eight months ago, and he was compelled to pay the money to save his life.

The magistrates lamented that the person who was related to one of the most respectable families in Norwich, should have been implicated in such a dreadful accusation.

Thomas Thurtell burst into tears, and said, "Good God! what misery must my poor father and mother endure on hearing of the situation of their children; my brother's fate, I suppose is sealed; pray God support my father and mother!"

The coroner and magistrates emphatically stated, that they were all fully satis-

fied of Thomas Thurtell's entire innocence of the crime of murder.

The coroner's inquest having terminated, and it having been arranged that the body of the deceased should be interred in Elstree church-yard immediately after the rising of the jury, the coffin was screwed down about ten o'clock, and shortly before eleven the tolling of the church-bell announced that everything was prepared for the melancholy ceremony.

The coffin was borne on the shoulders of six men; the brother of the deceased, and most of the jurors attended as mourners; several persons carried lanterns before and on either side of the coffin; and in this manner the funeral train, followed by a considerable crowd, proceeded up Elstree Hill towards the church, which is about a quarter of a mile distant from the house at which the inquest was held.

The coffin was, as in ordinary cases, first carried into the church, which was lighted up for the occasion, and then to the grave: the funeral service was read in both places by the Rev. Mr. Addow, the clergyman of the parish.

As the coffin was being lowered into the grave, the rope which was placed round the foot broke, and that part of the coffin fell suddenly to the bottom of the grave, whilst the head being sustained by the other rope rested against the side of the grave, so that the coffin stood nearly upright. This accident, as might be supposed, created some confusion: but the sexton immediately descended into the grave, and, by great personal exertion, in a short time succeeded in getting the coffin level at the bottom of the grave, which was about twelve feet in depth.

The clergyman then proceeded to read the remainder of the funeral service; after which he read an impressive and affecting composition on the heinousness of the case, standing in his white gown at the head of the grave, while all around him was darkness except where the faint light of a lantern happened to fall on the countenances of some of the mourners, while all, save the sound of the clergyman's voice, was awfully still.

We have been thus particular respecting the interment of the unfortunate Weare, for at a subsequent period the body was disinterred for the purpose of identification, which circumstance we shall

detail in due order. We may add, that from his grave can be seen almost the very spot where he was murdered, and the whole track by which he went from Elstree a living man, in anticipation of enjoying the sports of the field, and the festivities of the board; as well as the road by which he was borne to this place a mangled and lifeless corpse.

John Thurtell, having been fully committed by the Hertford magistrates on the charge of murder, had been sent to the county gaol, whence he had not been removed, the coroner's inquest not requiring his presence. To the same gaol, Hunt and Probart were also committed on the finding of the inquest jury.

The visiting magistrates ordered that the three prisoners should be kept separate; that they should be double-ironed; and that no person whatever should be permitted to see either of them, unless by the special order or in the presence of a magistrate, excepting the chaplain to the gaol. Though it was determined to keep the prisoners apart from each other, it was nevertheless ordered that two men should always be with each.

The arrangement of cells was discussed in the presence of Hunt and Probart on their arrival. On the magistrates' order being alluded to, Hunt betrayed considerable alarm, and entreated that he might not be kept in solitary confinement. "Why should you fear being alone?" was asked. The reply was evasive, Hunt only observing, that he should greatly prefer the company of three or four persons.

Immediately after this, Mr. Chitty moved the Court of King's Bench for a mandamus to certain parties connected with the Surrey Theatre, restraining them from the performance of a melo-drama founded on the murder of Mr. Weare, as such performance was every way inimical to the ends of justice. This was likewise decided to the prisoners' advantage.

In the mean time, in consequence of a supposed defect in the chain of evidence, from which some doubt arose as to the possibility of proving that one of the parties accused had been seen in the company of Mr. Weare on the night of the murder, it was judged necessary to open the grave, in order to afford the ostler at the White Lion, Edgware, an opportunity of seeing the corpse, as two

persons, one of them supposed to be Mr. Weare, had called there in a gig on the evening of the 24th of October, and the ostler was of opinion that he should know the face of either of them again.

Before the exhumation took place, some of the parties spoken to on the occasion were in doubt whether it would be of any use to inspect the body in its then state; but a medical gentleman overruled this, by declaring it to be his opinion, that the corpse would be found nearly as perfect as when it was originally committed to the earth.

The disinterment having been determined upon, it was deemed expedient to avoid giving unnecessary publicity to the proceeding, and it was agreed that the sepulchre should not be re-opened in the daytime. Pursuant to this resolution, the parties who were to perform and witness the disinterment repaired to the churchyard at midnight. The night was dark, and the weather most inclement; storms of rain and hail assailed the individuals who had taken upon themselves the unpleasant task; but these did not dispose them to abandon the design, though to lift the coffin from its resting-place was a work of no small toil and difficulty. The grave was so deep, that for the purpose now in view it was necessary to dig a much larger pit than had originally been prepared. The secret had been kept so well, that none were present but those appointed to conduct and effect the undertaking.

When the men had almost got to the coffin, they had to contend with several impediments, which caused unlooked-for delay. It was found the grave contained a great deal of water, and the earth which surrounded the remains of the deceased was not easily removed out of the way of the labourers. A very spacious hole was at last formed, and a rope was passed under the head of the coffin. It was then supposed that little exertion would be sufficient to remove it; but from the immense pressure it had sustained, it was so deeply bedded in the soil, and was so heavy from the water it contained, that the efforts of those who at first attempted to lift it were wholly nugatory. It demanded the strength of eight or ten men to raise it on end. By great exertion this was at length accomplished, and the coffin, which had been nearly full of water, was brought

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up. The lid was then unscrewed, and the corpse was once more submitted to inspection.

When the contents of the coffin were looked upon, it was instantly obvious to every one that recognition was impossible. The ostler approached the much-wasted remnant of mortality, but to no purpose. Unusually rapid decomposition, occasioned it was supposed by the water in which the body was found immersed, rendered all the toil which had been undergone utterly useless. The lid of the coffin was then replaced and screwed down, and the body was again lowered into the grave.

CHAPTER III.

ON the 4th of December, 1823, a period which had been looked for with intense anxiety by all classes of society, the assizes for the county of Hertford commenced. Mr. Justice Park and Mr. Justice Holroyd were the judges who presided. The usual ceremonies attendant on the arrival of the judges having been gone through, and the grand jury chosen, Mr. Park delivered his charge, which naturally embraced the subject under review as the principal topic.

The learned judge having concluded his charge, the grand jury retired; shortly after which, the admission of Probart as king's evidence was discussed.

Much stress had from the first been laid on the impropriety of holding out to Hunt any hope of his being admitted as king's evidence, for under that assurance his confession, which certainly led to the finding of the body of Weare, was presumed to have been made. But the presumption that any such assurance had been given to him was, incorrect; the magistrates, as we have already shown, having taken his confession, subject to the opinions of higher authorities as to what benefit he was entitled to receive therefrom. But even had the magistrates received his statement under every assurance of protection, he had forfeited all claim to the benefit of such promises by the hollow, deceptive, and imperfect nature of his communications. It has ever been imperative on persons in his situation to state the truth, to entitle them to any merciful consideration: how far Hunt had complied with this salutary principle in the details which we have already given, will be seen in our subsequent pages.

The day of trial had nearly arrived, and nothing indicative of any intention of altering the arrangement was supposed to exist, by which Hunt's evidence would be received against his accomplices. It appears, however, that the day previous to the opening of the commission at Hertford, a consultation had been held between Mr. Gurney and Mr. Bolland, as counsel for the prosecution, and Mr. Williams and Mr. Charles Phillips, retained for the defence of Probart, in which the propriety of admitting Probart as king's evidence, and putting Hunt on his trial as the accomplice of Thurtell, was discussed, and that course ultimately decided on. The reasons which led to this decision were, First, the comparative degree of guilt of the respective prisoners, and consequent value of their testimony, so many circumstances having occurred to show that Hunt's previous knowledge of, and share in, the murder were much greater than he had admitted. Secondly, the impossibility of the crown availing itself of the evidence of Mrs. Probart in a case in which her own husband was one of the accused persons.

If any doubts had remained as to the operation of the latter consideration, they were completely removed by the concluding observations of the learned judge in his charge; and accordingly some time after the grand jury had retired,

Mr. Broderick, one of the counsel for the prosecution, entered the court, and addressed Mr. Justice Park as follows: "My lord, I am instructed to move your lordship for an order to carry William Probart, one of the persons charged with the murder of William Weare in the month of October last, now in the custody of the gaoler of this county, before the grand jury, in order that he may give evidence touching the circumstances of that offence. My lord, I do not make this application expressly on my own responsibility, but I am fortified by the opinion of a person much better able than myself to come to a right conclusion on the subject; I allude to the individual to whom the management of the prosecution has been confided." Mr. Broderick repeated, that it was thought essential to the ends of justice that Probart should be admitted a witness for the crown, and on that ground only the motion had been determined on. There were

many circumstances, which it was not then necessary to state, which rendered this course necessary.

Mr. Justice Park said, he knew nothing whatever of the circumstances of the case; but certainly, upon the application made, the order in question should be granted, and Probart should be taken before the grand jury.

Probart remained in entire ignorance of the important change made in his situation until the very moment that he was summoned by Mr. Wilson, the gaoler, to appear before the grand jury as a witness. For a moment he was, as it were, electrified with astonishment; but when the attendants began to divest him of his fetters, he gave way to the most unbounded joy. Thurtell, when he heard of the new arrangement, expressed considerable surprise; and still more when he was informed that Hunt would be put to trial with him as an accessory before the fact. Hunt himself affected the greatest indignation on receiving the intelligence, and said he would not believe it until he found himself upon his trial. Mr. Harmer, his solicitor, also expressed himself very strongly on the occasion.

Probart was conveyed from the gaol to the court-house in a post-chaise. He was nearly an hour under examination before the grand jury, and his wife was examined immediately after him; but every precaution was successfully adopted to prevent their having any communication with each other.

About nine o'clock in the evening the grand jury had completed their important task, when, pursuant to the directions given by Mr. Justice Park at the rising of the court, they were conducted by the officers in attendance to that learned judge's lodgings, where they delivered, by their foreman, the Bill of Indictment, as a True Bill against the two prisoners, Thurtell and Hunt. The delivery of this bill concluded the first day's proceedings.

Before daylight on the following morning, the 5th of December, the approaches to the town in all directions were crowded with carriages and horsemen, some coming from London, and others from the villages in the neighbourhood, in which several had taken up their quarters for the night. A great number of the sporting fraternity were present; and it was not a little disgusting to hear bets offered

and taken in the market-place with as much avidity as if the subject at issue was the mere determination of a boxing-match or a horse-race.

At eight o'clock Mr. Justice Park took his seat upon the bench. His lordship, after having saluted the magistracy and counsel, observed that he wished it to be understood, that no persons should be allowed to stand up in the gallery. In such a crowded court, it was essential to have a proper circulation of air; and as the effect of such a practice was to obstruct and choke it, he was determined to hold it as a positive rule, that none but those who had seats should remain. Any person offending against that order, after that communication, should be committed." This peremptory order had the desired effect of preserving decorum.

The prisoners having been brought into court, and the ordinary question put to Thurtell as to the plea, he answered in the ordinary tone of voice, Not guilty.—How tried? By God and my country.

Hunt, on the question being put, answered in a more emphatic manner, Not guilty, my lord.—How tried? By my God and my country.

Thurtell, Hunt, and Probart were then arraigned on the inquisition of the county attested by the coroner; to which all pleaded, Not guilty.

A motion was now made for postponing the trial, Thurtell's counsel entering into the subject at great length; to which Mr. Justice Park consented, though merely for a brief period, by adjourning the case to Tuesday, the 6th of January following.

The grounds of postponement were—the impediments thrown in the way of the communication between the prisoner Thurtell and his professional advisers; certain paragraphs and statements in the newspapers; the drama produced at the Surrey Theatre; the publication of the evidence given before the magistrates at Hertford and the coroner's jury, and particularly the confession of Hunt; and the falsehood of many statements relative to the prisoners, which had been circulated in the county of Hertford and elsewhere.

(To be continued.)

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MARCH 22, 1837.

PRICE
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A CASE OF PERFIDIOUS COURTSHIP.



[ELIZABETH THOMAS APPEARING TO HER COUSIN.]

The awful effects of perfidious courtship recorded in the subjoined account, are calculated to impress mankind with a conviction, that matrimonial overtures or promises are not to be treated lightly, being thereby liable to lead to the most deplorable results. The account was first taken from the register of the parish church of St. Hilary, Cornwall, dated Oct. 22, 1780.

This day was interred the remains of Thomas Thomas, aged thirty-seven years. This man died of mental anguish, or what is vulgarly called a broken heart. He lived in the village of Dranock, in the parish of Gwinear, till an unhappy event occurred, which proved fatal to his peace of mind for more than eight years,

and finally occasioned his death. He courted Elizabeth Thomas, of the same village, who was his first cousin; and it was understood that they were under a matrimonial engagement. But in May, 1772, some little disagreement having happened between them, he, out of resentment, or from some other motive, paid great attention to another young woman, and on Sunday, the 31st of that month, in the afternoon, accompanied her to the meeting at Wall. During their absence, the discarded female, who was very beautiful in her person, but of an extremely irritable temper, took a rope and a Common Prayerbook, in which she had folded down the leaf at the 109th Psalm, and, going into a field, hanged herself.

Thomas, on his return from the preaching, inquired for Betsy. Being told that she had not been seen for two or three hours, he exclaimed, "Good God! she has destroyed herself!" which apprehension seems to show, that she had threatened to commit suicide, or that he dreaded it from a knowledge of the violence of her disposition. But when he saw that his fears were realized, and had read the Psalm, so full of execrations, which she had pointed out to him, he cried out, "I am ruined for ever and ever!"

The very sight of this village and neighbourhood was now become insupportable, and he went to live at Marazion, hoping that a change of scene and social intercourse might expel those excruciating reflections, which harrowed up his very soul, or at least render them less acute: but in this he appeared to have been mistaken, for he found himself closely pursued. To hear the 109th Psalm would petrify him with horror, and therefore he would not attend divine service on the 22d day of the month: he also dreaded to go near a reading-school, lest he should hear the ill-fated lesson. Whatever misfortunes befell him, (and these were not a few, for he was several times hurt, and even maimed, in the mines where he laboured,) he still attributed them all to the malevolent agency of the deceased, and thought he could find allusions to the whole in the calamitous legacy which she had bequeathed him. When he slumbered, for he knew nothing of sound sleep, the injured girl appeared to his imagination with such a countenance as she had after the rash action, and the Prayerbook in her hand open at the hateful Psalm; and he was frequently heard to cry out, "O, my dear Betsy, shut the book, shut the book," &c.

With a mind so disturbed and deranged, though he could not reasonably expect much consolation from matrimony, yet, imagining that the cares of a family might draw off his thoughts from the miserable subject by which he was harassed both day and night, he successively paid his addresses to many young women in Marazion, but they indignantly flew from him, and, with a sneer, asked him whether he was desirous of bringing all the curses of the 109th Psalm on their heads. At length, however, he succeeded with one, and he led her to St. Hilary Church, to

be married, on the 21st of January, 1778; but on the road thither they were overtaken by a sudden and violent hurricane, such as those which not unfrequently happen in the vicinity of Mount's Bay; and he, supposing it was poor Betsy that "rode in the whirlwind, and directed the storm," was convulsed with terror, and was literally "crippled with fear." Such is the power of conscious guilt to the mind wounded by its reflections.

He lived long enough to have a son and daughter; but the corrosive worm within his breast preyed on his vitals, and at length consumed all the powers of his body, as it had long before destroyed the tranquillity of his mind, and he died on Friday, October 20th, 1780, and was buried at St. Hilary the Sunday following, during evening service.

But here observe a strange coincidence of circumstances; for while the body lay in the church, to the astonishment of all the congregation, who knew that the 109th Psalm had operated on him so powerfully, it came to be read in the ordinary course. Against this event there was more than sixty to one; and that his funeral should happen on a Sunday, at four o'clock in the afternoon, exactly corresponding to the time in which the young woman destroyed herself, is another remarkable circumstance. But respecting the malediction of this Psalm, it had no farther effect, as both his children died before him. "Verily, there is a God who judgeth in the earth!"

MURDER OF WILLIAM WEARE.

CHAPTER IV.

AT eight o'clock on the morning of the 6th of January, 1824, Mr. Justice Park entered the court-house of Hertford, which had been crammed to overflow an hour before. As soon as his lordship was seated, he gave public notice to the auditory, that such persons as had seats must be seated, and those who had not must leave the court, in order to prevent pressure and the stagnation of the air.

On the prisoners being brought into court, an application was made for a farther postponement of trial, on the part of Hunt, which was refused.

A verdict of "Not guilty" was now recorded for Probart, who was removed from the bar into an adjoining room,

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where the gaoler was desired to detain him.

Mr. Gurney then rose, and opened the case for the prosecution, which he did with the greatest degree of ability.

In support of the case, the first evidence called was John Beeson, who was examined by Mr. Bolland.—Went in search of a body with Ruthven and Upson, two Bow Street officers. The prisoner Hunt was with us. We went to Aldenham, and found the body in a brook called Hill Slough, near Elstree. Hunt pointed it out. The body was concealed in a sack. The head was downwards in the sack. There was a rope fastened round the sack. The length of the rope was two or three yards. There was a stone tied to the end. Was not present when the sack was opened. It was carried to the Artichoke public-house, at Elstree. The pond was a quarter of a mile from Elstree. It was to the right hand side of the road coming from Elstree towards Radlet. I am acquainted with the roads about Gill's Hill. There is a road branching off towards Watford, with a finger-post direction pointing that way. Pursuing that road, you pass a cottage, where a person named Hunt lives. The road divides, one leading to Radlet, and the other to Probart's cottage at Gill's Hill. A man ignorant of the road might mistake his way. He might, however, return again on the road to Probart's cottage, though he went by mistake to High Cross. It would be a circuitous passage. Even if a person went to Radlet, he might turn to the right and get to Probart's cottage. The roads are very bad and very narrow. If a person met anything in his way, while driving, he must back out. A man, not knowing the road, might mistake. These roads are hilly, and a person, ordinarily speaking, must drive slow.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger, for Hunt.—It was on Thursday, the 30th of October. Four persons went to find the body. The place where it was found was two miles from Gill's Hill. They searched in a body, he meant all together. They searched nearly five minutes. It was about two minutes after the place had been pointed out. The body was found nearly in the centre of the pond. It was possible for any person to place the body in the pond without walking in. Two men might have swung the body in. One

man could not have done it. The weather was wet, and the pond was, consequently, full. Saw Mr. Hunt point out that pond as the place where the body was. The pond altogether was as large as the table of the court. There was a short piece of the rope round the sack loose. The rope was twisted round the sack in a careless manner. The handkerchief was outside of the sack, and the stones were concealed in it.

Robert Field, examined by Mr. Broderick.—I keep the Artichoke public-house at Elstree. Remember a dead body being brought to my house on a Thursday. Saw the body drawn out of the pond. It was covered with a sack, and that was fastened by cords. The rope was bound round the neck, the middle, and the feet, with a handkerchief tied to the end full of stones. There were two or three yards of the rope superabundant. That body was afterwards shown to Mr. Rexworthy, and he said it was the body of William Weare.

John Upson, examined by Mr. Gurney.—Am an officer of Bow Street. Was present at the examination of the prisoners at Watford. It was on a Wednesday or Thursday. Had a conversation with Thurtell after the body was found. Went in search of the body. Went to the place where it was found by the direction of Hunt. We went first to one spot, and Hunt said, "That is not the place." We then went to another. We had a pole, and tried without success. A man passed with a ladder, and Beeson went on the ladder to drag. Hunt pointed with his finger, and said the body was farther out. The body was found, and taken on the ladder to the Artichoke. Was not present when the body was examined.

William Rexworthy, examined by Mr. Broderick.—I keep a billiard-table at Spring Gardens, London, and was intimately acquainted with the late Mr. Weare. Knew his body when I saw it, as it lay dead at the Artichoke, at Elstree. Have no doubt that the body which I saw there was Mr. Weare's; but am quite positive of the fact.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews, for Thurtell.—The body was in a putrid state when I saw it at the Artichoke. The face was then visible, and I observed that there was the mark of a pistol on the left side of the head. I mean the mark of the muzzle of a pistol. Saw no blood

about the body. It was in a state for me to speak to it with certainty, as the body of Mr. Weare. I knew him as perfectly as if he had been living. Don't know on what day of the month it was that I saw the body, but it was on a Friday. I knew him for sixteen years previously; and at the time I now speak of, don't think I ever expressed any doubt about the body being that of Mr. Weare. Most certainly I was as clear of the fact at the time of my first examination as I am now.

Richard Weare, a thin, short, pale-looking man, having the appearance of a mechanic, was examined by Mr. Bolland.—Had a brother named William. He had no other Christian name. Saw a corpse at the Artichoke, at Elstree, before the coroner. It was on the day Mr. Rexworthy saw it. It was the body of my brother William. This witness gave his evidence in an extremely agitated tone, and was not cross-examined.

Thomas Abel Ward, examined by Mr. Broderick.—I am a stranger at Watford. Examined a dead body lying at the Artichoke, at Elstree. On the day of the inquest I examined the head of the body. There were many marks of violence about the left temple, which had been occasioned by some round blunt instrument; they might have been occasioned by the muzzle of a pistol driven with force against it. A pistol was produced before the coroner, and the marks in the scalp corresponded with the muzzle; the wounds had penetrated the scalp of the skull. Near these wounds was a fracture of the skull, with several portions of the bone broken off and driven into the substance of the brain. The pistol produced would have caused such injury, if not fired, but driven into the skull by force. It did appear to me that the injury had been caused by the pistol then produced. The injury to the brain would have produced death; the substance of the brain was penetrated by the bone. There was a mark on the right cheek, which appeared to be a gun-shot wound. By a gun-shot wound is meant any wound produced by a shot fired, whether from gun or pistol, &c. I could not trace this wound deep. It only penetrated through the integuments to the bone of the cheek; it could not have occasioned instant death, nor indeed death at all. There was an incised wound on each side of the neck. There were

two on the left side, and one on the right side. Of those on the left side, one was immediately under the ear, the other farther back. The incised wound had been made by some sharp instrument. A knife would have produced them, certainly. On the left side, the jugular vein was divided by one of the incised wounds.

This witness was cross-examined by Mr. Platt, to a tiresome length, and afterwards re-examined by Mr. Broderick; when the judge addressed him—Your evidence, sir, has been, to my mind at least, most clear and satisfactory.

George Ruthven called. He brought into the court with him a carpet-bag full of various articles, a hat in a handkerchief, and a dressing-case. Sworn, and examined by Mr. Bolland.—I am an officer of Bow Street. Apprehended the prisoner, John Thurtell, the Wednesday after the Friday of the supposed murder, the 29th of October, at Tetsall's, the sign of the Coach and Horses, in Conduit Street, Bond Street, London. Found in his coat-pocket a pistol not loaded. Found a pistol-key and a knife in his waistcoat-pocket, and a key which belonged to an air-gun. Found a muslin handkerchief in a drawer close to the bed-side; it appeared to be marked with blood; the marks were just the same as they are now. Found a shirt in a drawer, stained with blood in each corner of the collar where they project above the neckcloth. Found a black kerseymere waistcoat, with marks of blood on each pocket. Found this on his bed. Found also a black coat, with marks of blood on both cuffs, and a mark on the left shoulder. Found this coat on his bed. Found a hat [produced]; there is a mark of blood now; there was one small mark on another part. Arrested Hunt at his lodgings, 19, King Street, Golden Square, the same day, the 29th of October. Took no articles out of his lodgings on the Wednesday. On the Thursday night I went again to his lodgings, and found a dressing-box and a double-barrelled gun, with the name of the maker, Manton [the gun was produced]. Found this sponge under the bed [a large sponge was produced]. Found a carpet-bag [produced]; it was empty. Found a shooting-jacket, a pair of drab breeches, a pair of gaiters or leggings, one pair of half and one pair of Hessian boots, a cord, two waistcoats, two

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coloured handkerchiefs, three shirts, (two of the shirts were marked—one of them W. W. No. 1.; the other W.,) one neck-cloth, one collar, nightcap, clothes-bag, powder-flask, clothes-brush, turn-screw, bullet-mould, and a comb. These things have been in my possession ever since.

Cross-examined by Mr. Chitty.—When I apprehended Thurtell, the door of his room was not fastened. The blood on the shirt-collar might have proceeded from a cut in shaving. The drawers in his room were unlocked, but the articles found were tied up. It was a public-house, in which Thurtell lodged. Went there about half-past seven in the morning. Thurtell was in bed when I first entered. There was another person in bed in the room, but not in the same bed with Thurtell. Thurtell made no resistance.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—Did not search Hunt's apartment on the day I apprehended him. Went on the following day, his wife not being at home, and broke the door of his room open. [All the articles which the witness stated that he had found in the lodgings of Hunt and Thurtell were produced by him, and left in court.]

Henry Sinmons, examined by Mr. Broderick.—I am the constable of Watford. [He produced a pocket-pistol.] It was given me by Mr. Nicholls, of Battler's Green. It was stained as it is now, with the pan down. Besides the blood, there was hair upon it; there is now. There was a piece of tow in the muzzle, as there is now. Have a small knife [produced]. Had it from Mr. Nicholls. Have a red shawl handkerchief [it was produced]. Received it from Dr. Pidcock, the younger, on the 31st of October. Have a gold curb watch-chain [produced in a box]. Received it from Mrs. Probart, on the 15th of November, in the evening. Received a sack from Robert Field, landlord of the Artichoke [produced]. On the 24th of November received another from William Bulmer. Received a piece of shirt from Mr. Thomas Bates. Received these various articles in the presence of the magistrates, and have kept them ever since. [The various articles mentioned by this witness were handed by him to the officer. The greatest anxiety was shown by the learned judge, that the hair and blood on the fatal pistol should not be disturbed before they were shown

to the jury.] Received also, on the 30th of November, a part of a coat and a handkerchief from George Jones.

William Probart, examined by Mr. Gurney. This witness's examination, cross-examinations, and re-examinations were carried to an extreme length; but the whole were of the utmost importance, he having been an accomplice in the transaction.—Have occupied a cottage in Gill's Hill Lane, near the village of Elstree. Occupied it for about six months before October last. My family usually consisted of Mrs. Probart, her two sisters, the Misses Noyes, my children, myself, a female servant, and a boy. In the month of October, only one of the Misses Noyes was at the cottage; but there were some children of Thomas Thurtell's. None of my own children were there at that time. Have been acquainted with John Thurtell for some time past. He has often been with me to my cottage, and has been sporting about the place. John Thurtell knew the road to the cottage very well, and all the roads in the neighbourhood. Gill's Hill Lane turns out of the high road to St. Alban's, at Radlet, about a quarter of a mile. The nearest road to the cottage from London would be along the high road as far as Radlet, and then to turn down Gill's Hill Lane. My cottage is fourteen miles and a quarter from Tyburn Turnpike. In the latter end of October, and in the week when this business took place, John Thurtell lodged at Mr. Tetsall's, in Conduit Street. His brother Thomas lodged there also. Did not introduce them to Tetsall. Met them there. Dined at Tetsall's, on Friday, the 24th of October, with Thomas and John Thurtell, and Thomas Noyes. Four days previous to the 24th, I borrowed 10*l.* of John Thurtell. At the time I borrowed the money, he said, "You must let me have it back on the Thursday or Friday." On Thursday, when I saw him at Tetsall's, he asked me whether I had the 10*l.* for him. I said that I had not been able to collect it. He said, "I told you that I should want the money to-day or to-morrow, and it will be 300*l.* out of my pocket; but if you let me have it to-morrow, it will answer the same purpose." On the next day, Friday, I paid him 5*l.* which I had borrowed of Tetsall. This was after dinner. He then said, "I think I shall go down to your cottage to-night; are you

going down?" I said, "Yes." He said, "Then you can drive Hunt down." I answered, "Yes." He said, "I expect a friend to meet me a little before five; if he should come, I will take him down to the cottage with me; and if I have an opportunity, I may do him, for he is a man that has robbed me of several hundreds." He also said, "I have told Hunt where to stop. I shall want him about a mile and a half beyond Elstree, to wait for me." He added, "For fear you should not go down to the cottage, give Hunt a pound." I did, in consequence, give Hunt twenty shillings. Thurtell said to Hunt, who had just come into the room, "Joe, there is a pound; if Probart don't come down, hire a horse; you know where to stop for me." Do not know that Hunt made any answer. Thurtell left the Coach and Horses almost immediately after this conversation, in a horse and gig. It was a grey horse with a white face. Believe Hunt brought the gig to the house. Think that Thurtell left the Coach and Horses a little after five o'clock. Afterwards set off in my own gig, and took Hunt with me. When we got to the middle of Oxford Street, Hunt got out of the gig at my request to purchase a loin of pork for supper. When we came to the end of Oxford Street, Hunt said, "This is the place where Jack is to take up somebody." We overtook Thurtell about four miles out of town. Hunt suddenly said, "Here they are; drive by and take no notice." He also said, "It is all right, Jack has got him." There were two persons in the gig, Thurtell and another. Passed the gig, and did not speak to Thurtell or his companion. Stopped at a public-house called the Bald-faced Stag, about two miles on the London side of Edgware, at about a quarter to seven. When Hunt said on passing the gig that all was right, I asked what was the name of the person with Thurtell. Hunt said, "You never saw him, and do not know his name." Got out at the Bald-faced Stag, and had some spirits. Have been a dealer in spirits. Hunt did not go in, but walked on. He said that he would not go in, because he had not returned the horse-cloth which he had borrowed of the landlord. Drove on and overtook Hunt near Edgware. Took him into the gig, and we stopped at Mr. Clarke's, the Red Lion Inn, at Edgware. We went into

the bar, and took a glass of brandy and water. Stopped about ten minutes at Clarke's. Stopped again in Edgware, and bought half a bushel of corn in a sack. It was then about half-past seven. Hunt said that he wondered where Thurtell was; he thought that he could not have passed us. We then drove on to the Artichoke at Elstree, and got there at about ten minutes before eight o'clock. Sat in the gig, and had about four or five glasses of brandy and water. Were waiting for the express purpose of seeing John Thurtell. Stopped about three quarters of an hour at the Artichoke. At last we heard the sound of a horse and chaise, and started. Went about a mile and a half, till we came to Mr. Phillimore's lodge, Hunt then got out of the gig, and said, "I shall wait here for John Thurtell." Drove on through Radlet towards my own cottage. When within about one hundred yards of my own cottage, John Thurtell met me. He was on foot and alone. He said, "Holla! where's Hunt?" Told him that I had left Hunt waiting for him near Mr. Phillimore's lodge. Thurtell said, "I don't want him now, for I have done the trick." He afterwards said he had killed his friend that he had brought down with him, and rid the country of a villain who had robbed him of 300*l.* or 400*l.* I said, "Good God! I hope you have not killed the man!" He said, "It is of no consequence to you, you do not know him, and never saw him. Do you turn back and fetch Hunt, for you know best where you left him." I returned, and found Hunt near the spot where I had left him. Took him into the gig, and said, "John Thurtell is at my house, and he says that he has killed his friend." Hunt said, "Thank God, I am out of it. I am glad he has done it without me. I can't think where the devil he could pass us. I never saw him on the road anywhere. But I am glad I am out of it." He also said, "This is the place where we were to have done it." That was the place where he had got out of the chaise. I asked him who the person was. He said, "You do not know him, and I will not tell you his name." He added, that "It was a man who had robbed Jack of several hundred pounds, and he meant to have it back again." When we came to the cottage, John Thurtell was standing at the gate;

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we drove past, and Hunt said, "Thurtell, where could you pass me?" Thurtell said, "It does not matter where I passed you, I have done the trick, I have done it. Why the devil did you let Probart stop drinking at his d—d public-houses, when you knew what was to be done?" Hunt replied, "I made sure that you were behind; else we should not have stopped." Took the loin of pork into the kitchen, and gave it to the servant to cook. Then went into the parlour, and introduced Hunt to Mrs. Probart. Hunt never had been at the cottage before. We went out together. First we went to the stable. John Thurtell said, "Now I'll take you down to where he lies." I returned to the house, and told Mrs. Probart to make ready supper. Told her we were going to Mr. Nicholls's. Left Hunt and Thurtell in the yard. Thurtell took a sack and cord from his gig. We went down the lanc; I carried a lantern. John Thurtell said, "I began to think Hunt would not come." I said, "We should have been in time, but we made sure you were behind." I walked foremost. Thurtell said, when we were a little farther on, "It is just by the second turning." He then said, "This is the place." He began to kick the leaves about to look for the pistol and knife. Neither of us could find either of them. We then got over the hedge, and found the body lying. The head was wrapped up in some sort of a shawl, something like that produced. Thurtell began to search the pockets, and took out a pocket-book, in which were three five-pound notes, a memorandum-book, and some silver. No watch or purse. Thurtell said, "This is all he has got. I took the watch and purse when I killed him." We put the body in the sack head foremost. Can't say how low in the sack it came down; he tied it with a cord. It was the sack Thurtell took out of his gig. Left the body in the field. We went towards home. Thurtell said, "When I first shot him, he jumped out of the gig, ran like the devil up the lane, singing out that he would deliver all he had won of me if I would only spare his life." Know Thurtell has been in the navy; the term singing out may be used in the navy. Thurtell said, "I jumped out of the gig, and ran after him. I got him down, and began to cut his throat, as I thought, about the jugular vein, but

could not stop his singing out. I then jammed the pistol into his head. I saw him turn round; then I knew I had done him. Joe, you ought to have been with me, for I thought at one time he would have got the better of me. Those d—d pistols are like spits; they are of no use." Hunt said, "I should have been there, but we thought you were behind. I should have thought one of those pistols would have killed him dead; but you had plenty of tools." We returned to the house, and supped. After supper, Thurtell produced a gold watch, in a very handsome double case, I believe. Can't answer exactly. It had a gold chain, like the one produced, attached to the watch. He offered to make Mrs. Probart a present of it. She was some time before she accepted it. The watch he returned to his waistcoat-pocket with the seals. Had one spare bed. Miss Noyes slept in it then. Mrs. Probart asked them when they would like to go to bed, as they could sleep with Mr. Thomas Thurtell's children. They said they would not go to bed; they were very much obliged to Mrs. Probart, they would sleep on the sofa. Hunt sang two or three songs after supper. Mrs. Probart and Miss Noyes went to bed about half-past twelve, at the outside. Then Thurtell took out the pocket-book, purse, and memorandum-book. There were some sovereigns in the purse. Can't say how many. He gave Hunt and myself 6*l.* a-piece, saying, "That's your share of the blunt." There were several papers in the pocket and memorandum-books. They were all burnt. The purse was burnt. Both the books were burnt. The carpet-bag was opened. Thurtell said it belonged to the man he had murdered. It contained wearing apparel and shooting gear. Two or three silk handkerchiefs were left out of it. There was a backgammon-board, dice, and cards [produced and identified], and double-barrelled gun. Don't remember that it had a covering. It was taken out of a case and looked at. Next day everything was taken away by Thurtell. After this Thurtell proposed something else to me. He said, "I mean to have Barber Beaumont and Woods." Mr. Barber Beaumont is an officer of a fire-office, with whom he had some controversy; Woods kept company with Mrs. Probart's sister. This was the general conversation. There might have been

more names mentioned. Thurtell said, "Joe, we must now go out and fetch the body, and put it in the pond." I said, "You shall not put it in the pond, it may ruin us." Thurtell said, "Had it not been for the mistake of Hunt I should have killed him in the other lane, and then I should have returned to town, and inquired of his friends why he had not come down." Only Thurtell and Hunt went out first. When they came back, they said, "He is too heavy; we can't carry him." They were gone a quarter of an hour. They said they had only brought him a little way. Thurtell said, "Will you go along with me, Probart? I'll put the bridle on my horse and fetch him." Went with him to the stable, and left Hunt somewhere about the gate. We took the grey horse (Thurtell's); went to the body, and brought it away on the horse, to Mr. Wardell's field, near my garden-gate. Hunt took the horse back to the stable, and came back to the garden. We dragged the body through my garden down to the pond. We put a few stones in the sack, and threw the body into the pond. Don't think we had a lantern. Can't say what we had done with it. The feet were perhaps half above the water. Thurtell took a piece of cord and threw it round the feet; then he gave me the other end; I dragged it to the middle of the pond. We all three returned to the cottage. I found my wife up. Next morning I came down about nine o'clock. Thurtell said, while Hunt was present, "Probart, you must go and look for that knife and pistol." Promised that I would. Did so. Went down the lane, and saw a man at work near the spot. Could not search then, and returned to the house. That morning they went away in the gig, and took the things with them. On Sunday they came down again. John Thurtell and Hunt were in one gig; Thomas Thurtell and Noyes in another. They arrived at about twelve o'clock. Hunt brought a bundle of clothes, a newspaper, and a spade. He said the spade was to bury the deceased. Thomas Thurtell arrived first, and went up the lane to meet John Thurtell in the other gig. Hunt was very dirty when he got down. He asked for a room to change himself. He went up stairs. When he came down, he was dressed very well; he had almost new clothes. Learnt from Hunt that

they belonged to the deceased. Hunt told me he had brought down a spade, and thrown it over the hedge into my garden. Went to look, and saw it there. He said it was to bury the body. After John Thurtell arrived, I walked with him in the garden, and he asked me if the body rose? I said no; it would lie there a month. In the afternoon Mr. Heward called in. I went with him to Mr. Nicholls's. After I returned, I told Hunt and Thurtell something that Nicholls said to me; that Nicholls had informed me some one had fired a gun off in Gill's Hill Lane on Friday night, and that there were cries of "Murder," as though some one had been killed. That I had asked what time, and Nicholls said, about eight o'clock; that I had said, "I suppose some of your friends wanted to frighten you, sir." Thurtell said, "Then I'm baked." I said, "I am afraid it's a bad job, for Mr. Nicholls seems to know all about it. I am very sorry it ever happened here. I'm afraid it will be my ruin." Thurtell said, "Never mind, Probart, they can do nothing with you." I said, "The body must be immediately taken up from my pond, John." He said, "I'll tell you what I'll do—when they are all gone to bed, you and I'll take and bury him." I told him that would be as bad, if they buried him in the garden. John Thurtell then said, "I'll bury him where you nor no one else can find him." Hunt said, "Probart, they can do nothing with you, or me either, because neither of us was at the murder." Hunt and Thurtell sat up all night. I went to bed. Noyes and Thomas Thurtell went to bed. Thomas Thurtell slept with his children. In the morning John Thurtell and Hunt said they were going to dig a grave for the body; but the dogs had been barking all night; they thought that some one was passing. Thurtell said, "Joe will come down to-night, and take him away; that will be the better for you altogether. Thomas Thurtell and Hunt went first. My boy, Haddis, went with them in one chaise; John Thurtell, Thomas Noyes, and Miss Noyes, in the other.

(To be continued.)

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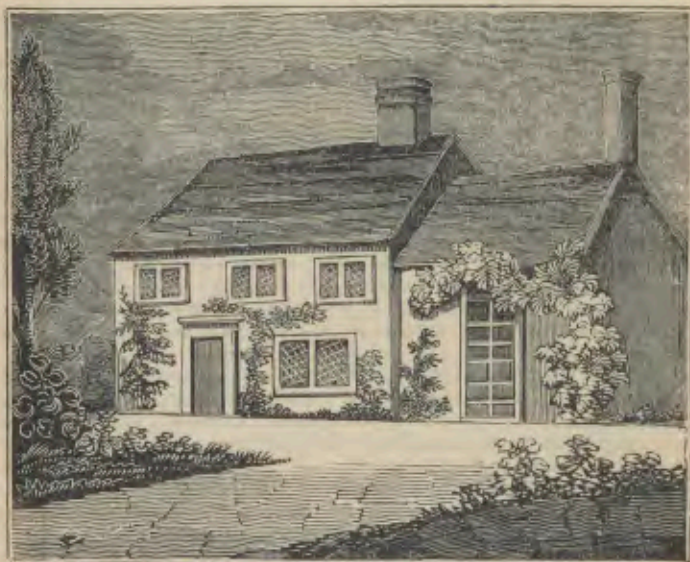
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MARCH 29, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF MR. WEARE.

(Continuation of Chapter IV. from page 448.)



[GILL'S HILL COTTAGE.]

PROBART'S examination continued.—Had no use for the boy Haddis in London. He was sent that he might not be in the way to answer any questions. John Thurtell and Hunt came down that evening in a gig. We took supper; I think about nine o'clock. After supper John Thurtell and I went to the stable, leaving Hunt talking with Mrs. Probart. John Thurtell said, "Now you and I'll go and get the body up; leave him talking with Mrs. Probart, then she'll not suspect anything." We went to the pond, got the body up, took it out of the sack, and cut the clothes off. We left the body naked on the green sward, then returned to the parlour, and told Hunt the horse and gig was ready. It was not so. We came out and went

to the stable, John Thurtell went to his gig, took out a new sack, and some cord. We all three returned to the pond, put the body into the sack head foremost, and carried it to the garden-gate. Left Hunt waiting with the body. John Thurtell and I went round to the pond. We carried the bundle of clothes, and threw them into the gig. John Thurtell said, "Better leave the clothes here, Probart; there won't be room for them." We took the horse and chaise lower down towards the garden-gate, and put the body into the gig. Then I left them. They wanted me to settle the body in the gig. I would not. Returned to Mrs. Probart. Went out afterwards to destroy the clothes. Cut them into pieces. Some I burnt.

Some pieces I threw about in the hedges. Did not put anything into the dung heap. Was taken into custody the day after they left my house.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—Do not know who apprehended me. When taken did not express any desire to become a witness. Cannot say when I first expressed a desire to become a witness. It was after Hunt had made a confession. Can't say whether I was asked to become a witness before or after Hunt's confession. Heard that Hunt had made a confession, but I don't recollect from whom. The first I heard of becoming a witness was when I was taken before the grand jury by Mr. Williams, to the best of my recollection. Before that, expected we were all to be tried. Did not know what was to become of us. Did not know what was to be done to me. Took no pains to become a witness before being taken before the grand jury. Have never seen Mrs. Probart since I left my own house when I was arrested. Don't know of my own knowledge that Mrs. Probart is now here. Was told so by Mr. Williams, my solicitor. Have had no other solicitor in this transaction.

Mr. Andrews. Has not a Mr. Noel been your solicitor?—I am sorry to say that he has.

How long did he act in that capacity?—For a few months in the year 1819.

Has he not acted as your solicitor since that period?—Not that I recollect.

Had you no communication with him in 1823?—Not that I recollect; but I cannot swear that I have not.

You say you heard that some injury was intended to certain persons, and yet you gave no alarm?—I did hear that at my cottage, but I did not believe it.

You must have believed it when you heard of the murder; and, when you saw the dead body brought to your house, did not you give any alarm then?—I did not.

You received the parties into your house after the transaction?—I did.

You supped with them and breakfasted with them in company with your wife on the following morning?—I did.

Were you sober then?—I was.

And yet you did not spurn them, and kick them from your house?—I did not.

Did you not tell Mrs. Probart what had happened?—I did not.

Did not Mrs. Probart appear disturbed at what was going on?—She did.

Did she not ask you any questions as to what was passing?—She did.

Did you not tell her?—I am not certain.

By the virtue of your oath, sir, did you not tell her what occurred on Friday night?—I can't swear positively, but I might have told her something.

Did not Mrs. Probart express uneasiness on the Saturday?—She did.

Did she not inquire who Hunt was?—No; she had heard of him often, though she had not seen him.

At what time did you come down on Saturday morning?—Between eight and nine.

Will you swear, upon your oath, that you did not come down at six o'clock on that morning?—Certainly, I can swear that I did not.

Will you swear it was after eight when you came down?—I will not; but to the best of my recollection it was between eight and nine.

What did you do when you came down?—I went to the stable, or perhaps into the garden.

Did you go down the lane?—I did not.

What sort of hat did you wear on that occasion?—I think a black hat, such as I generally wear.

Did you not wear a white hat?—I can't say. I think not.

Did you see your wife receive a gold chain from John Thurtell?—I did.

Did she wear it on the Saturday?—I did not see her wear it on the Saturday.

Did she, when she received it, put it on herself, or did Thurtell put it on?—I can't say that, but I think she put it on herself; I saw Thurtell rise when he presented it to her.

Did Mrs. Probart express any uneasiness on the Sunday?—I think she did.

When Thurtell produced the sack and cord on Friday night where was the boy?—I think in the kitchen.

Where was the sack before Thurtell produced it?—I don't know; I never saw it before.

Will you swear you had not seen it before John Thurtell said, "I'll go and fetch the sack and cord?"—I will.

Did not the boy tell you where it was?—No.

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was taken out to fetch the body?—I don't recollect.

Where was the boy then?—I think in bed; he slept in the room over mine.

Were you ever in difficulties before this?—I have.

Were you ever in such a scrape as this before?—Never.

Had you never a charge of felony preferred against you before this?—I had.

What was the nature of that charge?—I was accused of taking some silver from the till of a man who kept a coffee-house, and who owed me 100*l.* at the time.

What was the consequence of that charge?—I was sent for six months to the House of Correction.

Was that the only charge of felony ever made against you?—Yes; the only one.

Were you never in Hereford?—Yes, I was born there.

Were you never charged with sheep-stealing there?—Never.

Well, perhaps it was lamb-stealing?—No, I was never charged with either.

Come, sir, you know what I mean by charged; were you never accused of such a crime there?—Never.

Then the accusation is quite new to you?—It is.

Then what was the charge against you?—I had bought some skins which were afterwards owned.

Oh, then you were accused as a receiver of stolen goods?—I was not.

Were you not taken before a magistrate?—No.

Were the goods not taken away?—They were not.

I understand you have passed much of your time in prison?—I have been in the King's Bench prison, and in the Rules, between two and three years.

Mr. Justice Park. Were you imprisoned in the King's Bench on civil suits?—Yes, my lord.

Mr. Andrews. Well; you have been in the House of Correction and in the King's Bench prison; are these all?—Ycs.

Do you know Mr. Framstone?—I do.

Now, sir, having given you that name, I ask you, on your oath, were you not committed by that gentleman for refusing to answer certain questions before the Commissioners of Bankrupts?—Yes; I was committed to the King's Bench prison.

Mr. Justice Park. I thought you were going to establish a new imprisonment; he has already told us he has been in the King's Bench prison.

In answer to farther questions he deposed as follows—Have been a bankrupt. No dividend has been paid out of my estate. Was frequently remanded by the commissioners. Have lived only six months at the cottage. Lived with my brother-in-law in the Strand. We were not partners, but did business together. It was a large grey horse that was employed on the night of the murder. It was in my stable at night. Mr. Hunt had a white hat and black handkerchief on the Friday night. Had heard of the transaction of the Insurance Office; and yet subsequently introduced Thurtell to my wife. Thurtell was making love to Mrs. Prohart's sister; a love, however, that would come to nothing. I think John Thurtell said it was mere idle bravado. Do not know Mr. Beaumont to my knowledge. Never mentioned it to any person. No one was present, save Hunt and Thurtell, when the money taken from the body was distributed. Did not see any cards played at my house, either on the Friday, Saturday, or Sunday nights. Do not believe my wife played cards on Sunday. Never, to my knowledge, saw my wife play at cards. Never heard any person say it was a bad example to children. Have lived in London eleven years. Transacted business in Herefordshire also.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—Had known Hunt twelve months. Have been in his company several times. Was the person who introduced Hunt to Thurtell, about six or seven months ago, at the Cock. Do not recollect inviting Hunt to Gill's Hill Cottage. Believe Thurtell asked me to drive Hunt down to Gill's Hill Cottage. Did not say there was no spare bed at my house. Expressed no surprise at Hunt's going down uninvited to Gill's Hill Cottage, he not having been personally introduced to Mrs. Prohart. Hunt paid for the pork in Oxford Street. Have never paid him for it since. It was only 1*s.* 6*d.* Had 3*l.* or 4*l.* in my pocket when I borrowed the 5*l.* from Tetsall. Am not certain what I might have said when Hunt said at the gate, "Take no notice, and drive on." Hunt had never been at Gill's Hill Cottage before. Phil-

limore Lodge is in the high road, a mile and a half beyond Elstree, towards St. Alban's. Hunt paid for four or five glasses of brandy and water, and I paid for the one I had at Edgware. There were two or three handkerchiefs, and I burnt the mark out of one of them. Up to the day I went before the grand jury, I said to Mr. Franklin, the chaplain, myself and Hunt were innocent of the murder. The exact words were, very likely, that neither of us knew anything about the murder till after it was done. Was convicted of a felony before I was sent to Brixton.

By Mr. Gurney.—On the Sunday evening that I went to Mr. Nicholls's I remained out two hours and a half. Hunt and I were prisoners when I had the conversation with Mr. Franklin.

By the Court.—When I spoke to my wife about netting, it was to satisfy her, as she was in a passion, and asked, "What have you been doing, you three? You have been counting money, burning papers, and dragging something heavy across the ground." Did not observe whether the windows of Mrs. Probart's room were open or not.

The jury now withdrew for a short time, and on their return Mrs. Probart was called, and was examined by Mr. Gurney.—Remember the night of the 24th of October, when John Thurtell, Hunt, and Probart came to the cottage. Remember also, very well, hearing the sound of a gig passing the cottage that night. Think this was about eight o'clock or near it, as well as I recollect. It was nearly an hour after that I heard a ringing at the bell, but I cannot exactly remember. No one entered my house immediately after this ringing, but at about half-past nine, or near ten, my husband came in. Had been up stairs some time; when I came down, I found Mr. Probart, John Thurtell, and a stranger in the parlour. My husband introduced the stranger to me as Mr. Hunt. (The learned counsel here said he would not trouble the witness to relate the whole particulars of the evening.) Saw John Thurtell produce on that night a gold watch with a great deal of work about it, and then a chain. It was such a chain as this. (The witness identified one which was shown her by Mr. Gurney.) Mr. Thurtell offered to make it a present

to me. At first I refused it, but at length he put it round my neck. Afterwards, having been taken into custody, gave it up with that little box [pointing to a box on the table] to the constable, in the presence of the magistrates. John Thurtell, Hunt, and my husband sat up that night. When Miss Noyes and I went up stairs, I left in the room John Thurtell, Hunt, and Mr. Probart. Did not go to bed directly. Afterwards came upon the stairs, and listened to what was going on in the room. Overheard them talking, as I was leaning over the balusters, but the conversation was all in a whisper. What I heard first was about trying on clothes. Heard one say, "I think that would fit you very well;" but this was all in a whisper. Heard a noise like papers on the table, a rustling like; and then something like papers being thrown in the fire. Afterwards returned to my chamber, when I saw something take place out of doors. Saw two gentlemen go from this parlour to the stable; they took a light with them, and led a horse out of the stable, and opened the yard gates to let the horse out. Heard afterwards something apparently very heavy dragged from the stable to the garden. The stable is near the back gate. Could hear the substance dragging I think in the dark walk. Had a view of it as it was dragged out of the walk. The walk is just opposite the window. It seemed to me very large and very heavy. It was in a sack. The rustling I mentioned was after this; after I had seen the sack. In the walk I saw them dragging the sack. There were two persons. Could see half way down the walk. It is quite away from the pond. Then heard a hollow noise. Can't describe it. It was like a heap of stones thrown into a pit. When I heard the whispering, the first thing, I think, was Hunt's voice, who said, "Let us take a five-pound note each." Did not hear Thurtell say anything then, but afterwards heard a voice, which said, "We must say that there was a hare thrown up on the cushion of the gig, of which some one made us a present coming along; we must tell the boy so in the morning." Next heard a voice, can't say whose, say in a whisper, "We had better be off to town by four or five o'clock in the morning." John Thurtell said, he had better not go before eight or nine o'clock. The

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parlour door was now shut. Heard, I think, John Thurtell's voice say, "Holding shall be the next." Then Hunt, I think, asked, "Has he got any money?" John Thurtell said, "It is not money I want; it is revenge. It is Holding that has ruined my friend." Understood by this, he meant Mr. Probart. Do not know whether Holding had been concerned in my husband's bankruptcy. Thurtell said, "He has ruined my friend, and destroyed his peace of mind for ever." Went up to bed at nearly two o'clock, I think. After my husband came up, some conversation passed between us.

Mrs. Probart now became apparently excessively agitated, and evinced an anxiety not to prejudice her husband.

Mr. Gurney. No evidence you now give can prejudice your husband. He has been this day put before a jury of his countrymen, and acquitted of this murder.

To this assertion, the witness affected great surprise; and at length stated, I did mention to him (my husband) what I had seen and heard. The next morning Hunt and Thurtell came and dined with us, and Thomas Noyes and Thomas Thurtell came also. On the Monday night John Thurtell and Hunt came again; it was past nine when they came. They stayed to supper, and went away soon after.

Mr. Platt. You affected surprise to hear that your husband was acquitted: now, did you not know that he was to be acquitted previously to his giving evidence? No (in a low tone).—Did you not hear that he was to be acquitted of the charge, provided he gave his testimony here truly? Don't recollect that I was told so.—Can you say on your oath that you were not told so? Don't know that I was. In passing up the lane from Radlet to my cottage, there are two garden gates leading from the lane. When you pass from the lane, one gate leads to the stable, and the other leads into the garden. There is a very high fence, in which the latter gate stands, and of which it forms part. My bed-room window was on that side of the house that looked towards this fence. Do not mean to say it is possible to discern anything in the stable looking from my window. It is not possible to see the door-way. Could not discern it. Could not exactly see the door, but could see the horse as soon as it came out.

Think in the day-time the door may be seen. The night of the 24th was a very fine moon-light night. There was but one sitting-room in our house. The persons I saw in the garden were, I rather think, Thurtell and Hunt. The short man was Hunt. He was dragging the weight across the garden. Could not say as to the other. Was on the landing-place when I heard the conversation. It was for the most part in a whisper. There was a great deal of whispering which I did not distinctly hear. Could not hear it all. Thought I knew the voices, but could not be positive. Thought I heard my husband whisper, but he whispered so low that I could not hear what he said. Cannot say positively. My husband gave me no money before he left me. He did not give me 23*l.* He did not tell me what to say here. Do not know that John Thurtell knew Holding. My husband knew him. Never saw Holding and John Thurtell together. Do not know that Holding held my husband's property when he was in difficulties. It was after twelve when Miss Noyes and I went up stairs. Cannot say what time it was when I saw the horse coming from the stable. It was a few minutes after I went up stairs. Heard the parlour-door open. It was a glass door. Soon after I saw them go to the stable, and the horse was brought out. They had a light. The short man had the light. Heard no noise in the stable, but I heard a noise in the stable after. Rather think the light remained after the horse was brought out. Did not hear any one go out before this. Think I heard some one go to the kitchen before any one went out with the light. Kept a store for potatoes on the premises. There was a hole made for them, and they were covered. Went out on the Saturday. Did not observe the pond particularly. Did not go near it. Cannot say whether it was so shallow that I could see the bottom. Seldom went to look at the fishes there. Did not go out to see it on Sunday or Monday. One of the walks in the garden is a dark walk. It is immediately on the right as you enter the garden. There are many shrubs there on both sides, but they are very short. It was in the dark walk I first heard the noise, and afterwards I saw something heavy moving along, or dragged along in that direction. This was opposite

the window. That path led to the pond. Did not see my husband in the garden when I looked out of the window.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—I did not expect my husband that night. It was uncertain what time he would arrive. My husband went from home on the Monday before that. Had not seen Hunt before that day. Was then introduced to him for the first time. My husband did not say he (Hunt) was the good singer of whom I had often heard. There was singing on the Friday night. Hunt sang two songs that night. It was not by my husband's desire that Hunt sung. John Thurtell asked him once, and I asked him the second time. I pressed him to sing the second time. There was no card playing that night. It was after supper Thurtell gave me the chain. It was before the singing. Did not attempt to return the chain on the Sunday. There were cards played on the Sunday. Did not introduce them. The cards were played in my husband's absence. He did not come back before the playing was over. Did not play. Think my husband was not present when the cards were played. Rather think not. It is possible he might have come in before they were over. Am certain my husband did not play. Cannot remember who played. Did not hear John Thurtell remonstrate against the cards as a bad example to the children. Mr. Noyes came on Sunday. Did not tell him about what I saw, or about the gold chain.

Thomas Thurtell, examined by Mr. Gurney.—Was at Tetsall's on Friday, the 24th of October. Hunt and my brother John dined there. Remember some time after dinner Hunt was away for a time. Rather think he brought a sack with him, and I think a gig to the door. He did not say anything to my knowledge. [The witness was desired to recollect himself, but he persisted in the same answer.] The horse in the gig was a grey horse. My brother went away in the gig. [Here the witness begged the Court to think of the distressing situation in which he stood. Mr. Justice Park said the Court felt every thing for the situation of the witness, but justice required that he should answer the questions put to him. No doubt they would be put with every feeling for his situation.] My brother went away in Probart's gig.

Mr. Gurney. Upon your oath did you not hear Hunt make some observations to Probart before dinner?—There were some made, but I can't now recollect what they were. Saw some pistols, two large pistols, in the room. Think I heard Hunt say to Probart, "Bill, will you be in it?" or something to that effect. On the next day I saw Hunt. He asked me if I wanted money? Think he named 20*l.*, or something thereabouts. He did not say how he came by such money. Saw some considerable sum with him, and was surprised to see it. He said they had been drawing game, or netting game.

Did he say what he meant? did he explain? [The witness hesitated to answer. Mr. Justice Park interfered, and the examination was resumed.]

The word "Turpin" was used by Hunt. Think he said, "We Turpin lads, or boys, can do it," or something to that effect. Hunt afterwards said he had been killing game and Probart holding the bag. The word "murder" was used in joke. Hunt said he committed murder, or something to that effect. The words were, "We have been committing murder to be sure," but this was in joke. This was in answer to a question from me, as to what they had been doing. Went down to Probart's on Sunday. Walked to Maida Hill. Hunt and my brother took me up there in a gig. There was a spade in the gig. It was a new spade. It was thrown over the garden-wall by Hunt. I said he had better take it farther, and he said, "No, I know what I am about." He said he did not wish Probart's wife to know it, or something of that kind.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—The conversation about Turpin, was after dinner. We had not drank much. Hunt said that Probart said he did not wish his wife to know that he had been expensive. Was at Probart's on the Sunday night. Cards were introduced. Can't be certain, but think all the parties were present when they were introduced.

Thomas Noyes, examined by Mr. Bolland.—Am a wine merchant. Know Mr. Tetsall, Thomas Thurtell, and the prisoners. On Friday, the 24th of October, dined with them at Tetsall's. Probart borrowed some money of Mr. Tetsall, for the purpose of paying it over to John Thurtell. John Thurtell went away in a gig. It

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was an iron grey horse. He was alone. Hunt and Mr. Probart also went away in Probart's gig. Saw some of them again on Saturday morning, at Tetsall's. Saw John Thurtell, Hunt, and Thomas Thurtell. Went down to my brother-in-law's cottage on Sunday. Walked, and the two Thurtells and Hunt overtook me in a gig. John Thurtell alighted, and walked with me. Thomas Thurtell went on with Hunt. Was afterwards met by Thomas Thurtell in a gig at Brockley Hill. He came to meet us in a gig. On the Sunday evening in question, at Gill's Hill, cards were introduced. John Thurtell, Thomas Thurtell, Hunt, and myself played at whist. Probart went out. We did not play the game out. Probart was absent about a quarter of an hour. On that night John Thurtell and Hunt sat up. Left the cottage on Monday, after two. My sister and John Thurtell were of the party. The others went away in the morning.

Cross-examined by Mr. Chitty.—When they played cards on the Sunday, John Thurtell threw the cards up, and said he could not play such cards, they ran cross. There was nothing said about the children.

Miss Anne Noyes, examined by Mr. Broderick.—Was at Probart's cottage on Friday, the 24th of October. About eight o'clock heard a gig passing. Heard a ring at the bell about half-past nine. During the evening John Thurtell, Hunt, and Probart came into the room. Thurtell had a black coat on. Knew that Probart had a white hat, which was kept in the hall. None of the three had a white hat that evening. They had a little brandy. Rather think that John Thurtell proposed to go to Mr. Nicholls's to ask for a day's shooting. They all went, and returned about eleven. When they came back, they mentioned that Mr. Nicholls was not at home. They had supper. Did not sup with them. Saw a gold watch that Thurtell had. He took it out of his pocket. It had a chain. It was a hunting watch. Thurtell took the chain off, and gave it to Mrs. Probart. He proposed that Probart should give it to her first; but on Probart declining, he put it round her neck himself. [The chain produced she believed to be the same.] There was some singing that night. Hunt sung. Soon after I went to bed. Did not come down the next morning till after breakfast. Saw Hunt and Thurtell go out at

half-past nine. On the Sunday morning, John Thurtell, Thomas Thurtell, and Hunt came down. Believe Hunt's dress was changed after he came to our house. When the dress was changed he had on a black coat and waistcoat, and, I rather think, a white handkerchief. John Thurtell said, "How smart Hunt is dressed to-day." Hunt had rather dark whiskers. During the day the word "Turpin" was used. John Thurtell said that Probart would not do for a Turpin. There were cards played that evening. Saw Mr. Howard on Sunday. Probart went out on the Sunday evening. Went to London with Thurtell the next day. Saw a knife in John Thurtell's possession. [The knife produced by the constable was handed to the witness: it was the one found in the lane.] The knife she saw with John Thurtell was very like this.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—Slept in a room very near where Probart slept. Did not hear him get up that morning. Have seen Mr. Probart in a white hat and a black hat. The hall was the passage leading into the parlour from the kitchen. Did not see Probart go out on the Saturday. John Thurtell had been often at the cottage before. He slept there several times, and did not always sleep on the sofa. Can swear he once slept nearly a week at the cottage. He slept alone.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—Was present when Hunt was introduced to Mrs. Probart. Probart did not say he was the singer he had often talked about. Probart did say that Hunt was a good singer. This was before he sung after supper. Mrs. Probart said he was not so good a one as, from the reports she had heard, she expected to find him.

Charles Tetsall, examined by Mr. Boland.—Keep the Coach and Horses, in Conduit Street. Since the 21st of October, Probart, Hunt, and Thurtell have frequented my house. Recollect that on the 24th of October the two Thurtells, Hunt, and Probart dined at my house. Probart then asked me to lend him 5*l*. Don't know what he did with it. Did not see them go away, and don't know when they did go.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—The two Thurtells were introduced to me by Probart, who told me they were anxious to keep out of the way.

Re-examined.—Hunt's whiskers about the 21st of October were very large. Observed that on the Monday after the 24th they were shaved off. On the Sunday after the Friday of the murder, I observed Hunt and Thurtell at my house. John Thurtell was dressed in leather breeches, long gaiters, and drab waistcoat. He went, with his shirt neck open, across the street to get shaved. Never saw him in those clothes before. At that time Hunt was with him. He was dressed in black, and very indifferently. They went away about half-past ten. Put into the gig in which they went, a piece of beef. Saw a shovel in the gig.

By Mr. Thessiger.—If Probart swore that he did not introduce the Thurtells to me, he swore falsely, for he repeatedly applied to me to become a bondsman for them.

Mr. Justice Park observed, that Probart had not sworn as the learned counsel seemed, from his cross-examination, to suppose.

William Rexworthy, examined by Mr. Bolland.—Knew Mr. Weare for about sixteen years. Always considered him a man of property. Have seen him repeatedly put his hand to his flannel shirt, and take out large sums of money. Believe that he usually kept his money next to his skin. Have seen Thurtell, Hunt, and Weare together. Saw them together about ten days before the murder. The last time I saw them together was the Thursday before the Friday of the murder, about nine o'clock in the evening, in my own house. Did not hear anything pass between them, as I left the room on their entering into conversation. On the morning of the Friday Mr. Weare called on me between one and two o'clock. Saw him. After some conversation he left me. Did not see him any more that day.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—My rooms are much frequented between eleven and six o'clock in the day. Saw the body of Mr. Weare when it was taken from the pond, when it was in the sack, and when it was in the coffin. Saw it before it was re-buried.

By Mr. Bolland.—Know this knife. Saw it in Weare's hands on the day he was supposed to be murdered.

By Mr. Andrews.—Had this knife in my possession for a month, in consequence of Weare's leaving it in my room. Know

it from a mark on the handle. Swear to it from that mark and by the wear. It is a remarkable knife.

Re-examined by Mr. Bolland.—Have seen Mr. Weare play at billiards about twenty times during the time that I have known him.

By the Judge.—Saw the legs when the body was taken out of the water. They were naked. Saw the body laid out naked at the Artichoke.

Mary Moloney, examined by Mr. Broderick.—Was laundress to the late Mr. Weare. He lived at No. 2, Lyon's Inn. Was in his rooms on Friday, the 24th of October. Saw his clothes and linen on the drawers. Mr. Weare put them in his carpet-bag. [A bag was shown to witness.] That was Mr. Weare's carpet-bag. There were five linen shirts, six pair of socks, a shooting-jacket and leggings, a pair of breeches, a pair of laced-up boots, a pair of Wellington boots, and a backgammon board and things in it, put into the bag. [A backgammon board was shown to witness.] That is the board, and these are the things that were in it. Saw Mr. Weare put it in himself. He dined at his chambers. He had two chops between two and three o'clock. Did not expect him home that night. He said he was going out of town. He was expected back on the Tuesday following. About three o'clock I got a hackney-coach from the Strand. At the Spotted Dog, in the Strand. It came up Holywell Street, with the horses' heads towards Charing Cross, by his orders. He went away about three o'clock, or a quarter after. A carpet-bag, a double-barrelled gun in a case, and a box coat, were put into the coach. Mr. Weare had a buff waistcoat, and a new olive-coloured coat on. He pulled his watch out before he went. Knew it, I had seen it before. It was a gold watch, with a gold chain. [A chain was shown to witness.] It was exactly like this. [A knife was produced.] This is Mr. Weare's knife. The watch had a double case, and was worked. He wore a steel chain round the neck to secure it. [Witness identified the clothes.]

(To be continued.)

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NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

N^o 58.

APRIL 5, 1837.

PRICE
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SINGULAR DISCOVERY OF A MURDERER.



[RENCONTRE WITH THE NEGRO AND THE NEPHEW.]

The following relation of a negro's deed of blood and its lamentable results, with the remarkable manner in which the negro at length disclosed the truth, was found among the papers of the late Rev. John Jones, curate of Welwyn, Herts.

March 29, 1763.—This evening, George Keate, Esq., of the Temple, being at Dr. Young's on a visit, gave us the following remarkable narrative, which he had from Mr. Pinckney, Chief Justice of South Carolina, and which Mr. P. had received from the captain of the ship, who brought the negro, hereafter mentioned, from Carolina into England, the last time of his coming over hither from thence; when he was taken up, in the presence of the said captain and all his crew.

Whatever the occasion might be, this

negro, some years before, put himself on board a ship setting sail for England. He was landed in one of the docks near London, and contracted with a poor, honest laundress in that neighbourhood, for washing his linen. This poor woman generally wore three rings on one of her fingers, and was reputed to have some little money, which the wretch of a negro observing, he resolved to murder her, and to take her property. She was a widow, and had only a nephew living with her in her little cottage. This nephew one evening got excessively drunk, and was carried home, and put into bed. The negro thought this a favourable opportunity for putting his villanous design into execution. He climbed to the top of the house, and, being totally stripped, got

into the cottage, through the chimney, went immediately up stairs, and entered the woman's bedchamber. He soon murdered her, but not without her making a hard struggle for her life, and also some noise; which awaking the nephew in the next room, forced him to get up in order to save his aunt. But, before he could get himself ready, the villain, having choked the woman and cut off her ring finger, flew to his apartment. Being a strong young man, he grappled with the murderer a considerable time; and the moon that night shining in bright at the window, discovered the colour of the villain, whom the poor ignorant creature took to be the devil. The negro, at length, finding he could not get the better of his antagonist, though still much intoxicated, ran away from him, and speedily made his escape through the chimney at which he had come in. The drunken man seeing this, and looking upon it as miraculous, declared, on the trial which he soon after underwent, that the devil in a moment flew up into the air, and he saw him no more. This supposed devil, in the scuffle, had besmeared the nephew's shirt in many places with the blood of his murdered aunt; the appearance of which was deemed by the neighbours, the next morning, to be a sufficient evidence that *he* was the perpetrator of the horrid deed. Accordingly, being taken before a magistrate and examined, he was committed to prison, in spite of his repeated declarations of innocence, and his story of the devil, which nobody could beat out of his head. At his trial he was condemned, and, soon after, executed; protesting his total ignorance of the murder to the last, and throwing it wholly on his black antagonist, whom he believed to be no other than Satan.

The negro, with his little booty, the price of blood, decamped as soon as he well could for Carolina; came back the next year, went thither again the year following, and so on for about nine years, being always uneasy whithersoever he went.

At last, as Providence would have it, he came back for the last time to England, landing at Rotherhithe. As soon as he arrived, a press-gang advancing towards the ship alarmed his fears, and his guilty mind suggested to him, that they were

come to seize him for the abovementioned murder. He immediately cried out, that "vengeance had at last overtaken him, and that he was the person who had committed the fact." Inquiry being made what fact, he confessed the whole; and that "he had, in effect, murdered two persons; having despatched the aunt with his own hands, and been the cause of her nephew's death." He underwent the punishment he deserved.

Thus guilt, especially the guilt of blood, often discovers itself suddenly, contrary to all human expectations. There is the secret hand of Providence in all such disclosures.

"Murder," as a great genius observes, "though it hath no tongue, will speak with most miraculous organ."

MURDER OF WILLIAM WEARE.

(Continuation of Chapter IV. from page 456.)

THE next witness called was Thomas Cave, who was examined by Mr. Bolland.—Drove a hackney chariot for Mr. Beckett, in October last, for three weeks. Recollect taking up a gentleman at Lyon's Inn in that month. Did not take up more than one gentleman there in that month. Was called from the Spotted Dog by a young woman. Drove by her desire to Lyon's Inn. A shortish gentleman got in there. A carpet-bag and a gun were put into the carriage. The gentleman put in the gun, and the girl the bag. Remember the week when this murder was committed. Cannot say whether it was in that week, but it was about that time. Drove to Charing Cross, and from that place to Maddox Street, wherc the gentleman got out. He got in again, and he then ordered me to drive up Welbeck Street to the New Road and along it to Cumberland Street. He then got out again. He came back to me with a tall gentleman in a rough coat. He paid me the fare, and took out his things. The two gentlemen went down Cumberland Street. It was then about half-past four. Some of the lamps were lighted, some not, for it was still daylight.

Thomas Wilson, examined by Mr. Broderick.—Am a horse patrol. Was on the Edgware Road on the 24th of October. Do not know John Thurtell. Met two persons in a gig drawn by a roan grey, between the fifth and sixth mile-

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stone from Tyburn. They were driving at a very furious rate. Should know the horse again, but not the men. Pointed out the horse in Mr. Probatt's stable. It had a very white face.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—The gig passed me quickly. It was about half-past six or seven, but I had an opportunity of seeing it well. Described the horse as a roan grey to Mr. Clutterbuck, Mr. Stafford, the clerk at Bow Street, and the gentlemen at the Secretary of State's office. Observed the gig. It was of a dark colour, but I cannot say what colour. Knew the horse which I saw was one which I was going to identify. Always said it was a roan horse, and not an iron grey.

James Shepherd called, and examined by Mr. Broderick.—Am an ostler at Mr. Cross's stables, Whitecomb Street. The prisoner Hunt came to hire a gig on a Friday; the Friday before I heard of Mr. Weare's murder. It was a dark green gig. Hunt said it was going to Dartford. It was a roan horse, with a whiter face than the body. Saw the horse to-day. It is the same I saw on the Friday and Saturday in October. It is Mr. Probatt's, the livery-stable keeper. Hunt asked for a sack, and where he could get one. I said, as he was going to Dartford he would get one by Westminster Bridge. The gig only he hired from him, the horse from Probatt. He came back on the Saturday. He hired no gig on the Sunday.

Stephen March, examined by Mr. Bolland.—Lived as ostler to Mr. Probatt, the livery-stable keeper at Charing Cross. Know Hunt the prisoner. See him now. He hired the horse on a Friday, three days before I heard of Mr. Weare's murder. The horse was a dark roan. It was to go to Dartford. Took the horse to Cross's livery stables. It was to be put to a gig. Hired him another on a Sunday, a bay horse, and yellow gig. Hunt did not say where it was going. He brought it back on Monday, about twelve o'clock. He said he should want one about half-past three in the afternoon. He asked for the same horse. The roan that he had on the Friday. He went away in the yellow gig about half-past three. He returned about half-past two in the morning. Looked at the gig, and found it and the horse very dirty. There was a little blood at the bottom of

the gig. The horse was a good deal distressed, and the thong of the whip was three parts unravelled.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—These gigs were all brought back by Hunt.

Benjamin Coxwell. Am shopman to Mr. Bow, Pawnbroker, High Street, Mary-la-bonne. Sold a pair of pistols, similar to those presented to me, on the 24th of October last. Sold also a key and a mould. Sold them to two strangers. One was tall and the other short. Asked 1*l.* 17*s.* for them, and received 1*l.* 15*s.* Should not know the persons again.

John Butler. Am an ostler at the Bald-faced Stag, half a mile from Edgware, on the London road. On Friday night, the 24th of October, between six and seven, Mr. Probatt came to the house in a horse and chaise. He stopped a few minutes, and went on towards Edgware.

William Clarke, examined by Mr. Bolland.—Am landlord of the White Lion, at Edgware. Know John Thurtell, whom I saw about twenty or thirty yards beyond the nine mile-stone on the Edgware Road. He was then driving very hard at the wrong side of the road, and he called out [The witness used the ejaculation of whipmen who want to avoid contact on the road]. Heard his voice in this manner, and his horse was light faced. A short man was in the gig with him. On my return to my own house, I met Probatt and Hunt, with a gig and a brown horse, at my own door. They had some brandy and water, and we began to talk of Thurtell's private business.

Mr. Bolland. That's enough, don't say what that business was.

Witness resumed.—Hunt alighted at that time, and took some brandy at my bar; he also took out a newspaper, and, talking of Thurtell, said, "Look at that." They then went away. On the Sunday after, I met Mr. John Thurtell walking with Mr. Noyes. He looked ill; I remarked it, and he hinted that it was owing to the want of bail in the bankrupt business. Hunt had large whisks on when I met him on the 24th of October, but he had shaved them off before he was taken.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—It was nearly dark at the time. Only saw one coach with the lamps lighted. I observed the chaise in which Thurtell

was, merely because of its being on the wrong side of the road. It was between quarter and twenty minutes past seven o'clock when I met Probart's gig. They stopped for a quarter of an hour.

David White, the son of a corn-chandler at Edgware, examined by Mr. Broderick.—Remember Probart coming to my father's house at seven o'clock, on the evening of the 24th of October, and purchasing some beans and oats.

Cross-examined.—He did not seem to be in a hurry to get away.

Stephen Probart, examined by Mr. Broderick.—Keep the White Lion Inn at Charing Cross. The prisoner Hunt borrowed a horse of my son on the 24th of October, and had a bay horse on the Sunday. The horse which he borrowed on the Friday was a roan horse, and he had it again on Monday. On the Monday I changed a five-pound note for Hunt, for the hire of the horse and gig, for which he paid 1*l.* 5*s.* A Mr. Reece was in my coffee-room. Hunt remarked, that he was a snug sort of a man, and ought to get a knock in the head. He afterwards pulled out a pistol, and said, "This is a good fellow to do business." [A pistol was produced.] Cannot say that that was the pistol. The roan horse was now in Hertford, and had conspicuously a white face.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—The conversation took place on the Saturday. The horse had a white face. It might be in a joking sort of way that Hunt spoke of Mr. Reece.

Robert Field was again called.—Knew Probart before October last. He came to my house, in a one-horse chaise, with another person. The stranger was the size of the prisoner Hunt. They had five glasses of brandy in the gig. Probart said Hunt could sing. He did not sing, though asked even for a verse. They stopped about half an hour, or thirty-five minutes. Probart's horse was a good one. My house is about two hundred yards from Elstree. Saw the singing man on Monday, he was with another man. That man was the prisoner John Thurtell. They came to my house at half-past five on the Monday. They remained quarter of an hour smoking a pipe. The horse was put to the gig near half an hour. Saw Hunt on the Tuesday at half-past three. He came from the

direction of London. Gave the constable a sack and shirt on the 5th of November, which were in my possession from the time of the inquest.

Cross-examined by Mr. Platt.—Knew the hour they were at my house, from people, who were also there, breaking up early. By my watch it was eleven minutes before nine. After five o'clock two coaches go from London to that part of the country; one from Smithfield, the other from Holborn.

Richard Bingham, ostler at the White Lion, Edgware, examined by Mr. Broderick.—On the evening of the 24th of October last, about seven o'clock, a gig stopped at the White Lion, Edgware, with two gentlemen in it. One was short, and the other was tall. The short man had large dark whiskers with a sallow complexion. He was rather high in the cheek bones, and about thirty-four or thirty-five years old. They had a glass of rum and water. The tall gentleman had a light-coloured great coat; the short, a dark one. They had a bald-face horse. My master is Mr. Clarke, who had just then come home. Another gig came up, but I do not know who were in it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—The first gig had time to get on a mile or two before the other came up. It was a dark night. Whilst the first gig was there, I was baiting the horse. Neither of the men got out of the gig.

Mary Maloney said, the description given of the short person, corresponded with that of Mr. Weare.

James Freeman, examined by Mr. Broderick.—Am a labourer, living at a place called The Folly, near Gill's Hill cottage. Had occasion to go out on the 24th of October, into Gill's Hill Lane, about eight o'clock, to meet my wife and take her home. Had a gate to go through from my house. The gate was about thirty poles from Probart's cottage. When I got into the lane, I saw two gentlemen in a gig, going from Probart's cottage towards Battler's Green. Heard the gig before I saw it. It came in the direction from Radlet, which would be past Probart's cottage. It stopped at an elbow of the lane, and one of the gentlemen got out. Spoke to one of them. The horse had a very white face. Have seen the horse in this town. It was shown to me by Probart. Am sure that

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is the very same horse I saw in the lane that night. When I left my cottage, the moon was not up, but it was a star-light night. The moon rose afterwards between eight and nine. Did not see enough of either of the men to be able to identify them. The one who jumped out had a light long great coat on. Afterwards met my wife, and we went home together.

Cross-examined by Mr. Platt.—Should not know the gig again. Could not tell the colour of it. It was not a yellow gig.

Philip Smith, examined by Mr. Broderick.—Am a farmer living at Aldenham. On the 24th of October I was on a visit at Mr. Charles Nicholls's, at Battler's Green. Left Mr. Nicholls about ten minutes before eight o'clock. Had my wife and child with me. My wife and child were in a donkey chaise, and I was walking. Was going to a place called High Cross. Passed the corner of a lane leading to Gill's Hill. Know the spot where a person was supposed to be killed. In crossing the road that night, the nearest part I went to the spot was about two hundred and fifty yards. In going along I heard the wheels of some sort of a carriage, and then the report of a pistol or a gun. This attracted my attention, and I remarked upon it to my wife. In about a minute or two afterwards I heard groaning. I then stopped the donkey chaise. The groaning lasted about a minute or two. Did not go up to the spot from whence the sound proceeded, as my wife was alarmed.

Cross-examined.—Was about two hundred and fifty yards from the spot where the supposed murder took place, at the time I heard the report. Was behind the chaise.

Richard Haddis, examined by Mr. Bolland.—Lived as servant with Probart of Gill's Hill Lane, on the 24th of October last. He had a horse and gig. He had the horse two months before the 24th of October. It was a bay horse, of great power. On the 24th of October, I heard the wheels of a gig pass the cottage, at about a quarter after eight in the evening. Thought it was my master, but the gig passed on. About nine o'clock, there was a ring at the bell, which I answered. Found John Thurtell at the gate; he desired me to take charge of a horse and gig. Observed the horse, which I have

since seen. It was an iron grey horse. From the position in which the horse stood, I judged that the gig came from Battler's Green. After giving me the gig, Thurtell said, he would walk and strive to meet Probart. Saw him on his return, after having walked in search of my master. Was just going to throw a cloth over the horse, and he told me not to mind it for a while. Saw a gun poked out on each side of the gig, under the leather. On the Saturday morning, I lifted up a bag, which was on the ground. It was a carpet-bag. Saw a box in the parlour. [The articles were identified by witness.] Mr. Thurtell desired me to take the box out of the parlour, and place it in the gig. Thurtell was dressed in a light grey coat. In about three quarters of an hour my master returned. He was accompanied by Thurtell and Hunt, who were in a gig. My master hung behind it. Observed some spots of blood on John Thurtell's great coat. Am confident he had a sponge on the Friday night, and that he was sponging his coat. Think it was after supper. Thurtell went out and got the sponge, and then asked whether there was any water. He dabbled about with the sponge in the water. My master came to me in the stable, and asked for the lantern. Hunt, Thurtell, and my master then went out. They took the direction of Battler's Green. My master said he was going to Nicholls's. They returned in about three-quarters of an hour. Heard one of them, as they passed, tell Susan to dress the pork chops. Went into the stable to do up the horses. John Thurtell and Hunt came to me there. Believe John Thurtell was employed brushing his coat. They remained a short time, and seemed to go into the house. Rubbed down the horses, and went into the kitchen. Probart came there to look for a bottle of rum, which was kept in a large safe. Went into the parlour by order of my master, to ask what o'clock it was, and Thurtell produced a watch without a chain. Mrs. Probart said, it was awkward to have a watch without a chain. Got to bed at twelve o'clock. Rose on Saturday morning about six o'clock, to look after the horse and fetch up the cow. Saw Hunt and Thurtell in the kitchen after I fetched up the cow. Hunt was sponging John Thurtell's coat on the table. The coat

appeared to be spotted all over. Cleaned their boots, which were covered with fresh dirt. My master was walking about the garden in low spirits. On Sunday morning I saw Hunt after he had come down. He was in dark coloured clothes. He went up stairs, and dressed himself. He seemed very decent. Saw Mr. Noyes on Sunday. Was sent on Sunday afternoon to Nicholls's, with a message. Saw some blood in Gill's Hill Lane, a good deal. Went in consequence of what I heard. On Monday morning, by Probart's directions, I went to London along with Mr. Thomas Thurtell. It was in the gig. Hunt was with us. Having put John Thurtell down, we went to Tetsall's, where we stayed some time. Had nothing to do in London.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—Had often been up and down Gill's Hill Lane. It is so narrow, that it is almost impossible for a carriage, or even a gig, to turn. There is a heap of mud in the corner, and that is the only place you can turn round in. In going to Battler's Green, I don't know that we must have passed Mr. Nicholls's house. When I came to Probart's gate, the horse's head was as if it came from Battler's Green. We must have passed very near, within two or three hundred yards of Nicholls's house, before we could turn. Between Nicholls's house, and where the road turns off, there is a good bit of road; a smartish bit. To turn round, we must have gone thereabouts. Have been asked by different persons five or six times about the spouging. Always said I could not be sure of it. Cannot exactly say, but I think it was about seven o'clock on Saturday morning that I saw Probart first. Don't know of my master's going out early on that morning at all. Had known Thurtell to sleep one or two nights on the sofa in the parlour, before the Friday.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—It was Probart who told me to go to town with Mr. Thurtell. He said that he had no occasion any more for me, and that Thurtell would provide me with a situation.

By the Court.—Knew all about the rooms of the house, and can say where persons slept in it. It was about a fortnight before, that John Thurtell had been there, and then he had a bed there.

Susan Woodroffe having been called

and sworn, Mr. Broderick was proceeding to examine her, when, it being now about nine o'clock,

Mr. Justice Park interposed and addressed the jury. In the suggestion he was about to make, he considered not his own convenience, but that of the gentlemen of the jury. By the law of England, he was not allowed to discharge the jury in criminal cases, and he was not enabled to allow them to return to their families until the case was finished. He was obliged to keep them together, though, no doubt, proper accommodation would be afforded them. But he was, for himself, perfectly willing to go on to finish the case before they separated. If, however, it was more convenient and agreeable to the jury to retire to what he hoped would be their night's rest, he had no doubt they would be furnished with proper accommodation. He (the judge) had no personal wish on the subject. He had been accustomed to bear fatigue of this kind, and he was willing to bear it. The foreman would consult with his brethren, and collect their wishes before they proceeded to the examination of another witness.

After a short consultation, the foreman said, the jury thought, that if they could be allowed to retire for an hour, to take refreshment, they could proceed with the trial.

Mr. Justice Park. I have made up my mind never to agree to the practice of retiring. Within my experience, when I was a young man, I have seen so many examples of fatal results from this practice to the prisoners, and to the ends of justice, that I must resist the proposition.

A jurymen suggested, that if they had some refreshment in the box they might proceed.

Mr. Justice Park. To that I have not the least objection. The sheriff will, no doubt, attend to your wants, and in the mean time we will proceed with witness.

John Harrington, examined by Mr. Bolland.—Am a labourer, living at Aldenham. Was at work with a man named Richard Hunt, in Gill's Hill Lane, on Saturday morning after the murder. Went to work about six o'clock, and about ten minutes after six two gentlemen passed me. Should know one of them again. The prisoner Thurtell is one of them. He was the tall one. The other was a

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short gentleman, pale, rather stout, and with light whiskers; he also had a white hat. They passed me about ten poles on the left hand, and then grabbed in the hedge. They seemed to me as if they had lost something, and wished to find it. About two minutes they stayed there, and then went three or four poles up on the right, and returned again towards Gill's Hill Lane. They spoke to my partner, Richard Hunt. It was the tall man, with a white hat, who said that last night he had been capsized out of his gig, and lost his penknife and a handkerchief. Don't know what Hunt, my partner, answered, nor did I hear what he said to my partner again. They then went away. Afterwards Richard Hunt and I, about eight o'clock, when we had taken breakfast, walked up to the place where we had seen them grabbing, and there found a small penknife.

By the Court.—That is the gig road towards Battler's Green, and that knife I gave to Mr. Charles Nicholls. That is the knife [identifying it]. When I found it, it was all over dirt. About ten o'clock I found a pistol. The knife was in the cart ruts. The pistol lay among the brambles of the bushes. [The pistol was produced.] That is the pistol. Did not see whether it was covered with blood, but that is certainly the pistol. Afterwards I gave it to Mr. Nicholls. The knife I speak of had two blades. One of them was broken, and was so when I picked it up. Wiped the blood off before I gave it to Mr. Nicholls. The pan of the pistol looked as if the pistol had been fired off. The cock was down just as it is now. Mr. Nicholls came by at the time, and told me to go on with my work. He was in company with me when I found it. Mr. Nicholls called me up to that spot where I had observed the marks of two men who had been tumbling about. There was a very large hole through the hedge, and a good deal of blood about. Could not see whether it had the appearance of anything having been drawn through it. A gig could not turn where the blood was. It must go to the end of the lane, which was about fifty poles off. About eleven o'clock on the same morning, the same persons passed by in a gig, going to Battler's Green. It was an iron-grey horse. Am sure they were the same persons. Know Prohart now; I did not

then. Saw him on that day about twelve o'clock. He had a large dog with him, and came straight down the lane. He wished me good morning, and told me it was a good job I had done in mending the road. I said I was glad of it.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—The gig might have turned before it came to Mr. Nicholls's house, but it must be near it: Had never seen either of the two persons before.

Richard Hunt was then called, when Thurtell addressed the court. "My lord," said he, "I must pray you again to speak to the gentlemen of the jury on the subject which you have before mentioned; namely, the propriety of postponing farther proceedings till to-morrow."

Mr. Justice Park. Let us go on with the remainder of the case for the prosecution; I see many reasons why we should; and then, if you state that you cannot conveniently go on with your defence, I will take it on myself to adjourn the court.

Richard Hunt, examined by Mr. Broderick.—Was with Harrington in Gill's Hill Lane on Saturday, the 25th of October. Know no more than he does. Saw the two men passing through the lane. Should know them; the two gentlemen sitting there are they, I think [pointing to the two prisoners]. One of them entered into conversation, and said he was capsized out of a gig. One of them had on a white hat, the side bulged in; the other, a black one.

William Bulmer, examined by Mr. Bolland.—Am a labourer. Was working in Probart's garden in October last. On the morning after the murder, about six o'clock, I saw two persons walking in that garden. The tallest of the two had on a white hat. They went towards the house.

George Nicholls. Know Probart. Neither Probart nor any of his friends came to me on the night of the murder. On Monday a labourer delivered a knife and a pistol to me, which I afterwards handed over to Simmons, the officer. It was bloody. On Monday evening I observed what appeared like brains about the barrel of the pistol. Probart came to my house on Monday. Something passed between us respecting what happened in the lane.

John Pidcock. Am a surgeon. Was at the Artichoke, at Elstree, when the body of Mr. Wear was there. Took the shawl

from off the neck. Saw a sack over the shawl. Saw the body first at the Artichoke. When the sack was taken from the body I found a handkerchief, which I delivered to Simmons, the officer. The body was quite naked.

John Fleet. Am assistant to Mr. Johnson, the messenger. On the 24th of October, I was at the Cock public-house, in the Haymarket, acting officially under a commission. Hunt came there in a gig, about half-past four in the afternoon. He delivered a note to me, which I have destroyed. John Thurtell lived at the Cock. Have seen him living there. Know the room he occupied; it was No. 10. The contents of the note were, "Have the goodness to give Mr. Hunt my great coat and red shawl, which you will find in a closet at No. 10." Went to the room, took the things out, and brought them down, and gave them to Hunt. The shawl produced is something like that I gave to Hunt. Do not know the hand-writing of the note.

Caroline Williams. Was servant at the Cock, which was kept by Thomas Thurtell. His brother, John Thurtell, lodged there. He had a shawl like the one produced.

Lucy Slater. Was a servant at the Cock. John Thurtell lodged there. Have seen him use a shawl similar to the shawl produced.

John Marshall. Am a gunsmith in London. Know the gun produced. Saw it least a twelvemonth ago. Saw it at Mr. Wear's chambers, in Lyon's Inn.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—It is at least a twelvemonth since I saw it.

William Blakesley. In October I lodged at No. 9, King Street, Golden Square, the residence of the prisoner Hunt and his wife. Remember Mr. Hunt coming home on the 27th of October, in a single horse chaise. Saw him take out a carpet-bag filled with things; a gun with a dark case, similar to that produced; a dressing case, similar to that on the table. They were carried into his apartments. There were also some coats.

John Upson. Am an officer. Took the prisoners from London to Watford. We came in two gigs. At Watford, the next morning, a conversation took place between me and Thurtell, about Hunt's confession. Made use of no previous promise or threat. In the course of the conversation about Hunt's confession, I

asked Thurtell what he did with the watch, and he told me that he threw it away in a place among some trees where there were some palings. This is the account he gave me.

Cross-examined by Mr. Thessiger.—When we were at Watford, Hunt gave me an order for the things to be given up, and told me where they were to be found.

John Foster. Am a constable at Rickmansworth. Had Thurtell in my custody at the Plough, on the 30th of October. He made a communication to me. Made use of no previous promise or threat. He said that Hunt was a rascal for nosing him so; that he (Thurtell) would not do so to him (Hunt), particularly after he (Thurtell) had offered the watch for sale in Hunt's name, and as his property. He said he was offered no more than 25*l.* for it, though it was worth 60*l.*

The jury here signified their willingness to accede to the prisoner's request to adjourn; and Mr. Justice Park adjourned the court to the following morning.

On the return of the prisoners to their cells they were furnished with every necessary refreshment, for which they expressed becoming gratitude.

The jury were accommodated with beds in the large room of the court-house. After leaving the court, they dined together, being provided with refreshment sent over from the Salisbury Arms.

From the commencement of the proceedings in December, up to the present time, the prisoners Thurtell and Hunt had not spoken to each other; on the contrary, so strong a degree of hostility towards his former associate seemed to influence the mind of Thurtell, that Mr. Wilson, the gaoler, deemed it prudent to obtain an assurance from him that he would offer no violence toward his fellow-prisoner. On their return, however, to the gaol, at the close of the first day of the trial, this feeling suddenly subsided, and the prisoners not only shook hands with apparent cordiality, but continued in familiar and friendly conversation for some time.

(To be continued.)

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OR,

NEW NEWGATE CALENDAR, AND GENERAL RECORD OF TRAGIC EVENTS, INCLUDING
ANCIENT AND MODERN MODES OF TORTURE, ETC.

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APRIL 12, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

REMARKABLE PRESERVATION.



[THE FARMER BEING ATTACKED.]

THE account of the following providential occurrence, transcribed from vol. vii., p. 487, of the *Encyclopædia Perthensis*, is so well attested, that none who are acquainted with the nature of moral evidence can entertain the smallest doubt of its authenticity. The case furnishes one of many proofs of a special Providence, the idea of which is so apt to be contemned.

In June, 1752, Mr. Robert Aikenhead, farmer in Denstrath, of Arnhall, in the Mearns, about five miles north of Brechin, and seven miles from Montrose, went to a market called Tarrenty Fair, where he had a large sum of money to receive. His eldest son, Robert, a boy between seven and eight years of age, was sent to take care of the cattle, and

happening to lie down upon a grassy bank before sunset, fell asleep. Although the boy had never been far from home, he was immediately carried in his imagination to Tarrenty Market, whence, as he dreamed, his father, after receiving the money, set out on his return home, and was followed all the way by two ill-looking fellows, who, when he had got to the western dykes of Ignis Mauldy, and little more than a mile from home, attacked and attempted to rob him. Whereupon the boy thought he ran to his assistance, and when he came within gun-shot of the place called out some people who were going to bed, who put the robbers to flight. He immediately awoke in a fright, and, not waiting to consider whether it was a vision or reality, ran as fast as he

could to the place he had dreamed of, and had no sooner reached it than he saw his father in the very spot and situation he had seen in his dream, defending himself with his stick against the assassins. He therefore immediately realized his own part of the visionary scene, by roaring out "Murder!" which soon brought out the people, who, running up to Mr. Aikenhead's assistance, found him victor over one of the villains, whom he had previously knocked down with a stone, after they had pulled him off his horse, but almost overpowered by the other, who repeatedly attempted to stab him with a sword; against which he had no other defence than his stick and his hands, which were considerably mangled by grasping the blade. Upon sight of the country people, the villain who had the sword, ran off; but the other, not being able, was apprehended and lodged in gaol. Meantime there was no small hue-and-cry after young Robert, whose mother, missing him, and finding the cattle among the corn, was in the utmost anxiety, concluding that he had fallen into some water or peat moss. But her joy and surprise were equally great, when her husband returned with the boy, and told her how miraculously both his money and his life were preserved by his son's dream. To those who deny the existence of a God, (adds the writer,) or the superintendence of a Divine Providence, the above narrative will appear as fabulous as any in Ovid. To those who measure the greatness and littleness of events, by the arbitrary rules of human pride and vanity, it may perhaps appear incredible, that such a miracle should have been wrought for the preservation of the life of a country farmer. But all who found their opinions upon the unerring rule of right and truth, which assures us that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without the permission of our heavenly Father—who know that in the sight of him with whom there is no respect of persons or dignities, the life of the greatest monarch on earth, and that of the lowest of his subjects, are of equal value—will laugh at such silly objections, when opposed to well-attested facts. That the above is one, could be attested upon oath, were it necessary, by Mr. and Mrs. Aikenhead, from whom the writer had all the particulars above narrated.

MURDER OF WILLIAM WEARE.

CHAPTER V.

AT eight o'clock in the morning of the second day of the trial the door of the court-house was opened, and the court was instantly thronged. The expectation that Thurtell would commence his defence upon the opening of the court, was the great excitement.

At nine o'clock, Mr. Justice Park took his seat on the bench, and all the witnesses for the prisoners, (except Mr. Wadeson, who was to be first called,) being ordered out of court, the following additional evidence for the crown was taken; Mr. Justice Park examining both the witnesses himself.

John Ruthven, the Bow Street officer, deposed—I know Conduit Street, Hanover Square. Think Tetsall's house is on that side of Conduit Street that is in the parish of St. George, Hanover Square. Whitcomb Street is also in the county of Middlesex.

Cross-examined by Mr. Andrews.—Had Probart in custody at Mr. Nicholson's, at Gill's Hill, on the Tuesday. He was not in my care while the coroner's inquest was sitting. He had not at that time expressed a wish that I should convey any message to the coroner or magistrates. Subsequently told him that if he had any such wish, I should convey it, as he said that he wished to explain something. I said that was no answer, and wished him to say directly what message I should convey. He then said he wished to have communication with the magistrates. This took place two days after Hunt had made an acknowledgment. Before that, Probart denied all knowledge of the transaction.

Thomas Thurtell deposed—I observed that Hunt had on a suit of black clothes on the Friday. He wore the same on the next day. Do not know whose they were. Know that he did wear some of my brother's clothes. Hunt was very badly off in the world, and had borrowed clothes from my brother, and money from me. Saw Hunt on the Sunday morning, when he had the same clothes on; but, after dinner, on the Sunday, he was better dressed.

With this evidence the case for the crown closed, and Mr. Justice Park said, "John Thurtell, this is the time it becomes your duty to make your defence."

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A solemn pause ensued. Thurtell, who was standing forward in the dock, bowed respectfully, and in a low tone said a few words to Mr. Jay, his solicitor, who stood close to him.

Mr. Jay. My lord, my client wishes to call his witnesses first.

Mr. Justice Park. I cannot in my capacity attend to wishes; I must abide strictly by the rules of the court. This, therefore, is the proper time for the prisoner making his defence.

Thurtell then retrograded a few feet in the dock, and placing himself in an oblique direction towards the bench, and with his face to the jury-box, in a firm, sustained, and graceful attitude, addressed the court in a lengthy speech, the principal parts of which we record, for the purpose of showing his ability, though it must be borne in mind that his address was in a great measure composed by Mr. Jay.

"My lord, and you, gentlemen of the jury, under the pressure of greater difficulties than, perhaps, it has ever before fallen to the lot of man to sustain, I now appear before you to vindicate my character and preserve my life. But, appalling as are these difficulties, I have been supported under the impression that the hour would arrive when I should be enabled to defend myself in a land of liberty and fairness, before that tribunal which the free institutions of my country have awarded to the accused; namely, an enlightened court, and a jury of twelve fellow-subjects, uninfluenced by prejudice and unawed by power.

"I have been represented by that public press, which carries on rapid wings to the extremity of the land either benefit or curses, as a man the most depraved, the most habitually profligate, the most gratuitously cruel, that has appeared in modern times. I have been represented as a murderer, who had perpetrated his crime with greater atrocity, and under circumstances of more premeditated malice, than any that has hitherto been heard of in the sad catalogue of criminals. I have been stigmatized as a callous, cruel, heartless, remorseless, prayerless villain, who had seduced his friend into a sequestered path, in order the more securely to despatch him. I have been described as a viper, who had nestled in the bosom of my victim with the preconcerted intention of striking a

surer blow—as a monster who, having committed a deed of horror, at which our common nature recoils, and humanity stands aghast, endeavoured to extinguish the upbraids of conscience in the tumults of debauchery. These have been the descriptions given of me, not alone daily, but I may say hourly, by the public journals, and communicated from one extremity of the kingdom to the other.

"You, gentlemen, have no doubt read them; I will not say that you have been influenced by them; but it would exact too much from the common virtue of human nature to suppose that men could entirely divest themselves of impressions so successively repeated, or that they could dispossess themselves of those feelings—those creditable feelings, I will say—which such statements, if justified, were calculated to excite. But I feel satisfied, gentlemen, that, as far as it is possible, you come to this investigation with minds unbiassed, and judgments unaffected, by the atrocious slanders which have been published against me. I feel assured that you will decide as becomes the character of that sacred office with which you are invested.

"Guilt of such a complexion as that imputed to me is not the custom of this land; it must have sprung from an innate principle, which must have advanced to maturity by a continued practice in crime. It must have 'grown with my growth, and strengthened with my strength;' but you shall hear from men of the most unblemished reputation, of the most unimpeachable veracity, that at least there was a period of my life when the bosom of him who now stands before you as an accused murderer, throbbled with the most gentle and kindly feelings of affliction and sympathy, and that my faults were those of an improvident generosity and an unsuspecting confidence. Beware then, gentlemen, of preconceived opinions; oh, beware of an anticipated verdict! Believe not, that the years of a no very lengthened existence have perverted those natural feelings of benevolence; and indeed nature must have taken a refruent course in my heart, if these qualities of early life were succeeded by vices which only demons could feel; rather do me the justice to believe, that they are the slanderous imputations disseminated by

that press which was wont to be the shield of innocence, but which, in my case, and in the want of other intelligence, has pandered to the worst feelings of our nature.

"Gentlemen, my entrance into life was under circumstances the most auspicious; I was reared by a kind, affectionate, and religious mother, who taught my lips to utter their first accents in praise of that Being, who guides the conduct of your hearts and the learned judge upon the bench. My youthful steps were directed by a father, conspicuous for the possession of every good quality, but, above all, for his unaffected piety. On leaving my parental home I entered the service of our late revered monarch, who was emphatically styled the father of his people. For years I had the honour of holding his commission, and served under his colours; and I may justly take the credit to assert, that I never disgraced the one, nor tarnished the other. I have done my country some service; I have fought and bled for her, and in her cause have never feared to draw the steel against an open foe, against my country's enemy. But to raise the assassin's arm, and that too against an unsuspecting friend! believe it not; it is horrid—it is monstrous—it is incompatible with every feeling of my heart and every habit of my life.

"Amongst the numerous other vices attributed to me, it has been said that I have been what is termed a sporting man, a gambler. To that accusation, with a true penitence of heart, I plead guilty. I was a gambler some time past; but three years have now elapsed since I entered a gaming-house, or was present at a horse-race, or other sporting exhibition; but even had the charge been true, had I continued the practice, I am yet to learn why such a vice is unpardonable in me; why I am to be thrust out of the pale of society for the practice, when half the nobility set the example, and the most enlightened statesmen have been my apologists. True, too true, I have been a gambler, but an unfortunate one! My afflicted family have been the only sufferers, and myself the only victim. I feel that I labour under great disabilities, but you know from that authority that never errs, that the human heart is deceitful above all things. Beware, then, I repeat, in the discharge of your sacred

duty, of preconceived impressions, beware of an anticipated verdict!

"It has been the remark of one of the sages of antiquity, that no man starts decidedly wicked; and though I fear it will be too long a trespass on your attention, yet I am compelled, by the circumstances in which I am placed, to lay before you the details of my past life, calling upon you to extend to my conduct the benefit of such a truth. I fear it may be tiresome, but calumniated and charged as I am, what bosom can refuse the sigh, what eye can deny a tear? Though my pencil were dipped in the hues of heaven, it were still impossible to portray the feelings that at this moment actuate me. When you, who are to decide on my fate, carry in your minds the great hazard in which I stand; when you reflect upon the state of feeling which must accompany a mind for a long time ill at ease; when it is recollected that I have been grossly injured by those from whom I had a right to expect kindness, you will, I am sure, feel disposed to pity the sufferer, and forgive his ramblings.

"The close of the last war, which shed a brighter lustre than ever before beamed on the glories of our common parent land, cast a shadow on my fortunes. Having ceased to be actively employed in military service, I unhappily was induced to enter into the commercial world. I entered it under the influence of those feelings which the habits of a soldier's life had strengthened, but which were hostile to my commercial pursuits as they were congenial with my military attachments. I considered my commercial connexion in the same light as I was wont to view a military mess, and my fellow-dealers as brother officers. I laid myself bare to the claims of the avaricious and unfortunate; I relieved the distresses of the one, and was injured by the designs of the other. No fortune was competent to sustain this double drain to which it was subjected. I became a bankrupt! My solicitor, who had been my earliest friend, the friend of my bosom, became a traitor, and I found him, in the hour of my embarrassment, in the ranks of my bitterest enemies.

"From the examination of my affairs, I had reasons to form the most confident grounds of re-establishment. I had hoped to re-assume my station—to be again

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restored to the respect of my connexions—to be again in possession of that self-esteem which I value above all; but a baleful influence intervened. Too, too frequently, alas, does the over-reaching avarice of one, running counter to the feelings and interests of the other creditors, destroy for ever the prospects of the unhappy debtor: such was my misfortune. Thomas Osborne Springfield was my assignee. I had procured the signature of some creditors, and the promises of almost the whole, to obtain a supersedeas of the commission of bankruptcy; but when I thought the winter of my fortune had passed away, and that the blossoms of hope were ripening, a chilling frost came to hight them. My principal creditor demanded 300*l.* for his signature; in this demand he was backed by my own solicitor, who was also his. I spurned the dishonourable offer, and in so doing was cut off from the prospect of retrieving my fortune, and cast upon the world, the dupe of many, and despised by all.

“My brother, Thomas Thurtell, shortly after arrived in London, and, availing himself of my assistance, embarked in the silk trade. His warehouse was accidentally destroyed by fire—accidentally, I repeat, as has been proved by the decision of a jury, at a trial at which the learned judge who sits on the bench presided; and yet this calamity was made the occasion of an attempt to fix on me the crime of removing fraudulently the goods—those goods which the verdict of a jury had decided to have been destroyed by an accidental fire.

“I have, my lord, perhaps given too free an expression to my feelings, but borne down as I have been by calumny and falsehood, the victim of accumulated slanders, it is impossible to confine myself to very measured language—

‘The flesh will quiver where the pincers
tear,
The blood will follow where the knife is
driven.’”

After referring to the accusation brought against him by Mr. Woods, a supposed rival in the affections of Miss Noyes, the prisoner emphatically exclaimed—“When, I ask, gentlemen, did it ever before happen to a British subject, to be called to answer for his life under such an accumulation of unfounded calumnies, such a mass of obloquy? When has it

ever before occurred, that the very actions of a man’s life, which, if truly known, would have redounded to his credit, have been, by a strange perversion, construed into proofs of guilt? and by that press, too, which ought to be the shield of innocence, the avenger of oppression, the detector of falsehood, and, above all, the strongest support of that best security of English liberty—Trial by Jury!

“Towards me, the very order of nature has been reversed. The few days of my late misfortunes have thrown a livid shadow over the glories of days long past. The actions of my life have been misrepresented—every kind of connexion and engagement which I might have formed, has been ransacked to supply the magazine of slander. You have been told, that even in the day of glory, when the battle’s rage had ceased, and the peril of the conflict was over, the vanquished, unoffending, yielding—nay, supplicating foe”—— [Here the prisoner’s feelings overcame him, but he soon resumed his wonted firmness, and proceeded] “You have been told, I say, that the yielding, vanquished, supplicating foe, has fallen in cold blood beneath my cowardly steel; that, not satisfied with the blood of my victim, I coolly set to plunder his person. Nay, more; that, with a folly only to be equalled by the atrocity of such an act, I subsequently boasted of the ruffianly barbarity as the exploit of a soldier! Is there an English officer, is there an English soldier, or an Englishman, whose heart would not revolt at such a dastardly deed of cold-blooded cruelty? Better, far better had it been, ere I had seen this day, that I had fallen in honourable conflict, surrounded by my brave companions, after having assisted with my arm

‘To turn the tide of battle!’

than thus to be borne down, the object of unrelenting malignity. I should have been covered with honourable dust. My family might then, while mourning for my loss, have blessed my memory, and the glory of such a death would have rolled its fires into the fountain of their sorrows!

“Before, my lord, I proceed to read the remarks on the evidence which has been offered in support of the conspiracy against me, I take the liberty to return my sincere thanks to the high sheriff and the magistrates of this county, for their

kindness and attention towards me. I cannot allow the present opportunity to pass without expressing my regret that any misunderstanding should have arisen between the Rev. Mr. Lloyd and one of my solicitors. I hope and trust that all angry feelings have now subsided, and that the bonds of amity are ratified. To the Rev. Mr. Franklin, the chaplain of the prison, I owe my acknowledgments for his unremitting attentions, and his virtuous exertions to inspire me with the awful truths of religion. His exertions to awaken me to such considerations have trebly armed me to meet with firmness the trial of this day. Though last, not least, allow me to mention Mr. Wilson, the governor of the prison, whose fatherly conduct I can never forget. Memory must be indeed extinct, and my heart cold for ever, when it ceases to beat for the prosperity of himself and family."

The prisoner here paused, and drank a glass of water. He then opened a paper containing written remarks on the evidence, which he read; such remarks having a bearing to destroy the effect of the chief points of evidence.

"I will now, gentlemen," he said, "call your attention to the evidence in this case, which you will remark, instead of being clear, consistent, irresistible, is so far unlike the evidence usually adduced in support of so awful a charge, that it is contradictory, inconsistent, and derived from the mouths of persons who have been willing to save their own lives by any sort of falsehood or injustice towards others.

"The first witness is Beeson. He has told you that there are several roads to Probart's cottage, so that the inference drawn from the circumstance of the gig being seen with the head from Battler's Green is now done away. He also mentions, that he went out to search for the body, and that those who sought were utterly at a loss for it till they were told where it was by Hunt. Hunt could inform them where the body was, and why could he do so, but because he had deposited it himself. Beeson also told you that one person could not have thrown the body into the pond where it was found. Now, what proof, I shall ask you, is there that the body ever was, as has been alleged, in Probart's pond? None but the evidence of Probart. I shall lay

before you, at the proper time, what appears to me to be a view of the probabilities of this part of the case. There was also, Beeson tells you, a large pond near the small one in which the body was found. Who could have chosen the smaller pond but a person acquainted with the country? Who could possibly have known that the larger pond was sometimes dry, and the small one not? Who but Probart himself? It appeared, in an answer given to a judicious question of the learned judge, that both the sack in which the body was enveloped, and the cord with which it was tied, were bought by Hunt.

"Passing over the evidence of Field and Upson as immaterial, the next evidence is that of Rexworthy. Rexworthy, you must recollect, is, from his own account, a gambler, and a supporter of gamblers; but his evidence, if worthy of any consideration at all, contains no fact that is material against me.

"The next witness who bears upon the case is Ruthven, who produces some of the articles found in the room at Tet'sall's when I was apprehended; but there is no proof that these articles are mine. I never wear white neckcloths; I have not worn a white neckcloth for two years till this day. You have been told there was another person in the same room with me. Now, let me ask you whether it was prudent on my part, if I had done the act with which I am charged, to suffer another person to be in my room, and have thus allowed him an opportunity of discovering my guilt? Mr. Simmons produced a red shawl handkerchief, which, being proved to have been worn by Hunt, proved nothing against me.

"I now come to the only evidence which at all connects me with the crime committed—the evidence of the only man whose testimony points at me. And who is he? what is he? He is himself the murderer. Is it credible that he would have introduced me, just hot from slaughtering, to his wife? Where was the murder committed? A quarter of a mile from his own house. Where was the body found? In his own pond. Who took it there? Himself. Who took me to Tet'sall's? Probart. He gives here the true account respecting the 10*l.*, but he gave a different one before the coroner and the magistrates. Is such a man to be

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believed? Before you doom a fellow-creature to an ignominious death, I conjure you to weigh well the statements of Hunt and Probart.

"Gentlemen, are you to consign me to an ignominious death upon such evidence as this? Can you reconcile the difference between the statements of Hunt and Probart? And yet these men have been running a race to be admitted as approvers—these men have put up their evidence to auction, hoping to find a bribe in proportion to the length of their consciences. The evidence of Probart throughout clearly tends to show that the proposal of murdering Mr. Weare was familiar to him.

"It is in evidence that Probart advanced twenty shillings to enable Hunt to go down by himself. He clearly did not take him in his gig, and in going down Hunt was allowed to purchase a loin of pork, and pay for it with Probart's money. Is not this the conduct of men who were going on a joint business? He said, I passed him four miles on the road, and he describes Hunt as having used some ambiguous remarks; and I therefore believe that Hunt and Probart enticed Mr. Weare near the fatal spot, and that I too was intended as their victim. I think it is clear that they had prepared themselves for this bloody business, by the quantity of brandy and water which they got on the road. Probart tells you that Hunt and I were to sleep at his house. According to Mrs. Probart's account, there was not sufficient accommodation for us. Why did he then invite me down? The motive is plain—why, in order to cast upon me the odium and the consequences of the guilty deed which he and Hunt had meditated."

After comparing the evidence of Probart and his wife, he proceeded—"Gentlemen, I will not disgust you by many more remarks upon this cold-blooded act. I cannot help persuading myself, that the discrepancies I have already pointed out are quite sufficient to discredit such witnesses in your judgment; and I am sure, at least, you will receive with great caution the testimony of such a man as Probart. Between him and Hunt you will bear in mind that there has been a struggle who should obtain the mercy of the crown. He has been admitted as an approver, and therefore every word of

his testimony must be regarded with the strongest suspicion. You will observe, that after much prevarication, and after swearing in his examination in chief that he did not come down stairs on the Saturday morning till after nine o'clock, he refuses to swear that it was so late as eight, although his servant boy swears it was but seven. You will not fail to have remarked on the character of this witness. It was wrung from him by Mr. Andrews, that he had six or seven times been committed by the commissioners under his bankruptcy, for perjury. You will not forget that he introduced Hunt to me, with an intention which is now too manifest.

"The disgusting affectation with which Mrs. Probart gave her evidence, is quite sufficient to lay her credit under the strongest suspicion: what faith can you put in the testimony of a female, who confesses that she put round her neck the gold chain which had been plundered from the murdered man; and that, after the sanguinary deed had been perpetrated, she called upon the blood-stained Hunt to sing her a song? You will recollect that this is the conduct of a woman who well knew that a murder had just been committed, and that the hand of the assassin, whom she called upon to sing, was still reeking with his victim's blood. The bare statement of this fact is sufficient to overwhelm her as a witness, and render her utterly unworthy of her sex. She says she saw two men bring a horse to take the body out of the back gate; that some digging took place on the spot; and that she saw the body carried out. She also details a long conversation in whispers between myself and her husband, which, she says, took place at the distance of a flight of stairs from one door to another. In answer to a question put by the learned judge, she says that this long conversation was after she had seen the digging, and yet her husband says that immediately after leaving the body he went to bed.

"Is it not clear, gentlemen, that this whispering, pretended to have been overheard, was a scheme settled between Probart and his wife? I know not, but I believe most firmly, that the body never was in Probart's pond. From Mrs. Probart's description of what is called the garden and yard-gate, you will see that

my statement is confirmed, as well also by the difference between her and her husband's statement, as to the bringing in of the body. I may here explain the circumstance of the supposed grave, by telling you that it was a potato field, and that the potatoes were taken away previously to Probart's leaving the cottage.

"The evidence of Probart is, that he left the Artichoke public-house eleven minutes before nine; but Mr. Field says, that he left at a quarter past seven. Taking this statement to be true, it is clear that Probart and Hunt had time enough to go to the top of Gill's Hill Lane, and return to the Artichoke after they had perpetrated the murder, so as to enable them to throw the guilt upon the shoulders of any other person than their own. Can you believe, or can anybody believe, that Probart, without some inquiry, would have left his companion Hunt, on a dark night, at nine o'clock, half a mile from his own cottage? Is that possible, or can you be so much imposed upon as to believe it? No; I am satisfied you will not. I am satisfied you will consider this circumstance as sufficient to overrule Probart's statement; and without that there is no evidence to support the charge against me.

"My lord, and gentlemen of the jury, I ought to rejoice that the circumstances on which the prosecutors rely in support of their case, afford the strongest proof of my innocence. The case for the prosecution is founded entirely on circumstantial evidence. I have demonstrated to you that the circumstances proved do not point at me, as being concerned in the perpetration of this murder. But, gentlemen, circumstantial evidence is at best but a fearful guide to human judgment. If human judgment is to be guided by circumstantial evidence alone, the greatest errors may be committed. Nothing can be more frail, more liable to deception and false conclusions, than mere circumstances, which are at all times equivocal.

"My Lord Hale, in his Pleas of the Crown, vol. ii., p. 200, says, I could never convict any person of murder or manslaughter, unless evidence of the most satisfactory nature, respecting the body of the deceased, and the nature of the wound or wounds which had caused his death, should be produced in aid of the circumstances supporting the accusation."

After quoting cases to the point, chiefly from the Percy Anecdotes, he added—

"And now, gentlemen, having read these cases to you, am I not justified in saying, that, unless you are thoroughly convinced that the circumstances before you are absolutely inconsistent with my innocence, I have a claim to your verdict of acquittal. Am I not justified in presuming, that you may have arrived at the conclusion that all the circumstances stated might be true, and yet I be innocent? I am sure, gentlemen, you will banish from your minds any prejudice which may have been excited against me, and act upon the principle that every man is to be deemed innocent until he is proved guilty. Judge of my case, gentlemen, with mature consideration, and remember that my existence depends upon your breath. If you bring in a verdict of guilty, the law afterwards allows no mercy. If, upon a due consideration of all the circumstances you shall have a doubt, the law orders you, and your own consciences will teach you, to give me the full benefit of it. I implore you, gentlemen, to give my case your utmost attention. I ask not so much for myself, as for those respectable parents whose name I bear, and who must suffer in my fate. I ask it for the sake of that home which will be rendered cheerless and desolate by my death. Gentlemen, I affirm, those who know me best know that I am utterly incapable of an unjust and dishonourable action, much less of the horrid crime with which I am now charged. There is not, I think, one in this court who does not think me innocent of the charge. If there be—to him or them, I say, in the language of the Apostle, 'Would to God ye were altogether such as I am, save these bonds.'

"Gentlemen, I have now done. I look with confidence to your decision. I hope your verdict this day will be such as you may ever after be able to think upon with a composed conscience; and that you will also reflect upon the solemn declaration which I now make—So HELP ME GOD, I AM INNOCENT!"

(To be continued.)

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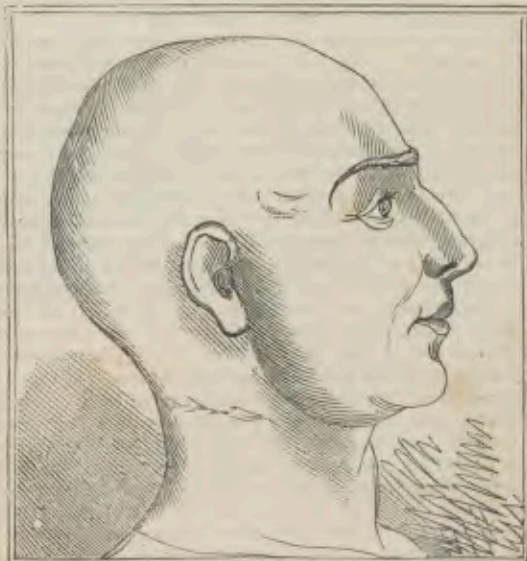
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N^o 60.

APRIL 19, 1837.

PRICE
ONE PENNY.

MURDER OF WILLIAM WEARE.



[PROFILE OF THURTELL, TAKEN FROM A BUST AFTER EXECUTION.]

CONCLUDING CHAPTER.

THURTELL having concluded his defence, witnesses were called on his behalf. These were, Mr. Samuel Wadson, who would not believe Probart on his oath, unless his testimony was supported by other and credible evidence; Mr. Haydon; Captain M'Kinlay, R. N.; and Mr. W. Walmsley.

The prisoner Hunt was now asked by the judge if he had anything to say.

Hunt. My lord, I have a defence to make, but from extreme anxiety of mind I do not feel myself competent to read it.

Mr. Justice Park. Let the officer of the court read it.

The defence of this prisoner was chiefly a recapitulation of the circumstances which led to his confession of the facts of which

he had professed a knowledge; and an expression of the disappointment he had experienced in mercy towards him, though promised, having been set aside.

A few minutes before twelve o'clock the learned judge proceeded to sum up the evidence to the jury. He minutely reviewed the whole case, dwelling upon the inconclusiveness of Probart's evidence, which was only to be relied on when confirmed by other testimony, and pointing out the conclusiveness of circumstantial evidence in general.

The jury withdrew, and at about ten minutes before four returned into court. The foreman was so overcome that he could scarcely articulate the word "Guilty," and was some seconds before he recovered

himself sufficiently to deliver a similar verdict as to Hunt. Thurtell heard the verdict without betraying the slightest emotion.

A motion in arrest of judgment having been set aside, Mr. Justice Park passed sentence of death upon the prisoners, and the court broke up.

From this period to the time of execution the prisoners showed a penitent spirit, and occasionally sought consolation for their afflictions in prayer.

On the last night Thurtell intimated an ardent desire that his late wretched associate (Hunt) should be allowed to pass the night in his apartment.

Hunt, being at length introduced, was received by Thurtell with a strong manifestation of cordiality. Thurtell took him by the hand, and said, "Joe, the past is forgotten. I stand on the brink of eternity, and we meet now only as friends. It may be your fate to lose your life as ignominiously as myself; but I sincerely hope the royal mercy will be extended to you, and that you will live to repent of your past errors, and make some atonement for the injuries which you have done to me or others. Although you have been my enemy, I freely forgive you."

Hunt, who had entered the room with feelings bordering on apprehension that some unfortunate turn had taken place in his affairs, and that he was himself to suffer, was suddenly relieved by this address, and squeezing Thurtell's hand most vehemently he burst into tears; he then sat down by the fire, and Thurtell and he continued to pray, and to read the admirable works which were before them, until one o'clock.

Thurtell had previously partaken of tea and a small portion of bread and butter, and occasionally during the night sucked an orange. Soon after one, he showed symptoms of fatigue, and laying himself on the bed he uttered a fervent prayer to the Almighty, for strength to meet his approaching execution with the firmness of a man, and the resignation of a Christian. In a few moments afterwards he dropped into a profound sleep. Hunt continued to sit by the fire reading, but soon fell asleep on his seat.

At half-past eleven o'clock on the morning of execution, Thurtell and Hunt were conducted into the chapel, where they were met by Mr. Nicholson; and the

Rev. Mr. Franklin administered the sacrament to them.

Mr. Wilson and the prisoner Thurtell being left alone, Mr. Wilson said, "Now, Thurtell, as there is now no eye to witness what is passing between us but that of God, you must not be surprised if I ask you a question." Thurtell turned round and regarded him with a look of surprise. Mr. Wilson continued, "If you intend to make any confession, I think you cannot do it at a better period than the present." Thurtell paused for a few moments. Mr. Wilson then went on to say, "I ask you if you acknowledge the justice of your sentence. Thurtell immediately seized both Mr. Wilson's hands, and pressed them with great fervour within his own, and said, "I am quite satisfied. I forgive the world; I die in peace and charity with all mankind; and that is all I wish to go forth upon this occasion." Mr. Wilson next asked him whether he considered that the laws of his country had been dealt to him justly and fairly; upon which he said, "I admit that justice has been done me—I am perfectly satisfied."

When the clock was on the stroke of twelve, Mr. Nicholson (the under-sheriff) and the executioner ascended the platform, followed by Thurtell, who mounted the stairs with a slow but steady step. The principal turnkey of the gaol came next, followed by Mr. Wilson and two officers. After tying the rope round Thurtell's neck, the executioner drew a white cotton cap over his countenance, which did not, however, conceal the contour of his face, or deprive him entirely of the view of surrounding objects. After the lapse of a few seconds, during which every person seemed to be engaged in examining narrowly Thurtell's deportment, the under-sheriff gave the dreadful signal—the drop suddenly fell, and John Thurtell was launched into eternity! After hanging the usual time, the body was given up for dissection.

The sentence of Hunt, as we have already stated, was remitted to transportation. Prior to his quitting the country, he furnished the public with a statement, tending to show, if entirely true, that the repentance of Thurtell was not so deep as he had at times professed it.

Probart subsequently met his fate at the gallows through horse-stealing.

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