

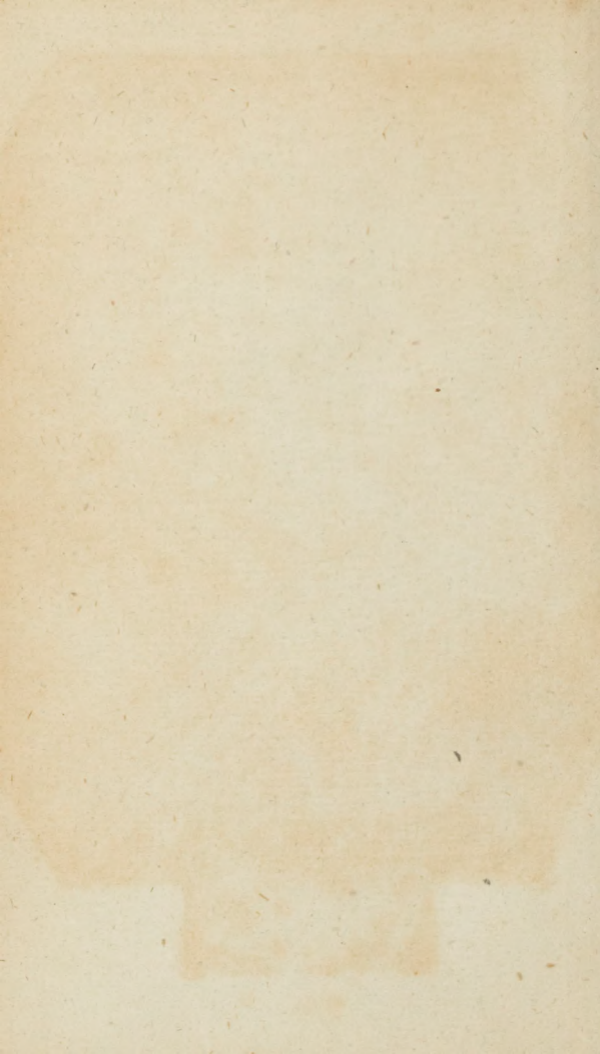
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MAJOR SEMPLE .



THE CRIMINAL RECORDER;

OR,

Biographical Sketches

OF

Notorious Public Characters

INCLUDING

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

AND OTHER NOTED PERSONS

WHO HAVE SUFFERED THE SENTENCE OF THE LAW FOR

CRIMINAL OFFENCES.

Embracing a Variety of

CURIOUS AND SINGULAR CASES, ANECDOTES, &c.

WITH OCCASIONAL NOTES :

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

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

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

BY A STUDENT OF THE INNER TEMPLE. *(A. J.)*

VOLUME THE SECOND

LONDON:

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PATERNOSTER-ROW

1804.



Michael Giligan,

DIRECTIONS TO THE BINDER FOR PLACING THE PORTRAITS.

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The writing to the Portrait of the Rev. T. HUNTER is, by mistake, engraven Rev. T. HACKMAN: the Binder is therefore requested to let the Plate face page 29, of volume 2.

BIOGRAPHICAL
S K E T C H E S,

&c. &c.



HENDERSON, MATTHEW, (MURDERER) was the son of honest parents, and born at North Berwick, in Scotland, where he was educated in the liberal manner customary in that country, and brought up in the doctrine of the Christian religion, as professed by the Presbyterians. Sir Hugh Dalrymple being a member of the British parliament, took him into his service when fourteen years of age, and brought him to London. Before he was nineteen years old he married one of his master's maids: but Sir Hugh, who had a great regard for him, did not dismiss him, though he was greatly chagrined at this circumstance. Sir Hugh having occasion to go out of town for a month, summoned Henderson to assist in dressing him; and while he was thus employed, Sir Hugh's lady going into the room, the servant casually trod on her toe. She said not a word on this occasion; but looked at him with a degree of rage that made him extremely uneasy. When Sir Hugh had taken his leave, she

VOL. II. E demanded

demanded of Henderson why he had trod on her toe; in answer to which he made many apologies, and ascribed the circumstance to mere accident; but she gave him a blow on the ear, and declared that she would dismiss him from her service. Henderson said it would be unnecessary to turn him away, for he would go without compulsion; but reflecting that her passion would soon subside, he continued in his place, and was used with as much kindness as if the accident had never happened. Enraged at the blow he had received, like Zanga, he began to consider how he should be revenged; and at length came to the fatal resolution of murdering his mistress. The maid-servant going out one night, at past eleven o'clock, to see a relation, took the key of the street door in her pocket. Her absence Henderson thought a favourable opportunity to carry his horrid plan into execution; on which he went into the kitchen, and having furnished himself with a cleaver, he retired to his bed-chamber, where he remained more than a quarter of an hour, deliberating whether he should or should not commit the murder; at length he thought himself determined, and went up the stairs as far as the first landing-place; but smitten by his conscience, he descended; sat some time on his bed; then again ascended a part of the stairs, and again came down; incapable for the present of carrying his dreadful purpose into execution. Once more he mustered spirits to go up as far as the first window; when hearing the watchman crying the midnight hour, he tripped down a few steps; but immediately summoning his shocking resolution, he went up, and opened the lady's chamber-door, having the cleaver in his hand. Approaching the bedside, he found her asleep;

but

but still hesitated on the commission of the crime, and walked across the room in the utmost perturbation of mind. At length he again went to the bed, and struck her violently on her head with the cleaver. On receiving the blow, she attempted to get up, but he repeated it, and then heard her speak some words, but not plain enough to distinguish what she said. Hereupon he gave her a third blow, on which she exclaimed, "O Lord! what is this?"—He now continued his blows till she fell out of bed, and the room streamed with blood. Terrified at what he had done, he quitted the room, and threw the cleaver into the privy. To the murder he now resolved to add that of robbery; and going back to the room, he stole some money, jewel, and other valuable effects, which he carried to his wife's lodgings, put them in a box, and immediately went back. On his return he found that he had shut himself out; but the maid coming soon afterwards, unlocked the door, and they went in. The maid observing blood on the floor below stairs, suspected that some mischief had happened; on which she ran up stairs, and finding the lady a bloody corpse, she came down weeping. As soon as it was day-light Henderson went to the nephew of Sir Hugh Dalrymple, and informed the gentleman of the misfortune that had happened; on which the maid was taken into custody on suspicion, and carried before a magistrate, who, from her answers, had a strong idea that the fact was committed by Henderson. Hereupon he was apprehended by a constable, with whom he went very cheerfully: but the magistrate examining him with unusual strictness, found many contradictions in his story; and at length he confessed that he alone had transacted the murder-

ous business. On this he was committed to Newgate, and being brought to his trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he pleaded guilty, and sentence of death was passed on him. He was attended by a minister of the Presbyterian persuasion. His behaviour was very penitent and contrite during his imprisonment; and at the place of execution he made a speech, advising servants to be obedient to their masters, and to behave with submission, instead of harbouring sentiments of revenge. On the 25th of February, 1746, he was drawn on a sledge to the end of Oxford-street, where he was executed; and his body was afterwards hung in chains on the road to Edgeware.

HENLEY, JOHN. See ISDWELL, J.

HENSEY, DOCTOR FLORENCE (TRAITOR) was a native of the county of Kildare in Ireland, brought up a Roman Catholic, and taught the rudiments of grammar by a priest of that persuasion. Being sent to St. Omer's to study philosophy, he continued there till the degree of Master of Arts was conferred on him, and then proceeded to Leyden, where he studied physic. From Leyden he went through Germany and Switzerland into Italy, acquiring the knowledge of the respective languages during his travels. Embarking at Genoa, he sailed to Lisbon, and crossing the kingdom of Portugal, he went to Spain, and thence to France, endeavouring in his tour to make himself master of the Portuguese and Spanish languages. Having reached Paris, he practised physic in that city five years; but being unsuccessful, he repaired to London. His success in England was not superior to that in France. His patients were few, and those of the lower rank of people. From his quitting the university at Leyden, he had corresponded

ponded with a brother collegian, who, having settled in France, procured a place in the office of the secretary of state at Paris. As soon as the Doctor heard of his friend's promotion, he wrote him a letter of congratulation, in which he made a civil offer of executing any of his commands in London. This happening at the commencement of a war between Great Britain and France, Hensey's friend informed him that he might be very serviceable by transmitting early intelligence of our warlike preparations. This hint being approved by the Doctor, the next post brought him instructions how to act, with an appointment of near 25*l.* per month. The substance of these instructions were "to send complete lists of all our men of war, both in and out of commision; their condition, situation, and number of men on board each; when they sailed, under what commanders, from what ports, and their destination; an account of the actual number of our troops, what regiments were complete, and where quartered or garrisoned." Dr. Hensey sent such accounts as he could procure to a gentleman at Cologne, who sent them to another at Berne in Switzerland, whence they were transmitted to Paris. Hensey's salary, ample as it was, proved unequal to the expectations he had formed; but he proceeded, in the hope of an increase of it. His first attempt to acquire intelligence was by getting into company with the clerks of the public offices; but not succeeding in this, he frequented the coffee-houses used by the members of parliament; and his physical appearance taking off all suspicion of his being a spy, he frequently learned such particulars as he thought worth sending to his employers. It was a maxim with him not to enter into political discussions, if he could avoid it; and

when he could not, he always spoke on the government side of the question, and was a professed enemy to the French; so that, though he was generally known to be a catholic, he proceeded for a long time unsuspected. His letters from Paris were sent by the way of Switzerland, whence they were transmitted to the post-office in London, and directed to him at a coffee-house in the Strand, by a fictitious name. A suspicion arose that these letters and their answers, which appeared to contain only a few lines of compliment, (as might be seen through the covers) were in fact a disguise for something of greater importance; and this suspicion increasing by its frequency, the secretary of the post-office at length opened some of those from Henséy, in one of which, dated from Twickenham, he read, between the lines written with ink, another epistle written with lemon-juice, earnestly advising the French to land on the English coast. These letters were read by being held to the fire, and several of them containing expressions which were deemed treasonable, the utmost diligence was used to discover the writer, and learn his real name; for which purpose a person was placed at the coffee-house to which the letters were directed, who followed him to his lodgings in Arundel-street, after he had received one of them. On the following Sunday, Henséy, who was a catholic, went according to his constant custom, to the Spanish ambassador's chapel in Soho square; on his return from which he was seized by two of the king's messengers, and conveyed to a place of security. He was repeatedly examined before the secretary of state, and at length committed to Newgate, to take his trial for high treason. The grand jury of Middlesex found a true bill against him in Easter term,

term, 1752; but the trial being removed by writ of Certiorari, into the court of King's bench, he was there arraigned, and pleaded—not guilty. He likewise demanded a copy of his indictment, which was granted, and counsel directed by the court to plead for him. He was advised to make proper preparation for his trial, which came on before lord Mansfield in Westminster-hall. The counsel for the crown having opened the indictment, the gentlemen of the post-office swore to the finding a number of letters in his bureau, and his handwriting was proved by some apothecaries who had made up his prescriptions. The Doctor's counsel ingeniously pleaded a defect in the indictment, because the letters were intercepted at the Post-office, which was in London; whereas the offence, if any, was committed in Middlesex, the grand jury of which county could have no right to find a bill for an offence committed in London. The counsel for the crown replied, that though the letters had been intercepted at the Post-office, the offence on which the indictment was founded had been committed at Twickenham, as appeared by the date of the letter. They further urged, that the solicitor of the treasury might have laid the indictment in the city of London; but he preferred fixing it in the county, because the letter from Twickenham was of the most dangerous tendency, and the other letters were to be considered only as collateral evidence against the prisoner. Doctor Hensey's counsel now objected, that the writing a treasonable letter was not an overt act of high-treason, except this letter was published: in answer to which it was insisted, that the delivery of it at the Post-office was an actual publication of it. The Doctor's counsel further said, that he had not corresponded

corresponded with the enemies of the king; for we were not at war with the Dutch, and the letters were directed to people in Holland. The evidences having proved, that the letter dated at Twickenham contained an invitation to the French to invade this kingdom, that was considered as an overt act of high treason; on which the plea of the prisoner was over-ruled, and the evidence was summed up by Lord Mansfield. Dr. Hensey had hitherto supported himself with courage; but during the absence of the jury, which was about three quarters of an hour, he trembled excessively, and repeatedly changed colour, while large drops of sweat ran down his face, and bursting into tears, he gave every proof of the greatest agitation of mind. On the return of the jury, he had scarcely strength to hold up his hand at the bar. A verdict of guilty being pronounced, a rule of court was made for his being brought up to receive sentence on the Wednesday following. While lord Mansfield was pronouncing sentence, on the appointed day, the convict shed tears, turned pale, and trembled exceedingly; and, after sentence, he begged a fortnight to make proper preparation for his death; when the court generously granted him a month. From his first apprehension by the king's messengers, his behaviour was remarkably reserved. He declined all conversation on his own private affairs, and was visited by very few except his confessor. He was so reduced while in Newgate, as to be obliged to pawn his sword and linen for his support. A respite was sent for him early on the morning on which he was to have been executed, and afterwards a reprieve during the king's pleasure. After this, he continued above three years in Newgate, and then embarked for France,

on obtaining a free pardon. At the time he was apprehended, his brother was secretary and chaplain to the Spanish ambassador at the Hague. To this brother he wrote an account of his misfortunes; in consequence of which the Spanish ambassador at London was applied to by the gentleman in similar office at the Hague; and such representations were made to the British ministry, that the reprieve followed, though King George the Second could not be prevailed on to grant him a free pardon: but soon after the accession of his present Majesty, this pardon was granted, and the prisoner discharged, on giving the usual security for his good behaviour. Dr. Hensey's trial and conviction was in the Court of King's-bench, on the 12th of June, 1758.

HICKS, J. See DICKINSON, E.

HILL, SAMUEL (MURDERER) was a native of Buckeridge in Staffordshire, received a decent education, was apprenticed to a shoemaker, and served his time with fidelity: at the expiration of which he came to London, and worked as a journeyman till he had saved about ten pounds; and this instance of his industry and frugality coming to the knowledge of his aunt, who lived at Hawkehurst in Kent, she bequeathed him fifty pounds by her will. On the death of the aunt, he received the money, married, and commenced business as a master in Kent; where he unfortunately got connected with some smugglers, who dealt with him for shoes, for which they paid him in smuggled articles. A party of dragoons having attacked the smugglers, Hill took part with the latter, and was desperately wounded. In the end, the smugglers were victorious; but Hill, in consequence of his hurt, was obliged to get on board a cutter, which carried

carried him to France, where he put himself under the care of a surgeon, and was perfectly cured. When restored to health, he returned to England with a quantity of contraband goods; but the custom-house officers soon after attacked him and another smuggler, and took them into custody. They continued seven months in prison; and were then released by an order from the Exchequer. Hill and his associates now bought a quantity of prohibited goods, and proceeded towards London to sell them; but being attacked by several custom-house officers on the Deptford road, an engagement ensued, in which one of the officers was wounded in the leg, and the smugglers got off, and sold their goods in London. Not long after this the smugglers paid an officer to connive at their proceeding; instead of which, he laid an information against them; whereupon they pulled down his house, to testify their revenge. Thence they went to Sandwich, and attempted to land some run goods; but a party of dragoons attacking them, one of the smugglers was killed on the spot, on which the rest galloped off with the utmost precipitation. Afterwards the officers made an attack on the smugglers at Bromley, when one of the latter was wounded, and three horses were killed on the opposite party. The smugglers now vowed revenge against the custom-house officers, one of whom they seized, and conveying him to the house of Hill, treated him for ten successive days with the utmost barbarity. At length they consulted whether they should murder the unhappy man; but some of them advising that he should be sent to France, he was conveyed to the sea side, and proposals made to take him on board a cutter: however, the master of the vessel, having been formerly punished

punished for receiving a person on board in a similar situation, refused to accept him, unless he would declare that it was his free will to go; and this declaration not being made, the smugglers beat him severely, and then permitted him to depart. Hill now grew tired of this connection, and retired to his own business; a circumstance that exasperated his late associates to such a degree, that they robbed his house of effects to a considerable amount, and a hundred and fifty pounds in cash. Distressed by this circumstance, and apprehensive of farther consequences, he determined no longer to stay in the country, and therefore wrote a letter to his sister in London, who took a house for him, whither he removed, and soon afterwards buried three children, who died of the small-pox. He now went to visit a smuggler confined in Newgate, but had formed a design of effecting his escape, which he communicated to Hill, and offered him a hundred pounds to assist him in putting it into execution. The proposal was, that some other smugglers should come to Newgate, with offensive weapons hid under their cloaths, and having seized the keepers, should set the prisoners at liberty. Hill endeavoured to engage the smugglers to take a part in this affair; but they were too cautious to embark in so hazardous an undertaking. Hill, however, was daring enough to afford assistance to the prisoner, who effected his escape, but who was not generous enough to give even a single shilling to his agent. After this, he was promised a sum of money to assist another smuggler in making his escape from Newgate; in consequence of which he did all in his power to forward the plan, but never obtained the least gratuity for his trouble. His wife dying about this time, he seemed to decline
all

all farther thoughts of getting money in a dishonest way; and boarding in the house of an elderly widow at Poplar, obtained his living by working as a journeyman at his own business: but at length he became in debt to his landlady, who seized a new suit of clothes for what he owed her. Exasperated by this circumstance, Hill, on the following morning, attempted to wrest the keys of the house from the woman's hands; but, on her making resistance, he seized a rope that lay by him, with which he strangled her, so that she expired immediately. This done, he robbed the house, and put the stolen effects on board a boat, which went down the river: but being pursued, he was soon taken, and carried before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate. He was brought to trial on the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, capitally convicted, and received sentence of death; after which he submitted with the utmost patience to his fate, confessing that he was highly deserving of the ignominy that his complicated crimes had brought on him. He suffered at Tyburn, March 23, 1752, after cautioning the surrounding multitude to take warning by his fate.

HILL, JAMES, alias HIND, J. alias ATKINS, J. (INCENDEIARY) had been a journeyman to Mr. Golding, a painter, at Titchfield, whence he procured the familiar title of 'John the Painter.' During a residence of some years in America, he imbibed principles incompatible with the interests of this country. Transported with party-zeal, he formed the desperate resolution of committing a most atrocious crime, which he, in some degree, effected. About four o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th of December, 1776, a fire broke out in the rope-house of Portsmouth-dock, which
entirely

entirely consumed that building. The fire was wholly attributed to accident; but on the 5th of January three men who were employed in the hemp-house, found a tin machine, somewhat resembling a tea-cannister, and near the same spot a wooden box containing various kinds of combustibles. This circumstance being communicated to the commissioner of the dock, and circulated among the public, several vague and indefinite suspicions fell upon Hill who had been lurking about the dock-yard, whose surname was not known, but who had been distinguished by the appellation of John the Painter. In consequence of advertisements in the newspapers, offering a reward of 50*l.* for apprehending him, he was secured at Odiham. On the 7th of February the prisoner was examined at Sir John Fielding's office, Bow-street, where John Baldwin, who exercised the trade of a painter in different parts of America, attended by the direction of Lord Temple, who imagined that the parties might know each other. Baldwin declared he had not the least knowledge of the prisoner, who then bowed to him, and soon after requested that he would favour him with a visit in the New-prison. Baldwin attended him in the afternoon, and on the following days till the 15th, and the subsequent days till the 24th, the prisoner's discourse with Baldwin operated very materially towards his conviction, as it was brought in corroboration of a variety of evidence on trial. He asked Baldwin whether he was acquainted with Mr. Dean, and being answered in the negative, exclaimed, "What, not know Mr. Dean, Silas Dean, employed by the congress? He is a fine fellow. I believe Benjamin Franklin is employed on the same errand." He said he had taken a view

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of

of most of the dock-yards and fortifications about England, the number of ships in the navy, and observed their weight of metal and their number of men, and had been to France two or three times to inform Silas Dean of his discoveries; and that Dean gave him bills to the amount of 300l. and letters of recommendation to a merchant in the city, which he had burnt, lest they should lead to a discovery. He informed Baldwin that he had instructed a tin-man's apprentice at Canterbury to make him a tin cannister, which he carried to Portsmouth, where he hired a lodging at one Mrs. Boxall's, and tried his preparations for setting fire to the dock-yard. After recounting the manner of preparing matches and combustibles, he said that on the 6th of the preceding December, he got into the hemp-house, and having placed a candle in a wooden box and a tin cannister over it, and sprinkled turpentine over some of the hemp, he proceeded to the rope-house, where he placed a bottle of turpentine among a quantity of loose hemp, which he sprinkled with turpentine, and having laid matches, made of paper painted over with powdered charcoal and gun-powder diluted with water, and other combustibles about the place, he returned to his lodgings. These matches were so contrived as to continue burning for twenty-four hours; so that by cutting it into proper lengths he provided for his escape, knowing the precise time when the fire would reach the combustibles. He had hired lodgings in two other houses to which he intended to set fire, that the engines might not be all employed together in quenching the conflagration at the dock. On the 7th he again went to the hemp-house, intending to set it on fire, which he, however, was unable to effect, owing to a halfpenny worth

worth of common house matches that he had bought not being sufficiently dry. This disappointment, he said, rendered him exceedingly uneasy, and he went from the hemp-house to the rope-house, and set fire to the matches he had placed there. He said his uneasiness was increased because he could not return to his lodging, where he had left a bundle containing an Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, a treatise on war and making fire-works, a Justin, a pistol, and a French passport, in which his real name was inserted. When he had set fire to the rope-house he proceeded towards London, deeply regretting his failure in attempting to fire the other building, and was strongly inclined to fire into the windows of the woman who had sold him the bad matches. He jumped into a cart, and gave the woman who drove it sixpence, to induce her to drive quick: and when he had passed the centinels, observed the fire to have made so rapid a progress, that the "element seemed in a blaze." About ten the next morning he arrived at Kingston, where he remained until the dusk of the evening, and proceeded to London in the stage. Soon after his arrival, he waited upon the gentleman in the city, and informed him of having been under the necessity of burning the bills upon, and letters to, him from Silas Dean. The gentleman behaved to him with shyness, but appointed to meet him at a coffee-house. At the coffee-house the gentleman seemed to be doubtful as to the story told by Hill, who therefore went away displeased, and as soon as he reached Hammersmith wrote to the merchant, saying, he was going to Bristol, and that the "handy works" he meant to perform there would be soon known to the public. A short time after his arrival at Bristol, he set fire to several
C 2 houses,

houses, which were all burning with great rapidity at one time, and the flames were not extinguished till damage was sustained to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds. He also set fire to combustibles that he had placed among a number of oil barrels upon the quay, but happily without effect. He related to Baldwin a great number of other circumstances, which were confirmed by a variety of evidence on his trial, which came on, Thursday March 6, 1777, at Winchester Castle, before the Right Hon. Sir William Henry Ashurt. Knt. and Sir Beaumont Hotham, Knt. James Russel produced a tin case and a wooden box, made to fit each other, containing combustibles, which he swore he found in the hemp-house at Portsmouth. William Tench, apprentice to a tin-man at Canterbury, deposed, that about a month or six weeks before Christmas he made the tin case produced by Russel, by the order and under the immediate inspection of the prisoner. Elizabeth Boxall swore, that the prisoner lodged at her house on the night preceding that on which the fire happened, and that in the morning she perceived a violent smell of sulphur, and going into the prisoner's room complained that she was fearful he would set fire to her house; that he left a bundle, which she opened and found to contain a tin case; and being shewn the cannister produced by Russel, she believed it to be the same. Mrs. Cole swore, that the prisoner took a lodging at her house, and left there a bundle, containing some books and other things, which she delivered to Mr. Jeffrey, clerk to the commissioner of the dock. John Fisher, servant to Mr. Tuck, tinman, at Canterbury, deposed, that about six or seven weeks before Christmas the prisoner came to his master's shop, and gave orders for two tin cases, but

but that, not being finished at the time he had appointed to call for them, they were left on his master's hands. Fisher produced one of the cases, which was found to correspond with that found in the hemp-house. William Baldy and William Weston swore, that they saw and conversed with the prisoner in the hemp house at Portsmouth on the 7th of December. Ann Hopkins deposed, that about four, or half-past four, of the day on which the fire happened at Portsmouth dock, the prisoner overtook her near the Flying Bull at Cosham, and saying he was going to Petersfield, and fearing he should be benighted, desired she would allow him to ride part of the way in her cart, and gave her sixpence in order that she might drive quick; and that, when she came within sight of her house, he leaped out of the cart, and took the road leading to London. Ann Gentle swore, that on the day before the fire at Portsmouth, the prisoner bought a halfpenny worth of matches at her shop on Portsmouth Common; and John Hollingdon swore, that as far as he could judge from human probability, the prisoner was the man to whom he sold two ounces of spirits of turpentine, and a quarter of a pound of salt petre, either three or four days before or after the 20th of November. Mary Bishop deposed, that some time between Michaelmas and Christmas the prisoner came to her house in Canterbury, and asked whether she could procure a wooden thing to be made for him. Being shewn the wooden box found with the tin case in the hemp-house, she said, she saw a thing like it brought to the prisoner by Mr. Ormisham's apprentice, who was since dead. John Dobby, who apprehended the prisoner, declared, that he found in his custody the

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following

following articles; a snuff-box containing tinder, a small powder-horn with gunpowder, a striking tinder-box primed, a phial half-full of spirits of turpentine, a parcel of matches, and some other things not of a suspicious nature. Thomas Mason, a painter, near Bristol, swore, that the day after Christmas day the prisoner came to his house, and asked leave to grind a small quantity of charcoal; that he directed him to his colour stone, on which he worked about two hours in grinding a piece of charcoal about the size of two of his fingers. The bundle left by the prisoner at Mrs. Cole's was then produced: and the clerk informed the court that it contained a loaded pistol, a French passport, and some books, the titles of which he read. The court then informed the prisoner, that the evidence against him was closed, and called upon him for his defence. He called no witnesses, but addressed the court two or three times, and proposed some questions to Baldwin, but said nothing tending to invalidate the charge against him. The judge then summed up the evidence in a clear, circumstantial, and candid manner; and the jury pronounced him guilty: in consequence of which the judge addressed him in a manner truly pathetic, reminding him of the shocking enormity of his crime, which was of such a nature as would not admit the possibility of his sentence being reversed, and exhorting him to exert his utmost endeavours that the eternity he was to enter upon in a few days might prove "an eternity of bliss instead of misery." The prisoner said, he entertained "no hopes of pardon, but was willing to die, more so than to live." He suffered at Portsmouth, on the 10th of March, 1777.

HITCHIN, CHARLES. See WILD, J.

HOLMES,

HOLMES, ———. See GONZALEZ.

HORNE, WILLIAM ANDREW, Esquire, (MURDERER,) was the son of a gentleman of fortune, at Butterley in Derbyshire, at which place he was born in the year 1685. His father, who was distinguished by his classical knowledge, endeavoured to teach the son Latin and Greek; but wanting a disposition to learn, he never made any considerable progress. The father allowed him the use of his hounds, and furnished him with a horse and a gun. He took great delight in the sports of the field, and was equally attached to women; notwithstanding which he was remarkable for his parsimony. He seduced several girls, two of whom were servants to his mother, and one was the daughter of a farmer, which latter died in consequence of her grief. He had two natural daughters, one of whom lived to the age of fifteen, and the other was living in 1759, and might have been reputably married, but that the avaricious father refused to give her any portion of fortune. He had likewise criminal connections with his own sister, who being delivered of a boy in February, 1724, Horne told his brother Charles, three days afterwards, and at ten o'clock at night, that he must take a ride with him. He then put the new-born infant in a bag, and mounting their horses, they rode to Annesley in Nottinghamshire, at the distance of five computed miles, carrying the child alternately. On their arrival near the village, William dismounted, and enquired if the child was living, and being answered in the affirmative, he took it, and told his brother to wait till he came back. On his return, Charles demanded to know how he had disposed of the infant; to which he said, that he had placed it behind
a hay,

a hay-stack, and covered it with hay. He also said that he intended to have left it at the door of Mr. Chaworth, of Annesley; but the dogs barking, and there being a light in the house, he desisted from his first intention, in the fear of a discovery. After some hesitation, he then resolved to place it under a warm hay-stack, in the hope that, when the servants came to fodder the cattle in the morning, it would be found. On the following morning, however, the child was discovered lifeless, through the severity of the weather. In a short time after the transaction, a quarrel happened between the brothers; in consequence of which Charles communicated the affair to his father, who enjoined him to the strictest secrecy, which was observed till the death of the old gentleman, who died in the kitchen, aged 102 years, in the year 1747. The father left William all his real estate, having previously assigned the whole of his personal, by deed of gift, to Charles; notwithstanding, when the old gentleman died, William took twelve guineas out of his pocket, which, being part of his personal effects, was the undoubted property of his brother; nor did he promise to return this money till Charles had engaged to pay the expense of the funeral, which having done, and applied for these twelve guineas, William turned him out of the house. Soon afterwards Charles was in great distress, and his children were frequently obliged to solicit their uncle's charity, but both their petitions and persons were treated with indignity. This brutality and avarice naturally provoked Charles, who having some business to transact with Mr. Cooke, an attorney, at Derby, told him of the long-concealed affair, and asked his advice. The lawyer desired him to go to
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a justice of the peace, and make a full discovery of the whole transaction. Hereupon Charles went to a magistrate, and acquainted him with what had happened; but he hesitated to take cognizance of it; said it might hang half the family; and that as it had passed so many years ago, advised that it might remain a secret. Consequently no farther notice was taken of it till the year 1754, when Charles Horne being seized with a violent fit of illness, called in the assistance of one Mr. White, of Ripley; and presuming that he should live but a short time, said he could not die in peace without disclosing his mind. When Mr. White had heard the tale, he declined giving any advice, saying it was not proper for him to interfere in the business. Charles recovered his health in a surprising manner; and Mr. White, who saw him again in a few days after, expressing his astonishment at so speedy a recovery, the other said, "He had been better ever since he had disclosed his mind to him." A considerable time after this, William Horne had a quarrel with a Mr. Roe, at a public-house, concerning the right of killing game; when Roe called Horne an "Incestuous old dog." Hereupon Horne prosecuted him in the ecclesiastical court at Litchfield, where Roe was cast, and obliged to pay all expenses. This circumstance inflamed Roe with revenge, and having learnt that Charles Horne had mentioned something of his brother having caused his natural child to be starved to death, he made such enquiry of Charles as determined him how to act. Hereupon he went to a magistrate in Derbyshire, and obtained a warrant, but took Charles's word for his appearance on the following day. William hearing that such warrant was granted, and being apprehensive his brother might be admitted as an
evidence

evidence against him, he sent for him, and told him he would be his friend, if he would deny all he had said. This the other refused, but told him, if he would give him five pounds, he would go immediately to Liverpool, and quit the kingdom: but William's excessive avarice prevented his complying with this moderate request. Charles being examined by some magistrates in Derbyshire, they declined interfering in the business: on which a justice of the peace in Nottinghamshire was applied to, who issued a warrant for taking William Andrew Horne, Esq. into custody; and this warrant was backed by Sir John Every, a magistrate of Derbyshire. A constable from Annesley went with Mr. Roe, and some other assistants, to Mr. Horne's house, about eight in the evening, but could not obtain admittance; on which the constable left Roe and another to watch that the party should not escape, and returned in the morning, when a servant told them his master was gone out; but Roe and his companion insisting he had not escaped in the night, they were at length admitted, after having threatened to burst the door.—They now diligently searched the house, but could not find Mr. Horne, and would probably have desisted, but that Roe insisted on making another search, during which they observed a large old chest; and Mrs. Horne being asked what it contained, said, "it was full of sheets and table linen." Roe declared he would look into it, and was on the point of breaking it open, when Mrs. H. unlocked it, and her husband suddenly started up, saying, "It is a sad thing to hang me, for my brother Charles is as bad as myself, and he cannot hang me without hanging himself." He was taken into custody, and being carried before two justices of the peace
in

in Nottinghamshire, they committed him to take his trial the following assizes. He had not been long in confinement, when he applied to the Court of King's Bench for a writ of habeas corpus; which being granted, he was brought to London, and his counsel argued that he ought to be admitted to bail; but the judges were of a different opinion, and he was remanded to the gaol of Nottingham. On August 10, 1759, he was tried before Lord Chief Baron Parker; and, after a hearing of about nine hours, the jury found him guilty, and he received sentence of death. Though so many years had passed since the transaction, the persons who found the child were still living, and their testimony corroborating that of his brother Charles, led to the above conviction. Horne being convicted on a Saturday, was sentenced to die on the Monday following; but a number of gentlemen waited on the judge, intimating, that as he had been so long hardened in iniquity, a farther time would be necessary to prepare him for his awful change; in consequence of which a respite of a month was granted him. When this time was nearly expired, he received a reprieve during his Majesty's pleasure, so that he began to entertain hope of obtaining a free pardon. He employed the greater part of his time in writing to people that he thought might have interest to save him. He seemed little affected by the enormity of his crime, and frequently said, "it was d——d hard to suffer on the evidence of a brother, for a crime committed so many years before." He acknowledged to a clergyman, who assisted him in his devotions, that he forgave all his enemies, even his brother Charles; but made the following strange addition to his speech—"that if, at the day of judgment, the
Almighty

Almighty should ask him how his brother behaved, he would not give him a good character." —It happened, that on the day appointed for his execution, he had just completed his 74th year; and having always been accustomed to have a plumb pudding on his birth-day, he would have continued that custom if he had received another reprieve. He suffered at Nottingham, the 11th of Dec. 1759.

HOUSSART, LEWIS, (MURDERER,) was born at Sedan, in France; but his parents being Protestants, he quitted that kingdom, in consequence of an edict of Louis XIV. and settled in Dutch Brabant. His 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 on account of his ill state of health, and came to England. Here he became acquainted with Anne Rondeau, whom he married at the French church in Spitalfields. Having lived about three years with his wife at Hoxton, he left her in disgust, and, going into the city, passed for a single man, working as a barber and hair-dresser; and got acquainted with a Mrs. Hern, of Princes-street, Lothbury, whom he also 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 of his bargain; to which he answered in the negative. It appears as if he had now come to the resolution of murdering his first wife; for he had not been long married before his second charging him with a former matrimonial connection, he desired her to be easy,
for

for she would be convinced, in a short time, he had no other 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 on her about a fortnight before the perpetration of the murder, and told her he would bring her something to relieve her. The next day he gave her a medicine that had the appearance of conserve of roses, which threw her into such severe convulsion fits, that her life was despaired of for some hours, but at length she recovered. This scheme failing, Houssart determined to murder her; to effect which, and conceal the crime, he took the following method:— Having directed his second wife to meet him at the Turk's Head in Bishopsgate street, she went thither 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 enquiring 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, on finding her daughter murdered, hastened to her son, to whom she related the affair: and he having heard that Houssart lodged in Lothbury, took a constable, went thither, and said he was come to apprehend him on suspicion of having murdered his wife; on which he laughed loudly, and asked if any thing in his looks indicated that he could be guilty of such a crime. Being committed to Newgate, he was tried at the next sessions 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 hereof 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, awaiting this solemn award, the boy whom he had employed to go into the house of Mrs. Rondeau, and who had hitherto 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 be only sworn to tell the truth. "Why,"
said

said he, I thought they would hang him:" but the mother satisfying him there was no danger of any such consequence, and talking farther with him on the subject, he confessed he was the boy who went with the message. Hereupon he was taken to Solomon Rondeau, brother of the deceased, who went with him to a justice of 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 manner above mentioned. Hereupon Solomon Rondeau lodged an appeal against the prisoner; but in consequence of some bad Latin in it, the proceedings were stopped. Another appeal was lodged the next sessions, and the prisoner urging he was not prepared for his trial, he was indulged till a subsequent sessions. The appeal was brought in the name of Solomon Rondeau, as heir to the deceased; and the names of John Doe and Richard Roe 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 abatement of, the proceedings:—

1. That besides the appeal, to which he now pleaded, there was another yet depending, and undetermined.

2. 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-surgeon.

4. That there were no such persons as John Doe and Richard Roe, 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; and,

6. That the defendant was not guilty of the facts charged in the appeal.

The replies of the counsel for the appellant were as follow:—"To the first, that the former appeal was already quashed, and therefore could not be depending and undetermined. To the second, that it appeared that the prisoner had owned the name of Lewis, by pleading to it on two indictments, the one for bigamy, and 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 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, the one a weaver, and the other a soldier, and this 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, respecting his being not guilty, that was left to be determined by the opinion of the jury."

The trial having now commenced, the same witnesses were examined as before, to which was added the evidence of the boy, which was so forcible, that





REV J HUNTER



See directions to vendors

that the jury brought in the prisoner guilty, and he received sentence of death. His behavior after conviction was very improper, and as the day of execution drew nearer, he became still more hardened, having frequently declared that he would cut his own throat, as the jury had found him guilty of cutting that of his wife. His behaviour at the place of execution was equally indecorous. He refused to pray with the Ordinary of Newgate, and another clergyman, who kindly attended to assist him in his devotions. He suffered opposite the end of Swan-alley, in Shoreditch, near the place where the murder was committed, on the 7th of Dec. 1724.

HUNTER, REV. THOMAS, (MURDERER,) was born in the county of Fife, and was the son of a rich farmer, who sent him to the University 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 began to prosecute his studies in divinity with no small degree of success. Several of the younger clergymen 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. While in this rank of life they bear the name of chaplains; and 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, which is a rank equal to that of alderman of London. Mr. Gordon's family consisted of himself, his lady, two sons and a daughter, a young woman who attended Mrs. Gordon and her daughter, the malefactor in question, some clerks and menial servants. 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 youth of superior genius, and great goodness of heart. Unfortunately a connection took place between Hunter and the young woman, which soon increased to a criminal degree, and was maintained for a considerable time without the knowledge of the family. One day, however, when Mr. and Mrs. Gordon were on a visit, Hunter and his girl met in their chamber as usual; but having been so incautious as not to make their 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 to their parents what had happened, the eldest boy being not quite ten years of age: but when the children were at supper with their parents, they disclosed so much as left no room to doubt of what had passed. Hereupon the female servant was 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 to all the children, on whom he determined in his own mind to wreak the most diabolical vengeance. Nothing less than murder was his intention: but it was a considerable time after he had formed this horrid plan before he had an opportunity of carrying it into execution. Whenever it was a fine day, he was accustomed to walk in the fields with his pupils
for

for 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 very near Edinburgh; and having received an invitation to dine in that city, he and his lady proposed to go thither about the time that Hunter usually took his noon-tide 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 only the little girl should attend them. By this circumstance Hunter's intention of murdering all the three children was frustrated; but he held the resolution of destroying the boys while they were yet in his power. With this view he took them into the fields, and sat down as if to repose himself on the grass. This event took place soon after the middle of the month of August, 1700, and Hunter was preparing 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 sharpened his knife, he called the lads to him, and when he had reprimanded them for acquainting their father and mother of the scene to which they had been witnesses, said that he would immediately put them to death. Terrified by this threat, the children ran from him; but he immediately followed, and brought them back. He then placed his knee on the body of the one, while he cut the throat of the other with his penknife; and then treated the second in the same inhuman manner that he had done the first. These horrid murders were committed within half a mile of the
castle

castle of Edinburgh; and as the deed was 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 immediately 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. Alarmed by the incident, he called some people, who ran with him to the place where the children were lying dead: Hunter now had advanced towards a river, with a view to drown himself. Those who pursued, came up with him just as he reached the brink of the river; and his person being immediately known to them, a messenger was instantly dispatched to Mr. and Mrs. Gordon, who were at that moment going to dinner with their friend, to inform them of the horrid murder of their sons.— Language is too weak to describe the effects resulting from the communication of this dreadful news; the astonishment of the afflicted father, the agony of the frantic mother, may possibly be conceived, though it cannot be painted. 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 rigor; but this offender’s crime was of so aggravated a nature, that it was not thought proper to remit any thing of the utmost severity of the law. The prisoner was, therefore, committed to gaol, and chained down to the floor all night; and 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 Mr. Gordon's daughter as well as his sons. The sheriff now passed sentence on the convict, which was to the following purpose: 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 fixed therewith to the top of the gibbet." Mr. Hunter was executed, in strict conformity to the above sentence, on the 22d of August, 1700. But Mr. Gordon soon afterwards petitioned the sheriff, that the body might be removed to more distant spot, as its hanging on the side of the highway, through which he frequently passed, tended to re-excite his grief for the occasion that had first given rise to it. This requisition was immediately complied with, and in a few days the body was removed to the skirts of a small village near Edinburgh, named Broughton. It is equally true and horrid to relate, that, at the place of execution, Hunter closed his life with the following shocking declaration: "There is no God—I do not believe there is any—or if there is, I hold him in defiance."—Yet this infidel had hitherto been looked upon as a *minister*.

HUTCHINSON, AMY, (MURDERER,) was a native of the isle of Ely, and daughter of poor parents,

parents, who, however, contrived to keep her at school till she was twelve years of age. When sixteen, and being a tall fine girl, she was addressed by a young man, whose love she returned with equal affection. Her father being apprised of this connection, strictly charged his daughter to decline it; but there was no arguing against love: the connection continued till the young fellow seduced her under promise of marriage, and then declared his resolution of going to London, declaring he would wed her on his return. Shocked at this apparent infidelity, she determined on revenge; and being now addressed by a young man, named John Hutchinson, who had been always extremely disagreeable to her, she agreed to marry him on the very next day after he had paid her a formal visit. Accordingly the marriage took place immediately; and her favorite happening to return from London, just as the newly-wedded pair were coming out of church, the bride was greatly affected at the recollection of former scenes, and the irrevocable ceremony which had now passed. She was unable to love the man she had married, and doated to distraction on him she had rejected; consequently, the latter was admitted to his former intimacy with her, a circumstance that gave full scope to the envious tongues of her neighbours. Hutchinson becoming jealous of his wife, a quarrel ensued, during which he beat her with much severity; but this producing no alteration in her conduct, he had recourse to drinking, with a view to avoid all painful reflections on his situation. In the interim, the wife and her paramour continued their guilty intercourse uninterrupted; but considering the life of the husband as a bar to their happiness, it was resolved to remove him by poison; for which purpose

pose the wife purchased a quantity of arsenic; and Mr. Hutchinson being afflicted with an ague, and wishing for something warm to drink, the wife put some arsenic in ale, of which he drank very plentifully; she then left him, saying, she would go and buy something for his dinner; when, meeting her lover, she acquainted him with what had passed; on which he advised her to buy more poison, fearing the first might not be sufficient to operate; but its effects were too fatal, for he died about dinner time on the same day. Her mother visiting her on the day that the unhappy man died, and being suspicious, from her former conduct, that some indirect methods had been used to destroy him, she said, "I am afraid you have done something to your husband;" to which Mrs. Hutchinson only said, "What makes you think so, mother?" The deceased was buried on the following Sunday, and the next day the former lover renewed his visits, which occasioning the neighbours to talk very freely of the affair, the body of the deceased was taken up, the coroner's jury summoned, and the verdict given was, "That John Hutchinson had died by poison," on which the young widow was committed to the gaol at Ely. She had counsel to plead for her on the trial; but the evidence against her being such as satisfied the jury, she was convicted, and ordered for execution. She was attended to the place of execution by a clergyman, to whom she acknowledged the magnitude of her crime, and the justice of her sentence, professing at the same time the most unfeigned penitence. She suffered at Ely, (having been burnt for *petit-treason*,) on the 7th of November, 1750.

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JACKSON, NATHANIEL, (HIGHWAY-MAN,) was a native of Doncaster, in Yorkshire, whose father dying while he was very young, left a sum of money for his use in the hands of a relation, who apprenticed him to a silk-weaver in Norwich. He had frequent disputes with his master, with whom he lived three years, and then ran away. At length his guardian found out his retreat, and sent to inform him, that, as he was averse to business, his friends wished that a place might be purchased for him, with the money left by his father; but Jackson being of an unsettled disposition, enlisted in the army, and was sent to Ireland.— After a while, being disgusted with his low condition, he solicited his discharge, which having obtained, he procured some money of his friends, and gave fifteen guineas to be admitted into a troop of dragoons; but soon quarrelling with one of his comrades, a duel ensued, in which Jackson wounded the other in such a horrid manner, that he was turned out of the regiment. He then returned to England, and lived some time with his guardian in Yorkshire; being averse to a life of sobriety, he afterwards went to London, where he spent, in the most extravagant manner, the little money he brought with him. Reduced to the utmost distress, he casually met John Murphy and Neal O'Brian, whom he had known in Ireland. After they had drunk together, O'Brian produced a considerable sum of money, saying, “ You see how I live: I never want money, and if you have but courage, and dare walk with me towards Hampstead



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REV. M. JACKSON

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stead to night, I'll shew you how easy it is to get it." As Jackson and Murphy were both of dissolute manners, and very poor, they were easily persuaded to be concerned in this dangerous enterprize. Between Tottenham-Court Road and Hampstead, they stopped a poor man named Dennis, from whom they took his coat, waistcoat, two shirts, thirteen-pence in money, and some other trifling articles; and then bound him to a tree. No sooner were they gone, than he struggled hard, got loose, and meeting a person whom he knew, they pursued them to a night-house in the Haymarket, where Murphy and Jackson were taken into custody, but O'Brian made his escape. On their trial, as soon as Dennis had given his testimony, they owned the fact they had committed, in consequence of which they received sentence of death; but Murphy obtained a reprieve. Jackson's brother exerted all his influence to save his life; but his endeavours proving ineffectual, he sent him a letter to inform him of it, which was written in such an affecting manner, as to overwhelm his mind with the most poignant affliction. While under sentence of death, Jackson behaved in the most penitent manner; confessed the sins of his past life with the deepest signs of contrition; was earnest in his devotions, and made every preparation for his approaching end. He was executed at Tyburn on the 18th of July, 1722, having suffered for the first robbery he ever committed.

JACKSON, REVEREND, (TRAITOR,) was a native of Ireland, and early in life a preacher at Tavi-tock chapel. The emoluments of his clerical occupation not affording him a sufficient subsistence he applied his talents to literature, and was for a

considerable time editor of a newspaper, in which situation he made himself very conspicuous. He took a decided part in the quarrel between the Duchess of Kingston and Mr. Foote, and is blamed for having treated the latter with too much asperity. He was a sharer in the romantic scheme of the Royalty Theatre, and was obliged for a considerable time to abscond, on account of the pecuniary difficulties in which it involved him. Afterwards he entered into a criminal conspiracy, and was tried at Dublin for high treason, on the 23d of April, 1795, at eleven o'clock. The indictment charged the prisoner with two species of treason, namely, compassing the King's death, and adhering to his enemies; and stated fourteen overt acts. The attorney-general opened the prosecution on the part of the crown: and having dwelt at some length on the doctrine of treason, proceeded to substantiate the charges laid in the indictment; for which purpose he called Mr. Cockayne, an attorney of London, who deposed, that he had been for a series of years, the law-agent and intimate friend of Mr. Jackson, who, a few years since went to France (as the witness understood) to transact some private business for Mr. Pitt, where he resided a considerable time. Soon after his return Mr. Cockayne said, he called on him, and told him in confidence, that he had formed a design of going to Ireland, to sound the people, for the purpose of procuring a supply of provisions, &c. from them for the French, and requested him (the witness) to accompany him. Having accepted the invitation, he immediately waited on Mr. Pitt, and discovered to him the whole of Mr. Jackson's plans. The minister thanked him for the information, and hinted, that as the
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matter was to become a subject of legal investigation, it would be necessary for him to substantiate the allegations; but this Mr. Cockayne wished to decline, on the principle that, if the prisoner should be convicted of high treason, he should lose by it 300l. in which sum he was then indebted to him. This objection was soon removed by Mr. Pitt agreeing to pay him the money, provided he would prosecute to conviction: and the witness accompanied Mr. Jackson to Ireland, for the purpose of making himself acquainted with his proceedings. Shortly after their arrival in Dublin, where they lived together, the prisoner expressed a wish to be introduced to Mr. Hamilton Rowan, who was then confined in Newgate; and at length, through the interference of a friend, he obtained an interview, at which Mr. Cockayne was present. In the course of conversation, the prisoner delivered two papers to Mr. Rowan, for the purpose of convincing him that he was a person in whom he might confide. From that time an intimacy took place between them; the witness always accompanied Mr. Jackson in his visits to Mr. Rowan, and constantly took a part in their conversation. They agreed, he said, that a person should be sent to France to procure a force to make a descent on Ireland, and Counsellor Wolfe Tone was mentioned as a fit person for that purpose, who at first appeared to acquiesce, but afterwards declined the office. Dr. Reynolds was then proposed by Mr. Rowan, but objected to by the prisoner, as he did not understand the French language. It was, however, at length agreed the Doctor should take the embassy; but in a short time he also refused to enter into the business. On this it was agreed, that Mr. Jackson should write
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several letters, which was directed for a Mr. Stone, of the firm of Lawrence and Co. London. These contained inclosures for houses at Hamburgh and Amsterdam; and some of them to the French agents, described the situation of Ireland at the time, invited an invasion, and pointed out the proper places to land. These letters having been sent to the post-office, the witness went to the secretary, and informed him of the subject of them, on which they were detained. The plot matured thus far, having been discovered, the prisoner was taken into custody. Such is the substance of the examination and cross-examination of Mr. Cockayne, which, together with the documentary proofs alluded to, were the only evidence adduced. He appeared very much agitated and confused throughout the whole of the investigation. Mr. Curran and Mr. Ponsonby exerted their abilities in behalf of the prisoner. The former spoke at much length. He treated the conduct of Mr. Cockayne as extremely suspicious; and, from the pecuniary temptation thrown in his way to act the part he had done in the business, suggested to the jury that his evidence was entitled to very little credit. The Prime Serjeant replied. Lord Chief Justice Clonmel delivered a very able and impartial charge to the jury, who retired at forty-five minutes after three in the morning, and at half-past four brought in a verdict—guilty, but recommended the prisoner to mercy. The Chief Justice enquired of the jury if they had any doubts on their minds, that led them to such recommendation?—The foreman answered immediately, “No, my Lord.” The jury would, in all probability, have acquitted the prisoner, had he not inadvertently acknowledged the letters (which
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Mr. Cockayne swore to be his hand-writing) by explaining some mysterious passages in them. The witness's agreement with Mr. Pitt would otherwise, it is said, have invalidated his evidence. The jury were,—Mr. Alderman Exshaw, Messrs. Pentland, Cranfield, Humphrey, Cowan, Simon, Oldham, Donovan, Ward, Forster, Smith, and Hodgson. The trial lasted seventeen hours and a half. The judges Clonmel, Boyd, and Chamberlain, consulted for a few moments. The Chief Justice then addressed the jury,—“Gentlemen, you have acquitted yourselves with honor, and a conscientious regard for justice. It is more than a century since this land has been cursed with such a crime, and we trust your verdict will operate in preventing a repetition of it. Your recommendation shall be laid before government.” Mr. Jackson heard the verdict with much apparent composure. He was remanded to prison, and expected to receive the sentence of the law on the following Wednesday. On his being brought into court to receive judgment, on the 30th of April, the clerk of the crown having read the indictment against the prisoner and the conviction thereon, and asked him the usual question—What he had to say, why judgment of death should not be passed upon him? Mr. Curran prayed that the caption of the indictment might be read, which being done, he objected that the court could not proceed to pass judgment, inasmuch as the copy of the caption of the indictment had not been served on the prisoner; and that the names of the grand jurors who found the bill of indictment were not set out in the record, and inasmuch as it did not appear what such grand jurors were sworn to do. Mr. Ponsonby spoke to

the same point. The Attorney-General said, that, if there were any objection on the part of the prisoner, going to the legality of finding the indictment, or to the competence of any of the grand jury, who found the bill of indictment against the prisoner, or even to the sheriff, who impanelled the grand jury, it should have been made before he had pleaded to the indictment. It being intimated to the court that the prisoner at this time appeared to be in a very dangerous situation, in point of bodily weakness, having some time before, and from his first being brought into court, appeared to be uncommonly agitated—the court ordered, that if any medical gentlemen were present, they should examine into the situation of the prisoner, and report their opinion thereon. Doctor Waite, who was in the county jury-box, went down to the dock, and after examining the prisoner, reported that he was in a sinking situation, and had every appearance of immediate dissolution. Mr. Kingsley, druggist, who said he was bred an apothecary, also examined the prisoner, and reported that he was dying. On this the court ordered that the prisoner should be remanded until further orders, but, in a few moments, the unfortunate man expired in the dock. The court immediately adjourned. The coroner's inquest was held the next day, when surgeons Hume and Adrian opened the body, and deposed that he died in consequence of having taken some acrid substance, but they could not tell what. His bowels and chest were greatly inflamed. In his pocket was an handkerchief, one of his pamphlets, and a very elegant short prayer, written by himself, praying to God to deliver him from his enemies, *who were very great and violent.* In a little box, left in
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the gaol, was only a miniature of his wife, and a letter from Mr. Ponsonby. He was brought up in irons, but very light and neatly made for him.— Many different conjectures prevailed with respect to his death: that “poison was his timeless end” no one doubts; but whether it was administered by his own hand, or by that of a guilty associate that dreaded some disclosure, of the nature of those made by Watt at Edinburgh, cannot be ascertained.

JACOBS, SIMON. See ISDWELL, I.

JEFFERIES, EDWARD, (MURDERER,) was a gentleman by birth, and was born about the year 1666, at Devizes, in Wiltshire. He served his clerkship 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 debaucheries of the age, which dissipated his substance. Soon after, he had the good success to marry a young lady of St. Alban's, with whom he received a decent fortune, and might have lived in prosperity with her, but that he continued in his former course of dissipation, which naturally occasioned a separation. He now associated with one Mrs. Elizabeth Torshell, with whom a Mr. Woodcock had likewise an illicit connection. Jefferies and Woodcock had frequent debates respecting 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 murder. After dinner, they went into the fields near Chelsea, and a quarrel arising between them respecting Mrs. Torshell, Jefferies drew his sword, and before Woodcock, who was left-handed, could draw his, he

received a wound, of which he almost immediately died. Woodcock had no sooner fallen, than Jefferies rubbed some of his blood upon his (the deceased's) sword, took something 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 the transaction above-mentioned. The body was removed to St. Martin's church-yard to be owned; and on the following day Mrs. Torshell came, among a crowd of other people, to see it; and was taken into custody, on her saying she knew the murdered party, and expressing great concern at his fate. Torshell's lodgings being searched, a number of articles were found, which she owned Mr. Jefferies had brought thither, though they appeared to have belonged to Woodcock. On this Jefferies was also taken into custody, and both of them were committed to Newgate. Jefferies alledged in his defence, that he was at another place at the time the murder was committed; he 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 he lay under condemnation he repeatedly denied the having committed the murder, and exerted his utmost interest to obtain a reprieve, which he was at length promised, through the mediation of the Duke of Ormond. September the 9th, 1705, when the procession towards Tyburn had got as far as St. Giles's a respite met him, to defer his execution till the 21st of the same month; but on that 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

had injured him, and died in charity with all men. He did not appear the least dejected when the executioner was performing his duty.

JEFFERIES, ELIZABETH. See SWAN, JOHN.

INNES, JOHN, (FORGERY) was born at Glasgow, in Scotland, and was the son of a respectable merchant in that place, who gave him a good education, by which he profited little, but as it enabled him with greater art and cunning to impose upon others. In the earlier part of his life he followed the sea; the instability of his mind not suffering him to pursue any settled employ, till his return, when he married an amiable young woman, by whom he had seven children. During the period of his marriage state, he was sober, steady, and diligent; but on the death of his wife, his rambling disposition returned; he soon spent, in extravagance and dissipation, a decent fortune he had accumulated by trade, and was necessitated to follow some other pursuit. The connection of his family, the good character he had once borne, and his abilities together, soon procured him a situation as a steward of a nobleman's estate. In this station his mind took a different turn, he became griping and avaricious in the extreme; his conduct was vexatious and oppressive to the tenants, continually involving them in law-suits, and other difficulties, and then extorting money from them, by way of compromising the disputes. In this situation he remained till the death of the nobleman, when the estate was sold; he then turned money-lender, and practised as a pettifogging attorney, by which unlawful practice he acquired immense wealth; but his covetous disposition not being yet satisfied, he determined

determined upon forging a will, purporting it to be the last will of Anthony Bowman, deceased, with an intent to defraud Sir Charles Morgan, Bart. and Thomas Wright, Esq. The prisoner brought an action, in the Court of King's Bench, against the prosecutors, to recover money in virtue of the will; but the first witness he called to prove the will, said, that he was nephew to Innes, and at the request of his uncle, came to swear to a falsity, for that he knew the will to be a forgery. His trial came on, February 21, 1794, when his guilt appearing evident, the Jury, without hesitation, brought in their verdict—Guilty. During his confinement in Newgate, and till the day before his death, he protested his innocence in the most solemn manner, though nothing could be clearer than his guilt: but when he found all would not save him, and he came to the place of execution, he addressed the spectators in the following words—

“ Good People,

“ You see me the victim of early prodigality and late covetousness. In my youth I stuck at nothing to indulge my passions; when advanced in years, nothing would satisfy my thirst for riches; and I now justly meet the punishment due to my abominable extortions and wickedness. I have hitherto denied my guilt, but now I wish to atone for it in some degree by acknowledging it before God and man. May every one take warning by my example.”

He suffered before the debtor's door, Newgate, at the Old Baily, July 11, 1794.

JENNISON, F. See BUTTERWORTH, W.
JOHNSON,

JOHNSON, WILLIAM, (MURDERER,) was a native of Northamptonshire, where he served his time to a butcher, and removing to London, opened a shop in Newport Market; but business not succeeding to his expectation, he took a house 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 Christ Church in Surry. Being equally unsuccessful as a victualler, he sailed to Gibraltar, where he was appointed a mate to one of the surgeons of the garrison: in short, he appears to have possessed a genius turned to a variety of employments. 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. Being apprehended in consequence of one of his robberies, he was convicted, but received a pardon. Previous to this he had been acquainted with one Jane Housden, who had been tried and convicted of 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 that she was to be tried, and just as she was brought down to the bar of the Old Bailey, Johnson called to see her; but 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 on 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 this singular murder.—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 was so many witnesses, they had the confidence to deny it to the last moment of their lives; nor did they shew any signs of compunction for their former sins. On the 19th of September, 1712, they were executed opposite the sessions-house in the Old Bailey, after which Johnston was hung in chains near Holloway, between Islington and Highgate.

JOHNSON, JOSEPH, (PICKPOCKET,) was the son of poor parents, who lived in the Old Jewry, who having received no education, but kept bad company almost from his infancy, became a pick-pocket while a child, and continued that practice till he was about twenty years of age. He then used to meet porters and errand-boys in the streets, and by a variety of false pretences, get possession of the goods intrusted to their care. For one of those offences he was taken into custody, and tried at the Old Bailey, where he was acquitted in defect of evidence. He then returned to his former practices, till being apprehended for stealing a sword, he was tried and convicted at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years transportation. It now happened that one of his fellow-convicts was possessed of a stolen bank-note, which was changed, as is presumed, with the captain of the vessel, who had a gratuity

a gratuity for their liberty; for when they arrived in America, they were set at large, and took lodgings at New York, where they lived sometime in an expensive manner; and the captain, on his return to England, was stopped at Rotterdam, and he offered the stolen note to a banker; where, having been lodged in prison, he did not obtain his liberty without considerable difficulty. Johnson and his associate having quitted New York, embarked for Holland, whence they came to England, where they assumed the dress and appearance of people of fashion, and frequented all the places of public diversion. Thus disguised, Johnson used to mix with the crowd, and steal watches, &c. which his accomplice carried off unsuspected. The effects thus stolen were constantly sold to Jews, who sent them to Holland, where they were disposed of, and the robbers escaped undetected. In the summertime, when London was thin of company, Johnson and his companion used to ride through the country, the former appearing as a gentleman of fortune, and the latter as his servant. On their arrival at an inn, they enquired of the landlord into the circumstances of the farmers in the neighbourhood; and when they had learnt the name and residence of one who was rich, with such other particulars as might forward their plan, the servant was dispatched to tell the farmer that the 'Squire would be glad to speak with him at the inn; and he was commissioned to hint that his master's property in the public funds was very considerable. This bait generally succeeded: the farmer hastened to the inn, where he found the 'Squire in an elegant undress; who, after the first compliments, informed him that he was come down to purchase a valuable estate in

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the neighbourhood, which he thought so well worth the buying, that he had agreed to pay part of the money that day; but not having sufficient cash in his possession, he had sent for the farmer to lend him part of the sum, and assured him that he should be no loser by granting the favour. To make sure of his prey, he had always some counterfeit jewels in his possession, which he used to deposit in the farmer's hands, to be taken up when the money was repaid; and, by artifices of this kind, Johnson and his associate acquired large sums of money; the former not only changing his name, but disguising his person, so that detection was almost impossible. This practice he continued for a succession of years; and in one of his expeditions of this kind, got possession of a thousand pounds. In order to avoid detection, he took a small house in Southwark, where he used to live in the most obscure manner, not even permitting his servant-maid to open the window, lest he should be discovered. Thus he practised these frauds, and lived in retirement on the profits arising from them, till he reached the age of sixty years; when, though he was poor, he was afraid to make fresh excursions into the country; but thought of exercising his talents in London. Hereupon he picked the pockets of several persons of as many watches as produced money enough to furnish him with an elegant suit of clothes, in which he went to a public ball, where he walked a minuet with the mistress of a nobleman, who invited him to drink tea with her on the following day. Having attended the invitation, she informed him that she had another engagement to a ball, and should think herself extremely honoured by his company. He readily agreed to
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the proposal; but while in company, he picked the pocket of Mr. Pye, a merchant's clerk, of a pocket book, containing bank notes to the amount of five hundred pounds. Pye had no idea of his loss till the following day, when he should have accounted with his employer. As soon as the discovery was made, immediate notice was sent to the Bank to stop payment of the notes; and Johnson was actually changing one of them to the amount of fifty pounds, when the messenger came thither. Hereupon he was taken into custody; and being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, for privately stealing, was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death. His behaviour after conviction was very improper: he appeared to have no adequate sense of the awful fate that awaited him. He suffered at Tyburn, July 9, 1738, refusing to join in the customary devotions.

JOHNSON, ROGER. See WILD, J.

JOHNSON, TIMOTHY. See GRIFFITHS,

WILLIAM.

JONES, THOMAS. See COLEMAN, R.

JONES, RICE. See GARDINER, S.

JONES, J. See WILD, J.

JONES, ———. See RANN, J. and CHAPMAN, P.

ISDWELL, ISDWELL, (FORGERY,) a Jew, who stood charged with being concerned in a forgery on the Stamp-Office, and was thereupon confined in New Prison, Clerkenwell. In the evening of April 3, 1795, he persuaded two of the turnkeys that an aunt of his, who was very rich, then lay at the point of death, and that he had been informed, that, could she see him before she died, she would give him a thousand pounds; and therefore, if they

would let him out, and accompany him to the place, he would give them fifty guineas each for their trouble; and that the matter might be effected without the knowledge of the keeper of the prison, or any other person, they having the keys of it at night, and the time required being very short. To this proposal the turnkeys agreed; and accordingly about one o'clock in the morning the gates were opened, and Isdwell, with his irons on, was conducted in a hackney-coach by one of them, armed with a blunderbuss, to the place directed, which was in Artillery-lane, Bishopsgate-street, where they gained immediate admittance on ringing a bell, and, enquiring for the sick lady, were ushered up one pair of stairs. Isdwell went into the room first, on which several fellows rushed forth, and attempted to keep the turnkey out, but not succeeding in that respect, they put the candles out, wrested the blunderbuss out of his hand, and discharged it at him; at this instant, it was supposed Isdwell was endeavouring to make his escape out of the door, as he received the principal part of the contents of the blunderbuss in his back, and fell dead; the turnkey also fell, one of the slugs grazed the upper part of his head; and the villains by some means finding their mistake, though in the dark, beat him in so shocking a manner with the butt end of the blunderbuss, while he lay on the ground, as to break it to pieces, fracture his skull in two places, and bruise him dreadfully about the body; the noise which the affair occasioned, brought a number of watchmen and patrols to the house, who secured ten persons therein, mostly Jews. There is every reason to suppose that they would have completely murdered the

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the turnkey, had not timely assistance been afforded. They were all examined on the 4th, before a magistrate, as were also the turnkeys, who related the above story, and who, as well as the others, were ordered to be committed for further examination. The plan of Isdwell's escape appeared to have been formed by the widow of the late notorious Laurence Jones, she having taken the lodgings in Artillery-lane, and though in reality aunt to Isdwell, had cohabited with him ever since her husband's death. The bed in the room where the business happened, was decorated with all the paraphernalia of a sick person; a number of phials standing on an adjoining table, and to make the farce (which in the last act proved a tragedy) more perfect, the image of a woman's head, with a cap on, appeared just above the bed-cloaths. On the 21st, William Tilly, George Hardwick, James Hayden, John Henley, Henry Delaney, William Handland, Simon Jacobs, John Solomon, and John Phillips, were tried at the Old Bailey, for the wilful murder of Isdwell Isdwell; by maliciously levelling and firing a blunderbuss at John Day, for the purpose of effecting the escape of the said Isdwell, he being committed on a charge for a capital offence. The trial lasted from eleven o'clock on Tuesday morning, till past one on the next morning. The jury went out about a quarter of an hour, and then returned a verdict of—Not guilty. They were all detained to take their trial for a conspiracy, to rescue the deceased out of the hands of justice. On the 1st of July, the sessions commenced before Mr. Justice Buller, Mr. Justice Lawrence, the Recorder, &c. the above prisoners, with Jonathan Jones and John Crosswell, (the turnkey of Clerkenwell Bridewell) were tried upon a charge of having

assisted Isdwell Isdwell to escape from his Majesty's prison, he being in custody to be tried for a felony. ——— Day, one of the turnkeys, related the story of his and Crosswell's agreeing to let Isdwell go to Artillery-lane; that Tilley and Jacobs frequently came to the prison; and on Good-Friday the former said to Isdwell, that Moses Solomons, (who was confined in Bridewell upon the same charge) was to be suffered to go home, and keep the passover with his family. This had some weight in inducing the witness to consent, and at night he accompanied him to Artillery-lane, in which he met Tilley, but did not go into the house where he was so dreadfully beat, and Isdwell was shot. Moses Solomons was a servant of Isdwell, and, as on the former trial, gave a detail of the circumstances of Jonathan Jones taking the lodgings in Artillery-lane; of Isdwell's being expected that night; that the trick of a sick aunt was to be played off on the turnkey; that Isdwell did come; that most of the prisoners were there; and that after the accident, he and all the rest were taken into custody. Mrs. Cumming, who kept the house, and a little boy, her son, proved that they had seen Hardwicke, Jones, and Hayden, come to Mrs. Isdwell. Ray, Spencer, and Brummell, were the persons who apprehended all the prisoners but Tilley, Jones, and Crosswell, in and about the house; and they were all particularly sworn to by Day and Moses Solomons, as being in some way concerned, except Delaney, who was no otherwise identified than as being taken in the house. In their defence, Tilley said he was employed by the Isdwells as their attorney; and as the two brothers were confined in two different prisons, the going backwards and forwards from one to the other occasioned his

his seeing them oftener than he otherwise should. He denied that he had ever made use of the expression about Moses going out, as sworn to by Mr. Day, or that he had the smallest knowledge of any intention of an escape. John Crosswell left his defence to the counsel. Jonathan Jones did not deny that he had taken the lodging for Mrs. Isdwell, but he had not done it secretly; for, on her husband's being taken up, she sent for him to come to town from Gosport; he did so; and as she was obliged to leave her house in St. Mary Axe, he had taken this lodging for her; and in so doing he thought he did no more than his duty for a niece. Before the accident happened, he had returned into the country, all of which was admitted to be true by the witness Solomons. George Hardwick stated himself to have been employed as a porter to assist in carrying the goods to the lodging, and not having been paid the whole of his demand, had gone that night, and was waiting to get the remainder. — Hayden said, his wife washed for Mrs. Isdwell, and that she being lame, he had gone to Mrs. Isdwell's with some things that night, and was staying for some money. John Hayden had been out drinking, not being able to work from its being Good Friday, and was so much intoxicated, that he could not say how he came into the house. Henry Delaney said, he was passing by the door just after the accident, that he stopped to see what was the matter, that he was pushed in by the mob, and had not been in the house before. Simon Jacobs described himself to be brother-in-law to Isdwell, that he was constantly going backwards and forwards to him; and that by his desire he passed most of his time at their lodgings. He had no doubt but Day was the man who shot his brother.

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He then entered into a long and vehement attack upon the keepers of Clerkenwell, both for their conduct to Isdwell and to himself, after he was taken; drawing a conclusion with respect to the former, that the governor, deputy-governor, and turnkeys were the principles in the escape; and that he and his fellow-prisoners, even had they intended to assist, could only be accomplices, and that it could not be just to punish the accomplices before the principals; nay more, he insisted the escape was made the moment he was out of prison, and consequently long before they could be concerned with it. John Phillips and John Solomons related the same story; namely, that upon a promise of a reward of two hundred pounds, they were endeavouring to get the dies from Mrs. Isdwell, by which the stamps had been forged; and upon their making the same promises, she had appointed them to come that evening. John Henley said, he had called upon Mrs. Isdwell that night respecting a watch he had bought, and which had been stopped. A great number of very respectable witnesses were then called to their different characters. Mr. Justice Buller summed up the evidence with much attention and perspicuity: after which the jury went out for near half an hour, and then returned a verdict of Guilty against all except Jonathan Jones and Henry Delaney: punishment—a limited transportation.

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KELLO, J.—KELLO, JOS. (FORGERY,) the former was the son of a mercer in an extensive way of business in Houndsditch, who placed him at a
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grammar-school at Ludlow in Shropshire, where he attained a great proficiency in classical learning. His education being completed, he was articled to a reputable merchant; and soon after the expiration of his clerkship, he procured three hundred pounds for the purpose of establishing himself in business; with which sum he embarked for Virginia; and soon after his arrival there he connected himself in partnership with a person who had been some time settled in that colony in an advantageous branch of trade. His brother Joseph had served a Blackwell-hall factor some years in the capacity of a clerk; and in that time he had contracted an intimate acquaintance with Mr. Cotton, a packer, of Aldermanbury, who was employed to do a great deal of business for a gentleman named Partridge; and from frequenting Mr. Cotton's house, Joseph had several opportunities of seeing Mr. Partridge's writing, and became acquainted with many of that gentleman's commercial concerns. After a residence of about three years in Virginia, John Kello returned to London, and hired lodgings in the neighbourhood of Bloomsbury square; but being addicted to a life of pleasure, he soon found himself in very embarrassed circumstances. The situation of Joseph was not more eligible than that of his brother; for he was equally attached to scenes of dissipation, nor was he more inclined than John to industry in his profession, or economy in his expences. With the view of relieving themselves from their embarrassments, they concerted a plan for obtaining a thousand pounds by means of a forged draught in the name of Mr. Partridge; and learning that on the 28th of August he was gone to Harlow, they determined to seize the opportunity
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of his absence for carrying their plan into execution. Joseph having taken one of the checks under the firm of Amyand, Staples, and Mercer, from Mr. Cotton's compting-house, carried it to his brother, at the Red-Lion alehouse in Moorfields, and there filled it up in a hand very nearly resembling Mr. Partridge's writing. The counterfeit instrument was now inclosed in a letter to Mr. Cotton, purporting to be the writing by Mr. Partridge, desiring him to receive the thousand pounds expressed in the draft in one bank-note, and leave it under cover at the bar of Sam's coffee-house, directed for Mr. Rous. The letter inclosing the counterfeit draft was dispatched by a porter, who, upon delivering it, was asked by Mr. Cotton who was his employer: in reply to which, he said, he had received the letter from a gentleman in the street, and that no answer was required. The hand of Mr. Partridge being imitated with great nicety, Mr. Cotton had no suspicion of an intended fraud, and immediately set out for the banker's house in Cornhill, where he presented the draft to Mr. Mercer, who, after checking him for coming after the usual hour of paying money, gave the thousand pounds in one bank-note. Mr. Cotton immediately went to the coffee-house, and sealed the note in a cover, which he directed to Mr. Rous; but after waiting about three hours, in expectation of seeing the gentleman, he returned home, taking the note with him, and leaving word at the bar for Mr. Rous to call at his house in Aldermanbury. When Mr. Cotton got home, he found Joseph Kello there, and mentioned to him, that, as the sum Mr. Partridge had authorized him to receive was considerable, he judged it not prudent to
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leave the note at the coffee-house, lest some mistake or accident should happen. Hereupon, Joseph went to his brother, who was waiting at Seymour's coffee-house, in Pope's-head-alley, whence they dispatched a chairman to Mr. Cotton, with a verbal message, as from Mr. Partridge, desiring him to leave the note for Mr. Rous at the coffee-house. Joseph now returned to Mr. Cotton, and presently after him came the porter, and delivered his message. Mr. Cotton set out for the coffee-house, being desirous of giving the note into the possession of Mr. Rous; and, upon enquiring for a gentleman of that name, the landlady said he had been gone from the house only a few minutes, but had left word that he should return in a short time. John, who waited to receive the note, under the name of Mr. Rous, went out of the house upon observing that the messenger did not return alone. Mr. Cotton, recollecting that Mr. Partridge had connexions in trade with a gentleman named Rous, who lived at Hackney, concluded that he must be the Mr. Rous for whom the thousand pounds were intended; and after waiting at the coffee-house till near midnight, he left a note at the bar, intimating, that he would the next morning wait upon Mr. Rous, at Hackney, with the bank-note. Upon going home, he found Joseph Kello at his house, and gave him an account of his conduct. Joseph Kello intimated that he was apprehensive Mr. Partridge would be highly offended upon learning that the note was not delivered according to his order; Mr. Cotton, however, still adhered to his resolution of keeping the note till he could dispose of it without hazard; and he directly went to the post-office, with a letter to Mr. Partridge, assigning reasons for his conduct in this affair. Joseph
slept

slept at Mr. Cotton's that night; and the next morning, which was Sunday, he informed his brother of Mr. Cotton's design of going to Mr. Rous at Hackney. It was now agreed that another letter, as from Mr. Partridge, should be written to Mr. Cotton, purporting that he, Partridge, had received notice, by express, that Mr. Rous, had not received the note, and desiring the directions contained in his former letter, might be immediately fulfilled. This letter they artfully sent, under cover, to Mr. Partridge's house; and that gentleman's porter carried it to Mr. Cotton, who had set out for Hackney, but stopped for refreshment at the Sun alehouse at London-wall, where the porter found him. In consequence of the forged letter, Mr. Cotton immediately went to Sam's coffee-house, and there left the note in a cover directed for Mr. Rous. Joseph learning that Mr. Cotton had acted agreeably to the pretended order of Mr. Partridge, communicated the circumstance to his brother, who went to the coffee-house, and received the note under the name of Mr. Rous. On the day the note was obtained by John, Mr. Cotton and Joseph dined together; after which, the brothers met by appointment, and went into the fields near Sadler's Wells, where the cover was opened, and the enclosed bank-note taken out. They then adjourned to John's lodgings, in Bloomsbury, where it was resolved that he should set out in a post chaise for Bristol, in order to procure cash for the note; and Joseph borrowed ten guineas for his expenses on the road. Not being able to obtain the money at Bristol, he proceeded to Bridgewater in Somersetshire, where the clerk to the receiver-general of the land-tax changed the note. He had no sooner received the cash than he travelled post to London, and took

up his residence with a woman of the town, in a street near Westminster-abbey. He gave the woman with whom he cohabited a bag in which was the cash received in exchange for the bank-note, desiring her to take care of it, and saying it contained halfpence to the amount of five pounds. Joseph Kello being taken into custody, charged on suspicion of the forgery, he made use of some expressions which seemed to convey an indirect accusation against his brother; and after he had been particularly questioned respecting the affair, it was agreed to admit him an evidence for the crown, in case of John's being apprehended. The postilion who had driven John to town recollected the place where he had ordered his trunk to be conveyed; and that circumstance facilitating the discovery of his lodgings, he was taken into custody by sir John Fielding's men, who recovered more than nine hundred pounds of the money thus fraudulently obtained. John Kello, when brought to trial at the Old Bailey, his brother's evidence being exceedingly strong, and supported by a great number of corroborative circumstances, was convicted of the crime. When he had been a short time in the cells of Newgate, he was visited by the ordinary, to whose advice, however, he refused to attend, saying that the religious principles he had long entertained he would maintain till death. Being summoned to attend prayers, he refused, saying he was a dissenter. Hereupon, Mr. Akerman sent him word, that he might be attended by a minister of his own persuasion, but that his presence in the chapel was expected; and to the latter part of the message Mr. Akerman is supposed to have been induced by an unwillingness to trust him in the cells alone, the servants belonging to the prison being engaged

engaged in attending the other prisoners during divine service. He obstinately persisted in refusing to be attended by any dissenting minister; and, nearly to the end of his life, appeared to be totally indifferent as to the necessary preparations for eternity. When the morning on which he was to be executed arrived, the ordinary put several questions to him respecting his sentiments of the doctrines of christianity, in which he declared he entertained a firm belief, and that pride alone had suggested whatever reasons he had given for an opinion to the contrary. At the place of execution he acknowledged his guilt with every appearance of unfeigned contrition; but his voice was so low, through a very decayed state of health, that he was to be heard only by those who were in or near the cart. Being asked by the ordinary whether he forgave his brother, his answer was, that he forgave him as far as he could "consistent with humanity." His devotions being concluded, he was turned off; and, after hanging the usual time, his body was delivered to his friends, by whom it was privately interred in a decent manner. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 13th of October, 1762.

KELLY, HENRY. See WILD, JONATHAN.

KIDD, CAPT. JOHN, (PIRATE,) was born in the town of Greenock, in Scotland, and bred to the sea. Having quitted his native country, he resided at New York, where he became owner of a small vessel, with which he traded among the pirates, obtained a thorough knowledge of their haunts, and could give a better account of them than any other person whatever. He was neither remarkable for the excess of his courage nor for the want of it. In a word, his ruling passion appeared to be avarice, and to this was owing his connection
with

with the pirates. While in their company, he used to converse and act as they did; yet at other times he would make singular professions of honesty, and intimate how easy a matter it would be to extirpate these abandoned people, and prevent their future depredations. His frequent remarks of this kind engaged the notice of several considerable planters, who, forming a more favourable idea of him than his true character would warrant, procured him the patronage with which he was afterwards honoured. For a series of years great complaints had been made of the piracies committed in the West Indies, which had been greatly encouraged by some of the inhabitants of North America, on account of the advantage they derived from purchasing effects thus fraudulently obtained. This coming to the knowledge of king William the Third, he, in the year 1695, bestowed the government of New England and New York on the earl of Bellamont, an Irish nobleman of distinguished character and abilities, who immediately began to consider of the most effectual method to redress the evils complained of; and consulted with colonel Levingston, a gentleman who had great property in New York, on the most feasible steps to obviate the evils so long complained of. At this juncture, captain Kidd was arrived from New York, in a sloop of his own; him, therefore, the colonel mentioned to lord Bellamont, as a bold and daring man, who was very fit to be employed against the pirates, as he was perfectly well acquainted with the places which they resorted to. This plan met with the fullest approbation of his lordship, who mentioned the affair to his majesty, and recommended it to the notice of the board of admiralty. But such were then the hurry and confusion of public affairs, that, though

the design was approved, no steps were taken towards carrying it into execution. Accordingly, colonel Levingston made application to lord Bellamont, that, as the affair would not well admit of delay, it was worthy of being undertaken by some private persons of rank and distinction, and carried into execution at their own expence, notwithstanding public encouragement was denied it. His lordship approved of this project, but it was attended with considerable difficulty; at length, however, the lord chancellor Somers, the duke of Shrewsbury, the earl of Romney, the earl of Oxford, and some other persons, with colonel Levingston and captain Kidd, agreed to raise 6000*l.* for the expense of the voyage; and the colonel and captain were to have a fifth of the profits of the whole undertaking. Matters being thus far adjusted, a commission, in the usual form, was granted to captain Kidd, to take and seize pirates, and bring them to justice; but there was no special clause or proviso to restrain his conduct or regulate the mode of his proceeding. Kidd was known to lord Bellamont, and another gentleman presented him to lord Romney. With regard to the other parties concerned, he was wholly unacquainted with them; and so ill was this affair conducted, that he had no private instructions how to act, but received his sailing orders from lord Bellamont, the purport of which was, that he should act according to the letter of his commission. Accordingly, a vessel was purchased and manned, and received the name of the *Adventure Galley*; and in this captain Kidd sailed for New York, towards the close of the year 1695, and in his passage made prize of a French ship. From New York he sailed to the Madeira Islands, thence to Bonavista and

and St. Jago, and from this place to Madagascar. He now began to cruise at the entrance of the Red Sea, but, not being successful in those latitudes, he sailed to Calicut, and there took a ship of one hundred and fifty tons burthen, which he carried to Madagascar, and disposed of there. Having sold his prize, he again put to sea, and, at the expiration of five weeks, took the Quedah Merchant, a ship of above four hundred tons burthen, the master of which was an Englishman, named Wright, who had two Dutch mates on board, and a French gunner, but the crew consisted of Moors, natives of Africa, and were about ninety in number. He carried the ship to St. Mary's near Madagascar, where he burnt the Adventure Galley, belonging to his owners, and divided the lading of the Quedah Merchant with his crew, taking forty shares to himself. They then went on board the last-mentioned ship, and sailed for the West Indies. It is uncertain whether the inhabitants of the West India Islands knew that Kidd was a pirate; but he was refused refreshments at Anguilla and St. Thomas's, and therefore sailed to Mona, between Porto Rico and Hispaniola, where, through the management of an Englishman named Bolton, he obtained a supply of provisions from Curacoa. He now bought a sloop of Bolton, in which he stowed great part of his ill-gotten effects, and left the Quedah Merchant, with eighteen of the ship's company, in Bolton's care. While at St. Mary's, ninety men of Kidd's crew left him, and went on board the Mocha Merchant, an East India ship, which had just then commenced pirate. Kidd now sailed in the sloop, and touched at several places, where he disposed of a great part of his cargo, and then

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steered

steered for Boston, in New England. In the interim, Bolton sold the *Quedah Merchant* to the Spaniards, and immediately sailed, as a passenger, in a ship for Boston, where he arrived a considerable time before Kidd, and gave information of what happened, to lord Bellamont. Kidd, therefore, on his arrival, was seized by order of his lordship; when all he had to urge in his defence was, that he thought the *Quedah Merchant* was a lawful prize, as she was manned with Moors, though there was no kind of proof that this vessel had committed any act of piracy. Upon this, the earl of Bellamont immediately dispatched an account to England of the circumstances that had arisen, and requested that a ship might be sent for Kidd, who had committed several other notorious acts of piracy. The ship *Rochester* was accordingly sent to bring him to England, but this vessel, happening to be disabled, was obliged to return: a circumstance which greatly increased a public clamour which had for some time subsisted respecting this affair, and which, no doubt, took its rise from party prejudice. It was carried to such a height, that the members of parliament for several places were instructed to move the house for an enquiry into the affair; and accordingly it was moved in the house of commons, that "The letters patent, granted to the earl of Bellamont and others, respecting the goods taken from pirates, were dishonourable to the king, against the law of nations, contrary to the laws and statutes of this realm, an invasion of property, and destructive to commerce." Though a negative was put on this motion, yet the enemies of lord Somers and the earl of Oxford continued to charge those noblemen with giving countenance to pirates; and it was even insinuated, that the earl

of Bellamont was not less culpable than the actual offenders. Another motion was accordingly made in the house of commons, to address his majesty, that "Kidd might not be tried till the next session of parliament; and that the earl of Bellamont might be directed to send home all examinations and other papers relative to the affair." This motion was carried, and the king complied with the request which was made. As soon as Kidd arrived in England, he was sent for, and examined at the bar of the house of commons, with a view to fix part of his guilt on the parties who had been concerned in sending him on the expedition; but nothing arose to criminate any of those distinguished persons; Kidd, who was in some degree intoxicated, made a very contemptible appearance at the bar of the house; on which, a member, who had been one of the most earnest to have him examined, violently exclaimed, "D—n this fellow; I thought he had been only a knave, but unfortunately he happens to be a fool likewise." Kidd was at length tried at the Old Bailey, and was convicted on the clearest evidence; but neither at that time nor afterwards charged any of his employers with being privy to his infamous proceedings. He suffered, with one of his companions, (Darby Mullins), at Execution Dock, on the 23d day of May, 1701. After Kidd had been tied up to the gallows, the rope broke, and he fell to the ground; but being immediately tied up again, the ordinary, who had before exhorted him, desired to speak with him once more; and, on this second application, entreated him to make the most careful use of the few farther moments thus providentially allotted him for the final preparation of his soul to meet its important change. These exhortations appeared to have the wished-for effect;

effect; and he was left, professing his charity to all the world, and his hopes of salvation through the merits of his Redeemer.

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LANCEY, CAPT. JOHN, (INCENDIARY,) was a native of Biddeford, in Devonshire, respectably born and well educated. As he gave early proofs of an inclination for a sea-faring life, he was taught navigation, and was sent to sea as mate of a ship, of which Mr. Benson, a rich merchant at Biddeford, was the proprietor. Having married a relation of Benson, he was soon advanced to the command of the vessel. On his return from a long voyage, he was for a considerable time confined to his bed by a violent illness, the expence of which tended considerably to impoverish him. When he was in part recovered, Benson, who was member of parliament for Barnstaple, told him that he proposed to refit the ship in which he had formerly sailed, that Lancey should have the command of her, that he, Benson, would insure her for more than double her value, and then Lancey should destroy the vessel. This proposal appeared shocking to the young captain, who thought it but a trial of his honesty, and declared his sentiments, saying, that he would never take any part in a transaction so totally opposite to the whole tenour of his conduct. For the present, nothing more was said; but soon afterwards, Benson invited Lancey and several other gentlemen to dine with him. The entertainment was liberal; and captain Lancey being asked to stay after the rest of the company were gone, Mr. Benson took him to a summer-house in
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the garden, where he again proposed destroying the ship, and urged it in a manner that proved he was in earnest. The captain hesitated a short time on this proposal, and then declined to have any concern in so iniquitous a scheme; declaring, that he would seek other employment, rather than take any part in such a transaction: but Benson resolving, if possible, not to lose his agent, prevailed on him to drink freely, and then urged every argument he could think of to prevail on him to undertake the business, promising to shelter him from punishment in case of detection. Lancey still hesitated; but when Benson mentioned the poverty to which his family was reduced by his late illness, and offered such flattering prospects of protection, the unhappy man at length yielded, to his own destruction. A ship was now fitted out, and bound for Maryland: goods to a large amount were shipped on board, but re-landed before the vessel sailed, and a lading of brickbats taken in by way of ballast. They had not been long at sea, when a hole was bored in the side of the ship, and a cask of combustible ingredients was set on fire, with a view to destroy her. The fire no sooner appeared, than the captain called to some convicted transports, then in the hold, to enquire if they had fired the vessel; which appears to have been only a feint, to conceal the real design. The boat being hoisted out, all the crew got safe on shore; and then Lancey repaired immediately to Benson, to inform him of what had passed. Benson instantly dispatched him to a proctor, before whom he swore that the ship had accidentally taken fire, and that it was impossible to prevent the consequences which followed. Lancey now repaired to his own house, but he was soon afterwards taken into custody by a constable, who

who informed him that oath had been made of the transaction before the mayor of Exeter by one of the seamen. Lancey, however did not express much concern, secure in his idea of protection, from the supposed influence of Benson. On the following day, the captain and one of the ship's crew were committed to the gaol of Exeter, where they remained three months; and, being then removed to London, was examined by sir Thomas Salisbury, the judge of the admiralty court, and committed to the prison of the Marshalsea. Application was afterwards made to the court of admiralty to admit them to bail; and there appeared to be no objection to granting the favor; but Benson, on whom they had depended for bail, had absconded, to escape the justice due to his atrocious crime. Having been committed to Newgate, they were brought to trial at the next session of admiralty, held at the Old Bailey; when Lancey was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death, but the other was acquitted. He now lay in prison about four months after conviction, during which his behaviour was altogether consistent with his unhappy situation. His christian charity was remarkable towards Benson; for, though that wicked man had been the instigator of his ruin, yet he never once reflected on him, but imputed all the crime to himself, and appeared to behold it in its true colours of deformity. It was presumed, when he was first apprehended, that he might have been admitted an evidence against Benson, if he would have impeached him; but this he steadily refused to do. His devotional exercises were exemplary: he attended prayers in the most regular manner, and gave every proof of his contrition. He was accompanied to the place of execution by two clergymen;

gymen; and, having confessed his guilt to the surrounding multitude, he underwent the sentence of the law, at Execution dock, on the 7th of June, 1754, in the 27th year of his age.

LANGLEY, GILBERT, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was the son of a goldsmith in London, of the Roman Catholic persuasion, who sent his son to the seat of his grandfather, in Derbyshire, when he was only three years of age. Having continued in this situation four years, his mother's anxiety induced her to fetch him home, when he was entered in the school of the Charter house, where he soon became a tolerably good classical scholar. His father now wished to send him abroad, for farther education, and that he might not fail of being brought up a strict catholic: but this was warmly opposed by the mother, through tenderness to her child; but her death soon left the father his choice, and having agreed with the prior of the Benedictine convent at Douay, then in London, for his board and education, he committed him to the care of his new master, with whom he proceeded to Dover, sailed for Calais, and travelled thence to St. Omer's, 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 public entertainments of the school. It is 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 pay a large

large duty on them, which duty is annually farmed by the highest bidder. During the Christmas holidays, Langley and three of his schoolfellows 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 found, hid under their cassocks. They offered money for their release, but it 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 magistrate, because the superior of their own college was accountable for their conduct. Hereupon, they were 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: at length, the matter was settled by arbitration. In the catholic colleges, at this time, 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 tempted them to supply their wants by acts of irregularity. 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 against the good order of the society, that he declared they should be expelled as soon as a consistory of the monks could

he 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 shoe-maker 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 him; 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 rencontre. Thus resolved, they disguised themselves, and went to a wood-house adjacent to the college, and being previously provided with rods, they waited till the man came with his wheel-barrow to fetch wood, when one of them going behind him, threw a cloak over his head, which being immediately tied round his neck, the rest stripped, and flogged him in the most severe manner, while he in vain called for assistance; as our heroes had taken previous care to shut the door of the wood-house. The flagellation had 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 ran into the cloisters, exclaiming, "Le Diable! Le Diable!" as if he really thought the devil had tormented him: and 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 naturally arising that the students had been the authors of this outrage, the servants communicated the circumstances

cumstances thereof to the Prior, who promised his endeavours to find out and punish the delinquents: and with this view went into the hall, with a look at once penetrating and indignant: but the young gentlemen having bound themselves to secrecy by an oath, no discovery could be made. Young Langley having distinguished himself by his attention to literature for the space of two years, the Monks began to consider him as one who would make a valuable member of their society; for which reason they treated him with singular respect; and at length prevailed on him to agree to enter into their 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. As the succeeding Thursday was a holiday, he and one of his school-fellows named Meynel, asked the Prior permission to walk on the ramparts, which being denied, they went out without leave, and repairing to a tavern, drank wine till they were fairly inebriated. In this condition they went to the ramparts, where having been for some time the laughing-stock of the company, 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 afterwards 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 him 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 remorse, and would have

have declined all his studies, but that one of the Monks, called 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 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 wrote a letter, requiring him to return to his native country. The society being unwilling to lose one whom they thought would become a valuable member, the Prior wrote to England, requesting that the youth might be permitted to finish his education: but the father insisted on his return. Hereupon the young gentleman left the college, and proceeding by the way of St. Omer's, reached Calais in two days. As the wind was contrary, it was some days longer 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 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; and being unwilling that his new acquaintances should think that he was in want of cash, he purloined small sums from a drawer in his father's shop; and when he did not find any money there, stole some pieces of broken gold, which he disposed of to Jews. Mr. Langley the elder having sent his son with some plate to the house of a gentleman in Grosvenor square, the youth saw a very beautiful woman go into a shop opposite a public-house; on which he went into the latter, and enquiring after her, found she had gone to her own lodgings. Having ascertained this, he delivered his plate, and formed a resolution of visiting the lady on the Sunday following. When the Sunday came, the old gentleman went out, as the son imagined, to smoke his pipe at an adjacent public-house; in the mean time the youth stole seven guineas from three different bags, that his father might not discover the robbery, and immediately repaired to the lodgings of the lady whom he had seen. From her lodgings they went to a tavern, where they continued till the following day, having no idea of a detection: but it happened that Mr. Langley, senior, instead of going to the public-house as usual, watched the son to the above-mentioned tavern. On the following day the father interrogated him respecting his preceding conduct; and particularly asked where he had been the day before. The young fellow said he had been at church, where he met with some acquaintance, who prevailed on him to go to a tavern. The father, knowing the falsehood of this tale, corrected his

son in a severe manner, and forbid him to dine at his table till his conduct should be reformed. Thus obliged to associate with the servants, young Langley became too intimate with the kitchen maid, and robbed his father to buy such things as he thought would be acceptable to her. Among other things, he purchased her a pair of shoes 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 the old gentleman interrogating the son respecting the shoes, the latter averred that a lady who said she had bought them in the neighbourhood, desired leave to deposit them at their house till the following day. After this he was permitted to dine with his father, as usual; but it was not long before he caught him in a too intimate connection with the maid-servant in the kitchen; on which the girl was dismissed from her service, and a middle-aged woman of grave appearance, hired to supply her place: but the evil complained of was far from being cured, as an intimacy between her and the young gentleman was soon after discovered by the father. It now happened that the servant-girl who had been discharged swore herself pregnant by the son; on which he was taken into custody by a warrant, and the father paid fifteen pounds to compromise the affair; after which he received the son to his favour and forgave all the former errors of his conduct. By the death of the old gentleman he came into possession of a considerable fortune, exclusive of a settled good trade; and for the first year he applied himself so closely to business that he made a neat profit of seven hundred pounds; but he did not long continue this course of industry; but unfortunately renewed his acquaintance with those ladies

with whom he had been formerly connected. A man of genteel appearance, named Gray, having ordered plate of Langley to the amount of a hundred pounds, invited him to a tavern to drink. In the course of the conversation the stranger said he had dealt with his late father, and would introduce him to a lady who had thirty thousand pounds to her fortune. This was only a scheme to defraud Langley, who delivered the plate, and took a draught for the money on a vintner in Bartholomew Close; but when he went to demand payment, the vintner was 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 an humane disposition, interested himself so far in behalf of the unfortunate man, that a letter of licence for three years was granted him by his creditors. He now took out an action against Gray, but was not able to find him; when one day he was 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.— Having complied 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, but returned no more.— Exasperated by this circumstance, which seems to have been a contrivance of one of Gray's accomplices, 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. He now became a sportsman on the turf at Newmarket, under the instructions of a vintner in Holborn, whose niece entered into his service, but who soon fell a

victim

victim to his unbounded passion for the sex. 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. Soon after this wedding, 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 creditors took out a commission of bankruptcy against him. When he came to Rotterdam, he applied to the States General for a protection, in apprehension of being pursued by his creditors; but the States not being 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, concealing from 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 himself to his creditors; but 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 accustomed lenity shewn to unfortunate tradesmen in such circumstances. His affairs having been adjusted, he sailed to Barbadoes, where he soon contracted so many debts, that he was glad to take his passage to Port Royal in Jamaica. Soon after his arrival here, he went to visit a planter at some distance, who would have engaged him as his
clerk:

clerk: but Langley told him that he owed twenty dollars at Port Royal, for which he had left his chest as a security. The gentleman instantly giving him the money to redeem it, he went to Port Royal, assumed the name of Englefield, embarked on board a man of war as midshipman, and came to England, where the ship was paid off at the expiration of six months. Taking lodgings at Plymouth, he paid his addresses 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 important affair, which being adjusted, he said 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 the creditors had not made any dividend under the bankruptcy, and were engaged in a law-suit respecting a part of the property.—This faithful old servant of his father told him that his wife had retired to the north of England; and, giving him money, recommended it to him to lodge privately in Southwark. He accordingly did so for some time; but passing 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. While in the Compter he made bad connections, and being concerned with some of the prisoners in an attempt to escape, he was removed to Newgate, as a place of greater security. In this prison he fell ill of a disorder, which threatened his life; whereupon his friends discharged the debt, for which he had been arrested, and removed him to lodgings, where he soon recovered his health.

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He now got recommended to a captain in the Levant trade, with whom he was to have sailed; but an unhappy attachment to a woman of ill fame, prevented his being ready to make the voyage.— His friends were much chagrined at this fresh instance of his imprudence; and soon afterwards he was arrested, and carried to a sponging house, where he attempted to hang himself, but the rope breaking he escaped with life. The bailiff and his wife happening to be now absent, and only two maid-servants in the house, Langley made them both drunk, and, effecting his escape, crossed the water into the Borough, where he worked some 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 the condition of selling him as a slave; and, on his arrival, sold him to Col. Hill, who employed him to educate his children: but Langley soon running from his employer, went on board a ship bound to England, and, being impressed on his arrival in the Downs, was put on board a man of war, and carried round to Plymouth. However, he and another man deserted from the ship, and strolled to London, where they took up their residence at a two-penny lodging: but as Langley had now 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 weeks residence in that place, Langley sailed

sailed to Lisbon, where he remained only a short time before he contracted debts, which obliged him to seek another residence, wherefore he 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; when having answered in Latin "from England," they conducted him to a convent, relieved his distress, 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, 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 to the old lady, he was compelled to make a precipitate retreat from a window, and shelter himself in the house of an Irish taylor, 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; but being refused, because he was not tall enough, his distress compelled him to work as a labourer, in repairing the barracks. 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 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

settled employ here, he sailed to Genoa, and from thence to Cadiz: Langley being now appointed steward to the captain, in the course of his reading some letters, found one directed to Messrs. Ryan and Mannock; and having been a school-fellow 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 that what he wished was a discharge from his present situation. The former accordingly wrote to the captain, desiring him to pay the steward and discharge him: but this being refused, Langley 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 the carnival advancing, he got into company with a woman of ill fame, with whom he spent the evening; and, on his return, 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 thereupon 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. Langley, by the aid of his friend, now procured a passage for England: but, just when he was going to embark, he met with a woman, who detained him till the ship had sailed; on which he took a boat, and passed over to St. Lucar, where he went

on board an English vessel, which brought 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; and in that view applied to his wife's mother for her assistance, and also to inform him where he might find his wife; but she positively refused to comply with either request. Hereupon he gave himself up to despair; associated with the worst company; and though he had some money left him at this juncture, he dissipated the whole in the most extravagant manner.—Having agreed to go to Paris with one Hill, a young fellow who was in similar circumstances, 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 not any, they searched him, and took from him *three farthings*, which they threw away. For this offence they were apprehended on the same day, and being tried at the ensuing assizes for Kent, were capitally convicted; but the sentence was changed to transportation for seven years, through the lenity of the judge, and Langley was accordingly transported in the month of December, 1740.

LAYER, CHRISTOPHER, (TRAITOR) was descended from a respectable family, and having received a liberal education, was entered a student of the Inner Temple. After due time he was called to the bar, and had so much practice, that he seemed to be in the high road of making a large fortune

fortune. About this time Francis Atterbury bishop of Rochester, had been disabled from holding his preferments in the church, by an act of parliament passed in the year 1722, and was banished from England for life for his treasonable practices. Several other persons were concerned in similar designs, among whom counsellor Layer was one of the most distinguished. This infatuated man made a journey to Rome, where he had several conferences with the Pretender, to whom he promised that he would effect so secret a revolution in England, that no person in authority should be apprized of the scheme till it had actually taken place. Impressed with the idea that it was possible to carry his scheme into execution, he came to England with a determination to effect it. His plan was to hire an assassin to murder the king on his return from Kensington: and this being done, the other parties engaged in the plot were to seize the guards; and the prince of Wales and his children, and the great officers of state were to be seized and confined during the confusion that such an event would naturally produce. Among others concerned in this strange scheme was lord Grey, an ancient nobleman of the Roman Catholic religion, who died a prisoner in the Tower before the necessary legal proceedings against him could take place. Mr. Layer having settled a correspondence with several Roman Catholics, Nonjurors, and other persons disaffected to the government, he engaged a small number of disbanded soldiers, who were to be principal actors in the intended tragedy. The counsellor met the soldiers at a public-house at Stratford, in Essex, where he gave them the necessary instructions for seizing the king on his return from the palace, and even fixed on the

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day when the plan was to be carried into execution. Some of the people of the public-house having overheard the treasonable conversation, spoke of it publicly in the neighbourhood; and some other circumstances of suspicion arising, Mr. Layer was taken into custody by one of the king's messengers in consequence of a warrant from the secretary of state. At this time Mr. Layer had two women in keeping, one in Southampton-buildings, and the other in Queen-street, to both of whom he had given intimation of the scheme he had in hand. The lodgings of these women being searched, such a number of treasonable papers were found, that the intentions of the counsellor appeared evident. When he was apprized that his papers were seized, and the woman bound to give evidence against him, he dispatched a messenger to the secretary of state, informing him he would make a discovery of all he knew, if he might be permitted the use of pen, ink and paper. This requisition was instantly complied with, and it was the prevailing opinion that he would have been admitted an evidence against his accomplices, if he had made the promised discovery. Behind the house of the messenger in which he was confined there was a yard, which communicated with the yard of a public-house adjoining, and Mr. Layer thought, if he could get from his confinement, it would be no difficult matter to escape through the tap-room of the ale-house, where it was perhaps not probable that he should be known. Having digested his plan, he cut the blankets of his bed into pieces, and tied them together, and in the dusk of the evening dropped from his window; but falling on a bottle rack in the yard, he overset it; and the noise occasioned by the breaking of the bottles was such that the family was alarmed; but
Layer

Layer escaped during the confusion occasioned by this accident. Almost distracted by the loss of his prisoner, the messenger went in search of him, and finding that he had a boat at the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, he crossed the water after him, pursued him through St. George's-Fields, and apprehended him at Newington-Buts. Having brought him back to his house, and guarded him properly for that night, he was examined by the secretary of state on the following day, and committed to Newgate. The king and council now determined that no time should be lost in bringing Layer to a trial; wherefore a writ was issued from the Crown-Office, directed to the sheriff of Essex, commanding him to impanel a grand jury, to inquire into such bills as should be presented against the prisoner; in consequence of which the jury met at Rumford, and found a bill against him for high-treason, and this bill was returnable into the Court of King's-Bench. Soon after the bill was found, the trial came on before Sir John Pratt, lord chief justice, and the other judges of that court. Mr. Layer had two counsellors to plead for him, and they urged every possible argument that could be thought of in his behalf; contesting every minute circumstances with the counsel for the crown, during a trial that lasted sixteen hours; but at length the jury found the prisoner guilty, after having been out of court above an hour. When the prisoner was brought up to receive sentence, his counsel made another effort in his behalf, by urging the informality of some of the legal proceedings against him; but their arguments being thought insufficient, the sentence ordained by the law was passed on him. As he had some important affairs to settle, from the nature of his profession, the court

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did not order his execution till more than two months after he had been condemned ; and the king repeatedly reprieved him, to prevent his clients suffering any loss by his affairs being left in confusion. After conviction he was committed to the Tower, and at length the sheriffs of London and Middlesex received a warrant to execute the sentence of the law ; in consequence of which he was drawn on a sledge to Tyburn, dressed in a suit of black full trimmed, and a tye-wig. At the place of execution he was assisted in his devotions by a non-juring clergyman ; and when these were ended, he spoke to the surrounding multitude, declaring that he deemed king James (so he called the Pretender) his lawful sovereign. He insisted that the nation would never be in a state of peace till the Pretender was restored ; and therefore advised the people to take up arms in his behalf ; he professed himself willing to die for the cause ; and expressed great hopes that providence would effectually support the right heir to the throne on some future occasion, though himself had failed of being the happy instrument of placing him thereon. He suffered, March 15, 1723, and his body having being quartered, his head was placed over Temple-bar, of which there were some remains a few years ago.

LEGEE, J. See DICKENSON, E.

LEEVE, JOHN. See PARRY, RICHARD.

LEWIS, PAUL, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was born at Horsemonseux, in Sussex, and was the son of a worthy clergyman of that place, who put him to a grammar-school at a very early age ; but such was his aversion to study, that he made little or no progress in learning ; on which his father took him home, with an intention to have instructed him
himself ;

himself; but finding him so very indocile, he procured him an admission into the train of artillery. Thus situated, he discovered much of that vanity which is but too common among military men. He was so remarkably extravagant in dress, that he soon became indebted to his taylor in the sum of £50l. when, being afraid of an arrest, he absconded, and then entered on board a man of war. Soon disgusted with the life of a seaman, he quitted the service and commenced highwayman, but not till he had defrauded several sea-officers of considerable sums of money. Having thus begun his iniquitous course of life, he went to a public-house in Southwark, staid great part of the day, and supped; and then going to an inn, hired a horse, and, riding out between Newington-Butts and Vauxhall, stopped a gentleman and his son in a post-chaise, and, having robbed them, returned to the public-house in Southwark. Being apprehended for this offence, he was brought to trial at Kingston, when the people of the public-house swearing that he had not been absent from noon till midnight more than half an hour, he was acquitted. After this, he committed a variety of robberies, and was twice in imminent danger of condemnation; at length, he and an accomplice, having robbed a gentleman and lady in a post-chaise near Paddington, the robbers rode some miles together, and then agreed to part, and commit their depredations separately. Soon after this separation, Lewis stopped a gentleman named Brown, and demanded his money. The gentleman resisted Lewis with such determined resolution, that the latter fired at him, but happily without effect. At this juncture, Mr. Brown's horse took fright, and threw him; but, being little injured, he soon recovered, and saw Lewis in the custody of

Mr. Pope, a constable, who had got him down, and was kneeling on his breast. It seems, while Mr. Pope was riding on the same road, a gentleman and lad told him they had been robbed by two highwaymen, and desired him to be cautious; this however induced him to ride forward the faster, and he arrived at the critical spot in a short time after the robbery was committed, and seized Lewis. Pope desired Mr. Brown to ride after the other highwayman who had been on the road; but at this instant Lewis arose, and, presenting a pistol, swore he would shoot Pope. The latter, in no degree intimidated, knocked the pistol out of his hand, threw him down, and secured him; after which he tied his hands behind his back, and, searching his pockets, found ten pistol-bullets in them. Lewis was now conveyed to New-prison, where having lain one night, he was taken before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate. At the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey, he was brought to trial. The evidence against him was exceedingly strong. He made a frivolous defence; but the jury, without hesitation, found him guilty, and he received sentence of death. During his confinement in Newgate, his unhappy father paid him a visit, and making him a present of twelve guineas, he concealed one of them within the sleeve of his coat, and then told him that he had received only eleven. The father, not suspecting any artifice, gave him another guinea; and no sooner was the old man gone, than the son boasted how he had imposed on him. The ordinary of Newgate represented his behaviour in a very unfavorable light; hinting, among other things, that he had threatened his life, declaring that he should never again have an opportunity of attending a criminal under

under sentence of death. He appears to have been a man of very weak intellects, though some considerable pains had been taken in his education. A few days before his death, he sent a letter to James Dyre, esq. who was then recorder of London, praying him to intercede with his majesty in his behalf, that the sentence might be changed to transportation; chiefly, on the score of his ancient, noble, descent, and the services he had rendered his country while at sea: but his application seems to have been disregarded. Having attended the sacrament on the morning of his execution, during the service he dropped on the ground, but was almost immediately taken up and re-seated: soon after which, he took up a penknife (which it was supposed had fallen when he fell), and held it up, as in token of gratitude, for having been providentially prevented from the commission of suicide; and he afterwards confessed, that he had kept that penknife in his pillow from the time that he had become a prisoner; but that Mr. Akerman having gone into his room, prevented his putting it to the horrid use for which it was intended. When arrived at the fatal tree, he looked round him with a face of inexpressible anguish, and then addressed himself to the multitude in the following words;

“ This dreadful sight will not, I believe, invite any of you to come here by following my example, but rather to be warned by me. I am but twenty-three years of age, a clergyman’s son, bred up among gentlemen: this wounds me the deeper; for to whom much is given, of them more is required. My friends, I entreat you all to avoid such offences as may bring you here, on every account, especially for the sake of your families. Let the memory of
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of my evil actions die with me, and do not reflect on my aged father. Hitherto I have been a disgrace to all that knew me; were I to begin my life again, I should live an honour to society."

He suffered at Tyburn, on the 4th of May, 1763.

LEWIS, FRANC. alias GRIMSON, (ROBBER) was butler to Thomas Edmondson, esq. who having business out of town, discharged the footman before he went. Lewis and three maids were all the servants that were in the house with Mrs. Edmondson. The former, who was a married man, had asked for permission to go and see his wife. He returned about ten at night. Mary Giles, the cook, fastened the door of the area a little before one in the morning. Lewis slept in the pantry; so that she went to bed and left him in the kitchen. About three in the morning, as the watchman was passing he heard a pistol fired in Mr. Edmondson's house, on which he rattled with his stick against the iron bars of the area, near which the prisoner lay; but receiving no answer, he cried the hour, and at half past three, as he was going his rounds, he heard the prisoner cry out, "O Lord! I shall be dead!" The watchman called out to know what was the matter; and the prisoner answered, "there were rogues, villains, in the house, and he should be dead." The watchman then asked why he did not open the door? He said, "he could not, for he was tied." On this the watchman knocked till two servant-maids came down, who found the prisoner tied in his bed, both his hands being tied to his ancles. He said that the house had been broken open; that "there were three men came in; that the age of two of them was from
thirty

thirty to six and thirty, and the other from twenty to four and twenty; that they had great coats on, and flapped hats; that one held a knife to him, and stood over him all the time, while the other two robbed the house." Mary Robinson, one of the servant maids, heard Lewis say, that "three men came in, and he fired a pistol at one; and then they tied his hands and legs, and asked where his mistress's jewels were, and where his mistress lay? that they then took the plate out of the closet." She farther declared, "that he said the plate was all carried away; they insisted on having the key, and he gave it to them out of his pocket: that they doubled a silver tea-board together, tied it up in a table-cloth, and carried it away." Information of this transaction having been given at Bow-street, three persons were apprehended, supposed to be those that the prisoner had described; but they were discharged, on his saying they were not the men that robbed his master. On the day after the robbery was committed, Mr. Clarke went from Sir John Fielding's office, to examine how the burglary had been committed. When he came to Mr. Edmond's house, he saw the prisoner sitting by the fire, and having two marks as if cut by a knife. Mr. Clarke took him to the area, on the outside of which was a brick a little broken, on which the robbers were supposed to have stepped. Clarke desired the cook to put up the shutters as they were on the preceding night. She did so: he asked if they were bolted or barred: she said both. He demanded if she would swear before a magistrate that they were bolted and barred: she said, she would not swear she bolted the place, but would swear she barred it. Clarke observed that the bar was a little broke, and that it went into a
tenter

tenter-hook, which must have been wrenched if the place had been forced open: but the most remarkable circumstance was this; a pane of glass was broken, on the inside of which was a cobweb, which was in such a direction, that it must have been carried away if any one had come through the window. Clarke now examined the door, and finding that all the force which had been used was on the inside, he had no doubt but that the robbery had been committed by some person in the house; on which he told Mr. and Mrs. Edmond's his opinion of the affair; but the latter seemed very unwilling to admit even of a suspicion to the prejudice of the prisoner. Mr. Clarke then shewed the lady the place, and asked her if she had given him leave to go out on the preceding night. She said she had permitted him to go and see his wife. Clarke finding that he was married, said, "depend on it the things are at his wife's;" and having obtained a direction where she had lodged, he dispatched Charles Jealous and another person to the house of a grocer, in Goswell-street. There they learnt that she was removed to Holywell-street, Clare-market, where they found her, having in her possession a large trunk, with a quantity of plate and clothes in it. The woman being taken before Sir John Fielding, acknowledged that she was wife to the prisoner; that they were his lodgings, and that he himself had taken them. In the interim the husband was taken into custody by Clarke, who desired him to acquaint him where the rest of the plate was, that no imputation might lay against the characters of the other servants. On this he acknowledged that he had thrown it into the cistern of his master's house. Hereupon Clarke went to the house, and found the plate at
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the bottom of the cistern; and among other articles a large waiter bent double. This and many other pieces of plate were produced in court, on his trial at the Old Bailey, in April, 1778, and sworn to by the prosecutor; on which the jury gave a verdict, that the prisoner was guilty of stealing the goods in the dwelling-house; and at the close of the sessions he received sentence of death. In consequence of this atrocious breach of trust no endeavours were exerted to save him, and he suffered at Tyburn, on the 24th of June, 1778.

LISLE, J. G. See SEMPLE.

LITTLE, JOHN. See AVERSHAW, L.

LLEWELLEN, ——. See SPIGGOT, WM.

LLOYD, SARAH, (ACCESSARY) servant, who was accused of having introduced a man into the house of her mistress, who robbed and afterwards set it on fire. This unhappy woman's case, occupied much attention; she was generally considered as the instrument made use of by a designing villain, and having a most excellent character, it excited a very strong interest in the neighbourhood. Being convicted of larceny only on the value of forty shillings, at Bury assizes, April, 1800, and condemned—she was left for execution. A petition was immediately signed, most respectably and numerously, for her respite and pardon; but the Duke of Portland deeming the application to arise from ill-judged humanity, sent down a king's messenger to order her execution. Among the persons who interested themselves the most on this occasion was that very respectable magistrate Mr. Capel Lofft, who addressed the following letter to the Monthly Magazine, setting forth her case and proving her an object of mercy:

SIR,

SIR,

“Give me leave to caution you against an implicit credit in the accounts published in most of the public papers, respecting the case of the unhappy Sarah Lloyd. This much only I will say at present—a most extraordinary and most affecting case it is. I have never heard of one more so—I have never known one in any degree so much so. I was on the grand jury which found the two bills of indictment. I was in court at the trial. I am happy, yet perhaps I ought not to say so, that I was not in court when sentence of death was pronounced upon her. I have visited her several times, since she has been in prison, with several respectable persons, and particularly with a lady of very superior understanding; and, who struck with her mild and ingenuous countenance, the modesty, unhesitating clearness, simplicity and ingenuous character of all she says; her meek and constant fortitude, and her modest resignation, has interested herself greatly in behalf of this young and most singularly unhappy woman. She was indicted for a burglarious robbery, in the dwelling house of her mistress. She was convicted of larceny alone to the value of forty shillings. And under what circumstances it will be proper to state more fully hereafter. The jury acquitted her of the burglarious part of the charge and thereby negatived any previous knowledge on her part of a felonious intent of any person. The other indictment for malicious housefiring was not even tried. Unhappily perhaps for her that it was not. It seems but too certain that she will suffer death on Wednesday next; and from any thing that I can yet learn I should fear a numerous and respectably signed petition will not even find its way to the king
while

while she yet lives. I write only thus much at present; that if you state the supposed facts which have been so widely diffused against her, and have made so dreadful an impression, you may also state these remarks; which have for their object merely that the public would suspend their judgment till a full and correct statement be laid before them, as it necessarily must; and that in the mean time at least the public will not conclude her guilty of more than that of which she solely stands convicted and attainted on the record—the larceny only. And as to the nature and degree of her guilt, even upon that, they will estimate it according to the circumstances, when fully before them. Then perhaps they will have no cause to wonder that efforts have been made, as they have certainly been, with most persevering anxiety, to obtain a mitigation of her sentence, so far as it affects her life: nor that the prosecutrix, the committing magistrate—the foreman and several others of the grand jury and many persons of true respectability, have concurred in these efforts, and particularly persons in whose service she had lived, and who speak of her temper, disposition, character and conduct, in terms every way honourably. I remain, &c.

Troston, April 21.

CAPEL LOFFT."

In another letter, this gentleman gives an account of her person, execution, &c. as follows:

“Respecting the case of Sarah Lloyd, what ought now further to be said, I wish that I felt myself capable of saying as it deserves. I have reason to think that she was not quite nineteen. She was rather low of stature, of a pale complexion, to which, anxiety and near seven months imprison-

ment had given a yellowish tint. Naturally she appears to have been fair, as when she coloured, the colour naturally diffused itself. Her countenance was very pleasing, of a meek and modest expression, perfectly characteristic of a mild affectionate temper. She had large eyes and eyelids, a short and well-formed nose, an open forehead, of a grand and *fr*ingenuous character, and very regular and pleasing features; her hair darkish brown, and her eyebrows rather darker than her hair; she had an uncommon and unaffected sweetness in her voice and manner. She seemed to be above impatience or discontent, fear or ostentation, exempt from selfish emotion, but attentive with pure sympathy to those whom her state and the affecting singularity of her case and her uniformly admirable behaviour interested in her behalf. When asked, April 23, 1800, the morning on which she suffered, how she had slept the preceding night, she said, not well the beginning, but quite well the latter part of the night. She took an affectionate, but composed and even cheerful leave of her fellow-prisoners and rather gave them comfort than needed to receive it. It was a rainy and windy morning. She accepted of, and held over her head, an umbrella, which I brought with me, and without assistance, though her arms were confined, steadily supported it all the way from the prison, not much less than a mile. What I said at the place of execution, if it had been far better said than I was then able to express myself under the distress I felt, would have been little in comparison of the effect of her appearance and behaviour on the whole assembly. That effect, none, who were not present, can imagine. Before this I never attended an execution, but indeed it was a duty to attend this, and to

give the last testimony of esteem to a young person, whose behaviour after her sentence (I had not seen her before, for in Court she was concealed from me by the surrounding crowd) had rendered her so deserving of every possible attention. Those who have been accustomed to such distressing observations, remarked that the executioner, though used to his dreadful office, appeared exceedingly embarrassed and was uncommonly slow in those preparations which immediately precede the fatal moment, and which, in such a kind of death are a severe trial to the fortitude of the strongest and most exalted mind, and much the more so as they tend to destroy the sympathy resulting from the associated ideas of dignity in suffering; yet she dignified by her deportment every humiliating circumstance of this otherwise most degrading of deaths, and maintained an unaltered equanimity and recollectedness, herself assisting in putting back her hair and adjusting the instrument of death to her neck. There was no platform nor any thing in a common degree suitable to supply the want of one; yet this very young and wholly uneducated woman, naturally of a very tender disposition, and from her mild and amiable temper, accustomed to be treated as their child in the families in which she had lived, and who consequently had not learned fortitude from experience either of danger or hardship, and in prison the humanity of Mr. Orridge had been parental towards her, appeared with a serenity that seemed more than human; and when she gave the signal, there was a recollected gracefulness and sublimity in her manner that struck every heart, and is above words or idea. I was so very near to her the whole time, that near-

sighted as I am, I can fully depend on the certainty of my information. After she had been suspended more than a minute, her hands were twice evenly and gently raised, and gradually let to fall without the least appearance of convulsive or involuntary motion, in a manner which could hardly be mistaken, when interpreted, as designed to signify content and resignation. At all events, independently of this circumstance, which was noticed by many, her whole conduct evidently shewed, from this temper of mind, a composed, and even cheerful submission to the views and will of heaven; a most unaffected submission entirely becoming her age, her sex, and situation." Here the writer, referring to an account in the Ipswich paper, observes; "The word accomplice is used,—whoever admits a man was concerned, will see reason to regard that man as far more than an accomplice. I believe it were not impossible (but would indeed be nearly inevitable) for an attentive mind, weighing the circumstances of this, perhaps, unexampled case, to come to the same conclusion which has long impressed itself on mine. That conclusion leaves to her a share of the guilt, which is indeed "comparative innocence," and the verdict of the jury, who, I believe, in that verdict thought they had saved her life, imports not a greater share. Yet they knew nothing of the admirable character which has been given of her by those in whose service she had longest lived, viz. Mr. Johnson, of Bilderston, grocer and linen-draper; Mr. Henry, farmer; from Midsummer 1795, to Michaelmas 1797, for the best temper, a meek, peaceable, quiet disposition; honesty, modesty, uniformly good behaviour in all respects; freedom not only from
blame,



blame, but from any circumstances tending to suspicion of it. The jury knew of her character only by her affecting appeal to Mrs. Syer, the prosecutrix herself. For she had not been sending after those who could speak to her character during her confinement, and therefore being asked, she answered she did not know whether there was any, meaning, certainly, in court, except it was Mrs. Syer. And the jury, under the circumstances of no evidence being given against the other party indicted, had not the usual means, which, where two persons are indicted, a jury almost constantly has, of forming some estimate of the proportion of guilt which may belong to either; nor could they even see, or perhaps under these circumstances, imagine, how peculiar her case was, even as to that for which she was convicted, infinitely the smallest part of the charge which the two indictments contained. I do not, therefore, arraign the verdict of the jury; the verdict could not be otherwise; it was just, it was discriminating, it was humanely considerate, and, I think, I say nothing which is unbecoming when I say this, that although the verdict, and the consequent sentence were according to law, death being the sentence under the statute of Anne, the case was such as had a strong, and I think, almost singular plea for the extension of mercy. The force and nature of this plea, which appeared imperfectly at the trial, and at the time of passing sentence, more and more developed itself progressively to the last. I shall ever deeply regret that it did not appear so to the judge, and most of all, that when by the Bill of Rights, it is declared that it is the right of the subject to petition; that in this instance there is reason to conclude, that a petition, though

in behalf of life, and numerous and most respectably signed, was, notwithstanding, never presented to the king!!! I would rather suffer any thing than have this omission to impute to myself.

I remain, &c.

Troston, May 19.

CAPEL LOFFT."

Such, however, were the exaggerations of the London prints, which ascribed to this unfortunate woman all the crime, that we need not wonder there was no attention paid to the petition. The following is an extract of one, (*Times*, April 11,) by which the reader will see quite a different representation from the above:—"The circumstances attending the case of Sarah Lloyd are perhaps unequalled for the atrocious intentions of the perpetrator, who was a servant to a very respectable lady, residing at Hadleigh, named Syer. On the 3d of October last, she set her mistress's house on fire in four different places, and robbed her of some considerable property. Her intention was the destruction of her protectress, for, to prevent the escape of her mistress, the principal combustibles were placed under a stair-case which led to her mistress's bed-room, and, but for the timely assistance of the neighbourhood, she would have perished in the fire." The incendiary and intended murder, here asserted as facts of her deep ingratitude and base depravity, were neither tried nor proved—and of the burglary she was acquitted, which acquittal must also acquit her of the other charges.

LOWRY, CAPT. JAMES, (MURDERER,) was a native of Scotland, and, having received a liberal education, was, at his own request, apprenticed to the master of a trading vessel, with whom he

he served his time faithfully. After rising by degrees to the command of a vessel, he was employed by some merchants of Jamaica to conduct a ship of theirs to England. During the voyage he exercised such cruelty, as demanded a scrutiny on the return of the vessel. Having taken men on board to work his ship, he 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 was at last discovered by a thief-taker, who took him into custody, and received the reward. On the 18th of February, 1752, he was indicted at a sessions of admiralty, held at the Old Bailey, 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 haulyards and the other to the main-shrouds, when the prisoner was beating him with a rope about an inch and a half in thickness. This deponent returning again in half an hour, the prisoner desired 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 was to tie him up again: but when let down, he was unable to stand; which being made known to Lowry, he said, "D—n the rascal, he *shams Abraham*," (a sea-term for pretending to be ill, when able to do duty,) and ordered him to be again tied up. This was done, but he was not made so fast as before; which the captain observing, ordered his arms to be extended to the full stretch, and taking

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 o'clock 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—n 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. This witness 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 beating them with a cane, which he called "the Royal Oak Foremast." It was asked of Gatherah, why Lowry was not confined till the 29th of December, as the murder of Hossack 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

he had done, and treat the rest of the crew better during the remainder of the voyage; 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 with these arguments; but Lowry continuing his severities, it was determined to deprive him of his command, and 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 endeavours to save the vessel, and to steer for the port of 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 product; *i. e.* no effects to dispose of, on which he declined conducting 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 an arrest, and sent them to England on board a man of war, then bound homewards. 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, 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

honest. Some questions were asked, if they thought Lowry's ill treatment was the occasion of Hossack's death. They said there was no doubt of it, "that it would have killed him had he been in health and strength, or the stoutest man living." Lowry, when called upon for his defence, addressed himself to the court in the following terms:

"My Lord, and Gentlemen of the Jury,

"My case is exceeding hard; the witnesses that have been produced against me have agreed to swear this murder upon me, well knowing that if they do not take away my life, their own will be in danger, as I hope to make appear. In October, 1750, I set sail from Jamaica, in the Molly, of which I was commander, with thirteen hands, besides myself, on board: we were bound for London. I had not been long at sea, but I found that I had got a set of the most wicked, drunken, idle fellows that ever came into a ship. I had great apprehensions that they intended to run away with the ship; and so I told Captain Dalton of the Nancy, who came from Jamaica with me, and begged he would keep me company, and observe what course we kept: this the witness Gatherah knew, if he would have been honest and spoke the truth; but he was sworn with a halter about his neck. Often when I awaked, I found they had altered the ship's course while I was asleep; and Gatherah, who was my chief mate, often insulted me, and used me so very ill, that I was obliged to turn him out of my mess, and forbid him my cabin. Roberts, my second mate, having rum, would sell it to the men, notwithstanding I forbid him often; by which means they were scarce ever sober. Our ship

ship being leaky, we were obliged to keep continually pumping; and some of the men being sick, occasioned by their drinking so much rum, I could not but be very angry with Roberts, for supplying the men with so much liquor. On the 23d day of December, though the witnesses swear the 24th, one of the men had lost a bottle of rum, and was informed the deceased had taken and drunk it; at the same time William Waum came to me, and complained he had lost a note, and believed that Kenith Hossack had stole it, (though he denies he said it now) upon which I called the deceased upon deck, to examine him, and found he was so drunk, he was scarce able to stand; therefore I ordered him to be tied to the rails of the ship till he was sober, for, if he had gone down to his cabin, he would have got more rum, and so endangered his life, he having been sick with drinking before. The deceased being a comical fellow, I took a bit of rope and flourished it three times round, gave him a stroke or two upon the breech, not so hard as to hurt him more than I do this book, (*striking his hand gently on the log book that lay on the bar;*) after he had been tied some time to the rails, he fell backwards and foamed at the mouth: I then cut him loose, and he fell down, and I believe his being intoxicated and struggling to get loose might suffocate him. I did all I could to recover him, as the witnesses against me have allowed. I was not then charged with murdering the deceased: nor did I hear any thing of such a charge till five or six days after Hossack's death, when they deprived me of the command, confined me, seized the ship, altered her course, which was for England, and carried her to Lisbon. I had prepared a letter to send
ashore

ashore by the first boat that came on board, to the English consul, informing him of the situation I was in; who came on board, examined us all, reinstated me in the command of the ship, which I brought home safe to England. The witnesses were sent home prisoners on board a man of war, upon my accusation of mutiny and piracy. It cannot be supposed the consul would have trusted me with the command of the ship, if I had been under the charge of murder."

The evidence having been recapitulated by the judge, the jury retired for 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, fell on his bed, and was measured while insensible. On his recovery, he said that it was the disgrace of a public exposure that had affected him, and not the fear of death. On the morning of his death, he seemed greatly affected when first put into the cart, but soon recovering a greater degree of courage, he bore his calamity with a tolerable share of serenity, notwithstanding the cart was surrounded by a number of sailors, who poured execrations on him, for the barbarity he had shewn to one of their brethren. The procession having reached Execution-dock, he was placed on a scaffold erected under the gibbet; when, after a short time spent in devotion, he underwent the sentence of the law, having first given the executioner his watch and money. He suffered on the 25th of March, 1752; after

after which his body was put into a boat, carried down the river, and hung in chains on the bank of the Thames.

M.

MACFARLANE, ——. See CODLIN, W.

MACLANE, JAMES, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was descended from a reputable family in the north of Scotland; but his father having been liberally educated in the university of Glasgow, went to settle at Monaghan in the north of Ireland, as preacher to a congregation of dissenters in that place, where he married and had two sons; the elder of whom was bred to the church, and preached many years to the English congregation at the Hague, and was equally remarkable for his learning and the goodness of his heart. This his younger son, was about eighteen years of age when his father died, and the old gentleman having bequeathed his effects to him, he dissipated all before he had attained his twentieth year. In this dilemma he applied for relief to his mother's relations, with a view to fit him out for the naval service; but as they refused to assist him, he entered into the service of a gentleman named Howard, with whom he came to London. Soon after his arrival in the metropolis he abandoned his service; and returning to Ireland, he again solicited the assistance of his mother's relations, who were either unwilling or unable to afford him relief. He was, however, assisted by his brother at the Hague, till his expences began to be too considerable for a continued support from that quarter: hereupon he

found it necessary to procure some employment; and making interest with a military gentleman who had known his father, he recommended him to a colonel who had a country seat near Cork. This gentleman engaged him as a butler; and he continued a considerable time in his service, till, secreting some effects, he was dismissed with disgrace, and rendered unable to procure another place in that part of the kingdom. Now reduced to circumstances of distress, he conceived an idea of entering into the Irish brigade in the service of France, and communicated his intention to a gentleman, who advised him to decline all thoughts of such a procedure, as he could have no prospect of rising in his profession, unless he changed his religion; a circumstance that he would not consent to, for he still retained some sense of the pious education he had received. Notwithstanding the colonel above-mentioned had dismissed him his service, yet fearing that his desperate circumstances might induce him to farther acts of dishonesty, he entrusted him with the care of his baggage to London; and Mac-lane wishing to enter as a private man in lord Albemarle's troop of horse-guards, solicited the colonel to advance him the necessary sum to procure his admission. The colonel seemed willing to favour his scheme; but thinking it dangerous to trust the money in his hands, he committed it to the care of an officer belonging to the troop, which was then in Flanders. Every thing was prepared; and his credentials were ready for his joining the troop, when he suddenly declined all thoughts of entering into the army. His ruling passion was dress, as an introduction to the company of women; and having received about fifty pounds from some females

females of more good-nature than sense, under pretence of fitting himself out for a West-India voyage, he expended the greater part of it in elegant clothes, and commenced a professed fortune-hunter. At length he married the daughter of Mr. Macglegno, a horse-dealer, with whom he received five hundred pounds, and he commenced the business of a grocer, in Welbeck-street, Cavendish-square, and supported his family with some degree of credit till the expiration of three years, when his wife died, leaving two infant daughters to the care of her relatives, who kindly undertook to provide for them. Hitherto Maclane's character among his neighbours was unimpeached; but soon after the death of his wife, he sold his stock in trade and furniture, and assumed the character of a fine gentleman, in the hope of engaging the attention of some lady of fortune, to which he thought himself intitled by the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance. At the end of about six months he had expended all his money, and became very unhappy from reflecting on that change of fortune that would probably reduce him to his former state of servitude. While in this state of dejection, an Irish apothecary, named Plunkett, visited him, and enquired into the cause of his despondency. Maclane acknowledged the reduced state of his finances; candidly confessed that he had no money left, nor knew any way of raising a shilling but by the disposal of his wearing apparel: "I thought, (rejoined the apothecary,) you had some spirit and resolution, with some knowledge of the world. A brave man has a right to live, and not want the conveniences of life, while the dull, plodding, busy knaves carry cash in their pocket. We must draw

draw upon them to supply our wants: there needs only impudence, and getting the better of a few idle scruples: there is scarce any courage necessary. All we have to deal with are mere poltroons."— These arguments co-operated so forcibly with the poverty of Maclane, that he entered into conversation with Plunkett on the subject of going on the highway; and at length they entered into a solemn agreement to abide by each other in all adventures, and to share the profit of their depredations to the last shilling: nor does it appear that either of them ever defrauded the other. Their first robbery was on Hounslow-heath, where they stopped a grazier on his return from Smithfield, and took from him about sixty pounds. This money being soon spent in extravagance, they were induced to take a ride on the St. Alban's road, and seeing a stage-coach coming forward, they agreed to ride up on the opposite sides of the carriage. Maclane's fears induced him to hesitate; and when Plunkett ordered the driver to stop, it was with the utmost trepidation that the other demanded the money of the passengers. On their return to London at night, Plunkett censured him as a coward, and told him that he was unfit for his business. This had such an effect on him, that he soon afterwards went out alone, and unknown to Plunkett; and having robbed a gentleman of a large sum, he returned and shared it with his companion. Afterwards he stopped and robbed the honourable Horace Walpole, (late Lord Orford) and his pistol accidentally went off during the attack. For some time did he continue this irregular mode of life, during which he paid two guineas a week for his lodgings, and lived in a style of elegance, which he accounted for
by

by asserting that he had an estate in Ireland which produced seven hundred pounds a year; while his children were under the care of his mother-in-law, whom he seldom visited. On a particular occasion he narrowly escaped the hands of justice, which terrified him so much, that he went to Holland on a visit to his brother, who received him with every mark of fraternal affection; and though unsuspecting the mode in which he lived, but having too much reason to fear that he was of a dissipated turn of mind, gave him the best advice for the regulation of his future conduct. Having remained in Holland till he presumed his transactions in this country were in some measure forgotten, he returned to England, renewed his depredations on the public, and lived in a style of the utmost elegance. He frequented all the public places, was well known at the gaming houses, and was not unfrequent in his visits to ladies of easy virtue. The speciousness of his behaviour, the gracefulness of his person, and the elegance of his appearance, combined to make him a welcome visitor even at the houses of women of character; and he had so far ingratiated himself into the affections of a young lady, that her ruin would probably have been the consequence of their connection, but that a gentleman casually hearing of this affair, and knowing that Maclane's highest character was that of a sharper, interposed his timely advice, and saved her from destruction. Hereupon his visits were forbidden; a circumstance that chagrined him so much, that he sent a challenge to the gentleman, which was treated with a just degree of contempt that aggravated his vexation. Encouraged by his repeated successes on the road, Maclane was thrown off his guard;

he became every day more free to commit robbery, and less apprehensive of detection: for he imagined that Plunkett's turning evidence could alone affect him; and he had no doubt of the fidelity of his accomplice. On the 26th of June, 1750, these confederates riding out together, met the Earl of Eglington in a post-chaise beyond Hounslow, when Maclane advancing to the post-boy, commanded him to stop, but placed himself in a direct line before the driver, lest his lordship should shoot him with a blunderbuss, with which he always travelled; for he was sensible that the Peer would not fire so as to endanger the life of the post-boy. In the interim Plunkett forced a pistol through the glass at the back of the chaise, and threatened instant destruction unless his lordship threw away the blunderbuss. His lordship's dangerous situation rendered compliance necessary, and he was robbed of his money and a surtout coat; and after the carriage drove forward, Maclane took up the coat and blunderbuss. The same day they stopped the Salisbury stage, and took two portmanteaus, which, with the booty they had already obtained, were conveyed to Maclane's lodgings in Pall Mall, where the plunder was shared. Immediate notice of this robbery was given in the newspapers, and the articles stolen were described; yet Maclane was so much off his guard, that he stripped the lace from a waistcoat, the property of one of the gentlemen who had been robbed, and happened to carry it for sale to the laceman of whom it had been purchased. He also went to a salesman in Monmouth-street, named Loader, who attended him to his lodgings, but had no sooner seen what clothes he had to sell, than he knew them to be those which
had

had been advertised; and pretending that he had not money enough to purchase them, said he would go home for more: instead of which he procured a constable, apprehended Maclane, and took him before a magistrate. Many persons of rank, of both sexes, attended his examination; several of whom were so affected with his situation, that they contributed liberally towards his present support. Being committed to the Gatehouse, he requested a second examination before the magistrate, when he confessed all that was alledged against him; and his confession was taken in writing. On this he was recommitted to prison, and during his confinement a gentleman wrote to his brother at the Hague a narrative of his unhappy case, to which the following answer was sent:

“ Utrecht, August 16, N. S. 1750.

“ Sir,

“ I received your melancholy letter; but the dismal news it contained had reached me before it arrived, as I have been happily absent from the Hague some time. I never thought that any belonging to me would have loaded me with such heart-breaking affliction, as the infamous crimes of him, whom I will call brother no more, have brought upon me. How often, and how solemnly, have I admonished him of the miserable consequences of an idle life, and, alas! to no purpose! However that be, I have made all the interest possible for his life; filled with shame and confusion, that I have been obliged to make demands so contrary to justice, and hardly knowing with what face to do it, in the character I bear as a minister
of

of truth and righteousness. It is the interest of some friends I have made here, that can only save his life; they have lost no time in applying, and I hope their endeavours will be successful; but I still hope more, that if Providence should order events, as that he escapes the utmost rigour of the law, and has that life prolonged which he deserves not to enjoy any longer, I hope, or rather wish, that in such a case he may have a proper sense and feeling of his enormous crimes, which lay an ample foundation for drawing out the wretched remainder of his days in sorrow and repentance. With respect to me, it would give me consolation, if I could hope that this would be the issue of his trial; it would comfort me on his account as he is a man, because I will never acknowledge him in any nearer relation, and because, except such good offices as former ties and present humanity demand from me in his behalf, I am determined never to have any farther correspondence with him during this mortal life. I have given orders to look towards his subsistence, and what is necessary for it. I am obliged to you, Sir, for your attention in communicating to me this dismal news, and shall willingly embrace any opportunity of shewing myself, Sir, your most obedient, &c.

“ P. S. If you see this my unhappy brother, let him know my compassion for his misery, as well as my indignation against his crimes; and also that I shall omit nothing in my power to have his sufferings mitigated. He has, I fear, broke my heart, and will make me drag out the rest of my days in sorrow.”

At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, Maclane was indicted, and pleading "Not guilty;" read a paper that had been drawn up for him, tending to extenuate his crimes: but his confession being produced against him, and much corroborative proof arising, the jury found him guilty without quitting the court. The chief evidence were the things found in his lodgings, among which were the coat and blunderbuss he had taken from Lord Eglington; his lordship, however, did not appear against him. When brought up to receive sentence of death, and asked, as is customary, what he had to say for himself, he made an essay to address the court; but his powers failing, he only exclaimed,—"My lord, I cannot speak!" Having been educated as a dissenter, he was attended, at his own request, by Dr. Allen, a reverend divine of the Presbyterian persuasion. When the doctor first visited him, he found him in a state of dreadful dejection of mind, but by no means an infidel with respect to religious matters. He confessed that his companions had reprobated the doctrines of Christianity; but, for his part, he had always believed them, however contrary to them he had acted: and he attributed this faith to the religious education he had received. The doctor remarking that the paper he had read at his trial was no proof of his penitence, he said an attorney had advised him to make that defence, and he thought himself justified in such an attempt to preserve his life. He confessed that he entertained but small hope of a reprieve; and being told that the number of robberies then lately committed by persons of genteel appearance seemed to preclude any hope, he submitted with great resignation, wished that his fate might afford a warning to the young and thoughtless,
and

and earnestly exclaimed, "Glad should I be, as my life hath been vile, my death might be useful!" He behaved still more composed than before, after the arrival of the warrant for his execution. Some gentlemen having brought a letter from Maclane's brother in Holland, Dr. Allen delivered it to him in their presence, on the day before his execution. On the receipt of it, he exclaimed, "O my dear brother! I have broke his heart!" After hesitating some time, he said, "I have been long acquainted with sorrow, and, cutting as this letter will be to my heart, I will read it." Observing the first words in it to be "Unhappy brother!" he cried, "Unhappy, indeed!" and then read the letter with as much composure as his conflicting passions would permit. Having spent the last night in devotion, he prepared to meet his fate with decent resignation. The next morning, he received the sacrament, and, when going to the place of execution, it was observed that his behaviour was uncommonly penitent. After the cap was drawn over his eyes, he said, "O God! forgive my enemies, bless my friends, and receive my soul!" He suffered at Tyburn, October 3, 1750.

MACNAMARA, J. See DESPARD, E. M.

MALCOLM, SARAH, (MURDERER,) was the daughter of a gentleman who possessed an estate of about 100*l.* a year in the county of Durham, where she was born, in the year 1711. Her father being a man much addicted to pleasure and extravagance, the estate became soon mortgaged, except his wife's jointure. He then, in company with his wife and daughter, set out for Dublin, the place of his wife's nativity, where he purchased a place in one of the public offices belonging to that city, the profits of which enabled him to live in credit, and to give his daughter

daughter an education superior to that of the common class of people. Sarah, being naturally of a sprightly disposition, wholly engaged the affections of her parents, with whom she lived on terms of reciprocal esteem. Some years after, her father having some business of consequence to settle, they came to London; where his wife dying in a short time, he married another; who not being agreeable to the daughter's disposition, occasioned a separation between them. Sarah, who was now of age, was obliged to have recourse to servitude for a subsistence. In this station, she lived in many reputable families with great credit, being much commended for her diligence and sobriety. At last, unfortunately for her, she became a servant at the Black Horse, a public house near Temple-bar; where she contracted an acquaintance with one Mary Tracy, a woman of light character, and two young men, who were brothers, named Thomas and James Alexander. From this house she was recommended as a laundress, to take care of gentlemen's chambers in the Temple; and amongst her employers was a Mr. Kerril, a young gentleman from Ireland. She officiated also as a chair-woman to Mrs. Lydia Duncomb, a lady of about eighty years of age, who lived in the Temple, where she kept two servants, Elizabeth Harrison, aged sixty, and Ann Price, about seventeen. This lady being reputed very rich, a scheme was formed by Sarah to rob her chambers, in order, as supposed, to obtain a sum of money, and thereby procure one of the Alexanders for a husband. On Saturday the third of February, 1733, Sarah called at Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, where she staid till about eight o'clock in the evening, under a pretence of visiting Mrs. Harrison, who was just recovered from a fit of sickness;

sickness; Mrs. Love, a lady who had engaged to dine with Mrs. Duncomb the next day, being present at the time. It was generally imagined the true meaning of her visit was, either to secrete the key of the door, or to spoil the lock, so as to gain an easier admittance for the execution of her design. On Sunday, the following day, about nine in the morning, a Mr. Gahagan, who had chambers on the same floor, breakfasted with Mr. Ker- ril, after which they went to the Commons together; during which time, Mrs. Love, coming to Mrs. Duncomb's chambers, could not gain admittance. After waiting a considerable time, she went down stairs, when, meeting with Mrs. Oliphant, she enquired whether she had seen any of Mrs. Duncomb's family; who replying she had not, it made her conclude that the old maid, Elizabeth Harrison, was dead, and that Ann Price was gone to acquaint her sister with the news. Mrs. Oliphant then went to Mrs. Rhymer, executrix to Mrs. Duncomb, who returned with her to the chambers, but could make no one hear; when seeing Sarah Malcolm at the Bishop of Bangor's door, they called to her, and begged she would fetch a smith to force open the door, to which she immediately consented, but returned without one: when Mrs. Love expressed her fears that they were all dead, Mrs. Oliphant proposed getting out of her master's window into the gutter, where, by breaking a pane of glass, she could easily open Mrs. Duncomb's casement; which was accordingly effected. Mrs. Love, Mrs. Rhymer, and herself, then went in, and the first object that presented itself in the passage was, the body of Ann Price, lying on her bed, wallowing in blood, with her throat cut from ear to ear. In the next room, lay Elizabeth Har-
rison,

ison, strangled; and in an adjoining room, the poor old lady lay, also strangled on her bed; the box where she kept her money being broke open and stripped of its contents, excepting a few papers only. The neighbourhood became soon alarmed. Mr. Gahagan and Mr. Kerril happening to pass by at the time, and seeing a crowd of people about the chambers, enquired what was the matter; and were accordingly informed of the sanguinary deed. As they walked on, Mr. Gahagan said to Mr. Kerril, "Mrs. Duncomb was your Sarah's acquaintance;" which the latter passed unnoticed. On their arrival at a coffee-house in Covent-garden, these murders engrossed the conversation of the whole company, who seemed to be unanimous in the opinion that they must have been committed by some laundress, who was well acquainted with the chambers. From the coffee-house, these gentlemen adjourned to the Horse-shoe and Magpye in Essex-street, where they continued till about one in the morning (Monday), when they both returned to Mr. Kerril's chambers. On their entrance, they found Sarah Malcolm, with the door open, lighting a fire. "So Sarah (says Mr. Kerril) are you here at this time of the morning? you knew Mrs. Duncomb, have you heard of any body that is taken up for the murder?" "No (said she); but a gentleman who had chambers under her has been absent two or three days, and he is suspected." Mr. Kerril then said, "Nobody who was acquainted with Mrs. Duncomb shall be in my chambers, till the murderer is discovered; and therefore look up your things, and be gone." In the interim, two watchmen were called, who found her turning over some linen in a box. On being asked who it belonged to, she replied it was her own. Mr. Kerril

then missing two waistcoats, enquired what she had done with them. She then called him aside, and told him she had pawned them for two guineas at Mr. Williams's in Drury-Lane; praying his forgiveness, and assuring him that he might depend upon her redeeming them. Mr. Kerril informed her that he was not so much displeas'd with her on account of the waistcoats, but suspected her to be concern'd in the murders. He then observ'd a bundle lying on the floor, which she inform'd him was her gown, with some linen tied up in it, which she hop'd decency would forbid him opening, and which he accordingly declined. On a stricter search, he miss'd several things belonging to himself, and finding others, not his property, he immediately order'd the watchmen to secure her, giving them a strict charge not to let her escape. When she was gone, he request'd Mr. Gahagan to assist him in a thorough search; and, looking into the close-stool, they discover'd more linen, and a silver pint tankard, the handle of which was bloody. On calling up the watchmen again, they inform'd the gentlemen that they had set her at liberty, on her promising to surrender at ten o'clock the next morning. They were order'd immediately to find her again at all events; and, calling to their brother watchman at the gate, they luckily found she had not left the Temple; and in a few minutes she was brought back to the chambers. Upon being shewn the bloody tankard and linen, and asked who they belong'd to, she assert'd that they had been left her by her mother; that the blood was in consequence of having cut her finger; and making some other frivolous excuses, she was again order'd into custody of the watchmen till the morning. On searching her in the watch house, a green silk purse,

containing

containing twenty-one counters, was found in her bosom. The next morning, after a full examination, she was committed to Newgate. On her entering Newgate, she saw a room belonging to the debtors, and enquired whether she could not have that room. She was answered by Roger Johnson, the turnkey, that it would cost a guinea. She replied, that she could send for a friend that would raise two or three guineas if necessary. She then, went into the tap-room, and talked very freely with the felons. Johnson then took her into a room where there was no other prisoner; and, on searching her, he found a bag concealed under her hair, containing twenty moidores, eighteen guineas, five broad pieces, one of which was of twenty-five shillings value, the others twenty-three shillings each, a half broad piece, five crowns, and two or three shillings. On being asked by Johnson where she had the money, she replied, it was some of Mrs. Duncomb's; "but, Mr. Johnson (says she), I'll make you a present of it, if you will but keep it to yourself, and let nobody know any thing of the matter; for the other things against me are nothing but circumstances, and I shall come off well enough; and therefore I only desire you to let me have threepence or sixpence a day till the sessions are over, and then I shall be at liberty to shift for myself." He accordingly took the money, which he sealed up in the bag, and which was produced in court on her trial. She also informed Johnson that she had engaged three men, for a trifling sum of money, to swear, that the tankard belonged to her grandmother, adding, that was all she wanted, for as to the rest she could do well enough. She said the names of two of the men were Denny and Smith, the other she had forgot; but that she feared they

they were not to be depended on. She then (confiding in Johnson) put a piece of mattrass in her hair, to make it appear in bulk as before, and by that means prevent a discovery. She afterwards told Johnson, that she was the contriver of the robbery, but two men and a woman were concerned with her; that she watched on the stairs while they committed the fact, but that she was no ways concerned in the murder. She likewise declared, that one William Gibbs had been with her, by whom she had sent ten guineas to the two Alexanders, who she said were the men that were concerned with her; and she continued to charge them with the guilt even after her condemnation. Soon after her commitment to Newgate, she declared herself a dead woman; and it being the general opinion that she would destroy herself, she was ordered to be put into one of the cells, and a proper person was appointed as a guard over her. Being seized with violent fits, a surgeon was sent for, as it was imagined she had taken poison; but he gave it as his opinion, that they arose from the consciousness of her guilt, and the terror of her approaching fate had caused the preternatural hurry of her spirits. When questions were asked her, she prevaricated so much in her answers, and appeared withal so extremely hardened, that little regard was paid to what she said. She would by no means suffer any of her acquaintance to see her; but the two Alexanders and Mrs. Tracy being taken, she desired to be confronted with them, saying, she should die with pleasure now they were taken. They were accordingly ordered to be conducted into her presence; when she charged them in the boldest manner with the murder, crying out, "Aye, these are the persons that committed the murder." Then turning

to Mary Tracy, she said, " You know this to be true ; see what you have brought me to : it is through you and the two Alexanders that I am brought to this shame, and death must follow ; you all declared you would do no murder ; but, to my great surprise, I found the contrary." When she was requested one day by some gentlemen in the press yard to make a full discovery of this horrid transaction, she replied with great warmth, " After I am laid in my grave, it will be found out." They then enquired if she was satisfied in her mind, and was resolved not to make any further confession. She answered " that as she was not concerned in the murder, she hoped God would accept her life as an atonement for her manifold sins." When brought to her trial, the strongest circumstantial proof appeared against her, from the evidence of Mr. Kerril, Mr. Gahagan, Mrs. Love, Mrs. Oliphant, the two watchmen, and many other witnesses. Being called on for her defence, she freely acknowledged her crimes were deserving of death, but declared that she was entirely innocent of the murder ; that the robbery was contrived by Mary Tracy and herself : that they met at Mr. Kerril's chambers on the Sunday before the robbery was committed, he being from home when the robbing Mrs. Duncomb was proposed. That she told Tracy she could not do it by herself. " No (says Tracy) there are the two Alexanders who will help us." That the next day she had seventeen pounds sent her from the country, which she deposited in Mr. Kerril's drawers. That they all met the Friday following in Cheapside, when it was agreed to put their scheme in execution on the following night. That the next evening, between seven and eight, she went to see Elizabeth Harrison, who was ill,

with whom she staid a short time, and then went to meet Mary Tracy and the two Alexanders, who proposed going about the robbery immediately, to which she objected, as being too soon. Mary Tracy persisting, she told her she would go and see, and accordingly went up stairs, and they followed her; that she met the inaid on the stairs, with a blue mug, going for milk to make a sack-posset, who enquired who those people were that followed. She told her they were going to Mr. Knight's. When gone, she said to Tracy, "Now do you and Tom Alexander go down; I know the door is left a-jar, because the old maid is ill, and can't get up to let the young maid in when she comes back." That James Alexander then went in, and hid himself under the bed; that she, going down again, met the maid coming up, who enquired if she had spoke to Mrs. Betty: she answered no, and going down spoke with Tracy and Alexander; she then went to her master's chambers, where staying about a quarter of an hour, she went back, and found Tom Alexander and Tracy sitting on Mrs. Duncomb's stairs. At twelve o'clock, they heard Mr. Knight come in and shut his door. It being a very stormy night, there was nobody stirring except the watchmen, when they cried the hour. About two, another gentleman came to light his candle with the watchman, upon which she removed farther up stairs. Soon after, she heard Mrs. Duncomb's door open; and James Alexander came out, and said, "now is the time." Tracy and Tom Alexander then went in, she waiting upon the stairs to watch. Between four and five they returned, one of them called to her softly, "Hip! how shall I shut the door?" She replied, "'Tis a spring-lock; pull it to, and it will be fast;"

fast;" which they accordingly did. That they then proposed sharing the money upon the stairs; to which she objected: they then went under the arch by Fig-tree court, and she enquired how much they had got; when they informed her, that in the maid's purse they found fifty guineas and some silver, in the drawers about one hundred pounds, exclusive of the tankard, money in the box, and other valuable things, amounting in the whole to about three hundred pounds. That they then informed her that they had gagged the old lady and her maids. That she received the tankard, a sum of money, and some linen, for her share; they reserving a silver spoon, ring, and the remainder of the money, to themselves. That they next advised her to be very cautious to conceal the money underground, and not to appear to possess any; and that they then appointed a meeting at Greenwich, which was afterwards forgot. Her defence being ended, the jury withdrew for about a quarter of an hour, when they returned with a verdict of guilty. While under sentence of death, she seemed to feel all the horrors of guilt, and would frequently fall into violent fits which appeared to be attended with agonies expressive of the utmost perturbation of mind. In one of these fits, the keeper enquiring what was the matter, she replied, that she was affected by being informed that she was to be executed amongst all her acquaintance in Fleet-street, the thoughts of which were insupportable. In answer to this, the keeper told her, "that could not be the truth, as he made her acquainted with the place where she was to die, on the dead-warrant's coming down; therefore it was not probable that it could have such an effect on her at this time." He then, by the most forcible arguments, recommend-

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ed her to make a full confession of her guilt, as the only means of quieting her conscience; but to this advice she made no reply. About ten o'clock the same evening, she called to a fellow-prisoner in the opposite cell, who was to die the next day; exhorting him to take comfort, and offering for him her prayers, which he begged her to do, and which she accordingly did, for a considerable time. The bell-man coming at the usual time, he exhorted her to attend to what he said, which she accordingly did; and then throwing him a shilling, bid him call for a pint of wine. Notwithstanding this unhappy woman attended prayers very constantly during the time of her being in Newgate, there is great reason to imagine, from many circumstances, that she was brought up in the Roman Catholic religion; as she received a letter from a priest of that persuasion a few days before she suffered; however, her actions proved that she paid little or no regard to any religion. Her behaviour was far from sincere, and she generally contradicted herself in whatever questions were asked her; so that, instead of preparing for that awful state on which she was then entering, she daily added to her other crimes the sin of hypocrisy. On the morning of execution, she appeared more composed than she had been for some time past, and seemed to join in prayers with the ordinary and another clergyman who attended with much sincerity. When in the cart, she wrung her hands, and wept most bitterly. The accumulated guilt of the very enormous crimes she had committed seemed now to press heavily on her, and she appeared almost ready to sink under a load of affliction. At the place of execution, she behaved with the utmost devoutness and resignation to the divine will; but when the ordinary in his
prayers

prayers recommended her soul to God, she fainted, and with much difficulty recovered her senses. On the cart's driving off, she turned towards the Temple, crying out, "Oh! my dear master! my master! I wish I could see him!" She suffered near Fetter-lane, in Fleet-street, March 7, 1773. The Alexanders and Mary Tracy, whom she had accused as perpetrators of the murder, were acquitted, there being no evidence of any guilt against them.

MARJORAM, ——. See DICKENSON, E.

MARSHALL, HENRY. See WALTHAM, BLACKS, the.

MARTIN, JOHN. See GARDENER, S.

MASON, ELIZABETH, (MURDERER,) was born at Melton-Mowbray, in Leicestershire, and, while very young, was conveyed by her friends to Sutton, near Peterborough, in Northamptonshire; from whence, at the age of seven years, she was brought to London by Mrs. Scoles, who told her she was her godmother; and with this lady and her sister, Mrs. Cholwell, she lived, and was employed in household work; but having conceived an idea that she should possess the fortune of her mistresses, on their death, she came to the horrid resolution of removing them by poison. On Thursday in Easter-week, 1712, being sent of an errand, she went to a druggist's shop, where she bought a quantity of yellow arsenic, on the pretence that it was to kill rats. On the following morning, she mixed this poison with some coffee, of which Mrs. Scoles drank, and soon afterwards finding herself extremely ill, said her end was approaching, and expired the next day in great agonies. Mrs. Cholwell receiving no injury from what little coffee she drank, the girl determined to renew her attempt to poison her; in consequence of which, she went again to the

the same shop about a fortnight afterwards, and bought a second quantity of arsenic, which she put into some water-gruel prepared for Mrs. Cholwell's breakfast, on the following morning. It happening, providentially, that the gruel was too hot, the lady put it aside some time to cool, during which time, most of the arsenic sunk to the bottom. She then drank some of it, found herself very ill, and observing the sediment at the bottom of the bason, sent for her apothecary, who gave her a large quantity of oil to drink, by the help of which the poison was expelled. Unfavourable suspicions now arising against Elizabeth Mason, she was taken into custody, and, being carried before two justices of the peace, on the 30th of April, she confessed the whole of her guilt, in consequence of which she was committed to Newgate. On the 6th of June, in the same year, she was indicted for the murder of Mrs. Scoles; and, pleading guilty to the indictment, received sentence of death; in consequence of which she suffered at Tyburn, on the 18th of June. While she lay under sentence of death, the ordinary of Newgate asked her if she had any lover or other person who had tempted her to the commission of the crime: to which she answered in the negative, but owned that she had frequently defrauded her mistresses of money, and then told lies to conceal the depredations of which she had been guilty. At the time of her execution, she warned young people to beware of crimes similar to those which had brought her to that fatal end, and confessed the justice of the sentence which made her a public example.

MASSEY, CAPTAIN JOHN, (PIRATE,) was the son of a gentleman of fortune in the country, who gave him a genteel education. Having procured

ured a commission in the army, he served with great applause as lieutenant, under the command of the duke of Marlborough, during the wars in Flanders, in the reign of queen Anne. On his return to England, he conducted himself with great decency; but became acquainted with a woman of bad character, to whom he was so much attached, that he would undoubtedly have married her, if his father, who got intelligence of the affair, had not happily broke off the connection. After this, he went with his regiment to Ireland, where he lived for some time in a dissolute manner; but at length got appointed to the rank of lieutenant and engineer to the Royal African Company, and sailed in one of their ships to direct the building of a fort. The ship being ill supplied with provisions, and those of the worst kind, the sufferings of the crew were inexpressibly great. Every officer on board died except Massey, and many of the soldiers likewise fell a sacrifice to the scandalous neglect. Those who lived to get on shore drank so greedily of the fresh water, that they were thrown into fluxes, which destroyed them in such a rapid manner, that only captain Massey and a very few of his people were left alive. These, being totally unable to build a fort, and seeing no prospect of relief, began to abandon themselves to despair; but at this time a vessel happening to come near the shore, they made signals of distress, on which a boat was sent off to their relief. They were no sooner on board, than they found the vessel was a pirate; and, distressed as they had been, too hastily engaged in their lawless plan, rather than run the hazard of perishing on shore. Sailing from hence, they took several prizes; and though the persons made prisoners were not used with cruelty, Mr. Massey had

so true a sense of the illegality of the proceedings in which he was concerned, that his mind was perpetually tormented with the idea of the fatal consequences that might ensue. At length, the ship reached Jamaica, when Mr. Massey seized the first opportunity of deserting; and, repairing to the governor, he gave such information, that the crew of the private vessel were taken into custody, convicted, and hanged. Massey might have been provided for by the governor, who treated him with singular respect, on account of his services to the public, but he declined his generous offers, through an anxiety to visit his native country. On his sailing for England, the governor gave him recommendatory letters to the lords of the admiralty; but, astonishing as it may seem, instead of being caressed, he was taken into custody, and committed till a sessions of admiralty was held for his trial, when he pleaded guilty, and received sentence of death. As his case was remarkable, the public entertained no doubt but that he would have been pardoned; however, a warrant was sent for his execution, and he made the most solemn preparation for his approaching fate. Two clergymen attended him at the place of execution, where he freely acknowledged his sins in general, was remarkably fervent in his devotions, and seemed perfectly resigned to his fatal destiny. He suffered at Execution-dock, on the 26th of July, 1723. Though the captain pleaded guilty at his trial, for guilty, in some measure he was, yet his joining the pirates was evidently an act of necessity, not of choice; add to which, his subsequent conduct at Jamaica proved that he took the earliest opportunity to abandon his late companions and bring them to justice; a conduct by which he merited the thanks of his country, and

not the vengeance of the laws; we therefore trust, for the honour of old England, a similar execution may never take place!

M'CLOUD, PETER, (HOUSEBREAKER,) was the son of a poor man at Shields, near Newcastle, who brought him to London while he was quite a child; but his father dying in a short time, the boy was left to the care of his mother, a woman of very doubtful character. Having become acquainted with a lad named Younger, he was concerned with him in a variety of irregular practices. At length, he engaged himself on board one of the colliers trading to Newcastle; and, while he was absent, Younger accused his mother of having been the receiver of stolen goods, in consequence of which she was apprehended, and brought to trial, but was discharged in defect of evidence. M'Cloud returning from his voyage, and learning in what manner his mother had been treated by Younger, he made the most solemn vow of taking vengeance on him, whatever might be the consequence of such a proceeding. That he might effect the ruin of his old companion in iniquity, he surrendered himself to a magistrate, and gave information that himself and Younger had been concerned in a robbery; on which the latter was taken into custody, and committed to Newgate, M'Cloud being admitted an evidence for the crown against his presumed accomplice; but, at the ensuing sessions, M'Cloud was incapable of giving any thing like evidence against his companion, who was of course acquitted, and the scheme of revenge was consequently frustrated. It is no less astonishing than true, that, notwithstanding what had passed, these young fellows soon renewed their former connexion; so that whatever degree of malice might

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have

have harboured in the breast of M'Cloud, he seemed to have forgot it in the wish to recommence his depredations on the public with his former accomplice. They now joined, with five or six other boys, in the practice of picking pockets, in which, for some time, they met with too much success. Their thefts were principally confined to the stealing of handkerchiefs, in the practice of which they were frequently detected, but dismissed after receiving the discipline of the horse-pond. These young thieves were harboured at a house of ill-fame in the neighbourhood of Saltpetre-bank. M'Cloud had been so often dragged through horse ponds, and exposed to the derision of the public, that he seemed to have lost all sense of shame, and his paltry gains by theft consoled him for the ignominy that attended it. He was three times tried at the Old Bailey for different offences, and acquitted for want of sufficient evidence. At length, after a series of practice in the picking of pockets, this gang of young villains determined to commence house-breakers, for which they were qualified, not so much by their strength as by their artifice. They furnished themselves with a variety of tools proper for the wrenching doors and window-shutters. Occasionally, they used to climb over roofs, enter at the garret-windows of houses, and descend to the lower rooms to commit their robberies; and at other times, they would enter through any small opening that had been casually left unguarded. When one or two of the smallest of them had got into a house, they used to go down stairs and open the door for their associates. Sometimes, only a part of the gang went in, and the rest waited to prevent detection from the arrival of any casual passenger. It is almost incredible to think how many houses were

robbed

robbed of very valuable effects by these young confederates; however, their depredations were chiefly confined to Ratcliff-highway and its neighbourhood, where a great number of persons were sufferers by their villanies. At length, three of the gang, of whom M'Cloud was one, repaired to Poplar, where they broke open the house of Joseph Hankey, esq. in the dead of the night. The family were all asleep, but the barking of the dog awaking one of the servants, he alarmed the rest, and begged them to oppose the intruders. Two of the thieves made an immediate escape; but M'Cloud was apprehended, and lodged in the watch-house. On the following day he was carried before a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate, and at the next sessions held at the Old Bailey he was brought to trial, capitally convicted, and sentenced to die. For some time after conviction, he appeared hardened in a very high degree, nor paid any attention to the exhortations of the ordinary of Newgate; but when he learnt that he was one of the convicts ordered for execution, a total alteration was visible in the whole of his conduct and behaviour. He apologized to the ordinary for the indifference with which he had heretofore treated him. It happened at this time that Younger was in Newgate under sentence of transportation; and M'Cloud, sending for him, begged his pardon for the injury that he had formerly attempted. On the morning of his death, he received the sacrament, in company with the other malefactors who were to suffer with him. When he arrived at the fatal tree, he requested a person to beg that his mother would not unreasonably grieve at his death; as he had hopes that he was departing to the regions of eternal glory. He

N 2

suffered

suffered at Tyburn, on the 27th of May, 1772, aged only sixteen!

MEADS, ---. See DUCE, W. and ANGIER, H.

METYARD, SARAH, and METYARD, SARAH MORGAN, (MURDERERS,) mother and daughter, who kept a house in Brunton-street, Hanover-square, the mother dealing in millenery goods, and the daughter acting as her assistant. In the year 1751, the mother had five apprentice girls bound to her from different parish workhouses; among whom were Ann Naylor and her sister. The former being of a sickly constitution, was not able to do so much work as the other apprentices about the same age; and therefore she became the more immediate object of the fury of their mistresses, whose repeated acts of cruelty at length occasioned the unhappy girl to abscond. Being brought back, she was confined in an upper apartment, and allowed each day no other sustenance than a small piece of bread and a little water. Seizing an opportunity of escaping from her confinement, she got, unperceived into the street, and ran to a milk-carrier, whom she begged to protect her, saying, if she returned, she must certainly perish, through the want of food and the severe treatment she daily received. Being soon missed, she was followed by the daughter, who, seizing her by the neck, forced her into the house, and threw her upon the bed in the room where she had been confined; and she was then seized by the old woman, who held her down while the daughter beat her with the handle of a broom in a most cruel manner. They afterwards put her into a back-room on the second story, tying a cord round her waist, and her hands behind her, and fastening her to the door in such a

manner,

manner, that it was impossible for her either to sit or lie down. She was compelled to remain in this situation for three successive days; but they permitted her to go to bed at the usual hours at night. Having received no kind of nutriment for three days and two nights, her strength was so exhausted, that, being unable to walk up stairs, she crept to the garret, where she lay on her hands and feet. While she remained tied up on the second floor, the other apprentices were ordered to work in an adjoining apartment, that they might be deterred from disobedience by being witnesses to the unhappy girl's sufferings; but they were enjoined, on the penalty of being subject to equal severity, against affording her any kind of relief. On the fourth day, she faltered in speech, and presently afterwards expired. The other girls, seeing the whole weight of her body supported by the strings which confined her to the door, were greatly alarmed, and called out, "Miss Sally! Miss Sally! Nanny does not move." The daughter now came up stairs, saying, "If she does not move, I will make her move;" and then beat the deceased on the head with the heel of a shoe. Perceiving no signs of life, she called to her mother, who came up stairs, and, having ordered the strings that confined the deceased to be cut, laid the body across her lap, and directed one of the apprentices where to find a bottle with some hartshorn drops. When the child had brought the drops, she and the other girls were ordered to go down stairs; and the mother and daughter, being convinced that the object of their barbarity was dead, conveyed the body into the garret. They related to the other apprentices, that Nanny had been in a fit, but was perfectly recovered; adding, that she was locked up in the garret lest she should

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again

again run away; and, in order to give an air of plausibility to their tale, at noon, the daughter carried a plate of meat up stairs, saying it was for Nanny's dinner. They locked the body of the deceased in a box on the fourth day after the murder; and, having left the garret-door open, and the street door on the jar, one of the apprentices was told to call Nanny down to dinner, and to tell her, that if she would promise to behave well in future, she should be no longer confined. Upon the return of the child, she said Nanny was not above stairs; and, after a great parade in searching every part of the house, they reflected upon her as being of an untractable disposition, and pretended that she had ran away. The sister to the deceased, who was apprentice to the same inhuman mistress, mentioned to a lodger in the house that she was persuaded her sister was dead; observing, that it was not probable she had gone away, since her shoes, shift, and other parts of her apparel, still remained in the garret. The suspicions of this girl coming to the knowledge of the inhuman wretches, they, with a view of preventing a discovery, cruelly murdered her, and secreted the body. The body of Anne remained in the box two months, during which time the garret-door was kept locked, lest the offensive smell should lead to a discovery. The stench became so powerful, that they judged it prudent to remove the remains of the unhappy victim; and therefore, in the evening of the 5th of December, they cut the body in pieces, and tied the head and trunk up in one cloth, and the limbs in another, excepting one hand, a finger belonging to which had been amputated before death, and that they resolved to burn. When the apprentices were gone to bed, the old woman put the hand into
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the fire, saying, "The fire tells no tales." She intended entirely to consume the remains of the unfortunate girl by fire; but, fearing the smell would give rise to suspicion, changed that design, and taking the bundles to the gully-hole in Chick-lane, endeavoured to throw the parts of the mangled corpse over the wall into the common sewer; but being unable to effect that, she left them among the mud and water that was collected before the grate of the sewer. Some pieces of the body being discovered about twelve o'clock by the watchman, he mentioned the circumstance to the constable of the night. The constable applied to one of the overseers of the parish, by whose direction the parts of the body were collected, and taken to the watch house. On the following day the matter was communicated to Mr. Umfreville, the coroner, who examined the pieces found by the watchman; but supposing them to be parts of a corpse taken from a churchyard for the use of some surgeon, he declined summoning a jury. Four years elapsed before the discovery of these horrid murders; during which time, continual disagreements prevailed between the mother and daughter; and, though the latter was now arrived at the age of maturity, she was often beat, and otherwise treated with severity. Thus provoked, she sometimes threatened to destroy herself, and at others to give information against her mother as a murderer. About two years after the murder, a gentleman, named Rooker, took lodgings in the house of Metyard, where he lived about three months, during which time he had frequent opportunities of observing the severity with which the girl was treated. He hired a house in Hill-street, and, influenced by compassion for her sufferings, and desirous of relieving her from the tyranny of her

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her mother, he invited the girl to live in his family in the capacity of a servant; which offer she cheerfully embraced, though her mother had many times violently opposed her desire of going to service. The girl had no sooner removed to Mr. Rooker's house, than the old woman became perfectly outrageous; and it was almost her constant daily practice to create disturbances in Mr. Rooker's neighbourhood, by venting the most bitter execrations against the girl, and branding her with the most opprobrious epithets. Mr. Rooker removed to Ealing, to reside on a little estate bequeathed him by a relation; and having by this time seduced the girl, she accompanied him, and lived with him professedly in the character of his mistress. The old woman's visit was not less frequent at Ealing than they had been at Mr. Rooker's house in London; nor was her behaviour less outrageous. At length Mr. Rooker permitted her to be admitted into the house, imagining that such indulgence would induce her to preserve a decency of behaviour; but he was disappointed, for she still continued to disturb the peace of his family. On the 9th of June, 1762, she beat her daughter in a terrible manner; and, during the contention, many expressions were uttered by both parties that gave great uneasiness to Mr. Rooker. The mother called Mr. Rooker, "The old perfume tea-dog;" and the girl retorted, by saying, "Remember, mother, you are the perfumer; you are the Chicken-lane ghost;" alluding to the body of Ann Naylor having been kept in the box till it became intolerably offensive, and then thrown among the mud and water in Chick-lane. When the mother retired, Mr. Rooker urged the girl to explain what was insinuated by the indirect accusations introduced

by both parties in the course of the dispute: and, bursting into tears, she confessed the particulars of the murders, begging that a secret so materially affecting her mother might never be divulged. Mr. Rooker, imagining that the daughter could not be rendered amenable to the law, as she performed her share of the murders by the direction of her mother, he the horrid transaction communicated in a letter to the overseers of Tottenham parish, whence the girls were put out apprentice: in consequence of which the elder Metyard was taken into custody. On the day of examination Mr. Rooker, the younger Metyard, and two children, apprentices in the house when the murders were committed, attended at Sir John Fielding's house in Bow-street. The evidence against the prisoner left no doubt of her guilt; and she was committed to New-prison, Clerkenwell, for re-examination, and the girls were put under the protection of the overseers of St. George's, Hanover-square. Upon the prisoner's being examined a second time, she was remanded for trial; and some circumstances having arisen to criminate the daughter, she was ordered to stand at the bar of Sir John's office, and the evidence against her recapitulated on oath, she was committed to the Gate house. On their trial, which came on at the Old Bailey-Sessions, they bitterly recriminated each other, and their mutual accusations served to confirm the evidence of their guilt. The younger Metyard pleaded pregnancy; on which a jury of matrons was summoned, who pronounced that she was not with child: after which they were both sentenced to be executed on the following Monday, and then to be conveyed to Surgeon's-hall for dissection. The mother being in a fit when she was put into the cart, lay at her length till she came

came to the place of execution, when she was raised up, and means were used for her recovery, but without effect, so that she departed this life in a state of insensibility. From the time of leaving Newgate to the moment of her death the daughter wept incessantly. After hanging the usual time, the bodies was conveyed in a hearse to Surgeon's-hall, where they were exposed to the curiosity of the public, and then dissected. They suffered at Tyburn, on the 19th of July, 1768.

M'KEAN, JAMES, (MURDERER,) was a North Briton, of a most vicious disposition. About 6 o'clock on a Friday evening, he murdered one James Buchanan, carrier, in the following manner. Buchanan called at his house, between Glasgow and Lanark, when M'Kean conducted him into a room, and instantly cut his throat with a razor, which divided both the carotid arteries, and then robbed him of his watch and a considerable sum in money. A noise having excited some surprize in his wife, she ran to the door, which was opened by M'Kean. Alarmed at the sight of some blood lying on the floor, she shrieked murder, on which her husband instantly ran off. The body of Buchanan was found in a closet, by people whom her cries had brought to the house, and the razor reeking with blood. M'Kean was apprehended at Lamash, in the Isle of Arran, on the ensuing Sunday. Next morning he was conveyed to Glasgow in a post chaise; on his arrival about eight o'clock, the joy of the populace at his apprehension, could not be restrained: they hailed the officers with loud acclamations, and the air resounded with huzzas when they saw him securely lodged in goal. Buchanan's pocket-book, containing bank notes to the amount of 118l. his watch, and several

several papers were found upon M'Kean. On his examination by the magistrates, he confessed the robbery, but endeavoured to palliate the charge of murder. This wretch being found guilty—was executed January 25, 1797, at the Cross of Glasgow, on a new-erected gibbet. He appeared on the scaffold, dressed in white, about ten minutes after three; proceeded to the front with a firm and undaunted air, holding a paper in his hand, and after saying a few words to the multitude, which was immense (near twenty thousand!)—he gave it to one of the town officers. About ten minutes after, he mounted the platform with much indifference, and after praying a few minutes was launched into eternity, without one sympathising tear from the surrounding multitude.

M'NAUGHTON, JOHN (MURDERER,) was a native of Londonderry in Ireland, his father being a merchant of that place, and his grandfather an alderman of Dublin. Having received his grammar education at Londonderry, he was sent to Trinity-college, Dublin, to compleat it; and on his coming of age, he took possession of an estate of six hundred a year, which an uncle had bequeathed him. Such a fortune, in the North of Ireland, might have enabled him to live in a style of elegant independence; but an unhappy propensity to gaming so reduced him that he was necessitated to mortgage his estate. At this period he married a young lady, and, taking an elegant house in Dublin, lived in a style much above his circumstances; consequently he became involved in debt, and a principal creditor took out an action against him for a considerable sum. He, unable to pay the debt, secreted himself from the bailiffs: but at length the creditor persuaded the sheriff to serve
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him with the writ himself. The sheriff, on going in a chair to M'Naughton's house, found him in the parlour with his wife, and told him he was a prisoner. The lady being pregnant, this declaration had such an effect on her, that she was immediately seized with the pains of child birth, and being delivered of a dead child, died herself at the expiration of a few days. M'Naughton, however, drove the sheriff from his house, and as soon as he had given orders respecting his wife's funeral, retired into the country, where, for some time, he abandoned himself to the most disagreeable reflections: but the frugal way in which he lived so retrieved his circumstances, that he was once more enabled to appear in Dublin in his usual style of elegance. Soon after this, the lord lieutenant granted him the post of collector of the revenues for the county of Coleraine: but it was not long before some of the public money was squandered by gaming; and when he found himself unable to make up the deficiency, his wife's relations paid it for him, to prevent the legal consequences that must otherwise have taken place. Some years after the death of his wife, he contracted an acquaintance with Mr. Knox, a man of large fortune in the county of Derry. Miss Knox was entitled to 5000*l.* when she came of age, in consequence of her father's marriage-settlement; and, being a young lady of great beauty and accomplishments, she made an impression on the heart of M'Naughton, who was a frequent visitor at her father's house. Having paid his addresses to the young lady, she promised to accept him as her husband, if her father's consent could be obtained. Hereupon M'Naughton applied to the old gentleman, who not only refused his acquiescence, but forbade
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his visits. This prohibition M'Naughton desired he would revoke, as it might cause very unfavourable suspicions in the neighbourhood. Mr. Knox consented then that he should continue his visits: but no sooner was this granted, than he courted Miss Knox with as much ardour as formerly, and obtained her consent to marry him at the expiration of two years, as she was at that time too young for a wife. Soon afterwards, M'Naughton being with her, when a little boy only was present, he pulled out a book of common prayer, and read the ceremony of marriage, desiring her to make the responses. This she did; but added to each of them, "if my father will consent." This transaction had not long passed when meeting Miss Knox at the house of a neighbour, he insisted that she was his wife; which she denied; and on her return home acquainted her father with what had passed; on which the old gentleman wrote to M'Naughton, insisting that he should decline all future visits, and upbraiding him with his past ill-behaviour. Immediately on the receipt of Mr. Knox's letter, he inserted an advertisement in the newspapers, declaring that the young lady was his wife; to which Mr. Knox inserted an answer, and then entered a process in the spiritual court, which set aside the pretended marriage, and decreed, that if M'Naughton thought himself injured, he must appeal to the common law for damages. On this M'Naughton applied to the court of Delegates; but the judge issued a warrant for apprehending him; which irritated him to such a degree, that he sent a letter to the judge, threatening that he would murder him when he came the circuit. This letter occasioned the issuing a king's-bench warrant against him: so that, finding himself unsafe in Ireland, he came to London.

The obtaining possession of Miss Knox being still the object of his wishes, he returned to Ireland, disguised himself, and continuing in the neighbourhood of the young lady's father; while no steps were taken by the family to preserve themselves from the danger which seemed to threaten them, except having occasionally in their company a smith, whose wife had nursed the young lady, and who was remarkably faithful to the interests of the family. In the beginning of April, 1761, as Mr. Knox was riding in his coach with his daughter, attended by the smith, M'Naughton and three others approached, two of whom presented their pistols to the postillion, and ordered him to stop. M'Naughton seeing the smith, fired a blunderbuss at him, but the shot did not take place; yet one of the companions immediately fired a pistol, which wounded the smith in the arm, and disabled him from firing his gun, which he was preparing to do. Hereupon M'Naughton, and one of his accomplices, fired their pistols at the carriage, the window of which being instantly drawn up, M'Naughton immediately rode to the other side of it, and discharged a piece which contained five balls, all of which took place in Miss Knox's body. A maid-servant now let down the window blind, and exclaiming that her young lady was murdered, a footman of Mr. Knox's, who had concealed himself behind a stack of turf, fired a pistol at M'Naughton: at the same instant another pistol was fired from the coach by Mr. Knox. M'Naughton, though wounded in the back, rode off: but on the following day he was apprehended by a party of light horse, and lodged in Lifford gaol. The young lady was carried to an adjacent cottage, where she died about three hours after she received
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the wound. The lord lieutenant of Ireland immediately offered a reward of five hundred pounds, to be paid on the apprehension of M'Naughton's accomplices, who were soon taken into custody, and one of them was admitted an evidence. A special commission being issued, two judges went to Lifford, to try the delinquents, on the 8th of December: but M'Naughton's counsel urged so many objections, that the trial was postponed for three days, when it continued from eight in the morning till eleven at night, the judges not once quitting the court while the matter was depending. M'Naughton being ill of his wounds, was carried into court wrapped in a blanket; yet he cross-examined the witnesses in such a manner as fully proved the strength of his mind. One of his accomplices being admitted an evidence, and one of the others being acquitted, M'Naughton, and another named Dunlap, were capitally convicted, and received sentence of death. M'Naughton earnestly begged that mercy might be extended to his accomplice, declaring that he had acted under his directions: but his plea had no weight. On the day of execution, M'Naughton, who was still very weak, walked to the fatal spot with the help of two men, who supported him. His dress was singular, consisting of a night-cap tied with a black ribbon, white stockings, black buckles, a flannel waistcoat trimmed with black, and having black buttons and a crape round the arm. He desired the hangman to do his duty speedily; and the man pointing to the ladder, the other instantly ascended it; and no sooner was the rope about his neck, than he jumped off with such force that it broke; and he might have escaped, if he had possessed strength and recollection; for the crowd, from a

momentary impulse of humanity, made a passage, as if they wished to screen him from the rigour of the law. Being taken up, he was re-conducted to the gallows, when the executioner took Dunlap's rope, and fixing it round M'Naughton's neck, the latter ascended the ladder, tied the rope to the gallows, jumped off and expired almost immediately. Dunlap remained a miserable spectator of this scene, not being executed till M'Naughton was cut down. They suffered near Strabane, Dec. 15, 1761.

MONTGOMERY, WILLIAM (DEFRAUDER) was a native of Elphinstone, in Scotland, and educated in the Presbyterian religion; but was remarkable for his incapacity in learning. His father dying when he was about thirteen years old, his mother sent him to sea in a ship belonging to Alloa. Having continued in the naval line of business for some years, he at length married, and opened a public-house in Bishopsgate-street; and, dealing largely as a smuggler, he frequently went to Holland, to bring home prohibited goods. Quitting Bishopsgate-street, he lived for some years at the sign of the Highlander, in Shadwell; but, on the death of his wife, he resolved to decline business as a publican; and having saved some money, entered again into the matrimonial state, took a house in Nightingale-lane, and let lodgings to sea-faring men. Meeting with success, he took a shop as a seller of seamen's clothes: but left the care of it chiefly to his wife, while he employed his own time in frequent trips to Holland, in pursuit of his former illicit practice of smuggling. An act of insolvency passing in the year 1748, favourable to such persons as had been in foreign parts fugitives for debt, Montgomery took the benefit of it; swearing that he was at Rotterdam on the
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last day of the preceding year ; in consequence of which he was cleared of his debts, to the injury of his creditors. No notice was taken of this affair till the expiration of four years, when Montgomery having arrested a neighbour, the man gave notice of his former transactions to one of his creditors, who laying an information before the lord-mayor, Montgomery was lodged in Newgate on suspicion. Being brought to trial at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, several persons deposed, that they spent the evening with him at his own house, at the time that he alledged he was in Holland, in order to take the benefit of the act ; so that he was convicted, and received sentence to die. For some time after conviction he behaved with apparent signs of devotion ; but asserted his innocence, declaring that the evidences against him were perjured : and continued these assertions till the arrival of the warrant for his execution. Being pressed by the divine who attended him to tell the truth, he persisted in the former story till the Friday before his death : but in the afternoon of that day he acknowledged that after being on board a Dutch vessel, in order to take his passage for Holland, he had come on shore owing to the contrary winds. On the following day he insisted that, " as he had been sworn according to the methods used in Scotland, without kissing the book, his crime could not come within the meaning of the act." In reply to this, he was told, that the mode of administering, could make no difference in the nature of an oath. Hereupon he made a full confession of his crime ; and owned, that, having come on shore, he concealed himself for some weeks in his own house ; then appeared publicly, saying, that he had been at Rotterdam. After which, he surrendered to the

warden of the Fleet-prison, and obtained the benefit of the act of insolvency. He suffered at Tyburn, Dec. 2, 1752.

MORGAN, DAVID. See SPIGGOT, Wm. and BRETT, J.

MORGRIDGE, JOHN, (MURDERER) was a native of Canterbury, whose ancestors had served the crown for upwards of 200 years. He had been kettle-drummer to the first troop of horse-guards for a considerable time, and would have been promoted had it not been for the following unfortunate quarrel: Cope having obtained the rank of lieutenant in the army, invited several officers to dine with him at the Dolphin tavern, in Tower-street; and one of the parties invited Morgridge likewise to go, assuring him that he would be made welcome on the part of Mr. Cope. When dinner was over, Cope paid the reckoning, and then each man depositing half a crown, Morgridge and others adjourned to the guard-room, to which place more liquor was sent. They had not been long there before a woman of the town came in a coach, and asked for Captain Cope. Being introduced to the guard-room, she remained a short time, and then said, "Who will pay for my coach?" Morgridge said, "I will;" and having done so, he advanced to salute her; but she pushed him from her in a disdainful manner, and spoke to him in very abusive terms, which induced him to treat her with the same kind of language. Morgridge's rudeness was resented by Cope, who took the woman's part, and a violent quarrel ensued between Cope and Morgridge, both of whom were intoxicated. This contest increased to such a degree, that they threw the bottles at each other; till at length Morgridge, inflamed with passion, drew his

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his sword, and stabbed Cope, who instantly expired. Morgridge being taken into custody, was tried at the Old Bailey, July 5, 1706, but a doubt arising in the breast of the jury, whether he was guilty of murder or manslaughter, they brought in a special verdict, and the affair was left to be determined by the twelve judges. The judges having consequently met at Serjeant's-inn, the case was argued before them by council; when they gave an unanimous opinion that he was guilty of wilful murder; because he did not kill Cope with the weapons he was originally using, but arose from his seat and drew his sword, which was deemed to imply a malicious intention. Morgridge, in the interim, made his escape from the Marshalsea prison and went into Flanders, where he remained about two years; but being uneasy to revisit his native country, he imprudently came back to England, and being apprehended, received sentence of death, and suffered at Tyburn on the 28th of April, 1708. When convicted he was truly sensible of the crime of which he had been guilty, acknowledged the justice of his sentence, and submitted to his fate with becoming resignation.

MORRIS, W. See SPIGGOT, W.

MULLINS, DARBY. See KIDD, J.

MURPHY, MARGARET. See WILD, J.

N.

NEWINGTON, WILLIAM, (FORGERY) was a native of Chichester in Sussex, and the son of reputable parents, who having given him a good education, placed him with Mr. Cave, an attorney of that town, with whom he served his clerkship.

On his visiting London he lived as a hackney-writer, with Mr. Studly in Nicholas-lane, Lombard-street, for about two years and a half. Being of a volatile disposition, and much disposed to keep company and irregular hours, Mr. Studley discharged him from his service; on which he went to live with Mr. Leaver, a scriviner in Friday-street, with whom he continued between two and three years, and served him with a degree of fidelity that met with the highest approbation. Having quitted this service, he lived in a gay manner, without any visible means of support, and paid his addresses to a young lady of very handsome fortune, who gave him encouragement. Being distressed for money to support his grandeur, and carry on his amour, he was tempted to commit forgery, which at that time had been just rendered by the legislature a capital offence. Having gone to Child's coffee-house, in St. Paul's church-yard, he drew a draft on the house of Child and Company, bankers, in Fleet-street, in the name of Thomas Hill, which he dispatched by a porter, but was so agitated by his fears while he wrote it, that he forgot to put any date to it; otherwise, as Mr. Hill kept cash with the bankers, and as the forgery was admirably executed, the draft would have been certainly paid: but at the instant that the porter was about to put his indorsement on it, one of the clerks said he might go about his business, for that they did not believe the draft was a good one. The porter accordingly returned to the coffee-house without the draft, which the banker's clerks had refused to deliver him; and to his surprize found that the gentleman was gone. At the expiration of two hours the bankers' clerks came to Child's coffee-house, and enquired for the person who had made the draft;

draft; but it seems that during the absence of the porter, he had enquired for the Faculty-Office in Doctor's Commons, saying he had some business at that place, and would return in half an hour. About two or three hours afterwards, the porter's son told him that a gentleman wanted him at the Horn and Feathers in Carter-lane, where he went, and told Newington, that the bankers had refused to pay the note: "Very well, (said he) stay here till I go and put on my shoes, and I will accompany you, and rectify the mistake." When the porter had waited near three hours, and his employer did not return, he began to suspect that the draft was forged, and some hours afterwards calling in at the Fountain ale-house, in Cheapside, he saw Newington; on which he went and fetched a constable, who took him into custody, and lodged him in the comptor. Being tried at the next sessions at the Old Bailey, he was capitally convicted, notwithstanding nine gentlemen appeared to give him an excellent character. When called to receive sentence of death, he addressed the Court as follows:—

"May it please your Lordship,

"This my most melancholy case was occasioned by the alone inconsiderate rashness of my inexperienced years. The intent of fraud is, without doubt, most strongly and most positively found against me; but I assure your Lordship, I was not in want; nor did I ever think of such a thing in the whole course of my life, till within a few minutes of the execution of this rash deed. I hope your Lordship has some regard for the gentlemen who have so generously appeared in my behalf;
and

and as this is the first fact, though of so deep a dye, my youth and past conduct may, I hope, in some measure move your Lordship's pity, compassion, and generous assistance."

After conviction, he flattered himself that he should escape the utmost ignominy of the law, through the intercession of his friends: but when the warrant for execution, in which his name was included, was brought to Newgate, he appeared to be greatly shocked; however, recollecting and composing himself, he said, "God's will be done!"—But immediately bursting into tears, he lamented the misery which his mother would naturally endure, when she should be acquainted with the wretched fate of her unfortunate son. As soon as this poor woman received the dreadful tidings, she left Chichester; and it was a week after her arrival in London before she could acquire a sufficient degree of spirits to visit the unfortunate cause of her grief. On her repairing to the gloomy mansion; and seeing her son fettered with chains, it was with the utmost difficulty that she could be kept from fainting. She hung round his neck, while he dropped on his knees, and implored her blessing and forgiveness: so truly mournful was the spectacle, that even the gaolers, accustomed as they were to scenes of horror, shed tears at the sight!—He suffered at Tyburn, on the 26th of August, 1738.

NEWTON, ———. See GONZALEZ.

NICHOLS, J. See COLEMAN, R.

NOBLE. RICHARD, (MURDERER,) was an attorney at law, and the paramour of Mrs. Sayer, wife of John Sayer, Esq. who was possessed of about
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one thousand pounds a year, and lord of the manor of Biddlesden, in Buckinghamshire. Mr. Sayer does not appear to have been a man of any great abilities; but was remarkable for his good nature and 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 disposition as to be a disgrace to her sex. Soon after Mr. Sayer's wedding, Col. Salisbury married the Admiral's 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 choice they had made. 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, Liecester-fields, kept a coach, and did every thing 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 after 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

bably have ended in the destruction of Mr. Sayer and Colonel Salisbury, if it had not been happily prevented by the prudence 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 remains of a cup of tea at her. The mother and daughter immediately laid hold of this circumstance to inflame the passions of Mr. Sayer, whom they at length prevailed on to demand satisfaction of the colonel.—The challenge is said to have been written by Mrs. Sayer, and when the Colonel received it, he conjectured that it was a plan concerted between the ladies to get rid of their husbands. However, he 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 Mrs. Sayer went to her house in Buckinghamshire, where an intimacy took place between her and the curate of the parish, and their amour was conducted with so little reserve, that all the servants saw

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that the parson had more influence in the house than their master. Mrs. Sayer coming to London, was soon followed by the young clergyman, who was seized with the small-pox, which cost him his life. When he found that 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 footman to enquire 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 she 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 recommended to him Mr. Richard Noble (the subject of our present consideration,) as a man capable of being very serviceable to him. His father kept a very reputable coffee-house at Bath, and his mother was so virtuous a woman, that when Noble afterwards went to her house with Mrs. Sayer, in a coach and six, she shut the door against him. He had been well educated, and articled to an attorney of eminence in New Inn, in which 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 his introduction into Mr. Sayer's family he became too intimate with Mrs. Sayer, and, if report said true,

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with her mother likewise. However, these abandoned woman had other matters in prospect besides mere gallantry, and considering Noble as 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 one hundred and fifty pounds a year, to his wife, exclusive of fifty pounds 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. Not long after this 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, acquainting 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 does not seem probable that Sayer had any 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 forty pounds. Soon after he was gone, Mrs. Sayer's maid speaking of the danger her master might be in at sea, Mrs. Sayer said, "She should be sorry his man James, a poor innocent fellow, should come to any harm; but she should be glad, and earnestly wished that Mr. Sayer might sink to the bottom of the sea, and that the bottom of the ship might

might come out." Not long after the husband was gone abroad, Noble began to give himself airs of greater consequence than he had hitherto done. He was solicitor in a cause in the court of chancery, in which Mr. Sayer was plaintiff, and having obtained a decree, he obliged the trustees nominated in the marriage articles to relinquish, and assumed the authority of a sole trustee. Mr. Sayer remained in Holland near a year, during which Noble publicly cohabited with his wife; and when her husband returned she refused to live with him; but having first robbed him of above two thousand pounds, in exchequer bills, and other effects, she went to private lodgings with Noble, and was shortly after delivered of another child. After Mrs. Sayer had thus eloped from her husband, he caused an advertisement to be inserted in the newspapers, of which the following is a copy:

"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 of May last, in company with Elizabeth Nevil, sister to the said Mary, and hath carried away near one thousand pounds in money, besides other things of a considerable value, and is supposed to go by some other name: he desires all tradesmen and others not to give her any credit, 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 four hundred pounds, 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 seventy pounds, though artful management and legal expenses had swelled it to the above-mentioned sum. Hereupon Sayer took refuge within the rules of the Fleet Prison, and exhibited his bill in chancery for relief against these 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. Hereupon he determined to seize on her by force, presuming that he should recover some of his effects if he could get her into his custody. He therefore obtained the 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 suspected 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

the door was no sooner open than Noble drew his sword, and stabbing Sayer in the left breast, he 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 fate of 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 committed, which produced the wished-for effect by keeping perfect peace. The prisoners begged to send for counsel, which being granted, 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 in Surry, 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 dispatched, many of the jurymen might go home, so that when the prisoners had made their challenges, there might not be a number left sufficient to try them, by which they might escape till the next assizes, by which 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 alledging 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 bar; 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:

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“ 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 reparation, such a humiliation for my great offences, such an abhorrence of my past life, to give me hopes of a future one, that I am not without hopes 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 now about to say, before a higher tribunal, and a more discerning judge than your lordship, which is only 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 oblige me to say on my trial, that I heard Mr. Sayer's voice before he broke
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open the door; I told them as I now tell your lordship, that I did not know it was him, 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 very slight, that it was a thousand to one that 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, viz. to have stabbed me; and his failure in the attempt has not a little excited my surprize. When I heard the company run up stairs, I was alarmed, and in fear; the landlord telling me instantly thereupon, that the house was beset, either for me or himself, added to my confusion. I then never thought or intended to do mischief, but first bolted the fore-door, and then bolted and padlocked the back-door, 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 emotion 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 misfortune 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, and that I was not entitled

to any assistance of counsel to enforce the evidence given for me, or to remark upon the evidence given against me; which I don't doubt 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 fore-thought 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 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's coming there at that time, but on the contrary I fully proved to your lordship, that I went there upon 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 any thing could be constructed favourably on
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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 taken away 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 to 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
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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, and 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 ladies, 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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OAKY, RICHARD, (PICKPOCKET, ROBBER, &c.) was a native of London, and bound apprentice to a taylor, with whom he served about

two years, and then running away, got into company with a set of blackguard boys who procured a miserable subsistence by picking of pockets; and who afterwards proceeded to the practice of cutting off the pockets of women. In order to do this effectually, one of them used to trip up the woman's heels, while 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 Oaky's associates belonged to Jonathan Wild's gang, who caused several of them to be hanged, when he could make no further advantage of them. Having thus lost his old acquaintance, he became connected with a woman of the town, who taught him the following singular method of robbery. In their excursions through the streets, the woman went a little before Oaky, 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, Oaky was certain to cut off her pocket. But this way of life did not last long, for this abandoned woman soon after died, in consequence of some bruises she received from a fellow she had ill treated; and, on her death, Oaky followed the practice of snatching off pockets without a partner, and became one of the most dexterous in his profession. Not long after this, he became acquainted with several housebreakers, who persuaded him to follow their course of life, as more profitable than stealing of 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 callimancoes; for which offence, Oaky was apprehended; on which, he impeached his accomplices,

complices, one of whom was hanged and the other transported, on his evidence. 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, when their plan of robbery was this: Will, who wore a sword, used to affront persons in the streets, and provoke them till they stripped to fight with him; and then Oaky used to decamp with their clothes. However these associates in iniquity soon quarrelled and parted; and Oaky, who by this time was an accomplished thief, entered into Jonathan Wild's gang; among whom were John Levee, Matthew Flood, and 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 learnt that there were three hundred pounds in it. Some time after this, Oaky, Levee, 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

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Blueskin

Blueskin being admitted an evidence, they were tried, convicted, sentenced, and ordered for execution. After conviction, their behaviour was exceedingly proper for persons in their calamitous situation. Oaky said that what gave him more concern than all his other offences was, the burning a will, that 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. He and his accomplices suffered at Tyburn, on the 8th of February, 1723. See BLUE-SKIN.

O'COIGLEY, JAS. alias FAVEY, (TRAITOR,) who, with Arthur O'Connor, John Binns, John Allen, and Jeremiah Leary, was tried at Maidstone, May 21, 1798, on the charge of high treason. The indictment was read by Mr. Knapp, who afterwards stated the charges it contained in a summary manner. He said there were three distinct species of treason charged in the indictment, and seven overt acts. The first treason was, compassing and imagining the death of the king; the second, adhering to his enemies; the third, compassing and imagining, inventing, devising, and intending, to move and stir certain foreigners and strangers, that is to say, the persons exercising the powers of government in France, to invade this kingdom. The first overt act was, conspiring to levy war at Margate, in the county of Kent; the second overt act, sending intelligence to the enemy; the other overt acts were attempts to hire vessels, and to leave the kingdom. The trial lasted for two days. A pocket-book had been found in O'Coigley's great-coat, in which was a paper addressed to the Executive Directory of France, from the Secret Committee of
England.

England. O'Coigley, in his defence, addressed the jury as follows.

“It is impossible for me to prove a negative; but it is a duty I owe to you, and to myself, solemnly to declare, that I never was the bearer of any message or paper of this kind to France in the course of my life. That paper is not mine: it never belonged to me. It states, that it was to be carried by the bearer of the last: this is something which might have been proved, but it is impossible for me to prove the negative. There is also in this paper an allusion to secret committees and political societies. I declare that I never attended any political society whatever. With these considerations, I consign my life to your justice; not doubting but that you will conduct yourselves as English jurymen ever do, and that your verdict will be such as shall receive the approbation of your own conscience, your country, and your God.”

The jury, after about half an hour's consideration, found O'Coigley Guilty, and acquitted the rest. Mr. justice Buller, in an address to O'Coigley, which he read from a written paper, previous to his passing the sentence, observed—“That he had been clearly convicted of the most atrocious crime which could be committed in any country—that of meditating the destruction of a sovereign who was one of the best, the most just, upright, and amiable of princes that ever graced a throne; and he could not conceive what were the motives which could actuate any man even to wish for the death of such, who had ever been the father of his people. The prisoner was also found guilty of

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conspiring

conspiring to overturn the constitution of these kingdoms; a constitution, which, from the experiment of years, had been found to be the best calculated of any that ever existed in the world, to insure the liberty, security, and happiness, of the people who lived under it. These atrocious crimes became still greater from the manner in which they had intended to be perpetrated—that of inviting a foreign enemy to come and invade and conquer these countries. Those people who had thought such an event a desirable one, ought to think seriously what the consequences of it would be, provided it was possible to be accomplished. Did they suppose, that, desperate as their present situation might be, their condition would be bettered by having their country put in the possession of people who were holding out the delusive hopes of what they called liberty to other nations? could such persons hope that they themselves should enjoy liberty, even supposing the conquerors to have enjoyed as free a constitution as any in the world? no—they would become suspected, be despised, and destroyed, by them. A celebrated writer (Montesquieu) very justly observed upon this subject, that a country conquered by a democratic nation always enjoyed less liberty, was more miserable, and more enslaved, than if that country happened to have been conquered by a nation whose government was monarchical. But if there were any illustration of this observation wanting, we had only to look to the conduct of the French at this moment towards Holland, Italy, Switzerland, and every other country they had conquered. His lordship believed that the prisoner might have been actuated by motives similar to those which used formerly

formerly to induce many people to think that the killing of men of a different religion would give them a claim to canonization. But though the motives might be similar, the subjects connected with them were very different. In the present times, he did not believe that any person entertained such sentiments about religion. On the contrary, he was sorry to find that religion was too much neglected, and that the peace and tranquillity of numbers of people were destroyed in consequence of having lost all belief in a Providenc, and abandoned all hopes of a future state. He was afraid that the prisoner had been infected with this infidelity, and if he were, he, the judge, prayed that the Almighty God, in his infinite mercy and goodness, would change his heart, and cause him to repent of his sins." His lordship then, in a solemn and awful manner, passed the following sentence. "That the prisoner be taken from the bar to prison, and from thence to the place of execution; there to be hanged, but not until he be dead; to be cut down while yet alive, and then to have his heart and bowels taken out and burnt before his face; his head to be severed from his body, and his body to be divided into four quarters." Mr. O'Coigley listened to this address and sentence with attention, but at the same time with the greatest coolness. He bowed his head when the judge concluded; his countenance expressing at once resignation and firmness. On Wednesday, June 6, 1798, between four and five in the afternoon, he received the information that he was to die the next day, without apparent emotion. He spent the evening very calmly. He had but one thing, he said, on his mind which created any anxiety; that was, an apprehension that

he might be misrepresented after his death. He was anxious to be faithfully reported, and that was all he wanted. On Thursday, at a quarter past eleven o'clock, he left the goal. He was dressed all in black, his hair was cropped and powdered, his shirt-collar open, and he wore no neck-cloth. His elbows were tied behind with ropes, and over his shoulders was the rope with which he was executed. He stepped into the hurdle, and, on his sitting down, a chain was put round his waist to fasten him. The executioner sat opposite to him. He had nothing on his head. He continued all the way earnestly reading a prayer-book. Mr. Watson, the goaler, followed the hurdle, which was surrounded by above two hundred of the Maidstone Volunteers. The deputy sheriff and the Rev. Mr. Griffiths followed. The whole was preceded by about twenty javelin-men. The hurdle was drawn up close in front of the gallows, on Penningdon heath, and the horses were taken out. The military formed a small square. The prisoner being unchained, he rose up, and stood in the hurdle, and read two prayers, one of them aloud in Latin. He then took out of his pocket an orange, and also a penknife; but being unable to cut the orange, from his hands being bound, he gave it to a friend, whom he beckoned to come near him, saying, "Open this orange with my penknife; it has been said, they would not trust me with a penknife, lest I should cut my throat; but they little knew that I would not deprive myself of the glory of dying in this way." He desired his friend to keep the penknife for his sake, and to hold the orange, several pieces of which he ate. After finishing his devotions, the clergyman gave him absolution, to whom
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he returned the prayer-book ; and, having ascended the platform, he took farewell of the gaoler, thanking him for the many civilities he had shown him. On his being tied up to the gallows, he made the following speech.

“ I shall only here solemnly declare, that I am innocent of the charge for which I suffer. I never was in my life the bearer of any letter, or other paper or message, printed, written, or verbal, to the Directory of France, nor to any person on their behalf; neither was I ever a member of the London Corresponding Society, or of any other political society in Great Britain; nor did I ever attend any of their meetings, public or private—so help me God! I know not whether I shall be believed here in what I say, but I am sure I shall be believed in the world to come. It can scarcely be supposed that one like me, in this situation, going to eternity, before the most awful tribunal, would die with a falsehood in his mouth; and I do declare by the hopes I confidently feel of salvation and happiness in a future state, that my life is falsely and maliciously taken away by corrupt and base perjury and subornation of perjury, in some cases proceeding from mistake, no doubt, but in others from design. Almighty God; forgive all my enemies! I beg of you to pray that God will grant me grace—for I have many sins to answer for; but they are the sins of my private life, and not the charge for which I now die. (Raising his voice) Lord have mercy on me, and receive my soul!”

A white nightcap was now drawn over his face, and he made a signal by dropping a handkerchief. The board was then let down, as at Newgate, and he

he remained suspended for twelve or thirteen minutes; he was then taken down, the head taken off by a surgeon, and the executioner held up the head to the populace, saying, "*This is the head of a Traitor.*" Both head and body were then put into a shell and buried at the foot of the gallows.

OLIVER, THOMAS WILMOT, (MURDERER,) was a surgeon and apothecary of Burslem, who had, for a considerable time, entertained a strong attachment for Miss Wood, daughter of Mr. Wood of Brown hills, near Burslem, Staffordshire; but the connection, on some account, being disagreeable to the family, Mr. Wood forbade Mr. Oliver to enter his house. Mr. Oliver could not bear with patience this disappointment, and resolving to seek satisfaction, he went to Mr. Wood's house, early on Friday morning, before Mr. Wood was up, and sent one of the servants up stairs, to say that he, Mr. Oliver, wished to speak to him. Mr. Wood immediately dressed himself, and went down into the counting house; and supposing that Mr. Oliver had come to receive the amount of his apothecary's bill, sent his clerk into the parlour to Mr. Oliver with the money to discharge it. Mr. Oliver informed the clerk, that the business he had to settle must be done with Mr. Wood himself; the clerk accordingly delivered this message to his master, who went to Mr. Oliver, when the latter presented his bill, and soon after pulled out a brace of pistols from his pocket, while Mr. Wood's back was turned. The clerk, seeing them, asked what those were for? At that moment Mr. Wood turned towards Mr. Oliver, who instantly levelled a pistol at Mr. Wood, the other at himself; that pointed at Mr. Wood immediately went off, and shot him in the body. The clerk

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then knocked the other pistol out of his hand before it was discharged. Mr. Wood exclaimed, "Sir, you have killed me!" Mr. Oliver replied, "It is what I intended." The family being alarmed, a surgeon was sent for; Mr. Oliver told him it was useless, as Mr. Wood would be a dead man in two hours; and I too, said Mr. Oliver, shall be dead before I leave this room. At that instant, he put something into his mouth, which it appeared afterwards was poison; but his second attempt to destroy himself was ineffectual: for the dose being too strong he threw it off his stomach. Mr. Wood languished till the following Monday, when he died. Oliver was tried at Stafford assizes, in August, 1797; and, after a very long examination of witnesses, found Guilty, and sentenced to suffer death on Monday, and his body delivered to the surgeons for dissection. A plea of insanity was brought forward, which was endeavoured to be proved hereditary; and Drs. Arnold and Johnstone, who had examined Mr. Oliver in March last, gave evidence tending to prove a mental derangement in him. On Monday, Mr. Oliver suffered pursuant to his sentence, amidst a commiserating multitude. His behaviour was calm and resigned to his fate. He requested the following memorandum might be made public.

"I die unconscious of the imputed guilt for which I suffer. I am in perfect charity with all mankind; and repose that hope which becomes me, as a man and a christian, in the justice and mercy of my heavenly Judge.

(Signed)

T. W. OLIVER."

ONEBY.

ONEBY, JOHN, (MURDERER) was the son of an eminent attorney, at Barnwell, in Liecestershire, and born in the year 1677. At first he was intended for the law, but his father having married the neice of Sir Nathan Wright who was appointed lord keeper of the great seal, he applied to him, earnestly soliciting that he would exert his influence in favour of his son. At his request Sir Nathan promoted him to be his train bearer, no invaluable place; but greatly inferior to what the young gentleman's ambition had taught him to aspire to. However he kept this place some time, in expectation of preferment; but failing in his views of promotion, bought a commission in the army. He served under the Duke of Malborough in several campaigns in Flanders, and was promoted in the army as the reward of his military merit. While in winter quarters at Burgess, at the close of one of these campaigns, he had a quarrel with another officer, which occasioned a duel, and Oneby having killed his antagonist, was brought to trial before a court martial, who acquitted him of the murder. Soon afterward the regiment was ordered to Jamaica, and Mr. Oneby went with it; during his residence at Port Royal he fought another duel with a brother officer, whom he wounded in so dangerous a manner that he expired after an illness of several months; but as he did not instantly die, no farther notice was taken of the affair. The rank of major in a regiment of dragoons had been conferred on Mr. Oneby, in consequence of his services: but on the peace of Utrecht he returned to England, and was reduced to half-pay. Repairing to London, he frequented the gaming houses, and became so complete a gambler that he commonly carried cards and dice in his pockets. Having fallen

fallen into company with some gentlemen at a coffee house in Covent Garden, they all adjourned to the Castle tavern in Drury lane, where they went to cards. Mr. Hawkins, who was one of the company, having declined playing, Mr. Rich asked if any one would set him three half-crowns. The bet was apparently accepted by Mr. Gower, who, in ridicule, laid down three halfpence. On this Major Oneby abused Gower, and threw a bottle at him: and, in return, Gower threw a glass at the other. Swords were immediately drawn on both sides; but Mr. Rich interposing, the parties were apparently reconciled, and sat down to their former diversion. Gower seemed inclined to compromise the difference, saying that he was willing to adjust the affair, though the Major had been the aggressor. In answer to this, Oneby declared, he *would have his blood*; and said to Mr. Hawkins that the mischief had been occasioned by him. Hawkins replied, that "he was ready to answer if he had any thing to say:" to which Oneby said, "I have another chap first." Mr. Hawkins left the company about three o'clock in the morning; soon after which Mr. Oneby arose, and said to Gower, "Harkee, young gentleman, a word with you;" on which they retired to another room and shut the door. A clashing of swords being heard by the company, the waiter broke open the door, and on their entrance they found Oneby holding Gower with his left hand, having his sword in the right: and Mr. Gower's sword laid on the floor. Before the company could part the combatants, Gower dropped to the ground; but it was not imagined that he had been wounded, till blood was observed streaming through his waistcoat. On this one of the company said to the major, that he was apprehensiv

hensive he had killed Mr. Gower; but the other replied, "No, I might have done it if I would; but I have only frightened him; but supposing I have killed him, I know what is to be done in these affairs; if I have killed him to-night, in the heat of passion, I have the law on my side; but if I had done it at any other time, it would have looked like a set meeting, and not a rencontre." A surgeon of eminence having examined Mr. Gower's wounds, it was found that the sword of his antagonist had passed through the intestines, of which wound he died the following day: on which Mr. Oneby was apprehended, and lodged in Newgate. The circumstances above mentioned were stated on his trial; but some doubts arising in the minds of the jury, they brought in a special verdict, for the decision of the twelve judges. Mr. Oneby having remained in Newgate two years, and the judges not having met to give their opinion, he became impatient of longer confinement, and therefore moved the Court of King's-Bench that counsel might be heard on his case. The prisoner was therefore carried into court, by virtue of a writ of habeas corpus; and the record of the special verdict being read, the reverend bench, with great humanity, assigned him two counsel, a solicitor, and a clerk in court. Lord chief justice Raymond, and three other judges presided a few days afterwards, when the major being again brought up, his counsel, as well as those for the crown, were heard; after which the lord chief justice declared that he would take an opportunity of having the opinion of the other judges; and then the prisoner should be informed of the event. The major, on his return to Newgate, gave a handsome dinner at the Crown and Anchor tavern in the Strand, to the

the person who had the custody of him, and seeming to be in high spirits on account of the ingenious arguments used by his counsel, entertained little doubt of his being discharged, and said he would spend the rest of his life in a military capacity. After a considerable time the judges assembled at Serjeants' Inn Hall, to bring the matter to a decision. Counsel was heard again on both sides, and the pleadings lasted a whole day, during which the major was carousing with his friends in Newgate, and boasting of the certainty of his escape, as he had only acted in conformity with the character of a man of honour. In the midst of these delusive expectations, a gentleman called and told him that eleven of the judges had decreed against him; which greatly alarmed him. Soon after the keeper of Newgate told him he must double iron him, to prevent his making his escape; and that he must be removed to a safer place, unless he would pay for a man to attend him in his room. Oneby was shocked at this news; and having written several letters to the judges, and other persons of distinction, to which he received no answer, he began to be apprehensive that the most serious consequences would result from the crime of which he had been guilty. The man appointed to attend the major in his room was one John Hooper, who was afterwards executioner, a fellow of remarkable drollery, but of such a forbidding countenance, that when Oneby first saw him, he exclaimed, "What the devil do you bring this fellow here for? Whenever I look at him I shall think of being hanged." Hooper, however, by a knack of telling stories, soon made himself a very agreeable companion to the major. At length the judges assembled again at Serjeants'-

Inn Hall, and having declared their opinions to each other, the counsel for the prosecution demanded that their lordships would proceed to judgment. The sense of the bench was accordingly delivered to Mr. Oneby by Lord Raymond, who said, that it was the unanimous opinion of the judges that he had been guilty of murder: and that his declaring he would have the blood of Gower had great weight in his disfavour. To this the major solemnly declared that he had never spoken such words; and begged the interposition of the judges with his majesty for a pardon. Lord Raymond told him it was in vain for him to deny the words, as they were returned in the special verdict: and that the judges could not interfere by an application to the king; but that he must seek another channel through which to solicit the royal mercy. A few days after this, judgment of death was passed against him; and he was ordered to be executed. His friends and relations exerted all their influence to procure him a pardon; but their intercessions proved in vain. For a while he flattered himself that his gambling companions would intercede in his favour, and he made application to them accordingly; but none of them interested themselves in any degree to serve him. While the major was in confinement an author waited on him, and told him that a pamphlet was written in his disfavour; but that he would exert his best endeavours to put a stop to the publication. It was supposed that the author's view was to have learnt something from the major that might be inserted in the pamphlet; but failing to obtain any materials by these means the book made its appearance in a few days. This circumstance so enraged Oneby, that he said "I would die willingly, if I could only get an opportunity,

tunity of being revenged on that rascally, ragged author;" and he actually sent for him several times, with a view to have given him a drubbing; but the writer had more sagacity than to accept his invitation. On the Saturday preceding the day he was ordered for execution, (1729) an undertaker went to Newgate, and delivered him the following letter, saying that he would wait below for an answer:

"Honoured Sir,

"This is to inform you that I follow the business of an undertaker in Drury-lane, where I have lived many years, and am well known to several of your friends. As you are to die on Monday, and have not, I suppose, spoke to any body else about your funeral, if your honour shall think fit to give your orders, I will perform it as cheap, and in as decent a manner, as any man alive. Your honour's unknown
humble servant G. H."

The major had no sooner read this letter, than he flew into a violent passion; which being made known to the undertaker, he thought proper to decamp without waiting for his orders. There being now no hope of pardon, this unhappy man had recourse to a dreadful method of evading the ignominy of the gallows. On this very night (Saturday) he went to bed at ten o'clock, and having slept till four o'clock on Sunday morning, he asked for a glass of brandy and water, and pen, ink, and paper; and sitting up in the bed, wrote the following note.

"Cousin Turvill,

"Give Mr. Akerman, the turnkey below stairs, half a guinea; and Jack, who waits in my room, five shillings. The poor devils have had a great deal of trouble with me since I have been here."

Having delivered this note to his attendant, he begged to be left to his repose, that he might be fit for the reception of some friends who were to call on him. He was accordingly left, and a gentleman coming into his apartment about seven o'clock, and the major's footman with him, he called out to the latter, "Who is that, Philip?" which were the last words he was heard to speak. The gentleman approaching the bed-side, found he had cut a deep wound in his wrist with a pen-knife, and was drenched in blood. A surgeon was instantly sent for, but he was dead before his arrival.

ORTON, SAMUEL, (FORGER) was a native of London. During his infancy his father died, leaving his mother in possession of a handsome fortune. She was a protestant dissenter, and placed her son under the care of a dissenting minister, at whose academy he made some progress in several branches of learning. Having discovered a very strong inclination for trade, he was apprenticed to a reputable dealer in London, to whom he proved a faithful and industrious servant. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he purchased the place of clerk to the Court of Requests, in the borough of Southwark, which produced an income of about three hundred pounds a year. He soon afterwards embarked in the wine trade, which he successfully pursued some years; and, being generally considered as a man of large property, many persons who supported their credit by the circulation of notes of hand and bills of exchange, applied for his indorsements, knowing that his name would give their paper currency; and he was so imprudent as to make himself liable to the payment of fourteen hundred pounds. The persons with whom he had thus engaged being declared bankrupts, he became
answerable

answerable to the holders of the notes. Having debts of his own to the amount of nine hundred pounds, and the notes of fourteen hundred to discharge within a fortnight, he formed the resolution of committing forgery. A friendship had long subsisted between him and a capt. Bishop, who, upon leaving England had intrusted him with a letter of attorney, authorizing him to receive his pay and dividend of bank-stock. He forged two letters of attorney, by means of which he received a thousand pounds at the Bank. It must be observed, that his intention was not ultimately to defraud the captain, but merely to support his credit till remittances from his correspondents should enable him to replace the money; and he flattered himself in the opinion, that if, through disappointments, he should be unable to restore the property before the captain's return, he would readily excuse his conduct. Captain Bishop, being at Portsmouth in August 1766, wrote to Mr. Orton, mentioning that his ship was coming round to Woolwich, and that he was desirous of an interview as soon as possible after his arrival. He wrote the captain word, that he would certainly meet him at Woolwich; and, having some business to negotiate at Yarmouth, he set out on horseback for that place. On his return to London, he left his horse at an inn near Charing-Cross, and went into St. James's park, where he accidentally met Captain Bishop, whose ship had arrived at Woolwich on the preceding day. They supped together at the Bell Savage on Ludgate-hill; and the next day Mr. Orton dined with the captain on board his ship at Woolwich. Before leaving Woolwich, he intended to inform the captain of his conduct with regard to the money he had received at the Bank: but he

declined introducing the subject, upon learning that the captain meant to remain at Woolwich till his ship was cleared, which he expected would not be in less than a week. He now went a second time to Yarmouth, and on his return in four days, he found a letter at his house from captain Bishop, signifying, that, having received his pay, he had more money by him than he had occasion for; and therefore desired Mr. Orton to meet him at the Bell Savage, and receive a sum in order to dispose of it in such a manner as he should judge would prove most advantageous. They met according to appointment; and Mr. Orton was about to mention the forged letters of attorney, when the captain said he was under the necessity of immediately attending admiral Knowles: and they parted with every appearance of friendship, mutually promising to meet the following evening. The next night he had not been in the house where he had appointed to meet captain Bishop more than half an hour, when he was arrested for two hundred pounds at the suit of the captain, and immediately conducted to a spunging house. He was the next day examined in the presence of some of the directors of the bank, and committed to Newgate in order for trial. The violent agitation of spirits which this unfortunate man experienced, when he was charged with the commission of forgery, will not admit of description. Being brought to trial, his guilt was proved by indisputable evidence; and he received the sentence of the law. While in Newgate, his behaviour was perfectly consistent with his unhappy circumstances. He was conveyed to the place of execution in a mourning coach; and after he had employed some time in devout prayer, the sentence of the law was put in force, and his body
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was delivered to his friends. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 14th of January, 1767.

P.

PAGE, WILLIAM, (HIGHWAYMAN) was the son of a farmer at Hampton, and being a boy of promising parts, was sent to London to the care of his cousin, who was a haberdasher, and who sent him to school, where he soon distinguished himself not only at games, but in all the arts of defraud. On his leaving school his relation employed him in his shop; but he greatly neglected his business to attend the arts of dress. He was such a consummate coxcomb, that he was perpetually employing taylor's to alter his clothes to any new fashion he had seen. This being observed by his kinsman, he directed the taylor's in the neighbourhood not to receive his orders. Thus disappointed, Page procured a dark lantern, which he secreted under his bed, and, when all the family were asleep, he used to alter his clothes, to make them resemble the fashions then prevailing. His relation observing his vanity, abridged him of those pecuniary allowances he had hitherto granted him; which tempted William to rob the till; and the first offence he committed of this kind was, to discharge a pretended debt for which a woman with whom he was acquainted had been arrested by a fellow who was connected with her. This robbery was not discovered for some days; and when it was, all the servants were taxed with it, though Page was least suspected; and on his steady denial of it, the matter was suffered to rest for the present, though the money missing was above fifteen pounds.

pounds. The kinsman, however, with a view to discover the thief, marked several guineas, which he put into the till; and they were soon afterwards taken out by Page. The money being missed, the master went to the chamber of each servant at night, and at length found it in Page's pocket: the consequence of which was, that he was turned out of the house immediately. Thus distressed, he repaired to his female acquaintance, who seemed ready to receive him with caresses: but understanding what had happened, she caused her bullies to drive him from the house, exclaiming that "it was no receptacle for thieves: and that she would not run the risk of having her lodgings searched for such a wretch." Thus repulsed where he had the greatest expectation of shelter and protection, he wandered the streets for some hours, irresolute how to dispose of himself. On the following day he went to Greenwich: but being totally destitute of money, and almost starving, he resolved to write to his relation, to beg pardon for past faults. Having pawned two handkerchiefs, he purchased some provision, and then wrote, the letter which he carried to London. This letter, so affected the kinsman, that he wrote him an answer, and sent him a guinea for present supply; but, to shew his detestation of the crime, intimated that he would prosecute him for the robbery, if he presumed to make a second application. On receipt of the money, Page exclaimed, "I shall not starve yet! but such was his improvidence, that he immediately went to the vile woman with whom he had been connected, and by the next day the guinea was spent: however she prevailed on him to write to his relation for a fresh supply: but who, in consequence of this palpable proof of his extravagance,

extravagance, refused him all farther assistance. Thus reduced, he went to his father; but his relative having written an account of his irregular conduct, the father insisted on his leaving the house immediately, or he would have him taken into custody as a vagabond. Hereupon he travelled a few miles to another relation, who clothed him, gave him money, and advised him to go to London and seek a service; but, conscious of his want of character, he went to York, where he got connected with a company of strolling players. He performed alternately Polydore and Castalio, and being almost beardless, represented some female parts without censure. Soon afterwards he attempted the part of Cato; but being quite drunk, he fell speechless on the stage, while repeating the famous soliloquy; and being carried off by the actors, he could never recover his credit with the audience, and was dismissed the company. From York he went to Scarborough, intending to have joined with a theatrical band at that place, but there was no vacancy to admit of his services. Thus disappointed, he repaired to a gaming table, where he employed a few guineas, which he had brought from York, and won two hundred; but by a pursuit of the game, he soon lost all his money. Thus distressed, a gentleman offered to take him to London in the character of a livery-servant. Page hesitated for some time; but his necessity obliging him to accept the offer, he put on the livery suite. When the gentleman and his new servant came near London, they were robbed by a highwayman; and Page hearing of several exploits performed by the same man, within a few weeks, as he supposed by the description of his dress, thence conceived the first idea of going on the
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the highway; but he lived above a year with his master after this, giving no reason to suspect his fidelity. When he quitted his master, he recommended him to another; but an infectious disorder obliged him to quit his second service, and seek a cure in an hospital. He then commenced highwayman, and his first expedition was on the Kentish road; where meeting the Canterbury stage on Shooter's-hill, he robbed the passengers of watches and money to the amount of about thirty pounds, and then riding through great part of Kent, to take an observation of the cross-roads, he returned to London. He now took lodgings near Grosvenor square, and frequenting the billiard-tables, won a little money, which, added to his former stock, prevented his having recourse to the highway again for a considerable time. However, a gambler more expert than himself, stripped him of all his money: hereupon he took to the road; but for some nights he did not obtain a single booty. At length he stopped a post-chaise near Hampton-court, and robbed a gentleman and lady of ten guineas and their watches; he took a valuable diamond ring from the gentleman, which he afterwards returned, on a reward of fifteen guineas being offered for it. This success encouraging him to proceed in his depredations, he became more bold, and having acquired about 200*l.* on the highway, he took lodgings in Lincoln's-inn, passed as a student of the law, and became acquainted with several young gentlemen who were pursuing their studies in the same place. He now learnt to dance; and having possessed himself of some modern literary knowledge, by the help of circulating libraries, frequented the assemblies of Sunning hill, Richmond, Hampstead, &c. where he
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was much noticed by the visitors. Ladies began to look on him with distinction. At Hampstead he became acquainted with a young lady, who conceived a great affection for him; and her father approving his addresses, the wedding clothes were bought, and other preparations made for the nuptials, when the lady's father happening to go casually into the shop of Page's relation, a scene ensued which entirely disconcerted the plan. The kinsman remarking to an acquaintance, that he had seen Page in a laced coat, the gentleman was tempted to make a particular enquiry; the result of which was, that he found the new-made beau to be the very party that was to be married to his daughter: whereupon Page was forbid all farther visits, to the regret of the young lady, who still considered him as a man of superior accomplishments. By this time he had drawn, from his own observation, and for his private use, a most curious map of the roads twenty miles round London; and driving in a phaeton and pair, he was not suspected for a highwayman. In his excursions for robbery, he used to dress in a laced or embroidered frock, and wear his hair tied behind. When at a distance from London, he would turn into some unfrequented place, and having disguised himself in other clothes, with a grizzle or black wig, and then saddling one of his horses, ride to the main road and commit a robbery. This done, he hastened back to his carriage; resumed his former dress, and drove to London. He was frequently cautioned to be on his guard against a highwayman, who might meet and rob him. "No, no, (said he) he cannot do it a second time, unless he robs me of my coat and shirt, for he has taken all my money already." Having robbed a gentleman near Putney,

ney, some persons came up at the juncture, and pursued him so closely, that he was obliged to cross the Thames for his security. In the interim, several haymakers passing the field where Page's carriage was left, found and carried off his gay apparel; and the persons who had pursued him meeting them, charged them with being accomplices in the robbery. A report of this affair being soon spread, Page heard of it, and throwing his clothes into a well, went back almost naked, claimed the carriage as his own, and declared that the men had stripped him, and thrown him into a ditch. All the parties now went before a justice of the peace; and the maker of the carriage appearing, and declaring that it was the property of Mr. Page, the poor haymakers were committed for trial; but obtained their liberty after the next assizes, as Page did not appear to prosecute. After this, he made no farther use of the phaeton as a disguise for his robberies; but it served him occasionally on parties of pleasure, which he sometimes took with a girl whom he had then in keeping. He was passionately fond of play, and his practice this way was attended with various turns of fortune. One night he went to the masquerade with only ten guineas, and won above 500*l.* and this money was no sooner in his possession, than a lady most magnificently dressed, made some advances to him, on which he put the most favourable construction. After some conversation, she told him, that her mother was a widow, who would not admit of his visits; but that he might prevail on her attendant, whose husband was a reputable tradesman, to give them admission to his house. Page, who had repeatedly heard the other address her by the title of "My Lady," became very importunate with
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the good woman to grant this favour. At length all parties agreed: the servants were called; Page handed the lady and her attendant into a coach, on which was the coronet of a viscountess; two footmen with flambeaux got behind the carriage, and the coachman was ordered to drive home; but when the carriage came into Pall-Mall, fresh orders were given to proceed towards Temple-Bar. The fine lady engaged Page's attention to such a degree, that he paid no regard whither they went. At length the carriage stopped in an obscure street, at a house which looked like a shop, and the parties went up stairs, but not before the lady had whispered one of the footmen (loud enough for Page to hear her) to acquaint her grace in the morning, that she did not return, lest she should disturb her, and therefore slept at Mrs. Price's.— As it was late, or rather early, before they came from the masquerade, and much time had been lost in the courtship, it was four o'clock in the afternoon before they arose, and even night before a coach was called for their departure; though the Lady pretended, that her mother, the duchess, would be extremely uneasy on account of her absence.— With great difficulty Page prevailed on the lady to admit of his attendance on her part of the way home; during which he promised every thing that a lover could, and she answered him according to his wishes. The coach stopping in Covent-Garden, the lady went into a chair: and our hero offering to pay the chairman, he said that he was already paid; a circumstance that convinced Page of the disinterested disposition of this new acquaintance. Repairing now to his lodgings, he reflected with pleasure on the happy prospects before him;

but feeling for his pocket-book, he discovered that it was lost, and with it the greatest part of his treasure. He now began to suspect that the lady of fashion was an impostor: and when she failed to meet him on the following day, agreeable to an appointment that she had made, he perceived himself robbed of five hundred pounds, without a probability of recovering it; for the lady had been masked all the time she was in his company. Thus stripped of his ill-acquired property, he came to a resolution to make the women pay for what a woman had stolen; and taking the road to Bath, he robbed every carriage in which was a woman. If men were in the coach, he said he had no demands on them, but had a draft for five hundred pounds on the ladies. Finding, however, that the women were possessed of little cash, he began to make his demands on the gentlemen, of whom he soon collected about one hundred and fifty pounds, which he carried to the masquerade, and lost it all at the gaming-table; he was no sooner stripped of this money, than he determined to engage in an intrigue. Leaving the gaming-room, he danced with a lady, and then attended her to supper, during which he said some tender things, which he presumed might tend to promote an immediate assignation; but he found that the lady had no other view than that of marriage, which was far from being disagreeable to him as he was then situated. An appointment being agreed on for the following day, he waited on the lady at her house, and found that she was a widow of considerable fortune, and well descended. As he had the art of procuring himself to be well spoken of to her, she entertained no doubt of his honour. He escorted her to public

lic places; and the expense of these attendances was defrayed by his usual resource, the highway. After one of his expeditions on the road, he was followed to the inn where he put up his horse, and being taken into custody, was tried at Maidstone, but acquitted because the party could not swear to his identity. This circumstance, however, put an end to his acquaintance with the lady. The road and the gaming-table became now his only places of resort; and what he got by pillage he generally lost by play. He frequented Bath, Tunbridge, Scarborough, and Newmarket; and when it was demanded if he was a man of fortune, the answer generally was, "He plays deep;" and no farther questions were thought necessary. Page now connected himself with an old school fellow, named Darwell, in conjunction with whom, in the space of three years, he committed more than three hundred robberies. The money obtained by these depredations was immediately divided; and if any dispute arose concerning a watch, or other article, they tossed up which should have it; or if they appraised it, Page paid Darwell the half of the presumed value. In the mean time, Page sold the watches to a Jew, who took them to Holland, and no farther enquiries were made after them. Being now seized with a violent illness, which proved very expensive, and the more so as he had a woman to maintain. He was so reduced, that, on his recovery, he was obliged to secrete himself to prevent his being arrested; for this reason Darwell used to hire horses for them both, and Page meeting him out of London, they committed several robberies in company. On Blackheath, Page robbed Captain Farrington, of Chislehurst, in Kent; which robbery

bery was afterwards positively sworn against one Douglas, by Captain Farrington's post lion, who likewise deposed, that a pistol was fired at him.— Douglas was brought to trial, and honourably acquitted, on his bringing the fullest proof that he was at a distant part at the time that the affair happened. Soon after the commission of this robbery, Page heard that a distant relation in Scotland, who had promised to leave him his fortune, was near death: on which he took shipping for that country, but the vessel being cast away, he lost all his effects but the clothes on his back; and when he arrived in Scotland, his relation was dead, without having made any provision for him: on which he returned to London. Darwell and he now renewed their depredations on the highway, and, in the course of six weeks, committed between twenty and thirty robberies on the roads adjacent to London; and the booties obtained in some of them being considerable, Page furnished himself with the gayest apparel, and laid by a sum of money for future contingencies. At length, after a long course of iniquity, Justice Fielding received information, that Darwell was on the Tunbridge-road: on which he sent out some people, who apprehended him near Sevenoaks, and bringing him before the magistrate, he begged to be admitted an evidence for the crown; this request being complied with, he gave an ample account of the robberies committed by himself and Page, particularly mentioning the inns on the road which the latter frequented, and the place where he usually hired his horses. Through this information Page was apprehended at the Golden Lion near Hyde Park, when three loaded pistols were found on him, with powder, balls, a wig to disguise himself,



ROBERT PARKER.

self, and the correct map of the roads round London. He was accordingly sent to Newgate, and an advertisement inserted in the papers, requesting such persons as had been robbed to attend his re-examination; but he denied all that was alledged against him, and, as he was disguised when he committed any robbery, no person could identify his person. Being remanded to Newgate, he remained there from July till February, when he was tried on suspicion of robbing Mr. Webb in Belton-lane; but acquitted for want of evidence. In the interim, he lived handsomely, and supported a girl on what he had saved by his former wicked practices. After this he was tried at Hertford, but again acquitted for want of evidence. From Hertford he was removed to Maidstone gaol, and being tried at Rochester, for robbing Captain Farrington, was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death.—After conviction, he acknowledged his guilt, averred that no pistol had been fired, as the postilion had asserted, and solemnly declared, if Douglas had been found guilty, he had formed a resolution of surrendering himself to justice, and thereby exculpating that gentleman. He exerted himself in the most strenuous manner to procure a pardon; having written to a nobleman, and likewise to a gentleman with whom he had lived as a servant, begging their interest that he might be sent to America as a foot soldier: but his endeavours proved fruitless, and he was ordered for execution. He suffered at Maidstone, on the 6th of April, 1758.

PARKER, RICHARD, (MUTINEER,) was descended from a respectable family in Exeter. He obtained a good education, was bred in the navy, and, about the conclusion of the American war, was an acting lieutenant in one of his majesty's ships.

ships. He soon came into the possession of a considerable sum of money, and, shortly after he arrived in this country, married a farmer's daughter in Aberdeenshire, with whom he received a descent patrimony. At this time, being without employment, he devoted himself to every species of dissipation, which soon finished his fortune, and involved him in debt, on account of which he was cast into the goal of Edinburgh, where he was at the time the counties were raising seamen for the navy. He then entered as one of the volunteers for Perthshire, received the bounty, and was released from prison, upon paying the incarcerating creditor a part of his bounty. He was put on board the Tender then in Leith Roads, commanded by captain Watson, who carried him, with many others, to the Nore. On the passage, captain Watson distinguished Parker both by his activity and polite address. In 1797, he rendered himself conspicuous among the mutineers of the fleet. He was now known by the appellation of Admiral Parker. When captain Watson, of the Leith Tender, before he sailed from the Nore, being ordered by the crew of the Sandwich to come on board, was then introduced to, and interrogated by, Parker, whom he knew on first sight. Parker also recollected him, and from this circumstance he experienced great favour. Parker ordered every man on board to treat captain Watson well; saying, he was a seaman's friend, and had treated him well, and that if any man used him otherwise, he should instantly be—Here he pointed to the rope at the yard-arm. Captain Watson took an opportunity of hinting to Parker the impropriety of his conduct, and the consequences that might follow: it seemed to throw a momentary damp on his spirits; but he expressed
a wish

a wish to wave the subject, and captain Watson left him, having obtained permission to proceed on his voyage. The mutiny having been happily suppressed, and a considerable reward offered for the apprehension of Parker, the accounted ringleader, on the arrival of lieutenant Motte with the proclamations, &c. the crews of all the ships readily submitted. Parker himself could not oppose this spirit. In consequence of this, the Sandwich came under the guns of Sheerness, and admiral Buckner's boat, commanded by the cockswain, and containing a picquet guard of the West York militia, went on board to bring Parker on shore. Several of the officers of the Sandwich were on deck, and but very few of the men appeared. As soon as Parker heard a boat was come for him, he surrendered himself to four of the ship's crew, to protect him against the outrages of the other seaman, whose vengeance he feared. Admiral Buckner's cockswain told the officers on deck his business, and claimed their assistance. The lieutenant drew his sword, and the party, consisting of eight or ten, went down below, where Parker was surrendered into their hands. They tied his hands together behind, and the officers conducted him into the boat, which had eight or ten rowers, and a party of the West York militia seated in the he head with their faces towards the stern, and their muskets held upright in their hands ready charged. Parker was seated in the stern part, with his face towards the head; behind him was the cockswain, and before him the lieutenant of the Sandwich, holding a drawn sword over him. Parker, on landing, was much hissed; on which he said aloud, "Do not hoot me; it is not my fault: I will clear myself."

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He was sent to Maidstone goal from Sheerness, under a strong guard; besides which, a rope tied his arms together behind his back. After a long trial, which commenced soon after his apprehension, he was found Guilty. His defence he read from a paper, but with much rapidity and little feeling. After a solemn pause of near ten minutes, the lord advocate rose, and, with his head uncovered, pronounced the following sentence. "The court adjudges Richard Parker to suffer Death, and to be hanged by the neck on board any one of his majesty's ships, and at such time as the lords of the admiralty may think proper to appoint." The prisoner listened to the sentence without emotion, and addressed the court as follows.

"I have heard your sentence; I shall submit to it without a struggle. I feel thus, because I am sensible of the rectitude of my intentions. Whatever offences may have been committed, I hope *my* life will be the only sacrifice: I trust it will be thought a sufficient atonement. Pardon, I beseech you, the other men; I know they will return with alacrity to their duty."

The president then briefly addressed himself to the prisoner. He said, that notwithstanding the enormity of the crimes of which he had been found guilty on the fullest and clearest evidence, yet the court, in order to afford him the necessary time to expiate his offences, and to make his peace with God, would not then name any day for his execution, but leave that point to the determination of the lords of the admiralty. The prisoner then withdrew, and was soon after put in irons. The
time

time of Parker's execution was fixed for Friday, June 30. At eight o'clock in the morning a gun was fired from on board his majesty's ship L'Espion, lying off Sheerness garrison. Vice admiral Lutwidge's flag ship, and the yellow flag, the signal of capital punishment, was hoisted, which was immediately repeated by the Sandwich, hoisting the same colour on her foretop. The prisoner was awaked, a little after six o'clock, from a sound sleep, by the Provost Marshal, who, with a file of marines, composed his guard. He arose with cheerfulness, and requested permission for a barber to attend him, which was granted. He soon dressed himself in a neat suit of mourning, waistcoat excepted, wearing his half-boots over a pair of black silk stockings; he then took his breakfast, talked of a will he had written, in which he had bequeathed to his wife a little estate he said he was heir to; and, after that, lamented the misfortune that had been brought on the country by the mutiny, but solemnly denied having the least connection or correspondence with any disaffected persons ashore; and declared, that it was chiefly owing to him, that the ships had not been carried into the enemy's ports. At half past eight, he was told the chaplain of the ship was ready to attend him to prayers upon the quarter deck, which he immediately ascended, uncovered. At his first entrance on the deck, he looked a little paler than common, but soon recovered his usual complexion. He bowed to the officers, and, a chair being allowed him, he sat down a few moments; he then arose, and told the clergyman he wished to attend him: the chaplain informed him he had selected two psalms appropriate to his situation; to which the prisoner assenting,

ing, said, "and, with your permission, sir, I will add a third," and named the 51st. He then recited each alternate verse in a manner peculiarly impressive. At nine o'clock, the preparatory gun was fired from L'Espion, which he heard without the smallest emotion. Prayers being soon after closed, he rose, and asked Captain Moss "if he might be indulged with a glass of white wine?" which being granted, he took it, and, lifting up his eyes, exclaimed, "I drink first to the salvation of my soul! and, next, to the forgiveness of all my enemies!" Addressing himself to captain Moss, he said, "he hoped he would shake hands with him;" which the captain did: he then desired "that he might be remembered to his companions on board the Neptune; with his last breath sent an entreaty to them, to prepare for their destiny, and refrain from unbecoming *levity!*" His arms being now bound, the procession moved from the quarter deck to the fore-castle, passing through a double file of marines, on the starboard side, to a platform erected on the cat-head, with an elevated projection. Arriving there, he knelt with the chaplain, and joined in some devout ejaculations; to all of which he repeated loudly—"Amen." Rising again, the admiral's warrant of execution, addressed to captain Moss, was now read by the clerk, in which the sentence of the court martial, order of the board of admiralty, and his majesty's approbation of the whole proceedings, were fully recited, which the prisoner heard with great attention, and bowed his head, as if in assent, at the close of it. He now asked the captain "whether he might be allowed to speak?" and immediately apprehending his intention might be misconceived, he added—"I
am

am not going, Sir, to address the ship's company!—I wish only to declare, that, I acknowledge the justice of the sentence under which I suffer; and I hope my death may be deemed a sufficient atonement, and save the lives of others!"—He then desired "a minute to recollect himself," and knelt down alone, about that space of time; then rising, up, said, "I am ready;"—and holding his head up, said to the boatswain's mate, "take off my handkerchief;" (of black silk;) which being done, the Provost Marshal placed the halter over his head, (which had been prepared with grease,) but doing it awkwardly, the prisoner said rather pettishly to the boatswain's mate, "Do you do it, for he seems to know nothing about it!" The halter was then spliced to the revee rope; all this being adjusted, the marshal attempted to put a cap on, which he refused; but on being told it was indispensable, he submitted, requesting it might not be pulled over his eyes till he desired it. He then turned round for the first time, and gave a steady look at his shipmates on the forecastle, and, with an affectionate kind of smile, nodded his head, and said, "Good bye to you!"—He now said, "Captain Moss, is the gun primed?" "It is." "Is the match alight?"—"All is ready." On this he advanced a little, and said, "Will any gentleman be so good as lend me a white handkerchief for the signal?"—After some little pause, a gentleman stepped forward and gave him one; to whom bowing, he returned thanks:—he now ascended the platform, repeated the same questions about the gun; then the cap being drawn over his face, walking by firm degrees up to the extremity of the scaffold, he
dropped

dropped the handkerchief, put his hands in his coat pockets with great rapidity, and at the moment as he was springing off, the fatal bow gun fired, and the reeve rope catching him, run him up, though not with great volocity, to the yard-arm. When suspended about midway, his body appeared extremely convulsed for a few seconds, immediately after which no appearance of life remained. It being tide of ebb, the starboard yard-arm pointed to the Isle of Grain, where scaffolding was erected for the spectators on shore:—a considerable number of yatches, cutters, and other craft, surrounded the Sandwich:—the last time the prisoner knelt with the Chaplain at the cat-head, though he made his responses regulary, his attention was particularly directed the whole time to the armed boats of the fleet, which were plying round on duty! The whole conduct of this awful ceremony was extremely decorous and impressive: it was evident from the countenance of the crew of the Sandwich, that the general feeling for the fate of their mutinous conductor was such as might be wished; not a word, and scarce a wisper was heard among them. The behaviour of this unhappy man throughout the whole of his trial, was firm and manly; while he was before the Court, decent and respectful; and from the time he received his sentence, till his execution, resigned and penitent.—The uncommon fortitude he displayed during his trial, did not forsake him even in the last moments of his wretched existence. The day before his execution, Mrs Parker presented a petition to the Earl of Morton, to be delivered to the Queen, in favour of her unfortunate husband. Her deportment was becoming her unhappy situation. After delivering her petition

tion in favour of her husband, she waited at St. James's till five o'clock in the afternoon, on Thursday the 29th of June; when losing all hopes of a favourable answer, she proceeded into the city, and got into a coach setting off for Rochester, where she arrived about eleven o'clock that evening. She immediately agreed with a boatman, who was going to Sheerness with garden-stuff, to take her on board at four the next morning, which was that fixed for her husband's execution. She embarked accordingly, as soon as the tide would serve, and got down along-side the Sandwich about seven. The sentinels ordered the boat off; she desired permission to speak to Richard Parker—the answer was, that if the boat did not put off, they must fire into it. In spite of her remonstrances, the boatman now proceeded to Sheerness, assuring her, that as the yellow flag was not up, no execution would take place that day. She instantly procured another boat from the garrison dock-stairs, and as she was rowing up to Blackstakes, she observed the fatal flag hoisted on board the Sandwich; her application was renewed with tenfold entreaties to get on board, but to no effect: and again she was taken back to Sheerness, the waterman having stipulated only to put her on board the Sandwich, and being obliged to go back for persons he was engaged to carry. She hired a third vessel with no greater success for just as she approached the ship, she saw the fatal procession of her husband from the quarter-deck to the fore-castle, when shrieking out, "Oh my dear husband!" she fainted away. On recovering she saw him mount the platform on the cat-head, and the clergyman in his robes go from him, and from that moment she "saw nothing

but the sea, which appeared covered with blood!" thus senseless, she was rowed a third time on shore. She embarked in a fourth boat, and saw him from a distance at the yard-arm, just before he was lowered down; by the time she reached the ship, the body had been received into a shell, and carried away for interment:—she had now access to the ship's side, and learnt that it had been conveyed away in a boat, to be buried at Sheerness; she immediately went back to the garrison, and after much difficulty, got access to Vice Admiral Lutwidge, and in bitterness of grief, solicited permission to remove the corpse, which she had previously learnt was deposited in the new burying-ground. The admiral asked her for what purpose she wished it? she answered, "to have him interred like a gentleman, as he had been bred."—The admiral not acceding to her wish, she departed, and endeavoured by every means to find out who kept the key of the place of interment, which is enclosed by a new stockade fence, nearly ten feet high. Not being able to procure it, she went about ten o'clock that same evening, and seeing three women near the ground; she imparted to them who she was, with her design of recovering the body of her husband, and requested their assistance, to which they readily assented. She directly ascended the gateway, and helped the women, till all got over; when with their hands alone they removed the earth that covered the coffin, which was laid but a little way in the ground; having raised it, they contrived to get it over the gate, and then sat upon the coffin, to conceal it from the sentinels of the Barrier Gate, hard by, till four o'clock in the morning: the drawbridge being now wound up, a
fish

fish-cart came out of the garrison, on its way to Rochester, when she prevailed upon the driver to convey the body to that place for a guinea, which he undertook. Arriving at Rochester, she agreed with the driver of a caravan, to take it to town for six guineas more, and deliver it at the Hoop and Horse-shoe, Queen-street, Little Tower-Hill, where it seems, she hired a room for the purpose, and brought the key in her pocket. As soon as the corpse had arrived on Saturday evening, and it was known whose body was deposited there, the people began at first to assemble through curiosity; but afterwards some, from other motives, introduced themselves to this unfortunate woman, on the pretence of charitable sympathy, requesting they might be permitted to see her husband interred in a manner suitable to his condition. The concourse of visitants increased on Sunday, and on Monday, to a number which called upon the magistrates for their interference. Mrs. Parker was desired to attend the Police Office, in Lambert-street, where she was interrogated respecting her intention in removing the body of her husband from Sheerness? her answer was, "to take him down either to his own family at Exeter, or to her's in Scotland, and bury him like a Christian!" She was then asked whether it was true, as it had then been reported, that she had suffered him to be shewn for money? she burst into a flood of tears, and replied, "Do I appear like a monster so unnatural;" It proved afterwards that there was not the smallest foundation for so injurious a report. The magistrates, on finding that some of the disaffected societies were inclined to make the funeral a spectacle for the purposes of tumult, ordered the

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corpse

corpse on Monday to the Workhouse in Nightingale-lane, and interment to be made of it in Aldgate church-yard the next morning, at eleven o'clock; hearing, however, that a large body of people were assembled in the Minories all that evening, and that a more tumultuous assembly might be expected the next day at the funeral, they prudently directed the body to be removed at one o'clock the morning before, to the burying-vault of Whitechapel church. In the afternoon Mrs. Parker, at her particular request, was permitted to attend, and to behold it, for the last time, by the coffin-lid being taken off; afterwards the funeral service was performed by the Rev. Mr. Wright, the Rector, when the whole of this extraordinary transaction terminated to the perfect satisfaction of the unfortunate, and pitiable relict, as the following attestation on her part, fully certified:

(COPY.)

LONDON, JULY 4, 1797.

“ I, Ann Parker, wife of the late Richard Parker, deceased, do hereby certify, that at my particular request, I have this day seen the body of my late husband, in the burying vault of Saint Mary, Whitechapel, by permission of the Rector, and church warden of the said parish; that the burial service was duly performed over him, and that I am perfectly satisfied with the mode of interment, and the indulgence that I have received from the minister and officers of the said parish.

(Signed)

ANN PARKER.”

PARSONS, WILLIAM, ESQ. (FELON,) was the son of Sir William Parsons, Baronet, of the county

county of Nottingham, and born in London, in the year 1717. He was placed under the care of a pious and learned divine, at Pepper-Harrow in Surry, where he received the first rudiments of education. In little more than three years he was removed to Eton college, where it was intended he should qualify himself for one of the universities. While here he was detected in stealing a volume of Pope's Homer, in the shop of a bookseller named Pote. Being charged with the fact, he confessed that he had stolen many other books at different times. The case being represented to the master, he underwent a very severe discipline. Though he remained at Eton nine years, his progress in learning was very inconsiderable. The youth was of so unpromising a disposition, that Sir William determined to send him to sea, as the most probable means to prevent his destruction, and soon procured him to be appointed midshipman on board a man of war, then lying at Spithead, under sailing orders for Jamaica, there to be stationed for three years.—Some accident detaining the ship beyond the time when it was expected she would sail, our youth 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 pleasing, and his manner of address easy and polite, he found but little difficulty in recommending himself to the ladies. He became greatly enamoured of a beautiful and accomplished young lady, the daughter of a physician of considerable practice, and prevailed upon her to promise she would yield her hand

in marriage. News of the intended marriage coming to the knowledge of Parsons' friends, his uncle hastened to Waltham, to prevent a union which he apprehended would inevitably produce the ruin of the contracting parties. With much difficulty the old gentleman prevailed upon his nephew to return to the ship, which in a few days afterwards proceeded on her voyage. The ship had not been long arrived at the place of destination, when Parsons resolved to desert, and return to England; and soon found an opportunity of shipping himself on board the Sheerness man of war, then preparing to sail on her return home. Immediately upon 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, repaired to the same place, and represented his character in so unfavourable, but at the same time in so just a manner, as prevented the renewal of his addresses to the physician's daughter. He went home with his uncle, who observed his conduct with a 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 the Romney, which was ordered on 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 acquaintances, who would not in the least countenance his visits at their houses; and his circumstances now became exceedingly distressed.

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Thus situated, he applied to a gentleman named Bailey, with whom he had formerly lived on terms of 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 also was indefatigable in his endeavours to effect a reconciliation between young Parsons and his father, in which he at length succeeded. Sir William having prevailed upon his son to go abroad again, and procured him a appointment under the Governor of James Fort on the river Gambia, he embarked on board a vessel in the service of the Royal African company. Having resided at James Fort about six months, a disagreement took place between him and governor Aufleur: in consequence of which he signified a resolution of returning to England. Hereupon the governor informed him that he was commissioned to engage him as an indented servant for five years. Parsons warmly expostulated with the governor, declaring that his behaviour was neither that of a man of probity or a gentleman, and requested permission to return. But so far from complying, the governor issued orders to the centinels to be particularly careful lest he should effect an escape. Notwithstanding every precaution, Parsons found means to go on board a homeward-bound vessel, and being followed by Mr. Aufleur, he was commanded to return; but cocking a pistol, and presenting it to the governor, he declared he would fire upon any man who should presume to molest him. Hereupon the governor departed; and in a short time 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 friendly

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 pregnant by him; which circumstance so incensed the old gentleman, that he dismissed the nephew from his house. Reduced to the most deplorable state 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 hay loft 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 more miserable by the uncleanliness and disorder of his apparel: 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; while a humane gentleman, to whom she had communicated his case, supplied him with money for common expences. 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

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. Sir William asked him what mode of life he meant to adopt; and his answer was, that he was unable to determine, but would cheerfully pursue such measures as so indulgent a parent should think proper to recommend. The old gentleman then advised him to enter as a private man in the horse-guards; which he approved of, saying he would immediately offer him self as a volunteer. Upon mentioning his intention to the adjutant, he was informed that he must pay seventy guineas for his admission into the corps. This news proved exceedingly afflicting, as he had but 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 five shillings. Driven now 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 drown himself in 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. Under the pretext of being entitled to the above legacy, he obtained money and effects
from

from different people to a considerable amount; and among those who were deceived by the above stratagem, was a taylor in Devereux-court, in the 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 of but 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 gentleman, and represented his case in so plausible a manner as to obtain money from him at different times to a considerable amount. His 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 great influence over the female world, he 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 an advantageous marriage; and as they were satisfied that the lady had a good fortune, they supplied him with every thing 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,

February, 1740, in the 23d year of his age. On occasion of 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 perfectly 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 in his behalf with the right honourable Arthur Onslow; and through the interest of that gentleman he was appointed an ensign in the forty-fourth reg. of foot. Having discharged all his debts, 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 the manner of his living; he kept three saddle-horses, a chaise and pair, several unnecessary servants, and engaged in many other superfluous expences that his income would not afford. He now unfortunately became acquainted with an infamous gambler, who seduced him to frequent gaming-houses, and to engage in play. He lost considerable sums, which were shared between the pretended friend and his wicked

wicked accomplices. Parsons was now promoted to a lieutenancy in a regiment that was ordered into Flanders, and he was accompanied to that country by the abandoned miscreant, whom he considered as his most valuable friend. The money he lost by gaming, and 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 his debts contracted in Flanders. The commission being sold, he 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 denomination of Captain Brown. He pretended to be an unmarried man; and saw his wife only when appointments was made to meet at a public house. While he lodged in Gough-square, he seduced the 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; he therefore embarked as captain of marines on board the Dursley privateer. Soon after the arrival of the ship at Deal, he 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 his pistols, and lodged a ball in the
man's

man's thigh. He said he was well provided with weapons, and would fire upon them if they presumed to give him further molestation. Hereupon 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 a prize of a French privateer, which they carried into the port 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 upon 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 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 sixty pounds; 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. He landed at Plymouth, where he resided 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 those where gaming was permitted. His money being nearly expended, he obtained a hundred pounds from a merchant of Plymouth, by means of a false draught upon an alderman of London. He now repaired to London, and his money being expended, he committed the following 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,

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 forgot to provide a ring, and ordered the waiter to tell some shop-keeper 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: whereupon the pretended bridegroom 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 counterfeit draught, 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 upon her not returning soon, our hero affected great impatience, and without taking his hat, quitted the apartment, saying he would enquire of the people in the house whether his bride was not detained by some accident. After waiting a considerable time, the clergyman called the landlord; and as neither Parsons nor the woman could be found, it was rightly concluded that their whole intention was to perpetrate a fraud. In the mean time Parsons and his fair accomplice met at an appointed place, and divided their booty. Soon after this, he 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

represented the danger of engaging in such an adventure, and, lest his distress should precipitate him to any rash proceeding, generously supplied him with forty guineas to answer present exigencies. He soon after borrowed the above gentleman's horse, pretending that he had to go a few miles into the country, on a matter of business: but he immediately rode to Smithfield, where he sold the horse 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. He exhibited informations of a similar nature against two other gentlemen, who had been most liberal benefactors to him, in revenge for refusing any longer to supply him with the means of indulging his extravagance. In 1745, he counterfeited a draft upon one of the collectors of the excise, in the name of the duke of Cumberland, for five hundred pounds. This he carried to the collector, who paid him fifty pounds in part, being all the cash that remained in his hands. He went to a taylor, saying he meant to employ him on the recommendation of a gentleman of the army whom he had long supplied with cloaths; adding that a captain's commission was preparing for him at the war-office. The taylor furnished him with several suits of cloaths; but not being paid according to agreement, he entertained some suspicion as to the responsibility of his new customer; and therefore enquired 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 was nonsuited, having laid his action in the fictitious name of Brown, and it appearing that Parson's was the defendant's real name. Another time he sent a porter from the Ram inn, in Smithfield, with a counterfeit draught upon sir Joseph Hankey and Co. for five hundred pounds. Parsons followed the man, imagining that if he came out of sir Joseph's house alone, he would have received the money; and that if he was accompanied by any person, it would be a strong proof of the forgery being discovered; and upon observing sir Joseph and the porter get into a hackney-coach, he resolved not to return to the inn. He next went to a widow named Bottomley, who lived near St. George's church, and saying he had contracted to supply the regiment to which he belonged with hats, gave her an order to the amount of a hundred and sixty pounds. He had no sooner got possession of the hats, than he sold them to a Jew for one half the sum he had 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, by means of counterfeit letters he procured himself to be taken into custody, as a person disaffected to the king and government; he was therefore supported, without expense, in the house of one of the king's messengers, for the space of eighteen months. Being released from the messenger's house, he revolved in his mind a variety of schemes for eluding the importunity of his creditors, and at length determined to embark for Holland. Having remained there till his money was nearly expended, he returned to England. A few days after his arrival in London, he went to a masquerade, where he

he engaged in play to the hazard of every shilling he possessed, and was so fortunate as to obtain a sum sufficient for his maintenance for several months. His circumstances becoming again distressed, he wrote in pressing terms to his brother-in-law, who was an East-India director, intreating 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 further favours. Having written a counterfeit draught, he went to Ranelagh on a masquerade night, where he passed the draught to a gentleman who had won some small sums of him. The party who received the draught 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. During his confinement he wrote a letter to his father, and another to his neglected wife, in which he expressed much sorrow for his enormous crimes. 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 Lent assizes at Rochester. Mr. Carey, the keeper of the prison, with great humanity, allowed him to board in his family, and indulged him in every privilege he could grant, without a manifest breach of the duties of his office. But such was the ingratitude of Parsons, that he meditated the ruin of the man to whom he was so much indebted. His intention was, privately to take the keys from Mr. Carey's apartment;

and not only to escape himself, but even to give liberty to every prisoner in the gaol; and this scheme he communicated to a man accused of being a smuggler, who reported the matter to Mr. Carey, desiring him to listen at an appointed hour at night, when he would hear a conversation that would prove his intelligence to be authentic. Mr. Carey attended at the appointed hour; and being convinced of the ingratitude and pertidy of Parsons, he abridged him of the indulgences he had before enjoyed, and caused him to be closely confined. Being convicted at the assizes at Rochester, he was sentenced to transportation for seven years; and in the following September was put on board the Thames, captain Dobbins, bound for Maryland, in company with upwards of an hundred and seventy other convicts, fifty of whom died in the voyage. In November, 1746, he was landed at Annapolis, in Maryland: and having remained in a state of slavery about seven weeks, a gentleman of considerable fortune 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. He 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 eleven guineas and some silver: after which he directed his course to Potomack river, where finding a ship nearly
ready

ready to sail for England, he embarked, and in twenty-five days landed at Whitehaven. He now produced a forged letter, in the name of one of his relations, to a capital 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 draught upon a banker in London for seventy-five pounds. Upon his return to 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 an 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 five guineas, some silver, and a watch. A short time afterwards he stopped a gentleman near Turnham-green, about ten o'clock at night, and robbed him of thirty shillings, and a gold ring. He requested that the ring might be returned, as he valued it, being his wife's wedding-ring. Parsons complied with the gentleman's request, and voluntarily returned the gentleman five shillings, 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 apprehended. He attempted to rob a gentleman in a coach and four, near Kensington, but hearing some company on the road, he proceeded toward Hounslow; and in his way thither overtook a farmer, and robbed him of between forty and fifty shillings. He then took the road to
Colnbrook,

Colnbrook, and robbed a gentleman's servant of two 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; where at the entrance of the heath he stopped two gentlemen, and robbed them of seven guineas, some silver, and a 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 he learnt that the other was to set out early on the following Sunday with a portmanteau, containing cash and notes to a considerable value, the property of his master, who was then at Windsor. On the Sunday morning he rode 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. However, he 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 Hounslow, 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 at 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

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 that inn till the next day, and then examined by a magistrate, who committed him to Newgate. He now wrote a very pathetic letter to Mr. Fuller, the gentleman who apprehended him, imploring his lenity; and during this his second confinement, several affectionate letters passed between him, his disconsolate father, wife, brother, sister, &c. Having received sentence of death for returning from transportation before the expiration of the appointed time, he earnestly intreated his wife, by letters, to use all her influence for a pardon. On the Sunday preceding his execution, the following was the last epistle he received from Mrs. Parsons:—

“ Mr. Parsons, Sunday noon.

“ According to my promise, I sent your's inclosed to your father, and wrote to him in the manner I sent you word; but have never had an answer, which I can attribute to nothing but the letter's miscarrying, for I am sure he has a sincere affection for you. I have done every thing in my power for you, but to no purpose. My aunt this day delivered a petition to the king, in your father's name and mine; what effect it may have, is very uncertain. Should this succeed, I hope your future life will make amends for so much mercy; but, as it is so uncertain, beg you will make proper use of the few moments you have to live. As to your request of seeing me, it cannot be, for I could not bear the shock of seeing you in such circumstances.

circumstances. I freely forgive you all injuries whatever; and hope God will pardon all crimes, support you in your last moments, and receive you to his mercy, which is the sincere prayer and hope of her who was

Your faithful and affectionate Wife.

P. S. My grandmother and aunt pray for you:—I can say no more.

While Parsons remained in Newgate, his behaviour was such that it could not be determined whether he entertained a proper idea of his dreadful situation. There is indeed but too much reason to fear that the hopes of a reprieve (in which he deceived himself even to the last moments of his life) induced him to neglect the necessary preparation for eternity. His wife, notwithstanding her resolution to the contrary, complied with his earnest solicitations to see her. His taking leave of her afforded a scene extremely affecting: he 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. He suffered at Tyburn on the 11th of February, 1751.

PARVIN, RICHARD. See WALTHAM BLACKS, THE

PERREAU, R.—PERREAU, D. (FORGERY,) twin-brothers, one an apothecary of great practice, and the other living in the stile of a gentleman.—On the 10th of March, 1775, discovery having been made of a series of forgeries, said to have been carried on for a length of time by these brothers. Robert and Daniel Perreau, together with Mrs. Margaret Caroline Rudd, who lived with the latter as his wife, and who was deemed to have been a prin-



J. Chapman sc.

ROBERT PERREAU

The Hon. Secy. of the Admiralty

a principal agent in the forgeries, were taken into custody, and carried before the bench of magistrates in Bow-street, where the crowd attending to hear their examination was so great, that it became necessary to adjourn to the Guildhall, Westminster. The evidence there adduced tended to prove that the parties had raised considerable sums by bonds forged in the name of the well known agent, William Adair, Esq. which they imposed on several gentlemen of fortune, as collateral securities, with their own notes for the payment of the said sums. Robert Perreau, whose character had been hitherto unimpeachable, applied to Mr. Drummond, the banker, to lend him five thousand pounds, and offered a bond for seven thousand five hundred pounds, which he said Mr. Adair had given to his brother, as a security for the payment. In order to give colour to the validity of these bonds, it had been artfully suggested, that Mrs. Rudd had near connexions with Mr. Adair; and it was even insinuated, that she was his natural daughter: but Mr. Drummond, to whom Mr. Adair's writing was familiar, had no sooner looked at the signature, than he doubted its authenticity, and very politely asked Robert Perreau, if he had seen Mr. Adair sign it? The latter said he had not, but had no doubt but it was authentic, from the nature of the connexion that subsisted. To this Mr. Drummond said, that he could not advance such a sum without consulting his brother, and desired Perreau to leave the bond, promising to return it the next morning, or advance on it the sum required. Mr. Perreau made no scruple to leave the bond, and call in the morning. In the interim Mr. Drummond examined the bond with greater attention; and Mr. Stephens,

phens, Secretary of the Admiralty, happening to call, his opinion was demanded; when comparing the signature of the bond with letters he had lately received from Mr. Adair, he was firmly convinced that it was forged. When Perreau came, Mr. Drummond spoke more freely than he had done before, and told him that he imagined he had been imposed on; but begged that, to remove all doubt, he would go with him to Mr. Adair, and get that gentleman to acknowledge the validity of the bond; on which the money should be advanced. Perreau made not the least objection. They went together; and Mr. Adair was asked, if the bond was his. He declared it was not; but Perreau smiled, and said he jested. Mr. Adair told him, that it was no jesting matter, and that it was his duty to clear up the affair. Perreau said, "if that was the case, he had been sent on a fine errand!" He desired to have the bond, and said he would make the necessary enquiries: but this was refused, and it was thought a point of prudence to watch the motions of Robert Perreau, till Danie and his pretended wife were produced. Soon after he returned home, the three parties went into a coach; and, *according to the lady's own testimony*, Mrs. Rudd took with her what money, and valuables she should conveniently carry: and said, that the brothers had taken her money, gold watch, and jewels, into their possession: but no reason was assigned for their doing so. Their escape, however, if such was intended, was prevented; for an information being laid against them, they were immediately apprehended. In the examination before Sir John Fielding, the above facts were attested by Mr. Adair, Mr. Drummond, and other persons; and Sir Thomas Frankland charged

charged them with obtaining from him four thousand pounds on the first application, which they honestly repaid before the money became due; afterwards five thousand pounds, and then four thousand pounds, on similar bonds, all signed with the name of Mr. Adair. Mr. Watson, a money-scrivener, said, that he had drawn eight bonds, all of them ordered by one or other of the brothers; but he hesitated to fix on either, on account of their great personal resemblance: but being pressed to make a positive declaration, he fixed on Daniel as his employer. Dr. Brooke charged the brothers with obtaining from him fifteen bonds of the bank of Adair, each of the value of one hundred pounds, upon the security of a forged bond for three thousand one hundred pounds. On the strength of this evidence the brothers were committed, the one to New Prison, and the other to Clerkenwell Bridewell; and Mrs. Rudd was admitted an evidence for the crown. On her future examination she declared that she was the daughter of a nobleman in Scotland; that when young, she married an officer in the army, named Rudd, against the consent of her friends; that her fortune was considerable; that, on a disagreement with her husband, they resolved to part; that she made a reserve of money, jewels, and effects, to the amount of thirteen thousand pounds, all of which she gave to Daniel Perreau, whom she said she loved with the tenderness of a wife; that she had three children by him; that he had returned her kindness in every respect till lately, when having been unfortunate in gaming in the alley, he had become uneasy, peevish, and much altered to her; that he cruelly constrained her to sign the bond now in question, by holding a

knife to her throat, and swearing that he would murder her if she did not comply; that, being struck with remorse, she had acquainted Mr. Adair with what she had done, and that she was now willing to declare every transaction with which she was acquainted, whenever she should be called upon by law so to do. On their trial at the Old Bailey in June, 1775, Mr. Drummond deposed, that Robert Perreau requested the loan of one thousand four hundred pounds, having made a purchase in Suffolk or Norfolk, to the amount of twelve thousand pounds. He said he had a house in Harley-street, Cavendish-square, which cost four thousand pounds, the deeds of which house he would leave as a security. These he did leave, and promising to return in ten days, the money was paid him. He came some time afterwards, and apologized for not having kept his appointment; and said he then came to borrow five thousand pounds on the bond, out of which he would pay the one thousand four hundred pounds above-mentioned. Mr. Drummond and his brother doubting the validity of the bond, Perreau said there were family connexions between him and Mr. Adair, "who had money of his in his hands, for which he paid interest. That going with the prisoner to Mr. Adair's, Mrs. Daniel Perreau (Mrs. Rudd) was sent for, when Robert asked her, if she had not given the bond to him. She owned that she had, took the whole on herself, and acknowledged that she had forged the bond. The counsel for the prisoner asking Mr. Drummond if he was certain that the prisoner said it was *his* money that Mr. Adair paid interest for, he answered in the affirmative. He declared likewise, that Mr. Perreau did not make the least objection to

to leave the bond with him, nor shewed any reluctance in going with him to Mr. Adair's house. He likewise said, that Mrs. Rudd took the whole on herself, begged them, "for God's sake, to have mercy on an innocent man;" and that she said no injury was intended to any person, and that all would be paid; and that she acknowledged delivering the bond to the prisoner. The counsel demanding if Mr. Drummond and Mr. Adair, after hearing what Mrs. Rudd said, had not expressed themselves as considering the prisoner as her dupe; the answer was, "We both expressed ourselves to that effect. A constable had been sent for, and we discharged him." The identity of the bond was proved by Mr. Wheatley, clerk to Messrs. Drummond. The evidence of Mr. Robert Drummond was not, in any very essential point, different from that of his brother. He deposed, that when Mrs. Rudd had acknowledged that she forged the bond, he expressed his doubt, the hand-writing being so different from that of a woman, and said nothing would convince him of it but her shewing, on a piece of paper, that she could write that sort of hand. He said he did not mean to ensnare her, and would immediately throw the writing into the fire. Mrs. Rudd instantly wrote William Adair, or part of the name, so very like the signature of the bond, that it satisfied him, and he burnt the paper. Robert Perreau then said, that "he hoped that the information she had given sufficiently acquitted him:" but he was told that he had better not enquire into that; and on this occasion he shewed the first sign of anxiety. Sir Thomas Frankland deposed, that the prisoner brought him two bonds at different times, one to Daniel Perreau

for six thousand pounds, and the other to himself (Robert) for five thousand three hundred pounds: that for five thousand three hundred pounds, on which he lent him four thousand pounds, was to be repaid on the 26th of March, with the three days grace! the other was due on the 8th of March.—Consequently it appeared, that the money to be borrowed of Mr. Drummond was designed to repay the money actually borrowed of Sir Thomas. Mr. Wilson declared, that he filled up the bond at the desire of the prisoner; and produced his instructions for so doing. He likewise acknowledged that he had filled up other bonds for the prisoner. That the hand-writing at the bottom of the bond was not the hand-writing of William Adair, was proved by Scroope Ogilvie and James Adair, Esqrs. Mr. James Adair was now questioned by counsel respecting a private interview he had with Mrs. Rudd; but the court doubted if this might be allowed as evidence. After some observations made by the counsel for the prisoner, a letter was read, which he presumed had been sent him by William Adair, Esq. but which appeared to have been written by Mrs. Rudd, and was scarcely intelligible. Robert Perreau, when called upon for his defence, observed:

“ My Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury,

“ If I had been wanting in that fortitude, which is the result of innocence, or had found any hesitation in submitting my proceedings to the strictest scrutiny, I need not at this day have stood before my country, or set my life upon the issue of a legal trial. Supported by the consciousness of my integrity, I have forced that transaction to light, which
might

might else have been suppressed; and I have voluntarily sought that imprisonment which guilt never invites, and even innocence has been known to fly from; ardently looking forward to this hour, as the sure, though painful, means of vindicating a character, not distinguished, indeed, for its importance, but hitherto maintained without a blemish. There are many respectable witnesses at hand, (and many more, I persuade myself, would be found, if it had been necessary to summon them upon a point of such notoriety) who will inform your Lordships and the court, how I have appeared to them to act; what trust has been reposed in me, and what credit I had in their opinions, for my diligence, honesty, and punctuality. In truth, my Lords, I am bold to say that few men, in my line of life, have carried on their business with a fairer character, nor many with better success. I have followed no pleasures, nor launched into any expences: there is not a man living who can charge me with neglect or dissipation. The honest profits of my trade have afforded me a comfortable support, and furnished me with the means of maintaining, in a decent sort, a worthy wife, and three promising children, upon whom I was labouring to bestow the properest education in my power: in short, we were as happy as affluence and innocence could make us, till this affliction came upon us by surprize, and I was made the dupe of a transaction from the criminality whereof I call God, the searcher of all human hearts, to witness, I am now as free as I was at the day of my birth. My Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury, men who are unpractised in deceit, will be apt to credit others for a sincerity which they themselves possess. The

most undesigning characters have at all times been the dupe of craft and subtilty. A plain story, with the indulgence of the court, I will relate, which will furnish strong instances of credulity on one part, and at the same time will exhibit a train of such consummate artifices on the other, as are not to be equalled in the annals of iniquity, and which might have extorted an equal confidence from a much more enlightened understanding than I can claim."

Here he proceeded to relate a variety of circumstances, relative to the imposition practised on him by Mrs. Rudd. He said, that she was constantly conversing about the interest she had with Mr. W. Adair; and that Mr. Adair had, by his interest with the King, obtained the promise of a baronetage for Daniel Perreau, and was about procuring him a seat in Parliament. That Mr. Adair had promised to open a bank, and take them both into partnership with him: that the prisoner received many letters signed William Adair, which he had no doubt came from that gentleman; in which were promises of giving them a considerable part of his fortune during his life, and that he was to allow Daniel Perreau two thousand four hundred pounds a year for his household expences, and six hundred pounds a year for Mrs. Rudd's pin-money. That Mr. Daniel Perreau purchased a house in Harley-street for four thousand pounds, which money Mr. William Adair was to give them. That, when Daniel Perreau was pressed by the person he bought the house of for the money, the prisoner understood that they applied to Mr. W. Adair, and that his answer was, that he had lent the King seventy thousand pounds, and had purchased a house in
Pall-

Pall-Mall at seven thousand pounds, in which to carry on the banking-business, and therefore could not spare the four thousand pounds at that time.— Having related a variety of other circumstances, he thus concluded:

“ My Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury,—I have now faithfully laid before you, such circumstances as have occurred to my memory, as necessary for your information, in order as they happened during my acquaintance with Mrs. Rudd, under the character of my brother’s wife. Many have been the sufferers by artifices and impostors, but never man appeared, I believe, at this or any other tribunal, upon whom so many engines were set at work to interest his credulity. It will not escape the notice of this splendid court, that my compassion was first engaged by the story of Mrs. Rudd’s sufferings, before my belief was invited to her representations. Let me have credit with you for yielding up my pity in the first instance, and you cannot wonder I did not withhold my credulity afterwards. It is in this natural, this necessary consequence, I rest my defence. I was led from error to error by such insensible degrees, that every step I took strengthened my infatuation. When Mr. Drummond first hesitated at the hand-writing at the foot of the bond, if it did not so alarm me as to shake my belief in this artful woman, let it be considered that I had been prevailed upon to negotiate other bonds of hers, depositing them in the hands of bankers who had never spied any defect, or raised the least objection. These bonds have been regularly and punctually paid in due time.— The letters sent to me, as if from William Adair,
critically

critically agreed with the hand-writing of the bond. Mr. Adair did not keep money at Mr. Drummond's; opportunities of comparing his hand-writing for many years had not occurred, and the hesitation upon his part appeared to me no more than the exceptions and minute precautions of a banker, which could not so suddenly overturn the explicit belief that I had annexed to all that was told me in Harley-street. Can any greater proof be given than my own proposal to Mr. Drummond, of leaving the bond in his hands till he had satisfied his credulity? Can your Lordships, or Gentlemen of the Jury, for a moment suspect, that any man would be guilty of such a crime, whose proceedings were so fair and open? that single circumstance, I am satisfied, will afford my total exculpation. The resort to Mr. Adair was as easy to Mr. Drummond, as to the books in his compting-house; it does not come within the bounds of commonsense, much less does it fall within the possibility of guilt, that any man living should voluntarily, with his eyes open, take a step so directly and absolutely centering in his certain destruction. But this circumstance, strong as it is, is not all my case. I bless God, the protector of innocence, that, in my defence, proofs arise upon proofs: the least of them, I trust, will be thought incompatible with guilt. It should seem impossible that a guilty person would propose to Mr. Drummond to retain the bond for the satisfaction of his scruples; but that the same person should, after so long a time for consideration had passed after my leaving the bond, which was full twenty-four hours, openly, and in the face of day, enter the shop of Mr. Drummond, and demand if he had satisfied all his scruples, unless a man, from mere despera-

desperation, had been weary of his life, and sought a dissolution; this, I humbly apprehend, would be an absolute impossibility: but, my Lords, and Gentlemen of the Jury, I had neither in my breast the principle of guilt, nor had I that desperate loathing of existence as should bring a shameful condemnation on my head. It is true I have invited this trial; but it is equally true I have done it in the consciousness of my integrity, because I could not otherwise go through the remainder of my days with comfort and satisfaction, unless I had the verdict of my countrymen for my acquittal, and rested my innocence upon the purest testimony I could have on this side the grave. It is plain I had an opportunity of withdrawing myself. How many men are there, with the clearest intentions, yet from the apprehension of being made the talk of the public, and above all, the dread of imprisonment, and the terror of a trial, would have thought themselves happy to have caught at any opportunity of saving themselves from such a series of distress? greater confidence can no man be in, of the integrity of his case, and the justice of his country.—When it was found necessary to the designs of Mrs. Rudd, that I and my family should be made the dupes of her connections with the house of Adair, it may well be believed that nothing but the strongest interdictions could prevent my endeavours to obtain an interview. In fact, this point was laboured with consummate artifice, and nothing less than ruin to my brother, and his affairs, was denounced upon my breaking this injunction. It was part of the same error to believe her in this also. A respectable witness has told you, and I do not controvert his evidence, that my confidence in her
assertion,

assertion, and in the testimonials that she exhibited under the hand, (as I believed,) of Mr. Adair, were such, in my mistaken judgment, as to be equal to the evidence of my own senses, pressed by the forms of business to say to Mr. Drummond, that I had seen Mr. Adair myself; but I neither went to Mr. Adair, nor disclosed those pressing motives which prevented me. No less free to confess my faults, than I am confident to assert my innocence, I seek no palliation for this circumstance, except my temptation and my failings; and I trust it will rather be a matter of surprise, that, in the course of a negotiation, through the whole of which I was acted upon by the most artful of impostors, that this only deviation was to be found; and yet this very circumstance carries with it a clearer conviction of my being the dupe of Mrs. Rudd's intrigues, than any I have to offer in my defence; and if my subsequent proceedings, and the alacrity I shewed in going with Mr. Drummond to Mr. Adair, together with my conduct before this gentleman, is, as I apprehend it is, absolutely irreconcilable with a consciousness of guilt, the circumstances above-mentioned will serve to shew with what a degree of credulity the artifices of Mrs. Rudd had furnished me. Upon the whole, if, in the above detail, no circumstances are discovered in which an innocent man, under the like delusion with myself, might not have acted as I have acted, and, at the same time, if there be very many particulars in which no guilty man would have conducted himself as I have conducted myself, I should be wanting in respect to your Lordships and the Jury, if I doubted the justice of their verdict, and which is inseparable from it, my honourable acquittal."

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The prisoner now proceeded to call his witnesses. George Kinder deposed, that Mrs. Rudd told him "that she was a near relation of Mr. James Adair; that he looked upon her as his child, had promised to make her fortune, and with that view had recommended her to Mr. William Adair, a near relation, and intimate friend of his, who had promised to set her husband and the prisoner up in the banking business. He likewise deposed; that the said Mr. Daniel Perreau was to be made a baronet, and described how she would act when she became a lady. This witness deposed, that Mrs. Rudd often pretended that Mr. William Adair had called to see her, but that he never had seen that gentleman on any visit. John Moody, a livery-servant of Daniel Perreau, deposed, that his mistress wrote two very different hands, in one of which she wrote letters to his master, as from Mr. William Adair, and in the other the ordinary business of the family; that the letters written in the name of William Adair were pretended to have been left in his master's absence; that his mistress ordered him to give them to his master, and pretend that Mr. Adair had been with his mistress for a longer or shorter time, as circumstances required. This witness likewise proved, that the hand at the foot of the bond, and that of his mistress' fictitious writing, were precisely the same; that she used different pens, ink, and paper, in writing her common and fictitious letters; and that she sometimes gave the witness half a crown, when he had delivered a letter to her satisfaction. He said, he had seen her go two or three times to Mr. J. Adair's, but never to William's; and that Mr. J. Adair once visited his mistress on her lying-in. Susanna Perreau (the prisoner's

soner's sister) deposed, to the having seen a note delivered to Daniel Perreau, by Mrs. Rudd, for nineteen thousand pounds, drawn, as by William Adair, on Mr. Croft, the banker, in favour of Daniel Perreau. Elizabeth Perkins swore, that, a week before the forgery was discovered, her mistress gave her a letter to bring back to her in a quarter of an hour, and say it was brought by Mr. Coverley, who had been servant to Daniel Perreau: that she gave her mistress this letter, and her master instantly broke the seal. Daniel Perreau declared, that the purport of this letter was "that Mr. Adair desired her to apply to his brother, the prisoner, to procure him five thousand pounds upon his (Adair's) bond, in the same manner as he had done before; that Mr. Adair was unwilling to have it appear that the money was raised for him, and therefore desired to have the bond lodged with some confidential friend, that would not require an assignment of it; that his brother, on being made acquainted with his request, shewed a vast deal of reluctance, and said it was a very unpleasant work; but undertook it with a view of obliging Mr. William Adair." The counsel for the prosecution demanding, "if he did not disclaim all knowledge of the affair before Mr. Adair," he said, he denied ever having seen the bond before, nor had he a perfect knowledge of it till he saw it in the hands of Mr. Adair. David Cassady, who assisted Mr. R. Perreau as an apothecary, deposed, that he lived much within the profits of his profession; and that it was reported he was going into the banking business. John Leigh, clerk to Sir John Fielding, swore to the prisoner's coming voluntarily to the office, and giving information that a forgery had been committed; on
which

which Mrs. Rudd was apprehended. Mr. Leigh was asked, if she “ever charged the prisoner with any knowledge of the transaction till the Justices were hearing evidence to prove her confession of the fact.” Mr. Leigh answered, that he did not recollect that circumstance, but that on her first examination she did not accuse the prisoner. Mr. Perreau now called several persons of rank to his character. Lady Lyttleton being asked, if she thought him capable of such a crime,—“supposed she could have done it as soon herself.” Sir John Moore, Sir John Chapman, General Rebow, Captain Ellis, Captain Burgoyne, and other gentlemen, spoke most highly to the character of the prisoner; yet the Jury *found him guilty!!!*

On the trial of Daniel Perreau, the same facts were repeated by the same witnesses. In his defence, the prisoner declared, that Mrs. Rudd had given him the bond as a true one; that he believed it genuine, authentic, and valid; and protested, by all his hopes of happiness in this life, and in a future, that he had never conceived an idea of any thing so base as the defrauding any man of his property. He added, “I adjure the Almighty so to assist me in my present dangerous situation, as I speak here before you.” He called several persons to prove the artifices which Mrs. Rudd had practised to deceive him. Many persons of fortune and credit appeared to his character; and spoke of his conduct, previous to the fatal event, in terms of the highest approbation; but the Jury *found him also guilty!!!*

The unfortunate brothers now received sentence of death, but were not executed till January 1776,

because though Mrs. Rudd had been admitted an evidence, the Judges committed her as a principal. Her trial came on, April 16, 1775, when John Moody the servant, who had sworn that she wrote two different hands, in his cross-examination acknowledged, that he had never seen her write Mr. Adair's name: therefore the Jury, after a short consultation, pronounced the following curious and singular verdict, "According to the evidence before us, Not guilty." The behaviour of the brothers, after their conviction, was, in every respect, proper for their unhappy situation. Great interest was made to obtain a pardon for them, particularly for Robert, in whose favour seventy-eight bankers and merchants of Loudon signed a petition to the King; the newspapers were filled with paragraphs, evidently written by disinterested persons, in favour of men whom they thought dupes to the designs of an artful woman: but in consequence of the New Act against forgery, mercy was deemed impolicy. On the day of execution the brothers were favoured with a mourning coach, and it was thought that thirty thousand people attended. They were both dressed in mourning, and behaved with the most Christian resolution. When they quitted the coach and got into the cart, they bowed respectfully to the sheriffs, who waved their hands as a final adieu. After the customary devotions, they crossed their hands, joining the four together, and in this manner were launched into eternity. They had not hung more than half a minute when their hands dropped asunder, and they appeared to die without pain. Each of them delivered a paper to the Ordinary of Newgate, which declared their innocence, and ascribed the blame of the whole transaction

transaction to the artifices of Mrs. Rudd; indeed, many gave credit to their assertions, and a great many thought Robert *wholly* innocent. They suffered at Tyburn, on the 17th of January, 1776.— On the Sunday following the bodies were carried from the house of Robert in Golden-square, and, after the usual solemnities, deposited in the vault of St. Martin's church. The coffins were covered with black cloth and nails, and a black plate on each, inscribing their names, the day of their death, and their ages, (42) being twin-brothers. They were carried in separate hearses; their friends attending in mourning coaches. The crowd was so great, that the company could with difficulty get into the church; but at length the ceremony was decently performed, and the mob dispersed.

PERROT, JOHN, (DEFRAUDER,) was a native of Newport-Pagnell in Buckinghamshire, where he was born in the year 1723. His father died when he was only seven, and his mother when he was nine years of age; but by their death he became entitled to a fortune of one thousand five hundred pounds. His guardian now put him to school at Gillsborough in Northamptonshire, and afterwards apprenticed him at Hempstead in Hertfordshire. Coming to London in the year 1747, he opened a warehouse for the sale of lace; and, in 1749, he took a shop in Blowbladder street, between Newgate-street and Cheapside; whence, in the year 1752, he removed to Ludgate-hill, and commenced business as a wholesale linen-draper. His returns for six years were considerable; and his payments being punctual, he lived in a great degree of credit. In the year 1758, he formed the scheme of defrauding his creditors; from this time to January, 1760,

1760, he got credit for goods to the amount of near thirty thousand pounds. These goods were sent to a man named Thomson, in Monkwell-street, who sent for other tradesmen, and sold them at a reduced price, on the pretence of being an agent for some manufacturers in the country. Perrot having thus repeatedly acquired money, and being unable to pay his bills, summoned his creditors to meet at the Half-Moon tavern in Cheapside, where he informed them that he could no longer discharge his obligations; on which they agreed to take out a commission of bankruptcy against him. Being now made a bankrupt, and the assignees having inspected his books, they found such irregularity in his accounts, and so great a deficiency in the sum in which he was indebted, that they had great reason to suspect that he defrauded them. Perrot, conscious that he had not acted honourably, petitioned the Lord Chancellor to enlarge the term of his surrender; and this petition being complied with, the commissioners were served with an order for such enlargement, just as they had met for a final examination of the bankrupt. This additional time gave the creditors an opportunity of enquiring how the effects had been disposed of, and in consequence of their enquiries they found that a box had been sent by Perrot to Patrick Donelly, a barber, in Bell-yard, near Temple-bar. The commissioners of bankrupt having summoned Donelly to attend them, he said that the box had been carried from his house to that of Mrs. Ferne, near Queen-square. Mrs. Ferne, being summoned before the commissioners, deposed, that the box in question contained nothing but letters, and that she was not in possession of any of Perrot's effects. Among the creditors who
came

came to prove their debts, was a Mr. Whitton, of Northampton, to whom was owing upwards of four thousand pounds. Perrot told the creditors that the just demand of Whitton was not more than one thousand eight hundred pounds; and that all the surplus must be for usurious interest: but this aspersion was immediately wiped away by Mr. Whitton, who proved that he had never taken more, and frequently less, than the legal interest.— On the last day of Perrot's examination before the commissioners, they were so dissatisfied with his answers to the questions asked him, that they committed him to Newgate, on the 13th of April, 1760. During his confinement, he was repeatedly visited by Mrs. Ferne, who came gaily dressed, and attended by a livery servant. On these occasions Perrot used to clean the knives, while Mrs. Ferne dressed a steak, in order, as it was presumed, to keep up the appearance of frugality. After a confinement of several months in Newgate, he moved the Court of King's Bench, that a writ might be issued for his being brought up and examined. This was granted, but, after counsel had been heard for and against the bankrupt, he was remanded to Newgate, there to remain till he should give satisfactory answers to his creditors. After this, he made a re-application to the Lord Chancellor, in which he alleged that, having conformed to the laws respecting bankrupts, he ought to be discharged. This matter was debated before the Chancellor, when it was determined that the prisoner could obtain redress only in the Court of King's Bench; as the matter in question was strictly of legal determination. Hereupon he was again carried before the Court of King's-Bench; but the Judges, having

no doubt of the legality of his former commitment, remanded him to Newgate. Undismayed by his ill success, he moved the court of King's-Bench a third time; but judgment went against him, and he was once more sent back to his place of confinement. On the certificate of the judgment of the Court of King's-Bench in that of Chancery, the Lord Chancellor dismissed Perrot's petition. This, however, did not deter him from a further procedure; for he moved the Court of Common Pleas for an action against his creditors, for having falsely imprisoned him: but this application was attended with no better success than the former. In the interim the assignees advertised a reward of forty per cent. on the discovery of the effects, which it was presumed he had concealed. At this period, Mr. Hewit, a principal creditor, while walking on the terrace of Lincoln's-inn garden, observed one Mary Harris leaning over the wall, with looks of extreme dejection. Prompted by humanity, he enquired into the cause of her distress, when she told him that a gentlewoman, named Ferne, with whom she had lived, had discharged her, and she knew not where to apply for employment. Mr. Hewit's curiosity being excited by the name of Ferne, he made some enquiries; in consequence of which he directed her to Mr. Cobb, who was attorney for the assignees under the commission. Mr. Cobb, having asked her some questions, took her before Sir John Fielding, to whom she confessed that she had known Mrs. Ferne about four years; that she was then very poor; and both of them took lodgings in Shire-lane, near Temple-Bar. She farther said, that in the year 1760, Mrs. Ferne called on her, and bade her come to her lodgings, where she hired her

her as a servant; that she heard her mistress frequently talk of Perrot as a bankrupt, and had seen bank notes in her possession to the amount of four thousand pounds. She added, that she had often been with her mistress to Newgate, to see Perrot; and that the mode of their living, after he had obtained his liberty, was the frequent subject of their conversation. She farther said, that she had seen them cut some bank notes, the halves of which Mrs. Ferne carried to her lodgings, and the other halves Perrot secreted in his trunk. Sir John Fielding now issued his warrant for searching Mrs. Ferne's lodgings, in which were found the halves of several bank notes; and the commissioners of bankrupt issuing their warrant for the search of Perrot's room in Newgate, the other halves of the bank notes, corresponding with the former, were found in the bottom of his trunk. In consequence of these discoveries, Mrs. Ferne was carried before Sir John Fielding, to whom she declared, that the notes were her own property, and that she had received them of gentlemen, in consequence of obligations which they lay under to her for favours. The assignees, however, were of a different opinion, and traced these very notes back to Thomson, who took them for goods which he had sold on Perrot's account. The guilt of Perrot being thus manifest, he was removed from the room which he had hitherto occupied in Newgate, and confined in a place of greater security, assigned for the reception of common felons. At the sessions held at the Old Bailey, in the month of September, 1761, he was brought to trial, convicted on the fullest evidence, and received the judgment of the law. Having been now lodged in one of the cells; he laid a plan to effect an
escape,

escape, for which purpose a number of sailors were hired to rescue him in the day-time while he should be going from the chapel to the cell. To afford a proper occasion for this rescue, Perrot expressed his wishes that the prayers in the chapel might be more frequently repeated: but, about this time, a hint was given to the keeper of Newgate, not to permit the convict to be longer from his cell than during the time that he was at and going to and from the chapel. It was likewise hinted to the Ordinary of Newgate, that it would be proper to visit the prisoner at uncertain hours, and not more than one in the day. On the arrival of the warrant for his execution, he seemed to be less alarmed than might have been expected; and said only "The will of the Lord be done." Two of his assignees visiting him on the day before his death, it was expected he would have made a full acknowledgment of his offences; but this he declined to do, saying, "I have this day received the holy sacrament, and will answer no more questions." He confessed, on the morning of his execution, that he had been justly condemned; appeared exceedingly anxious with regard to the disposal of his body, which he desired might be buried in the church of the parish in which he was born: but seemed greatly terrified at the idea of the dreadful scene that was soon to ensue. He was carried from Newgate to Smithfield; while under the gallows he seemed to be greatly agitated; and when the Ordinary of Newgate went to attend him, he was looking earnestly for the hearse which was to receive his body; a circumstance that gave occasion to many people to think that he was looking in expectation of a reprieve. He suffered November 11, 1761.

PHILLIPS,



W. Chapman sc.

M^{RS} PHIPPOE

Engraved by W. Chapman sc.



PHILLIPS, JOHN. See ISDWELL, J.

PHIPOE, MARIA THERESA, (MURDERER) otherwise MARY BENSON, a woman of masculine behaviour, who, on May 23, 1795, was found guilty of violently taking from John Courtois a promissory note, value 2000*l.* for which she was imprisoned 12 months. She was afterwards indicted for the wilful murder of Mary Cox, on the 25th of October, 1797, in Gordon-street, St. George's in the East. It appeared in evidence, that the deceased was acquainted with the prisoner, and that she had called at her lodgings that morning. Soon after, the mistress of the house heard a scuffle and groaning; she called two neighbours, and going to the prisoner's door, which was locked, asked what was the matter? she replied, the woman was only in a fit, and that she was getting better. She opened the door a little, when the witnesses saw she was bloody: two persons went for a doctor, and a third pushing open the door, saw the deceased bleeding upon the ground—she ran down stairs, crying murder, and, to her great terror, was followed by the wounded woman, who laid hold of her; Mrs. Benson came down after the deceased was got into the kitchen, where she was when the surgeon and beadles came—she was unable to speak, but yet made herself understood by one of the beadles, that she had been thus wounded by a woman up stairs. He went up to the prisoner, who was sitting on the bed, and said to her, “For God Almighty's sake, what have you done to the woman below? she answered, “I dont know; I believe the devil and passion bewitched me.” There was part of a finger and a case-knife lying upon the table; he said, “Is this the
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the knife you did the woman's business with?" she answered, "Yes." "Is this your finger?" "Yes." "Did the woman below cut it off?" "Yes;" but this the deceased denied, upon his afterwards questioning her with it. The surgeon described the deceased to have received five wounds upon the throat and neck, besides several wounds in several parts of the body, and agreed with the surgeon who afterward attended her in the Hospital, that those wounds were undoubtedly the cause of her death. The day after, the deceased made a declaration before a Magistrate, wherein she stated, that she had purchased of the prisoner a gold watch and other articles, for which she paid eleven pounds, and then asked for a china coffee-cup, which stood upon the chimney-piece, into the bargain; the prisoner bid her take one; but, in doing so, she stabbed her in the neck, and afterwards had her under her hands more than an hour, she calling murder all the time, till at last she got her upon the bed, when she said she would kill her outright, that she might not tell her own story. The prisoner, in her defence said, that the deceased wanted to purchase only part of the things which she wanted to dispose of, and, upon her refusing to divide them, she became angry, and said that she only wanted the money to go to London to be Courtois's mistress again: The prisoner replied, that was a lie, for she never had been Courtois's mistress: the deceased retorted, that it had been proved so at the Old Bailey. She said, that was a d——d lie; and from this they both proceeded to very abusive language, and much violence. There were two knives lying on the table; the deceased took one, and making a violent thrust at the prisoner, cut

cut off one of her fingers. In the heat of her passion, full of pain, and streaming with blood, she stabbed her; but solemnly declared she had no recollection of what passed afterwards, until she found herself in her own room, covered with blood. "This, she said, was the truth; the deceased, if alive, must confess she had been most in fault, and that which affected her the most was, that she had done her any injury." The landlady where the deceased lived, and another person, to whom she was well known, proved that she had a great respect for the prisoner, and had often heard her declare that she believed the prisoner had the same for her. Mr. Baron Perryn, who tried the prisoner, then addressed the jury as follows:—

"Gentlemen,

"This charge against the prisoner at the bar, Maria Theresa Phipoe, otherwise Mary Benson, for the wilful murder of Mary Cox, by stabbing her in different parts of the body, and giving her several mortal wounds, of which she died; you have heard the evidence on both sides, both on the part of the prosecution, and also on the part of the prisoner, at considerable length; and all that will be necessary for me, in the discharge of my duty, will be to recapitulate that evidence, and if I mistake in any point, I request the counsel on both sides will correct me. (Here the learned judge summed up the evidence on both sides, and then added) Gentlemen, this is the evidence: it is a very suspicious circumstance against the prisoner, that she should send out her landlady at that particular time to buy brandy and bread, and when she returned,



returned, to prevent her bringing it up stairs; saying, it would not be wanted for some time; that is a presumption she was occupied about something that interested her at that time; with respect to the understanding of the prisoner, the witnesses have all sworn, who speak to that point, that she was in her proper senses: you have heard the defence which she has made; now, to be sure, if she had given the same account to the beadle, which she has done in court to-day, it would have operated very much in her favour: if this latter account was true, what could be the meaning of concealing the knife in her bosom, and giving it up with so much reluctance. It is stated by the deceased and by several witnesses, that she had locked the door, and for some time denied admission to the neighbours. If she had been attacked, as she alledged, and was subject to passion, why did she obstruct the means of preventing her passion from producing any mischief. Her threatening to kill the deceased outright that she might not be able to tell her own story, was a very unfavourable circumstance to her. There does not appear to be any colour for her barbarous treatment of the deceased, who had always regarded her with affection; and all the evidence which the prisoner has produced in her behalf, does not appear to me to diminish the enormity of the charge against her. But it is for you to pronounce, in the case, as it appears to your judgments and consciences: if, from all the circumstances, you are of opinion that she has intentionally and maliciously committed the crime charged against her, you must find her guilty; but, if it appears to you that the deceased was the aggressor, and drew her fate upon herself, you

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will of course pronounce a verdict of acquittal."

The jury retired for twenty minutes, and returned with a verdict—guilty. Proclamation being made in the usual form, Mr. Baron Perryn immediately proceeded to pass sentence, that she should be executed on the Monday following, and her body afterwards dissected and anatomised, according to the statute. When the judge came to this part of the sentence, the prisoner said, "you may speak out, I am not afraid:" and when he had finished with the usual word, "the Lord have mercy on thy soul;" she said, "I do not place very great dependence on your mercy." The prisoner, appeared both before and after the examination of the witnesses, much concerned about her property, and said that she had not received back all the money that lay about the room when the officers entered it; and on the two notes being produced in court, she said they were not her's, for the property that she required was all in gold. She suffered Dec. 11, 1797. However improper her conduct was before, she then behaved with due decorum, being attended by a Roman catholic priest. She left a guinea for the most deserving debtor in the gaol, and gave the same sum to the executioner. After hanging an hour in the view of a great number of spectators, one-third of whom were females, the body was cut down, and delivered to the surgeons for dissection. In her last moments, she confessed the justness of her sentence, but denied her having cut off her own finger, saying it was done in the scuffle with the woman she murdered. She also denied to the last having poisoned a young woman some years since, who

had left her a legacy of 1000*l*. She owned to have been guilty of many enormities, and attributed her frequent gusts of passion to the use of laudanum. Her body was publicly, and indeed *most shamefully* exhibited in a place built for the purpose in the Old Bailey.

PINK, EDWARD.—PINK, JOHN. See WALTHAM BLACKS, THE.

PLACKET, JOHN, (HIGHWAYMAN) was the son of poor but honest industrious parents, living at Islington, who placed him at a charity school, whence he was apprenticed to Mr. Pullen, wheelwright, of St. John's-street. He absconded from his master before four years of his apprenticeship were expired, and entered on board of a man of war. His character as a sailor was unexceptionable; but when the ship was paid off, he contracted an acquaintance with a number of dissolute people, and having soon spent his wages in scenes of riot and dissipation, he commenced foot-pad. Having subsisted some time by the commission of robberies on the highway, he broke into a house near Hockley-in-the-hole, and stole a quantity of kitchen furniture; for which offence he was tried at the Old Bailey, and sentenced to seven years transportation. Soon after the expiration of the term of his exile, he returned to England, and committed several robberies between Islington and London. On the 10th of June, 1762, he was drinking with some sailors, during the greatest part of the day, at a public-house in Wapping; and about twelve at night left them, with an intention of committing a robbery. The same night Mr. Fayne, a Norway merchant, was returning from the Danish coffee-house in Wellclose-square, (where he had spent the evening

evening with some friends) to his lodgings in Shadwell; when losing his way, he enquired of a hackney-coachman the road to Shadwell; but, as he spoke very indifferent English, the man could not understand him; and he presently applied for the same purpose to another hackney-coachman; at which instant Placket came up, and made signs to Mr. Fayne to follow him, saying, he was going to Limehouse. They walked together through many streets and obscure lanes and passages, till they came into the fields; when Mr. Fayne observed, that they could not be in the right road; but the other pretended not to understand him. They proceeded to the fields near Islington, when Mr. Fayne became greatly alarmed, and expressed much uneasiness, while his treacherous companion, going behind him, struck him a violent blow on the back of his head, which occasioned him to fall to the ground. The unfortunate gentleman lay for some time in a state of total insensibility; but upon recovering the use of his faculties, he found himself entirely naked, and perceiving Placket standing near him with his cloaths and his pocket-book in his hands. In a few minutes Placket made off with his booty, which, exclusive of the cloathes, did not amount to much more than a guinea and a half. The loss of blood rendered Mr. Fayne so exceedingly weak, that it was with great difficulty he rose and got to a dry ditch, where he had not been long before he perceived a light at the turnpike house in the city-road, and, as well as his weak condition would permit, crept to the spot. The gate-keeper readily admitted him, put him in his own bed, and, having attended him during the night with laudable assiduity and tenderness, recommended to his

unfortunate guest to send for Mr. Goodman a surgeon of skill and eminence in Old-street. Fayne was attended the next morning by Goodman; and that gentleman being conversant both in the French and Latin languages, he received a particular account of the cruel treatment his patient had received on the preceding night. This surgeon recommending him to very genteel lodgings in a reputable family in Brick-lane, Old-street, attended him till he was perfectly recovered. Mr. Fayne was visited by many of the Norwegian merchants, and other persons of reputation. He liberally rewarded the humane turnpike-man, for the kind assistance he had afforded to him. Soon after this robbery and cruel treatment, information of the affair was given before justice Welch, who advertised a reward for apprehending the offender; and in a few days Placket was taken at his lodgings in Gray's-inn lane. The shirt that Mr. Fayne wore when he was robbed was found in his room; and the persons was traced to whom he had sold the cloaths. Placket being taken before a magistrate for examination, the evidence against him was deemed sufficient to put him on his trial; and he was therefore committed to Clerkenwell-bridewell. He now solicited to be admitted as evidence for the crown against a number of accomplices, but was denied; however he afterwards acknowledged that no person was concerned with him in the robbery of Mr. Fayne, and that it was not in his power to give information against any offender. At the next sessions at the Old Bailey he was sentenced to be hanged, and his body to be hung in chains. He regularly attended divine service in the chapel, and behaved with a decency becoming

becoming his unhappy situation during the time that he remained in Newgate. The place appointed for his execution was near the City-road; when he arrived there, he pointed to the spot where he had robbed Mr. Favne, saying, his soul was struck with horror when he reflected upon his cruelty to that gentleman. Observing his uncle among the croud, he called to him, and pulling a ring from his finger, offered it him; but it was some time before he could prevail upon the uncle to accept it. Having confessed the many robberies he had committed, and employed some time in fervent prayer, he was turned off, amidst an amazing concourse of people. While he was hanging, the rails on the foot-way of the City-road were forced down by the pressure of the crowd, and a great number of people fell into a triangular hollow, formed by the meeting of the City and Goswell-street roads; by which accident many were dangerously hurt. This hollow was afterwards called *Jack Placket's Common*. After hanging the usual time, the body was cut down, and conveyed to Finchley-common, where it was put into irons, and hung on a gibbet, July 28, 1762.

PLUNKET. See MACLANE, J.

PORTEOUS, CAPT. JOHN, (MURDERER) was the son of indigent parents near Edinburgh, who bound him apprentice to a taylor; at which business he afterwards worked as a journeyman. It happened at this time that a gentleman who had been lord provost of Edinburgh, growing tired of his mistress, wished to disengage himself from her in a genteel manner: and knowing Porteous to be very poor, he proposed his taking her off his hands, by making her his wife. When the proposition was first made to the lady she rejected it with much

disdain, thinking it a great degradation to match with a journeyman taylor: but on the gentleman's promising her a fortune of five hundred pounds, she consented, and they were married accordingly. Porteous now commenced master, and met with good success for some time, but being much addicted to company, he neglected his business; by which means he lost many of his customers. His wife, in consequence, was obliged to apply to her old friend the provost, to make some other provision for them. In Edinburgh there are three companies of men, of twenty-five each, who are employed to keep the peace, and take up all offenders, whom they keep in custody till examined by a magistrate. An officer is appointed to each of these companies, whom they stile captain, with a salary of eighty pounds a year and a suit of scarlet uniform, which in that part of the world is reckoned very honourable. A vacancy happening by the death of one of these captains, the provost immediately appointed his friend Porteous to fill up the place; and the latter being now advanced to honour, forgot all his former politeness, for which he was so much esteemed when a tradesman, and assumed all the consequence of a man in authority. If a riot happened in the city, Porteous was generally made choice of by the magistrates to suppress it, he being a man of resolute spirit, and unacquainted with fear. 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 musquet, and frequently breaking legs and arms. If sent to quell a disturbance in a house of ill-fame, notwithstanding he was a most abandoned character

ter himself, he would take pleasure in exposing those he found there, he would also treat the unhappy prostitutes with the greatest inhumanity, though many of them had been seduced by himself. Smuggling was so much practised in Scotland at this time, 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. The most active person in striving to suppress these unlawful practices was Mr. Stark, collector for the county of Fife, who being informed that one Andrew Wilson had a large quantity of contraband goods at his house, persuaded a number of men to accompany him; and they seized the goods, and safely lodged them, as they thought, in the Custom-house: but Wilson being a man of an enterprizing spirit, and conceiving himself injured, went in company with one Robertson, and some more of his gang, to the Custom-house, when breaking open the doors, they recovered their goods, which they brought off in carts, in defiance of all opposition. Mr. Stark hearing that such a daring insult had been committed, dispatched an account thereof to the barons of the exchequer, who immediately applying to the Lord Justice Clark, 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. In consequence of the above order, many were apprehended, but all discharged again for want of evidence, except Wilson and Robertson, who were both found guilty and sentenced to die. A custom prevailed in Scotland at that time, of taking the condemned criminals to church every Sunday, under the
care

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 crouded with people going to church, he passed uninterrupted, and got out at 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 dispatched in search of him, but all in vain, Robertson having 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 landed him safe in Holland. He afterwards kept a public-house with great credit, near the bridge at Rotterdam. 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. The captain being apprehensive 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 Welsh fuzileers, commanded by a major, were ordered to be in readiness in the Lawn-market, near the place of execution. No disturbance arising, the prisoner, finished his devotions, ascended the ladder, was turned off, and continued hanging the usual time; at the expiration of which, the hangman going up the ladder to

cut

cut him down, 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, who was apprentice to a confectioner, dead on the spot. Some of the soldiers more humanely fired over the heads of the people; but unfortunately killed two or three who were looking out at the windows. Others of the soldiers wantonly fired amongst the feet of the mob, by which many were so disabled as to be afterwards obliged to suffer amputation. Porteous now endeavoured to draw off his men, as the mob grew exceedingly outrageous, throwing stones, with every thing else they could lay their hands on, and continuing to press on the soldiers; on which Porteous, with two of his men, turned about and fired, killing three more of the people, which amounted to nine in the whole that were left dead upon the spot; and many wounded. A serjeant was sent by the major of the Welch fuzileers to enquire into the cause of the disturbance, but the mob was so outrageous that he could gain no intelligence. Porteous, being assisted by the Welch fuzileers, at last conducted his men to the guard, when being sent for by the provost, he passed 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 made a judicial confession that the people were killed as mentioned in the indictments; but pleaded self-defence. His council then stated the following point of law to be determined by the judges,

judges, previous to the jury being charged with the prisoner:

“ Whether a military officer with soldiers under his command, being assaulted by the populace, should fire, or order his men to fire, was not acting consistent with the nature of self-defence, according to the laws of civilized nations?”

The council being ordered to plead to the question by the court, they pronounced as their opinion,—

“ That if it was proved that captain Porteous either fired a gun, or caused one or more to be fired, by which any person or persons was or were killed, and if the said firing happened without orders from a magistrate properly authorised, then it would be murder in the eye of the law.”

Thus the question being decided against him, and the jury impanelled, forty-four witnesses were examined for and against the prosecution. The prisoner being now called on for his defence, his council insisted that the magistrates had 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 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 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 greatest opportunity, and might have effected it with the utmost ease. They farther insisted, that admitting some excesses 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 council 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 that purpose for which the fire-arms had been loaded, and that the reading the riot-act only could justify their firing, in case a rescue had been actually attempted. The prisoner's council 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 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 her 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 in execution, of which, when the populace were informed, such a scheme of revenge was meditated as is perhaps unprecedented. On the 7th of September, 1736, between nine and ten in the morning, a large body of men entered

entered the city of Edinburgh, and seized the arms belonging to the guard; they then patrolled the streets, crying out, "All those who dare avenge innocent blood, let them come here." 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 door 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, 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 being observed by some of the mob, one of them struck him with an axe, which obliging him to quit his hold, and thus they soon put an end to his life. When satisfied he was dead, they immediately dispersed to their several habitations, unmolested themselves, and without molesting any one else. On the news of this extraordinary affair being transmitted to London, a proclamation was issued, with a reward of two hundred pounds to any

any one who would discover his accomplice; in consequence of which some few was taken into custody, but discharged for want of evidence. The magistrates of Edinburgh were ordered to London; and they were not only fined, but rendered incapable of acting in a judicial capacity ever after.

POTTER, THOMAS, (MURDERER,) was a smuggler in conjunction with others. He, William Searle, and Thomas Ventin, were indicted December 10, 1800, at the Admiralty Sessions, held at the Sessions-house in the Old Bailey, before Sir William Scott, the Judge Advocate, Mr. Justice Rooke, and Mr. Justice Graham, for the wilful murder of Humphry Glyn, on the 26th of December, 1798. Mr. Abbot opened the proceedings on the part of the crown, when the Attorney General briefly stated the heads of the evidence he was about to submit to the Jury, and called their attention to the crime of which the prisoners stood charged. Ambrose Bowden was the first witness called, who deposed, that he was setter to an Excise cutter, stationed at Cawsand, on Wednesday, the 26th day of December, 1798, about a mile and an half from Point Penree; that between nine and ten o'clock at night, intelligence was brought him, that some smugglers were off the Pen Point; he immediately manned the boat with four men, and went in pursuit of them; that on his coming nearly a-breast of the Point, he saw a cutter at anchor, about half a mile south-west of the Point; at this time it was clear moon-light, and he could discover boats along side the cutter; on approaching nearer, the people on board hailed him, desiring to know what boat it was; witness replied, "it was a King's boat, with a revenue officer;"

officer;" the people on board then desired witness to keep off, or they would fire upon them; witness replied, he was a revenue officer, and they might fire if they pleased; at this time he was distant about twenty yards, standing up in the boat, endeavouring to unfurl the revenue colours, when the crew on board the cutter commenced firing; they had fired three distinct times, when, as he was ordering the boat to be well rowed up to the wind, he perceived the oar to fall out of the hand of the second man, Glyn; he called out to him to mind what he was about, when the man who rowed the fore oar exclaimed, "Glyn is shot!" witness then took up a musket and fired several times at the cutter, who returned the fire very briskly; but presently cut their cable, hoisted sail, and run before the wind; witness continued to fire at the cutter, who returned it over the stern of the vessel, and some of the shot struck the stern quarter of the boat. Witness being unable to pursue, took up the buoy the cutter had left behind; after which he returned round the Pen Point, and went on board the Stag frigate, requesting the surgeon to come on board his boat; surgeon and mate instantly complied, but found the man quite dead, the fore part of his skull being entirely shot away. On cross-examination, he said, the Coroner's Inquest had set on the deceased, and brought in their verdict manslaughter. In answer to some questions the Judge put to him, he said, he had counted three distinct fires, one, two, three, but it was possible one man might have fired all three discharges.— Roger Toms deposed, that he was a mariner on board the Lottery cutter, on the 26th of December, 1798, off Penree Point, coming from Guernsey; that

that Potter, Searle, and Ventin, were part of the crew, that their cargo consisted of spirits. They had that night sent several boats to Cawsand, and he believed one boat was along side before he went below. On going between decks, he heard some voices above cry out, "keep off!" and afterwards heard repeated, "It is a King's boat!" A firing then took place on board the Lottery, and presently orders were given to cut the cable, and they run before the wind, and arrived at port Perrow, in Cornwall, before twelve o'clock. A conversation then took place between Potter, Oliver, (the master) Searle, and Swanting. Oliver said, he should be sorry if any harm had taken place by their firing; Potter observed, "he had taken good level when he fired his musket at the boat, and was sure he saw a man drop." Witness said, Ventin was cook at the time the affair took place, and was ordered below into the cabin by Oliver, to make the pokers red hot, with a view of firing off the swivels if it should be found necessary. He also stated, that when the above conversation took place he was walking on the deck, and could hear what was said, though he was hard of hearing; that the buoy produced belonged to the Lottery cutter; that afterwards, in coming from Guernsey, the Lottery was taken by Captain Bray, and that himself, Searle, and Ventin, were on board. On cross-examination, he said, he had not, though he was very much shocked at Potter's declaration, given notice to any magistrate for six months afterwards; that he had heard the conversation very well though he was deaf; and that to escape prosecution himself, he had been induced to come forward against the prisoners. Captain Gabriel Bray deposed, that he

was commander of the Hynd cutter, and had captured the Lottery. On taking possession of her, he found on board, Toms, Ventin, Searle, who, with others, he put in irons, and that having since prosecuted them, they had been sentenced to two years on board the Hulks. William Croker said, he was a deputed mariner on board the Hynd; that he knew the Lottery cutter before she was taken, and that he had seen her in Port Perrow, on the 27th of December, 1798. The evidence for the prosecution being closed, the prisoners were severally called on for their defence, who asserted their innocence of the murder laid to their charge. The counsel for the prisoners then called Henry Rowe, William Hooking, and Charles Guy, all Cornish men, who deposed, that they knew Toms, that he had the reputation of being a thief and a liar, and that they would not believe him, though he should speak upon his oath. Mr. Justice Rook summed up the evidence, and told the Jury, that the law made no distinction between the person who actually fired, and those who aided and abetted; they all were considered as guilty of murder, even to the last man on board the cutter, provided he could not prove his innocence by shewing his aversion to the resistance. Yet it was not meant to be inferred that the law was to be prosecuted to the utmost rigour; and that if the Jury saw any distinction in the criminality of the prisoners, they would point it out by their verdict. The Jury retired for near an hour, when they returned a verdict of guilty against Potter; and acquitted Searle and Ventin. Sir William Scott then proceeded to pass sentence to the following effect:

“ Thomas

“ Thomas Potter, you have been indicted for the wilful murder of Humphry Glyn, on the high seas; you have been tried before God and your country—that country has pronounced you guilty; and the sentence of the law awaits you. It is with regret I see a fellow-creature reduced to the melancholy situation in which you now stand—a situation you have brought upon yourself by the unlawful and criminal undertaking you engaged in, that of taking to yourself an unjust advantage above the rest of your fellow subjects. It has long been ascertained, that guilt is at all times progressive, and from fraud you have proceeded to the shedding of innocent blood; it is to be hoped, however, from your example, that your associates will learn, that when once a man has embarked in crime, he is seldom able to stop till disgrace and infamy overtakes him; the only way, therefore, to avoid the dreadful fate that awaits the commission of crime is to continue in perfect innocence, as the slightest deviation may lead to the most confirmed atrocity. You have but a short time to continue in this world, before your forfeited life will be required of you; I conjure you to apply that time to those purposes best suited to your unhappy state, and by an ardent and sincere appeal to that God, before whom you are shortly to appear, to implore of him that mercy in another world, your crimes have deprived you of in this! It is now my duty to adjudge, that you be carried to the place from whence you came, and from thence you be conveyed, on Friday next, to the place of execution, there to be hanged till you are dead, and that your body be given to be anatomized. Prisoner, the Lord have mercy upon your soul.”

On account of the tide not permitting his execution on Friday, he was respited until Thursday following, on which day, (December 18,) he suffered at Execution Dock. He met his fate with becoming resignation and sincere contrition.

POULTER, alias BAXTER, JOHN, (HIGHWAYMAN,) was the son of honest people in indigent circumstances, residing at Newmarket in the county of Cambridge; who, when he had nearly completed his seventh year, put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he was about thirteen years old, when he was engaged as an assistant to the grooms in the service of the Duke of Somerset. Having remained in this situation six years, he was hired by Lord John Cavendish, whose horses he attended about three years, and then entered into the service of Colonel Lumley, brother to the Earl of Scarborough. He was sent by this gentleman three times with horses to France, and was considered as an honest and industrious servant. Being of a temper that delighted in a change of situation, he entered on board a trading ship belonging to Bristol; and made several voyages to the West Indies and North America. The ship to which he belonged being paid off on the conclusion of the peace of Aix la Chapelle, he connected himself with Mary Brown and Mary Davis, women of abandoned characters; and they, in conjunction with John Brown, persuaded him to join them in committing depredations on the public. They directed their course towards Litchfield, when they went into a public-house for refreshment. Being introduced to a parlour, Mary Brown observed a chest, and the lid not being close, she put in her hand, and stole a sum of money, and several other articles

articles of value. Having obtained the above booty, they proceeded to Chester, where Poulter stole some plush, and sent for a taylor to make it into a suit of clothes. While the taylor was measuring him, a pistol that was in his pocket accidentally went off, but fortunately no damage was done by the ball. The taylor carried the plush home, and then went to the mayor, to whom he communicated his suspicions. Officers were dispatched to examine Poulter and his companions, but being apprized of their approach, they embarked on board a packet-boat, which conveyed them to Dublin.—Soon after his arrival in Dublin, Poulter hired a public-house, where he sold on an average five barrels of ale weekly, and other liquors in proportion. His great success in business induced him to make a resolution of entirely declining illegal pursuits; and to this he would, in all probability, have strictly adhered, had he not been unluckily compelled to renew his acquaintance with abandoned people. General Sinclair had his pocket picked of a valuable gold watch, either in going into or departing from Leicester-house; and two men, Harper and Tobin, were suspected to be guilty of the fact, and committed to the Gate-house. A desperate gang of twenty-four Irishmen rescued Harper; in consequence of which a proclamation, offering a reward for apprehending them, was issued; but they all escaped to Ireland. One of the above gang, James Field, who had been acquainted with Poulter, went up to him while he was standing at his door, and after some conversation, they drank together. On the following day Field took the whole gang to Poulter's house. He requested them to depart, and at other times endeavoured

deavoured to dissuade them from frequenting his house, urging that their visits might be productive of very disagreeable consequences to him: but they disregarded what he said, and continued their meetings as usual. At length they were observed in the house, by a messenger that had been dispatched in search of them from London, and taken into custody. In consequence of this, Poulter absconded from his house in the night, and his stock of liquors and other effects were seized by the magistrates, Poulter now intended to reside at Cork, but not being able to get a house there that he thought would answer his purpose, he went to Waterford and took a public-house, which he kept about three months. His brewer in Dublin wrote him word, that he might return without the least danger of molestation; and therefore he departed from Waterford, and took a house about two miles from the city, at a place called the Shades of Clontarf. His house being adjacent to the sea, he purchased a boat, and applied himself with so much industry to the business of a fisherman, that his weekly profits seldom amounted to less than three pounds. Thomas Tobin being acquitted of the charge of stealing General Sinclair's watch, through defect of evidence, and learning that Poulter had struck into an advantageous line of life, he determined to visit him. In pursuance of this design, Tobin and a woman with whom he cohabited, travelled to Holyhead, and there embarked in the packet for Dublin. Poulter received them with great kindness, and entertained them with equal generosity; but entreated, in the most earnest manner, that they would not repeat their visits too frequently, nor make his place of residence known to their accomplices.

plices. Though they had faithfully promised to comply with his request, they in a few days introduced several of their associates to his house, which, before many weeks had elapsed, became the receptacle for thieves of every denomination, by whom Dublin and its environs were infested. Poulter still adhered to his resolution of gaining a livelihood by honest labour, and informed his unwelcome guests, that he would permit them no longer to frequent his house. In revenge for this, they concerted and put in practice a plan for effecting his ruin. Six pounds of smuggled tea being procured, one of the gang privately conveyed it into Poulter's boat, and then lodged an information against him; in consequence of which the boat was seized and condemned; and Poulter, though innocent, judged it expedient to abscond. He embarked for Bristol, and on his arrival there was entirely destitute of money. From Bristol he proceeded to Bath, where he met with his former acquaintances, Richard Branning and John Roberts, who prevailed upon him to join them in committing depredations on the highway. They mentioned a man of property who lived at Towbridge, and frequently came to Bath to change bills; and it was resolved to stop him. They met at Roberts's house, where the plan of the intended robbery was concerted, and then they repaired to the public-house, which was frequented by the gentleman of Towbridge, and observing him counting money, they concluded that they could not fail obtaining a considerable booty.— However, they were disappointed; for the gentleman, suspecting their design, returned by a road which he had not been used to travel, and by that measure luckily preserved his property. They
now

now proceeded into Yorkshire; and in their way committed several robberies. At the inn where they alighted at Halifax, they were joined by a clergyman, whom they seduced to prick in the belt, by which stratagem they defrauded him of twenty-five guineas. They now went to Stockport in Cheshire, where they lay one night, and then travelled to Chester. Putting up at a house kept by one James Roberts, who had formerly belonged to the gang, he informed them that the pack-horses with Manchester goods would pass in the evening; and it was resolved to steal one of the horses, and the goods he carried. As the horses passed, Roberts pointed to that loaded with the most valuable effects, and advised his companions to go about a mile from the town, and drive the beast into the fields, adding that he would scarcely be missed by the carrier in less than two hours, in which time they might secure the goods and escape. The horse they seized was not that pointed out by Roberts; and their booty consisted only of callimancoes. Finding himself separated from his companions, the horse neighed so loud and so frequent, that they judged it necessary to gag him, lest the noise should lead to a discovery. They reached Whitchurch, in Shropshire, the same night; and, after refreshing themselves at a house notorious for the reception of robbers, cut the marks from the goods, and exposed them for sale in the market. Having sold the callimancoes, they proceeded to Grantham in Lincolnshire, and defrauded a farmer of that place of near sixteen pounds, by pricking in the belt; immediately after which they set out for Nottingham, where they stole a silver tankard, and after selling it to a shopkeeper in the town, proceeded to York.

Having

Having stolen some plate from the inn where they put up, and committed several robberies in different parts of Yorkshire, they deemed it prudent to remove from that part of the county, lest they should be apprehended, and came to the resolution of joining their former associates at Bath. Soon after their arrival here, the whole gang set out for Sandford-Peverel in Devonshire, in order to be present at a great fair for cattle; where they obtained considerable sums by pricking in the belt, and other infamous practices. They next went to Great Torrington, where they defrauded a farmer of twenty pounds. Enraged by the imposition that he had practised upon him, the farmer took every opportunity of relating the particulars of the fraud; the whole neighbourhood was consequently alarmed, and in pursuit of the sharpers; and they were, therefore, under the necessity of dispersing. Poulter and Brown directed their course to Exeter, and having defrauded an inhabitant of that town of five pounds, proceeded to Crookhorn, in expectation of meeting their associates: but, on their arrival, they learnt that two of them were in confinement, charged with fraudulent practices. This information occasioned the rest of the gang to make a precipitate retreat; and on their way to the north of England, they obtained several sums, by a variety of infamous stratagems. They remained some months at York, Durham, and Newcastle; and, after defrauding a number of farmers, and some other persons, of money, they went to Bath, where they assumed the character of smugglers. They had not been long here before they determined to go to the approaching Blandford races, in search of adventures. During the races, one party attended
the

the cock-pit each morning: some were upon the course in the afternoon; and others were employed in cheating the keepers of the booths. They were so successful in their respective departments of villainy, as to amass a very considerable sum; and, on the conclusion of the races, they ordered an elegant dinner, at the Crown tavern in Blandford, whence they stole a portmanteau, containing eighteen guineas, four broad pieces, a large sum in Portugal pieces, some silver coin, a gold repeating watch, with superb appendages, several necklaces set with diamonds and other jewels, a great quantity of rich clothes, a pair of gold shoe-buckles, a gold girdle-buckle, a gold coral, and many other articles of value. Poulter and Brown now set out for London, and, having sold the effects to some Jews, in Duke's place; they joined their accomplices at Roberts's house at Bath, where the produce of their booty was divided. The next expedition was to a fair held at Corsham, where Poulter stole a silver tankard, which he carried to Roberts's house. They now went to Farringdon in Berkshire, in order to wait there for the Coventry carrier, whom they had determined to rob. After waiting two days, the carrier arrived; and when he left the town in the morning, they followed him, and robbed him of effects to a considerable value. They next rode to Newbury, where they fraudulently obtained four guineas, his horse and watch, from an unsuspecting countryman; and then returned to their rendezvous at Bath. They endeavoured to force open a house at Bath, but being observed by a man in a state of intoxication, who was casually passing, he exerted the utmost strength of his voice to alarm the neighbourhood, which occasioned the

villains

villains to decamp without effecting the intended burglary. On the following morning, Poulter and some of his companions went to Bristol, where they joined company with a countryman, and defrauded him out of twenty guineas, which he had borrowed of an acquaintance, who kept a shop in the neighbourhood. Their villanies had now rendered their characters so notorious, and their persons so well known, throughout the west of England, that they determined to decline their former practices, and adopt that of horse-stealing: To avoid detection, they were careful not to offer horses to sale in that part of the kingdom where they had stolen them. And they still continued to travel occasionally to Bath, where they spent a great part of their money in Roberts's house. A customer to Roberts shewed him twenty pounds, saying, he had just received it; and Roberts immediately pointed out the man to Poulter, informing him at the same time of the booty he might acquire by robbing him. Towards night the countryman mounted his horse, and was followed by Poulter, who, holding a tinder-box to him instead of a pistol, demanded his money which was delivered. Hereupon they went again to Bristol, and, watching an opportunity of lifting up the parlour sash of a gentleman's house, they stole several silver spoons, and some other articles. One of the gang got unperceived into a watchmaker's house in the same city, while his accomplices waited without, in order to rescue him if he should be detected. He brought from the upper apartments many articles of value, besides a quantity of wearing apparel; and it was some hours before the robbery was discovered. On the following night Brown secreted himself in a shed adjoining to a barber's house,

house, into which he made a forcible entry about midnight, and was carrying off some wearing apparel, when he was heard by the barber and his apprentice. Upon the family being alarmed, Brown got through the garret window to the roof of the house, and remained three hours concealed behind a stack of chimnies. Unable to escape by any other way, he at length resolved to attempt passing through the house; but, while upon the stairs, he was heard by the boy, who ran towards him with a knife in his hand, crying "thieves!" Alarmed by the boy, the barber's wife came, and, upon Brown assuring her that he had taken shelter in the house in order to avoid the pursuit of bailiffs, she informed him that he might remain there till he could go home in safety; but he deemed it prudent to seize the opportunity of making an immediate retreat. During the ensuing fair at Bristol, they robbed and defrauded several clothiers, and other dealers, of property to a considerable amount. The produce of these effects being expended in Roberts's house, the gang determined on an expedition into Staffordshire, while they remained in Staffordshire they stole several horses, which were taken to Roberts, who sold them at different fairs held at places adjacent to Bath. An Irishman, named Bush, an intrepid and desperate fellow, who acted as ostler to Roberts, was at length admitted to the gang; and soon afterwards he set out in company with Poulter, towards Towbridge in Wiltshire, with a determination of committing robberies. Meeting a chaise, Bush declared he would rob the passengers; but Poulter objected, thinking his companion inclined to commit murder. At length he consented to rob the chaise, after it had been agreed that

that no cruelty should be exercised. It being nearly dark, Poulter thrust his hand through the glass of the chaise, not knowing that it was drawn up, and it being terribly cut, he hastily withdrew it, and his pistol went off by accident. Bush, supposing the fire to proceed from the gentleman in the carriage, discharged his pistol, but without any particular aim. Poulter now called to his companion to desist; and after taking out of the chaise a child, which he kissed and carefully set upon the ground, he robbed Dr. Hancock, of Salisbury, of a guinea and a half, six shillings, a gold watch, some child-bed linen, and wearing apparel belonging to his lady. They now adjourned to a public house which they had long frequented, and produced the stolen effects to the landlord and his wife; when the latter supplied them with a bag for packing the clothes in. The landlord then drew the charge from a fowling-piece, to furnish them with powder; after which they melted a pewter spoon, and cast two bullets. Bush asking the woman if she was not terrified at seeing them load their pistols, she said that many pistols had been loaded in her kitchen, without giving her the least alarm; adding, that they would do right to travel as far as they could before break of day, and, if they would inform her where they put up, she would transmit them news from Bath. Leaving this house, they stole a horse at an adjacent farm, and proceeded to Exeter, where they sold the stolen effects to a man who had long carried on an illegal traffic with the whole gang. Soon after Poulter was apprehended in a public-house, on suspicion of having robbed Doctor Hancock; and being taken before a magistrate, he gave information against his accomplices,

mentioning the several places to which they resorted, and recommending the most effectual measures for taking them into custody; particularising those who had been sentenced to transportation, and returned before the expiration of the term of their exile. While he was under examination, he advised, that the discoveries he had made might be kept profoundly secret, observing, that many persons connected with the gang lived in a reputable manner; and he particularly requested, that the messenger who was ordered to make enquiries at Bath might carefully conceal his business from every person, excepting the mayor. Notwithstanding this precaution, the messenger had not been at Bath more than an hour, before the names of all the villains were universally known; and, on the following morning, printed lists of them were hawked about the streets. In consequence of this imprudent conduct, Poulter's accomplices escaped, and the good effects which the public might have derived from his discoveries were, in a great measure, defeated. Great part of the property stolen from Doctor Hancock was restored to that gentleman, who visited Poulter in prison, and assured him, that he would not be a severe prosecutor, and told him, that, if he should be convicted, he would in all probability, be deemed an object deserving the Royal clemency. Notwithstanding the doctor's promise, he used his utmost endeavours to procure the conviction of Poulter; and even waited upon the Judge, to prevent the time of his execution being prolonged. However, he was respited for six weeks. During his confinement he wrote accounts of a great number of robberies, in which he had been concerned, in divers parts of the kingdom.

dom. His discoveries were judged to be of such public importance, that the corporations of Bristol, Bath, Exeter, and Taunton, and many private gentlemen, exerted their utmost interest in his behalf: and it was generally expected that he would receive a pardon, or that the sentence of death would, at least, be mitigated to that of transportation.— He was examined by a gentleman of the law, to whom he related the particulars of the robberies committed by himself and his accomplices, with but very trifling variations from his confession before the magistrate, and what was recited in the papers written by him after his commitment. He behaved with a decency and moderation becoming his unhappy circumstances; but he was, notwithstanding, an object of the implacable enmity of the gaoler. Though he had paid an extraordinary price for the use of a bed, this inhuman villain would allow him only straw to lie upon, even in the most rigorous season of the year, when he was in a state of health that threatened his speedy dissolution. The cruelty of the gaoler's treatment occasioned some gentlemen to write to him, desiring he would allow the prisoner a bed. It was imagined, that the malicious representations of the gaoler induced a gentleman of great interest at court to intercept the Royal mercy, which, it was generally believed, would be extended to Poulter. A report having been circulated, that he was to be executed on the 1st of March, he wrote to a gentleman, from whom he had experienced many instances of humanity, requesting to be informed whether it was founded in truth, and complained that the gaoler added to his distress, by perpetually reminding him that he must inevitably fall a victim to the law.

His dread of being executed daily increasing, he determined to attempt breaking out of prison: and, having communicated his design to one of the debtors, on Sunday the 17th of February, they forced an iron bar out of one of the windows, and escaped. Poulter travelled as far as Glastonbury with one of his irons on; and, after disengaging himself from that incumbrance, he continued walking all night, although he was extremely weak through long illness, and his legs were galled and swelled in a terrible manner. In the day they concealed themselves in a hay-rick, and agreed to direct their course towards Wales; but being ignorant of the road, they on Tuesday morning found themselves at Wookey, near Wells. Poulter was so excessively fatigued as to be unable to pursue his journey, and it was therefore agreed, that they should take some repose. They went into an ale-house, where they slept till two o'clock; and they were preparing to depart, when a mason, who lived in the neighbourhood, came to the house for some liquor, and, recollecting the person of Poulter, called to his journeymen to assist in apprehending him. He was secured till the next day, and then conducted back to Ivelchester gaol.—When he was lodged again in prison, nine days of the time for which he was respited remained unexpired: but an express was dispatched to a member of parliament, requesting him to use his interest to obtain an order for his immediate execution. In consequence of this, an order was issued, commanding the high sheriff to cause the sentence of the law to be inflicted upon Poulter within twenty-four hours after the receipt of the express.—Poulter was greatly shocked, upon learning that the warrant was received for his sudden execution; but

but he soon recovered his spirits, and endeavoured to atone for past offences by a sincere repentance. After receiving the sacrament in a very devout manner, he prayed with an appearance of great fervency, but still preserved a decent fortitude. At the place of execution, he solemnly declared to the truth of what he had related respecting his accomplices. He suffered at Ivelchester, on the 25th of February, 1755.

POWER, alias WYNN, JOHN (PIRATE AND MURDERER) was a native of the West of England who early engaged in a sea-faring life, having served on board a ship which sailed to the coast of Guinea on the Slave Trade. This vessel was under the command of capt. Fox, who being on shore on the African coast, Power and several other seamen resolved to seize the ship, and take her to sea on their own account. Thus determined, they swore fidelity to each other; and giving the name of Bravo to the ship, (which had been called the Polly) they sailed for the West-Indies, Power having now assumed the title of captain. The mate of the ship exerted his utmost influence to prevail on Power to let the real captain come on board before he sailed, and to return to his own duty; but for this good advice the mate received the ball of a pistol in his shoulder: Power likewise discharged another ball through the cheek of a sailor; and wounded a second, who refused to commit to his imperious commands. Thus master, by violence, he proceeded on his voyage with a lading of negro slaves; but among the other parties on board was a free negro, who had remained as a hostage for two of his countrymen; and this man was employed in splitting of wood for firing.

This

This free negro frequently conversing with the slaves, the pirates conceived that they were concerting plans to regain their liberty; the first that suspected was one Robert Fitzgerald, an Irishman, who, hinting his suspicions to Power, told him to be on his guard; whereupon this usurper immediately caused the poor man to be tied to the side of the ship, where he whipped him some minutes with a cat o' nine-tails, with such severity, that his body streamed with blood, and his bones in some places were visible. He then took a cutlass from the hands of one of the sailors; but not thinking it sharp enough to answer his horrid purpose, he directed that another should be brought him, with which he cut the poor negro in several places. Not content with exercising this unprovoked severity, he directed Fitzgerald to cut him again, and the barbarous villain even exceeded his commission. Another of the sailors, named Potts, likewise cut him in two or three places; and at length Fitzgerald completed the murder, by cutting off his head, and throwing that, with the body, into the sea; though he had no order from Power for carrying the affair to such extremity. They now continued their voyage for the West-Indies, where they offered the negro slaves to sale; but a suspicion arising of some illicit practices, they thought it prudent to depart; and steering their course for North America, they came to anchor in the harbour of New-York, where most of them thought it prudent to consult their safety by flight; as the surgeon of the ship, who had been hitherto obliged to dissemble his inclinations for the preservation of his life, now gave information against the murderers, some of whom were taken into custody. Fitzgerald had made his
escape;

escape; but Power, and a seamen named Tomlin, were sent to England, where they were brought to trial, when the latter was acquitted from a variety of circumstances that arose in extenuation of his crime; but Power, being convicted on the fullest evidence, was sentenced to death, for the murder of the negro, and suffered at Execution-dock on the 10th of March, 1768.

POWIS, JOSEPH (HOUSEBREAKER) was a native of St. Martin's, 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 here before the father-in-law received a letter informing him of the death of his wife; on which he left the boy to the care of an Englishman, and coming to London, in order to settle his affairs, 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 considerable progress in learning, particularly in the Latin language. But he had not been long at school 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 of an errand he constantly loitered away his time, reading at the stall of some bookseller. Having been about four years with his father, two lads of his acquaintance persuaded

suaded him to take a stroll into the country; 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, forgave his fault, and he continued above a year longer with him; becoming unfortunately attached to the theatres, 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, then manager of Covent-Garden theatre: having repeated some parts of the tragedy of Julius Cæsar, Mr. Rich candidly told him he wanted abilities for such a profession, and advised him to attend to his trade. Soon after this he quitted his father-in-law again, and rambled through the country some days; but returning on Sunday, in the absence of the family, he broke open a chest, and taking out his best cloaths, again decamped. Powis's father, finding that nothing had been taken except the boy's cloaths, easily judged who must be the thief; wherefore he went with the constable in search of the youth, whom he took before a magistrate, in the hope of making him sensible of his folly. The justice threatened 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: this not suiting his inclination, and being now the time of Bartholomew-fair, he engaged with one Miller, to act a part in
a farce

a farce exhibited at Smithfield. His next adventure was the going to Dorking in Surry, with one Dutton, a strolling player, by whom he was taught to expect great things; but Dutton, having previously affronted the inhabitants, met with no encouragement: on which they proceeded to Horsham, in Sussex, where they were equally unsuccessful. Powis now 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 from the landlord: but the latter soon discovering the thief, took the shoes from him, and gave him an old pair in their stead. About this time Dutton took Powis's cloaths from him, and gave him others that were little better than rags. Having left this town they put up at an inn, where the landlord obliged the company to sleep in the hay-loft, admitting none but the manager to come within the house. At night Powis crept into the kitchen, and devoured the remains of a cold pye; and stole a pair of boots and a pair of stockings, with which he retreated to the hay-loft. He continued to steal provisions for several nights, till the landlord and Dutton watched, with loaded guns, in expectation of the thieves who, however, came not 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 his hay-loft, where he expected to lie secure: but the landlord, Dutton, and others following, seized him, and took him into the kitchen for examination.

He

He readily confessed that he had stolen the victuals, on which he was delivered into the hands of two countrymen, to guard him till the next day, when it 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 guards said, "How the poor fellow sleeps, notwithstanding his misfortunes;" to which the other said, "Let me sleep an hour, and then I will watch 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 coming down stairs, Powis affected to sleep as before. The landlord awakened the guardians, and bid them take more care of their prisoner; which they promised to do, but soon fell asleep again. Powis took the boots in his hand, and getting out of the inn-yard, ran with the utmost expedition till he had got out of the town, and then drawing on the boots, he proceeded on his journey to London. However, he 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 laid down to rest. In the morning the owner of the flax found him, and enquiring what business he had there, Powis said that, being intoxicated, he had lost his way: on which the other directed him into 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; when, 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; on his demanding what she want-

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ed, 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 his best way was to avoid the high-road, and get to London some other way, with all possible expedition. Powis immediately took this advice, and quitting the turnpike-road, got to a farm house, where he stole three books and other trifles, ate 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 laid down to sleep on some straw. Observing some thrashers come to work in the morning, he concealed himself under the straw till night, when he crept out, went to a public-house, drank some beer, and returned to his former lodging. Inspired by the liquor he had drank, he began to sing, which drawing some people round him, they 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 his business, and decline his present vagrant course of life. This he readily agreed to, and continued steady during the winter: but, on the approach of summer, he again left his friends, and rambled about near a month, subsisting on the casual bounty of his acquaintance. Falling into company with Joseph Paterson, whom he had known among the strolling players, Paterson engaged him to perform a part in the tragedy of

the Earl of Essex, at Windmill hill, near Moorfields, which was then the 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 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 Clerk's Office, where he remained till morning, when the clerks came to their business; he was then afraid to appear, lest he should be taken for a thief from the shabbiness of his dress. Leaning against a plaistered 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: therefore 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 the money, he deter-

mined to join his old companions at Windmill-Hill, and in his way thither, he observed a fellow pick a countryman's pocket of a bag of money, in Smithfield; and a cry of "Stop thief" being immediately circulated, the pick-pocket dropped the bag, which he found to amount to fifty pounds. Having put the money into his pocket, he threw away the bag, and retired to his lodgings. This money, a greater sum than he 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 was gone to rest, he stole some silver spoons and about three shillings 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 shocking manner. It happened to be only the maid-servant who 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, where he stole about four pounds ten shillings, which being 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 appearance of the sexton inter-

rupted him. The sexton, more terrified than the thief, 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. However, he 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 about 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 baulked 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 enquiring at the bookseller's if such a book had fallen into his hands, Powis happened to stop to speak to 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 the 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 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

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; wherefore, on the following night, he 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 escaped through the darkness of the night. Chagrined at his disappointment, he sauntered into the fields, and lay down under a hay-rick. Now agitated with want and remorse, he formed a resolution of again 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 his determination. On parting from this acquaintance, he went to the house of another, where he slept five hours, and then, being extremely hungry, went to a public-house, where he supped, and

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spent

spent all his money except eight-pence. Thus reduced, he resolved to make a fresh attempt on the Chancery office, for which purpose he broke through the wall, but found no booty. In the mean time his father-in-law exerted his utmost endeavours to find him, to consult his safety; and having met with him, told him it would be imprudent for him to stay longer in London, as people began to be suspicious of him; wherefore, he advised him to go to Cambridge, and work as a journeyman with a smith of his acquaintance. Young Powis consenting, the father bought him new cloths, furnished him with some good books, and gave him money to proceed on his journey. He now left the old gentleman; but soon afterwards meeting with six strolling players, one of whom he had formerly known, they sat down to drink, at which they continued till all Powis's money was spent, and then he sold his new cloaths. He now became so hardened in guilt, that there appeared no prospect of 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 amend his conduct. Powis being very much distressed, applied to his still generous relation, 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

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, but 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 cloaths, 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; changed his cloaths, and took to his former practice of house-breaking, in which, however, he was remarkably unsuccessful. Strolling one night to the house, where he had formerly been, at Stockwell, he got in at the window, and stole a bottle of brandy, a great coat, and some other articles; but the family being 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 of the consequence, that they conducted him again to his father-in-law, whose humanity once more induced him to receive the returning prodigal with kindness. Powis now lived regularly at home about nine weeks, when, having received about a guinea as Christmas-box money, he got into company, and spent the whole, after which he renewed his former practices. Having
concealed

concealed himself under some hay in a stable in Chancery-lane, he broke into a boarding-school adjoining to it, whence he stole some books, and a quantity of linen : and soon after this he broke into the house of an attorney, and getting into a garret, struck a light ; but some of the family being alarmed, there was an outcry of “ thieves ! ” A man ascending a ladder being observed by Powis, he attempted to break through the tiling, but failing in this, the other cried, “ There is the thief ! ” Terrified by these words, he got into a gutter, whence he dropped down to a carpenter’s yard adjoining ; but could get no farther. While he was in this situation, the carpenter going into the yard with a candle, took him into custody, and lodged him in the round-house ; but on the following day his father-in-law exerted himself so effectually that the offence was forgiven ; and he was once more taken home to the house of his ever-indulgent relation. After he had been three months at home, the father-in-law was employed to do some business for Mr. Williams, a Welch gentleman of large fortune, who, having brought his lady to London to lie in, she died in child-bed, and it was determined that she should be buried in Wales. Hereupon Powis’s father-in-law was sent to examine all the locks, &c. that the effects might be safe in the absence of Mr. Williams. Powis being 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 found a small box remarkably heavy, which, on examination, appeared to contain diamonds, jewels, rings, a gold watch, and other articles, to the amount of more than two hundred pounds, all of which he stole, and put the

box

box in its place. This being done, he called the maid to see that all was safe, and delivered her the key of the larger box. Possessed of this booty, he now consulted an acquaintance as to the method of disposing of it; who advised him to melt the gold, and throw the jewels into the Thames. This being agreed to, 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, was sentenced to be transported for seven years, the jury having given a verdict, that he was guilty of stealing to the value of thirty-nine shillings. 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, made such interest, that he was only burnt in the hand, and set at large. He now refrained some time from acts of theft, and taking lodgings in an alley in Fleet-street, subsisted 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 five shillings and sixpence. On the next day the landlord charged him with the robbery; but not intending to prosecute him, was content with recovering his linen from the pawnbroker, and took Powis's word for making good the deficient money. In less than a week after adjusting this affair, our young, but hardened villain, broke open a coffee-house in Chancery-lane, and stole a few articles which produced him about thirty shillings: and soon afterwards he broke into the Chancery-office, where he stole

stole two books, which he sold for half a crown. On the following evening he went again to the office, and hid himself under the stair case, but being heard to cough by a man who had been left 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 came to examine him, when he denied the commission of a variety of crimes of 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 that a warrant was issued to apprehend him for robbing the Chancery-office; which obliged him to abscond. Strolling one evening into the Spa-fields near Islington, some constables apprehended him as a vagrant, and lodged him, with several others, in 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,

kitchen, which he sold for four shillings: and, on the following night, he robbed another house in the same neighbourhood of some effects, which he sold for ten shillings. 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 birth-day, Powis fell in love with a girl who made one of the company. 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 that evening, whence he stole a few things, which he sold for fifteen shillings, 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 Macbeth 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's shop, and stole some articles, the sale of which produced him a guinea. Having been at the Black Raven, in Fetter-lane, he observed the landlord put some gold into a drawer, of which he determined, if possible, to possess himself.—

About

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 went 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; but 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 that could not be justified, as he made no resistance. He was now lodged in the Compter, and afterwards removed to Newgate. Being brought to his trial at the Old Bailey, he was convicted of the burglary, and received sentence of death: but the jury considering the cruelty with which he had been treated, recommended him to mercy: however, the royal favor 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 mercy; but he was told not to expect such indulgence. He likewise wrote to his sweetheart, to exert her influence, which she promised; but which she exerted in vain. He suffered at Tyburn, October 9, 1732, aged twenty-two.

PREVOT, JEAN, (MURDERER,) was a native of France, and a mariner, who, at the age of eighteen years, was indicted at the Old Bailey, Dec. 20, 1799, for that he, on the 1st day of August, 1797, on the high seas, within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty of England, feloniously, and
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of his malice aforethought, did kill and murder James Willcox, captain of the *Lady Jane Shore*, transport ship. Upon the prisoner being put to the bar, he desired, through the medium of a French interpreter, that his jury might be composed of half foreigners and half Englishmen.—The request had been anticipated, and a sufficient number of foreigners summoned; but when their names were called over, few of them appeared; the Court was kept waiting near two hours, and messengers were sent to their respective habitations; but some of them were in the country, and others returned for answer they were unwell. Lord Eldon was extremely angry, and intimated his determination to teach those foreigners who were summoned upon juries, and refused or neglected to attend, that the laws of the country were sufficiently competent to them: he wished to have it understood, that persons so conducting themselves were liable to a farther punishment than merely having a fine imposed upon them, and he observed, that if ever he witnessed in future a similar instance of contumacy to the Courts of Justice of the country, he would punish the persons so offending with imprisonment as well as fine. After a considerable time had elapsed, six foreigners were obtained, and the jury, constituted agreeable to the prisoner's wish, was impannelled. Dr. Nicholls, the King's Advocate, after some introductory observations on the heinousness of the crime of murder, briefly stated the circumstances, which were afterwards detailed by the witnesses. Mr. Minchen said, he commanded the troops on board the *Lady Shore*, which was a transport, carrying troops and convicts to Botany Bay. On the 1st of August, 1797,



about four in the morning, while the ship lay off Cape Friou, on the coast of Africa, he was disturbed from his sleep by a noise on the deck; when he got up to see what was the matter, he found the hatchway fastened down, and at the same moment saw Captain Willcox, who commanded the ship, lying wounded at the bottom of the ladder; he took him up, and put him into his birth, and on the following day he died. Capt. Willcox, before his death, appeared perfectly sensible, and knew that he could not recover of his wounds. The witness had several conversations with him before his death, and learnt from him the manner in which he got his wounds. He said, that upon first hearing the noise on deck, and running out of his cabin, he felt the stroke of some sharp instrument; as he went towards the ladder to call the witness, the prisoner, Prevot, he said, met him, and stabbed him with a bayonet. Captain Willcox's wounds, which were in his neck and breast, were dressed by the surgeon, and the witness had no doubt but these wounds were the cause of his death. As soon as day-light appeared, the witness saw Prevot, who was a mariner on board the ship, standing as a centry over the hatchway, and with a cutlass and pistols; he had also on his head the hat of Captain Willcox. The hatches were kept down by the mutineers, and none of the officers were suffered to come on deck. The body of Captain Willcox was buried out of the cabin-window. The witness remained on board the ship for fifteen days after this affair, and during the time the mutiny continued, the prisoner was actively engaged in it. He heard the prisoner say that it was not the first mutiny he had been concerned in; and in the
English



PATCH PRICE.



English language he told an Irishman, one of the mutineers, that "he was the man who had done for the ——," meaning Captain Willcox. The witness, with some others, was at length put into a boat, and they got into Port Saint Pedro, on the Brazil coast: the surgeon was kept on board the ship, and he has not since returned to England. Robert Welch, an officer, who was on board the *Lady Shore* at the same time, said, that when he endeavoured to go on deck at the time the mutiny broke out, to see what was the matter, he was prevented by three men, with bayonets fixed to their firelocks, and he saw the prisoner standing centry at a gun, which was loaded with broken bottles, and pointed down the hatchway, for the purpose of preventing the people from coming up. The remainder of the witnesses testimony was the same with that of Captain Minchin. Mr. Fraser was an ensign, and on board the *Lady Shore* at the time in question; when he was permitted to go on deck, he saw the prisoner armed, and standing sentry at the after hatchway. He heard him say he was the person who killed Captain Willcox, and that he was not the first man he had assassinated. This witness, as well as the last, heard Captain Willcox say, that he was stabbed by French Jack, which was the name the prisoner was known by. The wife of a serjeant, and a French sailor, who was not engaged in the mutiny, gave a similar testimony, and heard the prisoner boast of the murder he had committed. The prisoner, in his defence, which was delivered through the medium of an interpreter, denied the murder, and said, he was forced to take a part in the mutiny. The first witness, Captain Minchin, being again called and examined

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by Lord Eldon, said, that the prisoner had voluntarily entered on board the ship at Falmouth, previous to her sailing; most of the French sailors on board the ship were emigrants, who had entered into the service of this country; there were fifteen of them, besides the prisoner, engaged in the mutiny, with very few English, and several Irish. After a very able charge from Lord Eldon, the Jury, without retiring, found the prisoner guilty. Sir William Scott then passed sentence of death on the prisoner, who seemed wholly to disregard it, and laughed in the face of the court as soon as it was pronounced. The ensuing Monday, December 23, between the hours of two and three, he was hanged at Execution Dock, pursuant to his sentence.

PRICE, CHAR. (FORGERY,) was born about the year 1730, in London—his father lived in Monmouth-street, and carried on the trade of a salesman in old cloaths—here he died in the year 1752, of a broken heart, occasioned, it is said, by the bad conduct of his children. In early life Charles manifested those traits of duplicity for which he was afterwards so greatly distinguished. One instance shall be mentioned, he ripped off some gold lace from a suit of old cloaths in his father's shop, and putting on his elder brother's coat, went to sell it to a Jew. The Jew, most unfortunately, came and offered it to the father for sale, he instantly knew it, and insisted on the Jew's declaring whence he received it. The boys passing by, he pointed to the elder, on account of his coat, as the person of whom he bought it, and he was directly seized, and severely flogged. His protestations of innocence were in vain, the father was inflexible, whilst Charles, with an abominable re-
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lish for hypocrisy, secretly rejoiced in the castigation. His father, tired of the tricks and knaveries of his son Charles, put him an apprentice to a hosier in St. James's-street. Here he continued but for a short time; he robbed his father of an elegant suit of cloaths, in which he dressed himself, went to his master in this disguise, purchased about ten pounds worth of silk stockings, left his address, Benjamin Bolingbroke, esq. Hanover-square, and ordered them to be sent him in an hour's time, when he would pay the person who brought them. His master did not know him; and, to complete the cheat, our hero came back in half an hour in his usual dress, was ordered to take the goods home, which he actually pretended to do, and thus were both master and father robbed. He was, however, soon afterwards found out and discarded. Henceforward, therefore, we are to regard him in society, where he, for a series of years, practised the most outrageous arts of duplicity. Soon after this period, he set off for Holland, under the assumed name of Johnson. Forging a recommendation to a Dutch merchant, he became his clerk, debauched his master's daughter, was offered her in marriage, robbed his master, and returned to England. He conducted this business with the most consummate villainy. He now contrived to become clerk in his Majesty's small-beer brewhouse, near Gosport. At this place he behaved himself with so much propriety, that he was on the point of forming a matrimonial connection with his master's daughter. Every thing, however, was soon laid aside by an accidental discovery. The Jew, to whom he had formerly sold the gold lace, happened to live at

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Portsmouth,

Portsmouth, by whom his character was soon disclosed. Thus were his hopes put to flight; and he was again thrown upon the wide world! As his wits were never long unemployed for some deceptive ends, he thought of advertising for a partner in the brewery line; and actually issued the following curious advertisement in the year 1775—

“WANTED,

“A partner of character, probity, and extensive acquaintance, upon a plan permanent and productive—*fifty per cent.* without risk, may be obtained. It is not necessary he should have any knowledge of the business, which the advertiser possesses in its fullest extent; but he must possess a capital of between 500 and 1000 pounds, to purchase materials, with which, to the knowledge of the advertiser, a large fortune must be made in a very short time.

“Address to P. C. Cardigan-Head, Charing-Cross.

“P. S. None but principals, and those of liberal ideas, will be treated with.”

To this advertisement the famous comedian, Samuel Foote, Esq. paid attention. Eager to seize what he thought a golden opportunity, he advanced the sum of 500l. for a brewery: we need not add, that the sum soon disappeared, and Foote was wrung with the anguish of disappointment. Price, however, had the impudence to apply to him again, wishing him to unite in the baking trade; the comedian archly replied: “As you have brewed, so you may bake; but I’ll be cursed if ever you

you bake as you have brewed!" After this unfortunate business, Mr. Price turned methodist preacher, and in this character defrauded several persons of large sums of money. Advertising in order to get gentlemen *wives*, he swindled a person of the name of Wigmore of fifty guineas, for which he was indicted; but having refunded a part, effects his escape. These, and other fraudulent practices were long the object of his ambition; though they are all the sure and certain roads to infamy. Such was his strange propensity. With astonishing impudence he again sets up a brewery in Gray's Inn Lane; and after various frauds, he became a bankrupt in 1776. Ever fruitful in resources, he sets out for Germany, but in Holland he gets into prison for a concern in a smuggling scheme, by which three hundred pounds were obtained. By this artful defence he escaped, and returned to his native country. Here he once more engaged his attention, by a sham brewery at Lambeth, where he was married. Continuing, however, to practise his deceptions, he was obliged to decamp, went actually to Copenhagen, and, after some time, came back to England, where he was doomed to close his days. His breweries having failed, he now proceeded to study how in other ways he might most effectually ravage society. Under the pretence of charity, he obtained money, for which he was imprisoned; and having been liberated, he, as a clergyman, succeeded in various impositions. This eventually brought him to the King's Bench prison, from whose walls he dexterously extricated himself. A lottery-office keeper was the subject of his attention; but decamping with a ticket of very large value, this scheme speedily

speedily came to a termination. To recount all his tricks would form the contents of a well-sized volume. Alas! for human depravity. But we now arrive at that period of his life, when he commenced his ravages upon the bank of England, which ended in his destruction. Such a series of iniquitous devices were never before practised on mankind. In the year 1780, (under the assumed name of Brank) Mr. Price engaged a servant, a plain simple honest fellow, by whom he passed his notes without detection. He advertised for him, and conducted himself towards him in a manner truly curious. Of the advertisement he heard nothing for a week; one evening, however, just as it was dusk, a coachman enquired for the man who had answered the advertisement, saying, "there was a gentleman over the way, in a coach, who wanted to speak with him." On this the young fellow was called, and went to the coach, where he was desired to step in. There he saw an apparent old man, affecting the foreigner, seemingly very gouty, wrapped up with five or six yards of flannel about his legs, a camblet surtout buttoned over his chin, close to his mouth, a large patch over his left eye, and every part of his face so hid, that the young fellow could not see any part of it, except his nose, his right eye, and a small part of that cheek. To carry on the deception still better, Mr. Price thought proper to place the man on his left side, on which the patch was, so that the old gentleman could take an askance look at the young man with his right eye, and by that means discover only a small portion of his face. He appeared, by his disguise, to be between sixty and seventy years of age; and afterwards,
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when the man saw him standing, not much under six feet high, owing to shoes or boots with heels very little less than three inches high. Added to this deception, he was so buttoned up and straightened, as to appear perfectly lank. The writer of his life, to whom we are indebted for these particulars, then subjoins: "It may not be ill-timed to those who do not know him, to give the true description of his person. He was about five feet six inches high, a compact neat man, square shouldered, inclined to corpulency. His legs were firm and well-set; but by nature his features made him look much older than he really was, which, at that time, was near fifty. His nose was aquiline, and his eyes small and grey; his mouth stood very much inwards, with very thin lips; his chin pointed and prominent, with a pale complexion: but what contributed as much as any thing to favour his disguise of speech, was his loss of teeth. He walked exceedingly upright—was very active and quick in his walk; and was something above what we describe a man so be when we call him a dapper-made man." This simple and honest fellow, Samuel, did Mr. Price employ to negotiate his forged bills, principally in the purchase of lottery-tickets, at the same time never fully disclosing to him his name, person, or history. Indeed, the plan was devised and executed with uncommon ability. However, Samuel was at last detected, having passed bills to the amount of fourteen hundred pounds!! But his agent eluded discovery, and retired with his booty into the shades of the deepest obscurity. The poor servant was imprisoned for near a twelvemonth, terrified out of his wits at being the innocent instrument of such complicated villainy.

lainy. Mr. Price having most probably exhausted his former acquisitions, sallied forth in the year 1782, after new game, with the most unparalleled audacity. For this purpose he obtained his second servant from a register office; a smart active boy of the name of Power; his father was a Scots Presbyterian, and to ingratiate himself with him, Mr. Price made great pretensions to religion, expressing a hope that his son was well acquainted with the Lord's Prayer and the Ten Commandments. Our hero began his ravages upon Mr. Spilsbury of Soho-square, ordering large quantities of his drops. Wilmot was his present assumed name, and he introduced himself to him as possessing all the symptoms of age and infirmity. "He was wrapped in a large camblet great-coat, he had a slouched hat on, the brim of which was large, and bent downward on each side of his head, a piece of red flannel covered his chin, and came up on each side of his face, almost as high as the cheek-bones, he had a large bush-wig on, and legs wrapped over with flannel. He had also a pair of green spectacles on his nose, with a green silk shade hanging down from his hat, but no patch on his eye." It is remarkable that Mr. Spilsbury knew Mr. Price, but not Mr. Wilmot; nay, so complete was the deception, that sitting together in a coffee-house, Mr. S. complained to his coffee-house acquaintance of the notes which Wilmot had imposed upon him, Price kept crying out now and then, "Lack-a-day! Good God! who could conceive such knavery to exist? What, and did the Bank refuse payment, Sir? staring through his spectacles with as much seeming surprise as an honest man would have done. "O yes," said Mr. S. with
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some degree of acrimony, "for it was on the faith of the bank of England that I and a great many others have taken them; and they were so inimitably well done, that the nicest judges could not distinguish them." "Good God! lack a day," said Price, "he must have been an ingenious villain? What a complete scoundrel!" Upon Mr. Watt a hosier, Mr. Reeves a colour-man, and a great many other individuals, he practised frauds equally ingenious and successful, for in one day he negociated sixty ten pound notes, changed fourteen fifty pound notes for seven one hundred pound notes; indeed, so multiplied are his tricks at this period, that the mind sickens at the recital of them. In his last attempt on the bank, which ended in his detection, he assumed the name of Palton, pretended he was an Irish linen factor, and employed two young men to circulate his notes, whilst he, still greatly disguised, kept back in obscurity. By means of a pawn-broker he was found out with great difficulty. On his seizure he solemnly declared his innocence, and before the magistrate behaved with insolence. This detection took place on the 14th of January, 1786; he was soon sworn to by more persons than one; and seeing no way of escape, he pretended, to his wife in particular, great penitence; but there was no ground for its reality. The bank was fully intent on the prosecution of him, and there was no doubt of his dying by the hands of the executioner. He, however, was found one evening hanging against the post of his door in his apartment, Tothill-fields bridewell. Thus was the earth freed from as great a monster as ever disgraced society.

PURCHASE, GEORGE. See DAMAREE, DANIEL.

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RABY, ———. See UDALL. WM.

RAMSEY, ROBERT, (HOUSEBREAKER,) was born of respectable parents near Grosvenor-square, and liberally educated at Westminster-school. He was apprenticed to an apothecary, whose circumstances becoming embarrassed, Ramsey left him, and went into the service of another gentleman of the same profession. He now became a professed gamester. The billiards and hazard-table engrossed his time; and his skill being great, he often stripped his companions; yet the money he thus obtained, he spent in the most extravagant manner. Having made an acquaintance with one Carr, they singled out a clergyman who frequented the coffee house they used, as a proper object to impose upon; and having ingratiated themselves into his good opinion, Ramsey took the opportunity of Carr's absence to tell the clergyman that he had a secret of the utmost consequence to impart: and the clergyman having promised secrecy, the other said, that Carr was in love with a young widow, who was very rich, and inclined to marry him; but that the match was opposed by her relations. The clergyman listening to the story, Ramsey offered him twenty guineas to marry the young couple privately; and it was agreed that the parties should meet at a tavern near the Royal Exchange on the following day. Ramsey having told

Carr

Carr what had passed, went to the clergyman the next morning, and observing, that if the lady took her own footman he might be known, said, he would disguise himself in livery, and attend the priest. This done, a hackney-coach was called for; the clergyman, and Ramsey getting up behind it, they drove to the tavern, where rich wines were called for, of which Ramsey urged the clergyman to drink so freely that he fell asleep, when Ramsey picked his pocket of his keys. The clergyman awaking, enquired for the couple that were to be married: on which Ramsey calling for more wine, said, he would go in search of them; but immediately calling a coach, he went to the clergyman's lodgings, and producing the keys, said, he had been sent by the gentleman for some papers in his cabinet. The landlady of the house seeing the keys, permitted him to search for what he wanted: on which he stole a diamond ring of the value of forty pounds, and about one hundred pounds in money. He now returned to the clergyman, said, that the young couple would attend in a short time, and desired him to order a genteel dinner; this last injunction the parson cheerfully obeyed; and while he was at dinner, Ramsey said, he would go and order a diamond, and a plain gold ring, and would return immediately. He had not been long absent when a jeweller brought the rings, which, he said, were for a baronet and his lady who were coming to be married. The clergyman asked him to drink the healths of the young couple; and just at this juncture Ramsey came in and told the jeweller that he was instantly wanted at home, but that he must return without loss of time, as his master's arrival was immediately expected. The

jeweller was no sooner gone than Ramsey taking up the diamond ring, said, that he had brought a wrong one, and he would go back and rectify the mistake. In the interim the jeweller finding that he had not been wanted at home, began to suspect that some undue artifice had been used; on which he hurried to the tavern, and thought himself happy to find that the parson had not decamped. Having privately directed the waiter to procure a constable, he charged the clergyman with defrauding him of the rings. The other was astonished at such a charge; but the jeweller insisted on taking him before a magistrate; where he related a tale, that, some days before, those rings had been ordered by a man, whom he supposed to be an accomplice of the person now charged; but the clergyman being a man of fair character, sent for some reputable people to bail him; while the jeweller returned home, cursing his ill fortune for the trick that had been put on him. London being an unsafe place for Ramsey longer to reside in, he went to Chester, where he assumed the character of an Irish gentleman, who had been to study physic in Holland, and was now going back to his native country. During his residence in Chester, he insinuated that he was in possession of a specific cure for the gout; and the landlord of the inn where he put up being ill of that disorder took the medicine; when his fit leaving him in a few days, he ascribed the cure to the supposed nostrum. Ramsey having gone by the name of Johnson in this city, now dressed himself as a physician, and having printed and dispersed hand-bills, giving an account of many patients whose disorders had yielded to his skill, and promising to cure the poor without expense, no
person

person doubted either the character or abilities of Dr. Johnson. A young lady who was troubled with an asthma became one of his patients; and Ramsey presuming that she possessed a good fortune, insinuated himself so far into her good graces that she would have married him; but her uncle, in whose hands her money was, happened to come to Chester at that juncture, and being told by the young lady of the proposed marriage, the old gentleman observed, that it would be imprudent to marry a man with whose circumstances and character she was wholly unacquainted; on which she consented that the necessary enquiries should be made. Hereupon Ramsey put into the uncle's hands copies of several letters, which, he said, he had written to several people of distinction, who would answer for his character. By this finesse he hoped to get time to prevail on the lady to marry him privately, which, indeed, she would readily have done, but through fear of offending her uncle. During this situation of affairs, while Ramsey was walking without the city, he happened to see the clergyman whom he had so much injured in London; on which he hastily retired to a public house in Chester, and sent a person to Park-Gate, to enquire when any ship would sail for Ireland: the answer was, that a vessel would sail that very night. On receiving this intelligence, Ramsey went and drank tea with the young lady; and taking the opportunity of her absence from the room, he opened a drawer, when he took a diamond ring, and fifty guineas, out of eighty, which were in a bag. Some little time afterwards, he asked the lady to spend the evening at his lodgings, and play a game at cards; and having obtained her consent, they spent

some time with apparent satisfaction : but Ramsey going down stairs, returned in great haste, and said, that her uncle was below. As she appeared frightened by this circumstance, he locked her in the room, first giving her a book to read, and said, that if her uncle should desire to come up, he would pretend to have lost the key of the door. The intent of this plan was to effect his escape while she was confined ; and having got on board the ship the same evening, he sent her the following letter :

“ DEAR MADAM,

“ I doubt not but you will be extremely surprised at the sudden disappearance of your lover ; but when you begin to consider what a dreadful precipice you have escaped, you will bless your stars. By the time this comes to hand, I shall be pretty near London, and as for the trifle I borrowed of you, I hope you will excuse it, as you know I might have taken the whole if I would ; but you see there is still some conscience among us doctors. The ring I intend to keep for your sake, unless the hazard-table disappoints me, and if ever fortune puts it in my power I will make you a suitable return ; but, till then, take this advice, Never let a strange doctor possess your affections any more.—I had almost forgot to ask pardon for making you my prisoner ; but I doubt not but old Starchface, your uncle, would detain me a little longer if he could find me. Adieu !

R. JOHNSON.

This letter he committed to the care of a person who was to go to Chester in a few days ; and in the interim

interim Ramsey reached Dublin, where having dissipated his money in extravagance, he embarked in a ship bound to Bristol, whence he travelled to London. On his arrival in the metropolis, he found his younger brother, who had likewise supported himself by acts of dishonesty; and the two brothers had agreed to act in concert. They now committed a variety of robberies in conjunction, confining their depredations chiefly to the stealing of plate. Having taken a previous survey of Mr. Glyn's house at the corner of Hatton Garden, the brothers broke into it in the night, and carried off a quantity of plate; but hand bills being immediately circulated, they were taken into custody while offering the plate for sale to a Jew in Duke's-place. The lord mayor, on examining the prisoners, admitted the younger brother an evidence against the elder. At the next sessions at the Old Bailey, it was an affecting scene to behold the one brother giving evidence against the other, who was capitally convicted, and received sentence of death. After conviction Ramsey seemed to entertain a proper idea of the enormity of the offences of which he had been guilty; and in several letters to persons whom he had robbed, he confessed his crimes, and entreated their prayers. He did not flatter himself with the least hope of pardon; sensible that his numerous offences must necessarily preclude him from such favor. At the place of execution he made an affecting address to the surrounding multitude, entreating the younger part of his auditors to avoid gaming, as what would infallibly lead to destruction. After the customary devotions he was turned off, and the body having hung the usual time, was conveyed in a hearse to Giltspur-

street, whence it was taken and decently interred by his friends at the expiration of two days from the time of his execution. He suffered at Tyburn, on the 13th of January, 1742.

RANN, JOHN, (HIGHWAYMAN,) familiarly called SIXTEEN-STRINGS JACK, was born at a village a few miles from Bath, of honest parents, who were in low circumstances, and incapable of giving him any kind of education. For some time he obtained a livelihood by vending goods, which he drove round the city and adjacent country on an ass. A lady of distinction, who happened to be at Bath, took him into her service when he was about twelve years of age; and his behaviour was such, that he became the favorite of his mistress and fellow-servants. At length he came to London, and got employment, as a helper in the stables at Brooke's Mews; in which station he bore a good character. He then became the driver of a post-chaise, after which he was servant to an officer; and in both these stations was well spoken of. He then became a coachman to a gentleman of fortune near Portman-square; and it was at this period that he dressed in the manner which gave rise to the appellation of Sixteen-Strings Jack, by wearing breeches with eight strings at each knee. After living in the service of several noblemen, he lost his character, and turned pick-pocket, in company with three fellows, named Jones, Clayton, and College, the latter of whom (a mere boy) obtained the name of Eight-Strings Jack. At the sessions held at the Old Bailey in April, 1774, Rann, Clayton, and one Shepherd, were tried for robbing one Mr. William Somers on the highway, and acquitted for want of evidence.

evidence. They were again tried for robbing Mr. Langford, but acquitted for the same reason.—Rann had for some time kept company with a young woman, named Roche, who, having been apprenticed to a milliner, and being seduced by an officer of the Guards, was reduced to obtain bread by the casual wages of infamy; and, at length, associating with highwaymen, received such valuable effects as they took on the road. On the 30th of May, he was taken into custody, and being brought to Bow-street on the following Wednesday, was charged with robbing John Devall, Esq. near the nine-mile stone on the Hounslow road, of his watch and money. This watch he had given to Eleanor Roche, who had delivered it to Catherine Smith, who offered it in pledge to Mr. Hallam, a pawnbroker, but who, suspecting that it was not honestly obtained, caused all the parties to be taken into custody. Eleanor Roche was now charged with receiving the watch, knowing it to have been stolen; and Miss Smith being sworn, deposed, that, on the day Mr. Devall was robbed, Roche told her, that “she expected Rann to bring her some money in the evening;” that he accordingly came about ten at night, and having retired some time with Eleanor Roche, she, on her return, owned that she had received a watch and five guineas from him, which, he said, he had taken from a gentleman on the highway; that she, Miss Smith, carried the watch to pawn to Mr. Hallam, at the request of Miss Roche. Sir John Fielding asked Rann if he would offer any thing in his defence; on which the latter said, “I know no more of the matter than you do, nor half so much.” On this occasion Rann was dressed in a manner above his
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his stile of life and his circumstances. He had a bundle of flowers in the breast of his coat, almost as large as a broom; and his irons were tied up with a number of blue ribbands. For this offence he was tried at the sessions held at the Old Bailey in July, 1774, and acquitted. Two or three days after his acquittal, he engaged to sup with a girl at her lodgings in Bow-street, but not being punctual to his appointment, the girl went to bed, and Rann, not being able to obtain admittance at the door, attempted to get in at the window on the first floor, and had nearly accomplished his purpose, when he was taken into custody by the watchman. For this burglarious attempt he was examined at Bow-street on the 27th of July, when the girl, whose apartments he had attempted to break open, declared that he could not have had any felonious intention, as he knew that he would have been a welcome guest, and have been readily admitted, if she had not fallen to sleep. On this he was dismissed, after Sir John Fielding had cautioned him to leave his dangerous profession, and seek for some more honest means of support. On the Sunday following, he appeared at Bagnigge-wells, dressed in a scarlet coat, tambour waistcoat, white silk stockings, laced hat, &c. and publicly declared himself to be a highwayman. Having drank pretty freely, he became extremely quarrelsome, and several scuffles ensued, in one of which he lost a ring from his finger, and when he discovered his loss, he said it was but an hundred guineas gone, which one evening's work would replace. He became at length so troublesome, that part of the company agreed to turn him out of the house; but they met with so obstinate a resistance, that they were obliged

obliged to give up their design, when a number of young fellows, possessed of more spirit than discretion, attacked this magnanimous hero, and actually forced him through the window into the road." Rann was not much injured by this severe treatment; but he complained bitterly against those who could so basely affront a gentleman of his character. Being arrested for a debt of 50*l.* which he was unable to pay, he was confined in the Marshalsea prison, where he was visited by several friends, some of whom paid his debt, and procured his discharge. At another time, while with two companions at an ale-house in Tottenham court-road, he was arrested by two sheriff's officers, and, not having money to pay the demand, he deposited his watch in the hands of the bailiff, while his associates advanced three guineas, which together made more than the amount of the debt; and a balance was to be returned to Rann when the watch should be redeemed, he told the bailiffs, that if they would lend him five shillings, he would treat them with a crown bowl of punch. This they readily did; and, while they were drinking, Rann said to the officers, "You have not treated me like a gentleman. When Sir John Fielding's people come after me, they use me genteelly; they only hold up a finger, beckon me, and I follow them as quietly as a lamb." When the bailiffs were gone, Rann and his companions rode off; but our hero soon returning, stopped at the turnpike, and asked if he had been wanted. "No," said the tollman. "Why," replied the other, "I am Sixteen-Strings Jack, the celebrated highwayman——have any of Sir John Fielding's people been this way?" "Yes," said the man, "some of them

are but just gone through." Rann replied, "If you see them again, tell them I am gone towards London; and then rode off with the utmost unconcern. Soon afterwards he appeared at Barnet races, dressed in a most elegant sporting stile, his waistcoat being blue satin trimmed with silver; and he was followed by hundreds of people, who were eager to gratify their curiosity by the sight of a man who had been so much the object of public conversation. But what is more remarkable, he attended a public execution at Tyburn, and, getting within the ring formed by the constables round the gallows, desired that he might be permitted to stand there, "for, said he, perhaps it is very proper that I should be a spectator on this occasion." On the 26th of September, 1774, he and William Collier went on the Uxbridge road, with a view to commit robberies on the highway; and on the Wednesday following they were examined at the public office in Bow-street, when Dr. William Bell, chaplain to the princess Amelia, deposed, that between three and four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday the 26th of September, as he was riding near Ealing, he observed two men, rather of a mean appearance; who rode past him; and that he remarked they had suspicious looks; yet neither at that time, nor for some time afterwards, had he any idea of being robbed; that soon afterwards one of them, which he believed was Rann, crossed the head of his horse, and, demanding his money, said, "Give it me, and take no notice, or I'll blow your brains out." On this the Doctor gave him one shilling and six pence, which was all the silver he had, and likewise a common watch in a tortoise shell case. On the evening of
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the day on which the robbery was committed, Eleanor Roche, and her maid-servant, carried a watch to pledge with Mr. Cordy, pawnbroker in Oxford-road, who, suspecting that it had not been honestly acquired, stopped it, and applied to Mr. Grignion, watchmaker in Russel-street, Covent-Garden, who had made the watch for Dr. Bell. Mr. Clarke swore, that, on going to Miss Roche's lodgings on the Monday night, he found two pair of boots wet and dirty, which had evidently been worn that day; and Mr. Haliburton swore, that he waited at Miss Roche's lodgings till Rann and Collier came thither; in consequence of which they were taken into custody. On the 5th of October, John Rann, William Collier, Eleanor Roche, and Christian Stewart, servant to Roche, were brought to Bow-street, when Dr. Bell deposed in substance as he had done the preceding week: and William Hills, servant to the princess Amelia, swore that he saw Rann, whom he well knew, ascend the hill at Acton about twenty minutes before the robbery was committed; a circumstance which perfectly agreed with Dr. Bell's account of the time he was robbed. Hereupon John Rann and William Collier were committed to Newgate, to take their trials for the highway robbery; Eleanor Roche was sent to Clerkenwell bridewell, and Christian Stewart, her servant, to Tothill-fields bridewell, to be tried as accessaries after the fact. On this trial some favorable circumstances appearing in behalf of Collier, he was recommended to mercy, and afterwards respited during the king's pleasure. Eleanor Roche was sentenced to be transported for fourteen years; her servant was acquitted; and Rann was left for

for execution. When Rann was brought down to take his trial, he was dressed in a new suit of pea-green cloaths; his hat was bound round with silver strings; he wore a ruffled shirt, and his behaviour evinced the utmost unconcern. He was so confident of being acquitted, that he had ordered a genteel supper to be provided for the entertainment of his particular friends and associates on the joyful acquittal: but their intended mirth was soon turned into real mourning. On receiving his sentence, he attempted to force a smile, but it was evidently not a smile of inward satisfaction. After conviction his behaviour was, for some time, very improper. On Sunday the 23d of October, he had seven girls to dine with him. The company were remarkable cheerful; nor was Rann less joyous than his companions. However, when the warrant for his execution arrived, he began to think seriously of an hereafter. On the morning of execution he received the sacrament in the chapel in the prison, and at the tree behaved with great decency; on first approaching it, he turned round and looked at it as an object which he had long expected to see, though not as on one that he should have dreaded. He suffered at Tyburn on the 30th of November, 1774. His body being cut down, was delivered to his friends for interment.

READ, ———. See CODLIN, W.

RICHARDSON, JOHN, (PIRATE) was the son of a goldsmith at New York, and having been kept to school till he was fourteen years old, was then put under the care of his brother, who was a cooper; but not liking that business, he sailed on board a merchant ship commanded by his namesake

sake Captain Richardson. After one voyage, he served five years to a carpenter; but having made an illicit connection with his master's daughter, who became pregnant, he quitted his service, and entered on board a ship bound to Jamaica; when on his arrival, he was impressed, put on board a man of war, and brought to England. The ship's crew being paid at Chatham, he came to London, took lodgings in Horslydown, and soon spent all his money. On this he entered as boatswain, on board a vessel bound to the Baltic; but becoming weary of his situation, and knowing that there was a merchant in the country with whom the captain had dealings, he went to a tavern and wrote a letter, as from the captain, desiring that the merchant would send him an hundred rix dollars. This letter he carried himself, and received the money from the merchant, who said he had more at the captain's service if it was wanted. Being possessed of this sum, he, the next day, embarked on board a Dutch vessel bound to Amsterdam: and soon after his arrival connected himself with a woman whose husband had sailed as a mate of a Dutch East-India ship, and cohabited about eight months, when she told him that it would be necessary for him to decamp, as she daily expected her husband to return from his voyage. Richardson agreed to this, but first determined to rob her, and having persuaded her to go to the play, he took her to a tavern afterwards, where he plied her with liquor till she was perfectly intoxicated. This being done, he attended her home, and having got her to bed, and found her fast asleep, he took the keys out of her pocket, and unlocking the warehouse, stole India goods to the

amount of two hundred pounds, which he conveyed to a lodging he had taken to receive them. He then replaced the keys, but finding some that were smaller, he with those opened her drawers, and took out sixty pounds. Some years after this he saw this woman at Amsterdam, but she made no complaint of the robbery; by which it may reasonably be supposed that she was afraid her husband might suspect her former illicit connection. Having put his stolen goods on board one of the Rotterdam boats, he sailed for that place, where he found a captain of a vessel bound for New England, with whom he sailed at the expiration of four days. On their arrival at Boston, he went to settle about fifty miles up the country, in expectation that the property he possessed might procure him a wife of some fortune. Having taken his lodgings at a farmer's, he deposited his goods in a kind of warehouse. It being now near the Christmas holidays, many of the country people solicited that he would keep the festival with them. His invitations were so numerous, that he scarce knew how to determine, but at length accepted that of a Mr. Brown, to which he was influenced by his having three daughters, and four maid-servants, all of whom were very agreeable young women. Richardson made presents of India handkerchiefs to all the girls, and so far ingratiated himself into their favour, that he effected the seduction of them all: but before any consequences appeared, there happened to be a wedding, to which the daughter of a justice was invited as a bride-made, and Richardson as a bride-man. He soon became intimate with the young lady, persuaded her to go and see his lodgings and ware-house, and offered to make her a
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present of any piece of goods she might deem worth her acceptance. At length she fixed on a piece of chintz, and carried it home with her. Two days afterwards Richardson wrote to her, and her answer being such as flattered his wishes, he likewise wrote to her father, requesting his permission to pay his addresses to the daughter. The old gentleman readily admitted his visits, and, at the end of three months gave his consent that the young people should be united in wedlock. There being no licences for marriage in that country, it is the custom to publish the banns three successive Sundays in the church. On the first day no objection was made; but on the second Sunday all the girls from the house where he had spent his Christmas, made their appearance to forbid the banns, each of them declaring that she was pregnant by the intended husband. Hereupon Richardson slipped out of the church, leaving the people astonished at the singularity of the circumstance: and in a few days after he received a letter from the old gentleman, begging that he would decline his visits, as his conduct had furnished a subject of conversation for the whole country; with this request Richardson very cheerfully complied: but in four months he was sent for, when the justice now, for *apparent* reasons, offered him 300l. currency, to take his daughter as a wife. He seemed to hesitate at first; at length consenting, the young lady and he went to a village at the distance of forty miles, where the banns were regularly published. and the marriage took place, before the other parties were apprized of it. However, in a little time after the wedding, he was arrested by the friends of the other girls, in order

to compel him to give security for the maintenance of the future children; whereupon his father-in-law engaged that he should not abscond, and paid him his wife's fortune. Having thus possessed himself of the money, and being sick of his new connection, he told his wife and her relations, that not being fond of a country life, he would go to New-York, and build him a ship, and would return at the expiration of three months. The family having no suspicion of his intentions, took leave of him with every mark of affection: but he never went near them any more. Having previously sent his effects to Boston, he went to that place, where he soon spent his money amongst the worst kind of company, and no person being willing to trust him, he was reduced to great distress. It now became necessary that he should work for his bread; and being tolerably well skilled in ship-building, he got employment under a master-builder, who was a Quaker, who treated him with the greatest indulgence. This Quaker was an elderly man, who had a young wife with whom Richardson wished to become acquainted; he, therefore, one day quitted his work, and went home to the house; but he no sooner had arrived there than he was followed by the old man, who came in search of him, and heard him talking too freely to his wife. On this the Quaker paid him his wages and forbid him ever to come within his house again; Richardson promised to obey, and, indeed, intended to have complied with the injunction: but about eight days afterwards, the old gentleman having some business up the country to purchase timber, desired his wife to accompany him. To avoid this journey the lady feigned an indisposition,
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and took to her bed. The husband had not been long gone before Richardson meeting the maid-servant in the street, asked after the health of her mistress, who, the girl said, wanted to see him; and he promised to wait upon her about nine in the evening. Punctual to his engagement, he attended the lady, and regularly repeated his visits till the return of her husband was apprehended; when he broke open a chest, stole about seventy pounds, and immediately agreed with Captain Jones, for his passage to Philadelphia. On his arrival here, he took lodgings at the house of a widow who had two daughters; and paying his addresses to the mother, was so successful, that for four months, while he continued there, he acted as if he had been master of the house. He then became attached to one of the daughters; and on a Sunday, when the rest of the family was absent, found an opportunity of being alone with her; but the mother returning at this juncture, interrupted their conversation, and expressed her rage in the most violent terms. Soon after this she found him taking equal freedom with her other daughter. The old lady was now exceedingly angry, but having provided a husband for one, she constantly teized Richardson to marry the other, which he steadily refused to do, unless she would advance him a sum of money. She hesitated for some time; at length consented to give him a hundred pounds, and half her plate; on which the marriage was solemnized: but he had no sooner possessed himself of this little fortune than he embarked on board a ship bound for South Carolina. Within a month after his arrival in this colony he became acquainted with one Captain

Roberts, with whom he sailed as mate and Carpenter to Jamaica, and during the voyage was treated in the most friendly manner. The business at Jamaica being dispatched, they returned to Carolina. The owner of the ship living about ten miles up the country, and the winter advancing, the captain fixed on Richardson as a proper person to sleep on board, and take care of the vessel. This he did for some time, till about a week before Christmas, when he was invited to an entertainment to be given on occasion of the birth day of his owner's only daughter. A moderate share of skill in singing and dancing recommended Richardson to the notice of the company, and in particular to that of the young lady, by which he hoped to profit on a future occasion. In the following month a wedding was to be celebrated at the house of a friend of the owner, on which occasion Richardson was sent for; here he met with the young lady, and being her partner during the dancing, he begged leave to conduct her home; and accordingly had the honour to attend her to her abode. Having visited her the following day, he entreated her to admit of his occasional visits; but she said there were so many negro servants about the house that it would be impossible. On this he said he would conduct her to the ship, when the family were asleep, and the girl foolishly consenting to this proposal, the intrigue was thus carried on for a fortnight; afterwards they bribed an old female negro, who constantly let Richardson into the young lady's chamber when the rest of the family were retired to rest. The mother soon discovered her daughter's misconduct, and acquainting her husband with the circumstance, the
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old gentleman sent for Richardson, and insisted upon his marrying his daughter. Richardson said it was out of his power to support her; but the father promising his assistance, the marriage took place. The old gentleman having now given his son-in-law the ship, and a good cargo as a marriage portion, Richardson embarked, on a trading voyage to Barbadoes: but he had not been many days at sea, when a violent storm arose, in which he lost his vessel and cargo, and he and his crew were obliged to take to the boat to save their lives. After driving some days at sea, they were taken up by a vessel which carried them to St. Kitt's, where Richardson met with captain Jones, who told him that the wife he had married in Pennsylvania had died of a broken heart. This circumstance, added to the loss of his ship, so much affected him, that he was confined to his chamber for four months. On his recovery he went mate with the captain who had carried him to St. Kitts; but quitting this situation in about five months, he sailed to Antigua, where a young gentleman who happened to be in company with Richardson, was so delighted with his skill in dancing a horn-pipe, that he invited him to his father's house, where he was entertained for a fortnight with the utmost hospitality. One day as he was rambling with the young gentleman, to take a view of some of the plantations, Richardson stopped on a sudden, and putting his hand to his pocket, pretended to have lost his purse, containing twenty pistoles. The young gentleman told him there was more money in Antigua, "True," said Richardson, "but I am a stranger here; I am a Creolian from Meovis." To this the other asked, "Do you belong

belong to the Richardson's at Meovis? I know their character well." Knowing that the governor of Meovis was named Richardson, he now had the confidence to declare that he was his son: on which the other exclaimed, "You his son, and want money in Antigua! No, no; only draw a bill upon your father, and I will engage that my father shall help you to the money." The project of raising money in this manner delighted Richardson, whom the young gentleman introduced to his father, who was no sooner acquainted with the pretended loss, than he expressed a willingness to supply him with a hundred pistoles, on which he drew a bill on his supposed father for the above mentioned sum, and received the money. About a week afterwards he wrote a letter to his imputed father, informing him how generously he had been treated by his friends in Antigua, and subscribed himself his dutiful son. This letter he entrusted to the care of a person in whom he could confide, with strict orders not to deliver it; and when as much time had elapsed as might warrant the expectation of an answer, he employed the mate of a ship to write a letter to the old gentleman, as from his supposed father, thanking him for his supposed civilities to his son. The gentleman was greatly pleased at the receipt of this letter, which he said contained more compliments than his conduct had deserved: and he told Richardson that he might have any farther sum of money that he wanted. On this, Richardson determined to take every advantage of the credulity of his new acquaintance, drew another bill for a hundred pistoles, and soon afterwards decamped. He now embarked on board a vessel bound for Jamaica, and on his arrival at

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Port-Royal, purchased a variety of goods of a jew merchant, which, with other goods that the jew gave him credit for, he shipped on board a ship for Carthagena, where he disposed of them; but never went back to discharge his debt to the jew. From Carthagena he sailed to Vera Cruz, and thence to England, where he took lodgings with one Thomas Ballard, who kept a public-house at Chatham. Now this Ballard had a brother who, having gone abroad many years before, had never been heard of. Richardson bearing a resemblance to this brother, the publican conceived a strong idea that he was the same, and asked if his name was not Ballard. At first he answered in the negative; but finding the warm prepossession of the other, and expecting to make some advantage of his credulity, he at length acknowledged that he was his brother. Accordingly he lived in a sumptuous manner, without any expence, and Ballard was never more uneasy than when any one doubted of the reality of the relationship; at length Ballard told Richardson that their two sisters were living at Sittingbourne, and persuaded him to go with him on a visit to them. Richardson readily agreed; but the two sisters had no recollection of the brother; however Ballard persuaded them that he was the real brother who had been so long absent; on which great rejoicings were made on account of his safe arrival in his native country. After a week of festivity it became necessary for Ballard to return to his business at Chatham: but the sisters, unwilling to part with their newly found brother, persuaded him to remain a while at Sittingbourne, and told him that their mother, who had been extremely fond of him, had left him twenty pounds,

pounds, and the mare on which she used to ride ; and in a short time he received the legacies.— During his residence with his presumptive sisters, he became acquainted with Anne and Sarah Knolding, and finding that their relations were deceased, and that Anne was left guardian to her sister, he paid his addresses to the former, who was weak enough to trust him with her money, bonds, writings, and the deeds of her estate. Hereupon he immediately went to Chatham, where he mortgaged the estate for three hundred pounds, and thence went to Grayesend, where he shipped himself on board a vessel bound to Venice. On his arrival in that place, he hired a house, and lived unemployed till he had spent the greater part of his money, when he sold off his effects, and went to Ancona, and became acquainted with Captain Benjamin Hartley, who had come thither with a lading of pilchards, and on board whose ship was Richard Coyle, a native of Devonshire, having been born near Exeter. He had been educated for a maritime life, had been apprenticed to the master of a trading vessel, with whom he served his time with reputation ; had made several voyages in ships of war, served on board several merchantmen, and had likewise been master of a ship for seventeen years. At this time he was chief mate to Captain Hartley ; who being in want of a carpenter, Richardson agreed to serve him in that capacity ; and the ship sailed on a voyage to Turkey, where the captain took in a lading of corn, and sailed for Leghorn. On the first night of this voyage, Coyle came on the deck to Richardson, and asked him if he would be concerned in a secret plot, to murder the captain and seize the vessel. Richardson

at first hesitated; but at length agreed to take his share in the villainy. The plan being concerted, they went to the captain's cabin about midnight, with an intention of murdering him; but getting from them he ran up the shrouds, whither he was followed by Richardson, and a seaman named Larson. The captain descended too quick for them, and as soon as he gained the deck, Coyle attempted to shoot him with a blunderbuss, which, missing fire, Hartley wrested it from his hands and threw it into the sea. Coyle and some other of the sailors now threw the captain overboard, but as he hung by the ship's side, Coyle gave him several blows which rather stunned him; as he did not let go his hold, Richardson seized an axe, with which he struck him so forcibly that he dropped into the sea. Coyle now assumed the command of the ship, and Richardson being appointed mate, they sailed towards the island of Malta, where they intended to have refitted; but some of the crew objecting to the putting in there, they agreed to go to Minorca. When they came opposite Cape Cona, on the coast of Barbary, the weather became so foul that they were compelled to lay too for several days, after which they determined to sail for Fovinjano, an island under the dominion of Spain.— When they arrived at this place they sent on shore for water and fresh provisions; but as they had come from Turkey, and could not produce letters of health, it was not possible for them to procure what they wanted. It had been a practice with the pirates to keep watch alternately, in company with some boys who were on board; but during the night, while they lay at anchor off this place, two of the men destined to watch fell asleep; on

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which

which two of the boys hauled up a boat and went on shore, where they informed the governor of what had passed on board. One of the pirates who should have watched being awoke, he ran and called Richardson, whom he informed of the boys' departure; on which Richardson said, it was time that they should depart likewise; on which they hauled up the long boat without loss of time, and putting on board her such things as would be immediately necessary, set sail, in the hope of making their escape. In the interim the governor sent down a party of soldiers to take care of the ship, and prevent the escape of the pirates; but it being very dark they could not discern the vessel, though she lay near the shore: however, when they heard the motion of the oars, they fired at the pirates, who all escaped unwounded. Steering towards Tunis, they stopped at a small island called Maritime, where they diverted themselves with killing of rabbits: for though the place is little more than a barren rock, yet it abounds with those animals. Leaving this, they stopped twelve miles short of Tunis, where Richardson was apprehended, and carried before the governor, who asking whence he came, he told him, that he was master of a vessel, which having been lost off the coast of Sardinia, he was necessitated to take to his long-boat, and had been driven thither by stress of weather. This story being credited, the governor seemed concerned for the fate of him and his companions, and recommended them to the house of an Italian, where they might be accommodated; in the mean time he sent to the English consul to inform him that his countrymen were in distress. When they had been about a fortnight at this place, Richardson sold the long-boat,

boat, and having divided the produce among his companions, he went to Tunis, to be examined by the English consul, to whom he told the same story that he had previously told to the governor: on which the consul ordered him to make a formal protest therefore for the benefit of the owners, and their own security. Hereupon the consul supplied him with money, which he shared with his companions. Coyle kept himself continually drunk with the money he had received, and during his intoxication spoke so freely of their transactions, that he was taken into custody by order of the consul, and sent to England: Richardson would also have been apprehended, but being upon his guard, and learning what had happened to his companion, he embarked on board a ship bound for Tripoly, where he arrived in safety. At this place he drew a bill on an English merchant at Leghorn, by which he obtained twenty pounds. Then embarked for the island of Malta, and sailed from thence to Saragossa, in the island of Sicily, whence going to Messina, he was known by a gentleman who lived at Ancona, and remembering his engaging in the service of Captain Hartley, had him apprehended on suspicion of the murder. He remained in prison at Messina nine months; on which he wrote a petition to the king of Naples, setting forth, that he had been a servant to his father, and praying the royal orders for his release. In consequence of this petition, the governor of Messina was commanded to set him at liberty; on which he travelled to Rome, and thence to Civita Vecchia, where he hoped to get employment on board the Pope's gallies, in consequence of his having turned Roman Catholic. While at Civita Vecchia he became known to Captain Blomet,

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who invited him, with other company, on board his ship; and when the company were gone the captain shewed him a letter, in which he was described as one of the murderers of Captain Hartley. Richardson denied the charge; but the captain calling down some hands, he was put in irons, and sent to Leghorn, whence he was transmitted to Lisbon, where he remained three months, and being then put on board the packet-boat, and brought to Falmouth, he was conveyed to London. He was lodged first in the Marshalsea, thence removed to Newgate, and being tried at the Old Bailey, he received sentence of death, with his confederate, Coyle. The latter acknowledged the equity of the sentence, and in some letters to his friends, confessed his penitence for the crime of which he had been guilty, and his readiness to yield his life as an atonement for his offences: but Richardson seemed wholly regardless of his fate; and terminated his life with as much levity and indifference as he had spent the prime of it. He suffered with Coyle at Execution Dock, Jan. 25, 1738.

RICE, JOHN, (FORGER,) was the son of Mr. Rice, of Spittal-square, a considerable stock-broker, who lived in a style of elegance and respectability. Young Rice having received a liberal education, succeeded his father in his business, and was so successful as a broker, that his profits were estimated at one thousand two hundred pounds a year. Unhappily for himself, he lived too gay, having a country-house at Finchley, an elegant town house in John-street, Gray's Inn, and keeping a coach, chaise, chariot, and several livery servants, besides a negro-boy; yet still it is probable that he might have supported his credit, but that, flushed with suc-

cess,

ness, he wished to grow still richer than he was, which led him on to that species of gaining called speculating in the stocks, by which he suffered so greatly, that, at different times, he was said to be a loser to the amount of sixty thousand pounds. In the vain hope, however, of recovering his circumstances, he was tempted to the commission of forgery. Among other of his employers was a Yorkshire lady, named Pierce, who had a very considerable property in South-Sea stock. In the name of Mrs. Pierce, he was adventurous enough to forge letters of attorney, by which he received upwards of nineteen thousand pounds. Mrs. Pierce having occasion to come to town soon after this transaction, Rice, hearing of the intended journey, thought it necessary to consult his safety in flight. Hereupon he took a pose-chaise for Dover, and embarked in the packet-boat for Calais, where he soon landed. Hence he travelled to Cambrai, a city in French Flanders, and the seat of an archbishop, which he had been taught to consider as a privileged place, where he could remain unmolested; in this he was mistaken, for the archbishop of Cambrai, though a prince of the empire, was subject to the parliament of Tourney, and had, therefore, no power to protect a criminal fugitive. Whether Mrs. Rice knew of her husband's design previous to his departure, or by letter from him, is uncertain; but she determined to follow him, and taking a post-chaise, reached Harwich, where she embarked in the packet for Holland, designing to travel thence to Cambrai; but the wind proving contrary, the vessel was obliged to put back to Harwich, whence Mrs. Rice returned to London, proposing to re-embark on a future occasion. It is

probable that Mrs. Rice now apprehended herself in security; but she had no sooner arrived in London than she was taken into custody, and being carried before the lord mayor, bank-notes to the amount of four thousand pounds were found sewed up in her stays. On her examination, she acknowledged whither her husband had retired; and the crime with which he was charged being thought to affect public credit, our ministry dispatched a messenger to the English ambassador at Paris desiring that he would use his interest with the people in power in France, to have the culprit delivered up to the justice of the laws of his native country. This requisition was instantly complied with; and orders being sent to Cambray to secure Mr. Rice, notice was transmitted to London, that he was in custody: on which one of the clerks of the bank, and another of the South-Sea house, went over with one of the King's messengers, to bring him to England. On their arrival at the prison of Cambray, they found the presumed culprit in a state of great dejection. They were proceeding to have handcuffed him; but he falling on his knees, and with tears implored they would dispence with this disgraceful circumstance. They generously complied; and Rice was placed in one post-chaise with the messenger, the gentlemen preceding in another. Having embarked for Dover, they landed, and proceeded immediately towards London. The news papers having mentioned what had happened respecting Mr. Rice, the public curiosity was so much excited, that crowds of people attended at every place where they stopped, to take a view of the unfortunate prisoner. On their arrival in London, he was carried before the lord mayor, who
remarking

remarking the utmost candour, even to generosity, in his answers to the questions that were proposed to him, committed him to the Poultry-comptor, instead of sending him to Newgate; presuming that his situation might be rendered less disagreeable in the former than in the latter. Here he remained till the morning appointed for his trial, when he was taken to the Old Bailey in a coach, indicted and tried for the forgery on Mrs. Pearce. Lord Mansfield presided on this occasion; and when the evidence had been given, and the jury had brought in a verdict of "guilty," the prisoner looked up to the judge with a countenance of extreme distress, imploring that he might be recommended to the mercy of the sovereign. In answer to this, Lord Mansfield advised him not to flatter himself with hope of that mercy which there was no probability of being extended to him. His lordship farther said, "considering your crime, and its consequences, in a nation where there is so much paper credit, I must tell you, I think myself bound in duty and conscience to acquaint his Majesty, that you are no object of his mercy." His lordship farther observed, "that all public companies should take warning, by the present instance, carefully to examine all letters of attorney, for the more effectual prevention of fraud." After conviction, as well as before, he expressed the most sincere contrition. While under sentence of death, he made the most serious preparation for the important change that awaited him. He expected the warrant for his execution some days before it arrived; and when it came, the fatal news was concealed from him till his wife, who was then present, had retired. It is recorded, to the credit

of Mr. Rice, that before he quitted the kingdom, he sent for his tradesmen's bills, and discharged all those that were delivered. His friends petitioned that he might be allowed a coach to the place of execution; but this was denied; he was placed in a cart, and attended by a faithful friend, who, though all the rest of the world had deserted him, was too generous to leave him till the last fatal moment. At this time his behaviour was so exemplary, that the multitude could not refrain from tears; and perhaps no man ever ended his life at the fatal tree more universally lamented. He suffered at Tyburn. His mother was living at the time of execution; and her friends, anxious to alleviate her distress, told her that her son was taken ill at Cambray: they then added, that his life was despaired of; and at length said, that he was dead. The old lady lived at Stoke-Newington; and when on the day after execution, the cryers of dying speeches made their perambulations, the inhabitants of Newington, with a generosity that will ever do them honour, gave the poor people money not to cry the speeches near her house. A commission of bankruptcy having been taken out against him, his effects were sold by auction, and amongst the rest *his negro boy*. A circumstance which was most severely and indeed justly censured in all the prints of the day: this savage insensibility of the *creditors* excited the indignation of the public far more than the crime of the unfortunate *debtor*.

RICHER, ELEANOR. See RANN, J.

RIDGLEY, ROWLAND (COINER) was a book-binder by trade, but afterwards became a notorious coiner, which he carried on for several years, but

but at length was indicted at the Old Bailey, in December, 1788, for having in his custody a punch, upon which was impressed the figure of the head side of a shilling, against the statute, &c. on the 29th of June. John Clarke, deposed, that he went to the house of one Ball, in Bunhill-row; that he knew the room belonged to the prisoner by the clothes that were found there, which clothes he had seen the prisoner wear; and that after he was apprehended, and taken before a magistrate, he acknowledged that the lodgings belonged to him, and that the clothes were his property. Moses Morant testified, that he went with Clarke to Bunhill-row, where they broke open the door in presence of Ball;—that he found under the chest of drawers a quantity of halfpence, and, among some litter, a leaden pot containing a parcel of punches and halfpence; and that under the drawers he found some shillings; and some half-crowns on the tester of the bed. Thomas Ball, landlord of the house, deposed, that the prisoner had lodged with him about a week; that he had the key of the room in his own possession; and that he never heard him make a noise with any instruments, which he thought must have been the case, if the prisoner had used any. This deponent was present when the articles were found. John Dixon swore, that he apprehended the prisoner on the 8th of October, but found no counterfeit money on him; however, he saw a paper writing, dated the 30th of September, which imported to be a notice from him of intention to surrender. Mr. Pingo, an engraver at the mint, swore, that the prisoner was not employed by the mint; the machines produced, were punches, but not punches made at the mint. He could not say positively whether
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the shillings found in the prisoner's lodgings were made from these punches, because they were so imperfect, but they had all the appearance of it. Thought the punches found in the prisoner's possession, might be for the making of base shillings, yet he confessed they might be made use of for other purposes; namely, for making seals, buttons, medals or other things, where such impressions were wanted. Ann Goodman deposed, that she was a servant to the landlord of the house where the prisoner lodged; that she went frequently up into the room next Ridgeley's apartment, and his door was never locked. Several persons with whom he had worked as binder, gave him a good character. The jury, however, brought in a verdict, "That the prisoner was guilty;" but judgment was respited for the opinion of the judges; whose opinions were delivered at the sessions held in February, 1779, and imported that his case was within the meaning of the act of parliament; in consequence of which, at the close of the sessions, he received sentence of death. He had made himself so sure of acquittal, that, just before he was put on his trial, he told some persons who attended him, that he should be discharged in a few minutes. On his quitting Newgate for execution, he affected the greatest unconcern, repeatedly smiling, and shaking hands with his acquaintance as he passed: yet he evidently struggled to conceal an anguish of mind that could not be suppressed. When the bellman at St. Sepulchre's church had finished the admonitory words,* Ridgeley, who had belong-

* It has been a very ancient practice, on the night preceding the execution of condemned cri-

ed to a club with him, said, "Remember me at the club to-night." On approaching the place of execution

nals, for the bell-man of the parish of St. Sepulchre to go into 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 t' 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 !

The following extract from Stowe's Survey of London, page 195, of the quarto edition, printed in 1618, will prove that the above verses ought to be repeated by a clergyman, instead of the bell-man.

" Robert Doue, Citizen and Merchant Taylor, of London,—gave to the parish church of St. Sepulchre, the summe of 50l. That after the severall sessions of London, when the prisoners remaine in the gaole, as condemned men to death, expecting execution on the morrow following: the claerke (that is, the parson) of the church shoold come in the night time, and likewise early in the morning, to the window of the prison where they
lye,

execution, his behaviour took a different turn; he acknowledged the justness of his sentence, and died a penitent. He suffered at Tyburn on the 31st of March, 1779, and the body was delivered to his friends for interment.

RINGE, RICHARD. See BEDDINGFIELD, ANN.

ROBERTS, JOHN, See POULTER, J. and WISTON, H.

ROCHE, PHILIP (PIRATE) was a native of Ireland, and being brought up to a sea-faring life, served for a considerable time on board some coasting vessels, and then sailed to Barbadoes on board a West-Indiaman; where he endeavoured to procure the place of clerk to a factor; but failing in this, he went again to sea, and was advanced to the station of a first mate. He now became acquainted with a fisherman named Neale, who hinted to him that large sums of money might be acquired for insuring ships, and then causing them
to

lye, and there ringing certain toles with a hand-bell, appointed for the purpose, he doth afterward (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 praier, desiring all the people there to pray for them. The beadle also of Merchant Taylor's Hall hath an honest stipend allowed to see that this is duly done.

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to be sunk, to defraud the underwriters. Roche was wicked enough to listen to this proposal, and becoming acquainted with 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 intrusted the ship to his management, directing the seamen to obey his commands. If Roche had entertained any idea of sinking the ship, he seemed now to have abandoned it; but he had brought on board with him five Irishmen who were concerned in the shocking tragedy that ensued. One night, having been only a few days at sea, when the captain and most of the crew was asleep, Roche gave orders to two of the seamen to furl the sails; which being immediately done, the poor fellows no sooner descended to the deck, then Roche and his hellish associates murdered them, and threw them overboard. At this instant a man and a boy at the yard-arm observed what past, and dreading a similar fate, hurried towards the top-mast 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 a present escape, descended to the main-deck, where Roche instantly seized, and murdered him, and then threw him overboard. The noise occasioned by these transactions alarmed the sailors below, they hurried up with all possible expedition; but they were severally seized and murdered as fast as they came on deck, and being first knocked on the head, were thrown into the sea. At length the master and mate came on the deck, whom Roche and his villainous companions seized, and tying them back to back, committed them to the merciless waves.

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This done, the murderers ransacked the chests of the deceased, and then sat down to regale themselves with liquor; while thus carousing, it was determined to commence pirates, and also agreed that Roche should be the captain, as a reward of his superior villainy. They intended to have sailed up the gulph of St. Lawrence; but as they were within a few days sail of the British channel when these crimes were committed, and finding themselves short of provisions, they put into Portsmouth, and giving the vessel a fictitious name, painted her afresh, and then sailed for Rotterdam. At this city they disposed of their cargo, and took in a fresh one. Here they were unknown; and an English gentleman, named Annesly, shipped considerable property on board, and took his passage with them for the port of London: but the villains threw this unfortunate gentleman overboard, after they had been only one day at sea. When the ship arrived in the river Thames, Mr. Annesly's friends made enquiry after him, in consequence of his having sent letters to England, describing the ship in which he proposed to embark; but Roche denied having any knowledge of the gentleman; and even disclaimed his own name. Notwithstanding his confident assertions, it was rightly presumed who he was, and a letter which he sent to his wife being stopped, he was taken into custody. Being carried before the secretary of state for examination, he averred that he was not Philip Roche; and said that he knew no person of that name. Hereupon the intercepted letter was shewn him, on which he instantly confessed his crimes, and was immediately committed to take his trial at the next Admiralty sessions. It was intimated to Roche that he

he might expect a pardon if he would impeach any 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 his trial, and being found guilty, judgment of death was awarded against him. After conviction he professed to be of the Roman Catholic faith, but was certainly no bigot to that religion, since he attended the devotions according to the Protestant form. He suffered at Execution Dock on the 5th of August, 1723.

ROSA, ANTHONY DE (MURDERER) was the son of an Englishman, but of Portuguese extraction; his father having gone abroad, settled in one of the Bermuda islands, where he married a Portuguese woman, of which marriage Anthony was the first child. The old man, being at different times master of several vessels which traded up the Mediterranean, brought his son up as a seaman, and he continued with him till the death of his father, when he engaged himself as mate in another vessel, in which station he continued about two years. The vessel putting into the port of Lisbon, De Rosa embarked on board an English man of war, bound to Ireland, and afterwards to England. When the ship's crew were paid off, he quitted the naval service, lived in an idle manner, and supported himself for some time by forging seamen's wills and powers. After this he became acquainted with Emanuel De Rosa, and one Fullagar, with whom he combined in the commission of robberies. On the 11th of June, 1751, Mr. William Farques, a young gentleman who lived in London, went to dine with his uncle, who kept an academy at Hoxton; and having staid to supper,

left the house about a quarter after ten o'clock, on his return to town. Between eleven and twelve o'clock, on the same night, Mr. Hendrop of Hoxton, was going home to his house, when seeing two men standing by a person lying on the ground, he asked what was the matter? to which one of them said, "I believe there is a gentleman murdered." Mr. Hendrop took hold of his hand, and found it warm. He then lifted up the body of the wounded man, who seemed to attempt to speak, but was unable. He observed that the body was bloody, and felt some blood withinside the clothes; on which he went to a public house in the neighbourhood, where meeting some men who had a lantern, he returned with them to the spot; but the party was then dead, though by the clothes it was known to be Mr. William Farques; on which the body was carried to the house of his uncle. The coroner took an inquisition on this occasion; when the verdict of the jury was, "Wilful murder, by persons unknown." A discovery of the perpetrators of this murder, did not arise, till about six months afterwards; when, on the 26th of December, Emanuel De Rosa was apprehended as a disorderly person, and lodged in Bridewell: the terrors of his conscience was now so great, that he determined to make a discovery of the affair, at once to ease his mind and preserve his life, by becoming an evidence for the crown. Having informed the keeper of the bridewell of his intention, he sent to Anthony De Rosa to come and see him; on which he was taken into custody, having in his pocket a knife with which he had stabbed the deceased. Emanuel having given in his deposition before a
magistrate,

magistrate, was admitted an evidence; and when the trial came on at the Old Bailey, he swore to the following particulars: That he had been acquainted with the prisoner about three years, and had been concerned with him in forgery, and defrauding people of money; that the prisoner came to his lodgings near the Maypole, in East Smithfield, about nine o'clock on the night the robbery was committed; that they went together to the Minories, where they found Fullagar; when all three of them went down Houndsditch into Moorfields, towards the barking dogs, (a public-house, so called, opposite the late Mr. Whitefield's tabernacle) where many people were then walking. The prisoner said he wanted money that night, and bade them come along, and not be afraid of any thing. They walked backwards and forwards for some time, thinking it was too soon to attack any body, as the clock had not yet struck ten. The prisoner soon afterwards said, "Let us cross over that road," meaning by the barking-dogs; and the gentleman who was murdered was coming alone in the middle of the path, when the prisoner asked him for his money. Mr. Farques said, "Gentlemen, I have no money for myself." Upon this, Fullagar gave him two or three blows on the head with a stick, which had a piece of iron on its head. Hereupon the gentleman turned round; on which Fullagar struck him on the back of the head; but as he did not fall, Anthony De Rosa bade the evidence hold his arm, which he did, and the other drew a knife, and stabbed him five or six times in the breast and body, as fast as he could repeat the blows; and Fullagar at the same time striking him near the ears, he fell against the pales. The pri-

soner and Fullagar now searched his pockets, and the former produced eleven shillings only. The murderers then went together to the Nag's-head on Tower-hill, and drank two pots of beer; and there the evidence received two shillings as the share of his plunder. About ten o'clock the next morning, the prisoner called on the evidence, and bade him take care of himself, for that he and Fullagar were going down to Chatham. Notwithstanding the knife* with which Anthony had stabbed Mr. Farques was produced, yet he steadily denied the having any concern in the wicked transaction, and attempted to set up a defence, by endeavouring to prove an *alibi*; Dorothy Black, and her son swore, that on the 11th of June the prisoner had a cold; and the woman added, that she gave him a sweat; and that he was not out of her house one minute during the whole day and night; and this latter circumstance was sworn to by the son. No credit, however was given to the testimony of these evidences: the jury found the prisoner guilty; and the court directed that Dorothy Black and her son should be taken into custody, to be tried for perjury. At the time of trial the prisoner was exceedingly debilitated by illness; being advised to make a full confession of the barbarous fact, for which his life was soon to pay the forfeit; and to consider the consequence of dying in the solemn attestation of a falsehood: in reply to this serious exhortation,

* How was it proved to be the knife that killed the young man? his having a knife in his pocket was no proof, and Emanuel's *ipse dixit* in that respect, was insufficient.

exhortation, he said, "I am as innocent as the child unborn;" and being farther urged on the subject, he exclaimed, "Would you have me own myself guilty of what I know no more of than you do? I know if I be guilty and deny it, I must send my soul to the bottom of hell, which I hope I know better than to do." He was equally obstinate at the place of execution, in denying the fact for which he suffered, solemnly declaring to the last, that he knew nothing of the matter. He suffered at Tyburn, March 23, 1752.

ROSS, NORMAN, (MURDERER) was descended from reputable parents at Inverness, in the north of Scotland, who gave him a good education, and intended that he should be brought up in a merchant's counting house; but before he had completed his fifteenth year, his father and mother died, leaving him and several other children wholly unprovided for. He made application for employment to several merchants; but though he was well qualified for business, his proposals were rejected, because he could not raise the sum usually given upon entering into the merchant's service as an articulated clerk. Thus situated he engaged himself as a footman to a widow lady of fortune, who, on account of having been acquainted with his parents, behaved to him with singular kindness. The lady had a son, who was then a military officer in Flanders; and the campaign there being concluded, the young gentleman returned to his native country to visit his mother, and transact some business particularly relating to himself. Observing Ross to possess many qualifications not usual to persons in his situation, he proposed taking him abroad in the capacity of valet-de-chambre; and the old lady

acquiesced in her son's desire. He continued in this service for the space of about five years; during which period he behaved with the utmost diligence and fidelity. The regiment being broke on the conclusion of the peace of Aix-la-chapelle, the officer set out on the tour of France and Italy, and Ross returned to Scotland, for the benefit of his native air. Having soon recovered his health, he set out in order to pay his respects to his former mistress; but learning that she had been dead about three weeks, he repaired to Edinburgh, where he was hired as a footman by an attorney-at-law. Having contracted an intimacy with a number of livery servants, he was seduced by their example, to the practice of gaming, drinking, &c. and was dismissed from his service, on account of the irregularity of his conduct. He then became foot-man to Mrs. Hume, a widow lady of great fortune, and remarkable piety. In the winter she resided at Edinburgh, and in the summer at a village called Ayton, near the town of Berwick-upon Tweed. About four months after he had been hired by Mrs. Hume, the lady removed to her house at Ayton. Some time after a female in the family, with whom he had maintained a criminal intercourse, was brought to bed; and it therefore became necessary for him to supply her with money for the support of herself and infant. He continued to provide her with the means of subsistence, from the month of April till August, by borrowing money of his fellow servants, and other persons with whom he was acquainted. The woman, at length, becoming exceedingly importunate, and his resources being wholly exhausted, he was driven nearly to a state of distraction, and
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in that disposition of mind formed the fatal resolution of robbing his mistress. Mrs. Hume slept on the first floor, in an apartment behind the dining-room, and being unapprehensive of danger, her bed-chamber door was seldom locked; of this circumstance Ross was well acquainted, as well as that she usually put the keys of her bureau, and the other places where her valuable effects were deposited, under her pillow. He determined to carry his execrable design into execution on a Sunday night; and waiting in his bed room, without undressing himself, till he adjudged the family to be asleep, he descended, and leaving his shoes in the passage, proceeded to his lady's bed-chamber. Endeavouring to get possession of the keys, the lady was disturbed, and being dreadfully alarmed, called for assistance; but the rest of the family lying at a distant part of the house, her screams were not heard. Ross immediately seized a clasp knife that lay on the table, and cut his mistress's throat in a most dreadful manner. This horrid act was no sooner perpetrated, than, without waiting to put on his shoes, or to secure either money or other effects, he leapt out of the window, and after travelling several miles, concealed himself in a field of corn. In the morning the gardener discovered a livery hat, which the murderer had dropped in descending from the window; and suspecting that something extraordinary had happened, he alarmed his fellow servants. The disturbance in the house brought the two daughters of Mrs. Hume down stairs; but no words can express the consternation and horror of the young ladies, upon beholding their indulgent parent weltering in her blood,

blood, and the fatal instrument of death lying on the floor. Ross being absent, and his shoes and hat being found, it was concluded that he must have committed the barbarous deed; the butler therefore mounted a horse, and alarmed the country, lest the murderer should escape. The butler was soon joined by a great number of horsemen, and on the conclusion of the day, when both men and horses were nearly exhausted through excessive fatigue, Ross was discovered in a field of standing corn. His hands being tied behind him, he was taken to an adjacent public house, and on the following morning was conducted before a magistrate of Edinburgh, who committed him to prison. On the trial of this offender, he had the effrontery to declare that his mistress usually admitted him to her bed, and that it was his constant practice to leave his shoes at the dining-room door. He said, that upon entering the chamber he perceived the lady murdered, and leaped through the window in order to discover who had perpetrated the barbarous deed; adding, that having lost his hat, he did not chuse to return till evening, and therefore concealed himself among the corn. He was severely reprimanded by the court for aggravating his guilt by aspersing the character of a woman of remarkable virtue and piety, whom he had cruelly deprived of life. The laws of Scotland bears an affinity to that of the Romans. It invests the judges with power to punish the criminals in such a manner as they may deem to be proportioned to their offences. This privilege was exercised in the case of Ross, whose crime having been attended with many aggravating circumstances, he was sentenced to

to have his right hand chopped off, then to be hanged till dead, the body to be hung in chains, and the right hand to be affixed to the top of the gibbet, with the knife made use of in the commission of the murder. Upon receiving sentence of death, he began seriously to reflect on his miserable situation, and the next day requested the attendance of Mr. James Craig, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, to whom he confessed his guilt; declaring that there was no foundation for his reflections against the chastity of the deceased. Six weeks elapsed between the time of his trial and that of his execution, during which he was visited once every day by Mr. Craig. He shewed every sign of the most sincere penitence; and refused to accompany two prisoners who broke out of gaol, saying that he had no desire to recover his liberty, but on the contrary would cheerfully submit to the utmost severity of punishment, that he might make some atonement for his wickedness. On the day appointed for putting the sentence of the law in force, he walked to the place of execution, holding Mr. Craig by the arm. Having addressed a pathetic speech to the populace, and prayed some time with great fervency of devotion, the rope was put round his neck, and the other end of it being thrown over the gallows, it was taken hold of by four chimney-sweepers, (for the chimney-sweepers of Edinburgh are obliged to assist the executioner whenever they are required.) The criminal now laid his right hand upon a block, and it was struck off by the executioner, at two blows; immediately after which the chimney-sweepers by pulling the rope raised him from the ground; when he felt the rope drawing tight, by a convulsive motion

motion he struck the bloody wrist against his cheek, which gave him an appearance too ghastly to admit of description. The body was put into chains, and hung upon a gibbet, the hand being placed over the head, with the knife stuck through it. This execution took place at Edinburgh on the 8th of January, 1751.

SEMPLE, MAJOR, alias JAMES GEORGE LISLE, (FELON,) apparently a gentleman, but a notorious thief and swindler, who, February 18, 1795, was indicted at the Old Bailey, before Mr. Justice Buller, Mr. Justice Ashurst, Baron Thompson, the Recorder, &c. for stealing in the shop of Mr. Wattleworth, in Wigmore-street, one yard of muslin, two yards of calico, and one linen shirt. — Todd, servant to Mr. Wattleworth, gave in evidence, that the prisoner came into their shop about noon on the 10th of November, and shewing two patterns, one of muslin, and the other of calico, said he wanted them matched for Mrs. Coningham of Egham-green; they had not exactly the same pattern as the muslin; but he chose one, and a yard being cut off, and two yards of calico, he said he would give them to the lady's servant who was at the door, and calling in a man gave them to him. He then asked if Mr. Wattleworth was at home, saying, he wanted some shirts; as he was shewing him some, Mr. Wattleworth came in, on which the witness left them together, but afterwards came and took his name as Lieutenant-Colonel-Lisle, which he entered in a book, and reading that as well as Mrs. Coningham's, at Egham green, to whom the muslin and calico was set down, the prisoner replied, it was very right. Mr. Wattleworth confirmed Todd's testimony, as to

to his coming in while he was serving the prisoner and then said, that the Major stated himself to have just arrived from the continent, and that he should want a quantity of shirts, and wished to take one with him to consult his sister, who, he thought, would be a better judge of the linen than he was ; that he would bring it back in the morning, and then give his order. This sister he called Coningham, and as the witness had a customer of that name, he made no hesitation, but gave him the shirt under those conditions. This happened in November : but he never saw the prisoner again until January, when he was in custody in Bowstreet. In his cross-examination he admitted, that he had credited a Mrs. Coningham for the muslin and calico ; but that he had afterwards made every enquiry at Egham, without being able to find that any such person lived there. He also admitted, that after the major was in custody, some person came and asked him if the articles were paid for or returned, whether he would forbear appearing against the prisoner ; but he would not say by whose authority that person came. Such being the case, the counsel for the prisoner contended, that they had not made out the charge of the felony, the evidence, if true, amounting only to that of obtaining goods under false pretences ; for they had even admitted they gave credit to Mrs. Coningham for the muslin and calico ; and as for the shirt, it appeared he had been trusted with that, and it remained for the jury to be convinced he had an intention of not returning it at the time he was so trusted, before they could convict him. Mr Justice Buller, who tried the cause, admitted the counsel was perfectly right as to the calico and muslin,

muslin, for it had been repeatedly so decided in various cases by the whole of the judges ; but he did not agree with him in respect to the shirt, and therefore should leave it to the jury. The major being called upon for his defence, begged permission to read a few words he had put to paper, fearful his embarrassed situation might otherwise prevent him from saying what he wished. This paper stated, that he did not mean to deny he had unfortunately been in that place before ; but some of the public prints had so misrepresented facts, that he had reason to fear the minds of the public might be so far prejudiced against him as to suppose he had spent his whole life in making depredations. To prove that it was not true, he begged to shew how his latter time had been passed. On going abroad he found the French engaged in a war, fighting, as he thought, for freedom ; he entered their service, and was soon honoured with rank in their army. This, however, at much hazard, he quitted, on their declaring war against this country, and went over to the Austrians, with whom he for some time served as a volunteer. The commander noticing his exertions, gave him a commission of no small rank, in which he continued until he was recognized by some British officers, and it was instantly circulated through the army, that he was the convicted Semplé, (he having taken upon himself the name of Lisle,) On this he was obliged to quit that service ; but still willing and desirous to serve, he went towards the Rhine, and obtained a commission under the Hereditary Prince. He had not, however, been long here, when a British officer sent to the commandant, that he had been condemned to transportation, but without stating the time had

had expired. Thus suspected of being a run-away felon, he was taken into custody by the police, and confined in a prison for more than five weeks, without even the permission of pen and ink. The fact being cleared up, he was set at liberty, but not without losing his situation; he again, however, went into the field, and was twice wounded. This induced him to return home, and he sent a letter to Mr. Dundas, a copy of which he desired might be read; but the Court thinking it irrelevant, it was not admitted. Hethen concluded, that he had been thus persecuted, because he was Major Semple, and which had also brought him to that bar on that day upon a charge of which he was totally innocent. Mr. Justice Buller recapitulated the evidence, and then explained the point of law, which, he said, was certainly in the prisoner's favour, as far as related to the muslin and calico; but it was not so with the shirt, for he not having bargained for that, nor any price being fixed on by the prosecutor, he could not be said to have given him credit for it, therefore, if they were convinced he took it away, intending not to return it, that as, Mr. Justice Gould had formerly explained, would be an intent to steal it, and in that case they must find him Guilty. The Jury, after near half an hour's consideration, brought in a verdict, "Guilty of taking the shirt under false pretences." This, the Judge explained, was no verdict; on which, in a few minutes, they pronounced him "Guilty of stealing the shirt.—Not Guilty upon the charge of the muslin and calico." Being put to the bar of the Old Bailey, on the 21st, he received sentence of transportation to such parts beyond the seas as his Majesty, with the advice of his Privy Council shall think

think fit. The Major was dressed in his uniform. After the sentence he bowed very respectfully, but did not speak, and appeared to be perfectly reconciled to his fate. Previous to this he had courted a young lady of Richmond, in Yorkshire, to whom he was to have been married, but a gentleman, from London, knowing the Major's person, waited on the parents of the lady, and explaining his character, prevented any further intimacy between the parties. On this occasion the Major produced the following lines, which we annex as a specimen of his poetic abilities:

For ever, O! merciless fair,
 Will that cruel indiff'rence endure,
 Can those eyes look me into despair,
 And that heart be unwilling to cure?

How oft what I felt, to disguise
 Has my reason imperiously strove,
 Till my soul almost fell from my eyes,
 In the tears of the tend'rest love.

Then Delia determine my fate,
 Nor let me to madness be drove,*
 But O! do not tell me you hate,
 If you even resolve not to love.

SEYMOUR, BRIAN, (MURDERER,) was a native of Waterford in Ireland, whose father was a corporal in a marching regiment that was quartered there;

* The grammarian will say it should be *driven*; but our best English poets have sometimes substituted the *preterfect tense* for the *participle*. EDITOR.

there; but having obtained a pension in England, he came to London, and left the boy to be taken care of by some friends in Ireland. Young Seymour having followed the business of husbandry till the eighteenth year of his age, came to England to see his father; but on his way to London he enlisted in the sixth regiment of foot, and soon afterwards embarking for Flanders, had a share in the memorable battle of Fontenoy. The rebellion in 1745 occasioned his being sent to England, when he served under General Wade, who then commanded in Yorkshire; marching from thence to Newcastle, he had a quarrel with a soldier, respecting a woman of ill fame; and a duel ensuing, his antagonist was killed; but the troublesome situation of affairs induced the general to grant Seymour a free pardon, without a minute scrutiny into his conduct. Proceeding to Scotland, he was present at the battle of Culloden, where he behaved with singular courage; but the regiment in which he served having been greatly injured, was ordered into winter quarters at Edinburgh. At this time it was customary for some of the ministers of the church of Scotland who were out of employment, to marry people at ale-houses, in the same manner that the Fleet marriages were conducted in London. Sometimes people of fortune thought it prudent to apply to these reverend marriage-brokers; but as their chief business lay among the lower ranks of people, they were deridingly called by the name of *Buckle the Beggars*. These marriages were generally solemnized at public-houses in the Cannon-gate; and Seymour happening to be present when a couple came to be married, and no priest present, he whispered the landlady, that if she would procure

cure him a suit of black, he would officiate as the parson. The woman, unwilling to lose a customer, procured the clothes, and Seymour being dressed in them, went into the room where the young couple waited, assuming the grave deportment of a real clergyman. The lady, who was to be married, hinting that she did not think he was a minister, he solemnly averred that he was, and the marriage took place accordingly. Before ten o'clock at night Seymour was obliged to return to the barracks in the castle; but by this time he was so much intoxicated, that he was prepared to affront every one he met. When he came to the Lawn-marker, he ran against a gentleman's servant named Johnson, who being irritated, struck Seymour a blow on the face: on which the latter drew his sword, and stabbed Johnson, so that he instantly died; the murderer then put up his sword, and proceeded towards the castle: but a shoe-maker, named Young, having observed what had passed, followed Seymour to the gate of the castle; when, the clock striking ten at that instant, the draw-bridge was pulled up, so that Young could not be admitted for that night. On the following morning Young went to the Lord Justice Clerk, and informing him of what he knew of the transaction, offered his assistance in discovering the murderer; on which his lordship ordered an officer to attend him, and directed the governor to let him have a sight of all the soldiers. At ten o'clock the men were drawn up on the parade, and Young walking round the lines, fixed on Seymour as the man who had committed the murder; whereupon he was delivered up, to abide the determination of the laws. On the trial, Young swore positively to the identity



JACK SHEPPARD.



tity of his person; which, added to other circumstantial evidence, capitally convicted him, and he received sentence of death. He suffered at Edinburgh, March 2, 1749. He walked to the place of execution, dressed in a shroud and reading a book, attended by two clergymen. His body was buried in the church-yard belonging to the castle.

SHEPPARD, JOHN, (HOUSE-BREAKER,) 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 Jack turned out a thief. Old Sheppard 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, and was then put apprentice to a cane chairmaker in Houndsditch. His master dying when he had been only a short time with him, he was placed with another person of the same trade: but here he was so ill treated that he remained only a short time, when he was taken under the protection of Mr. Kneebone, a woollen-draper in the Strand, who had some knowledge of his father. At length Mr. Kneebone put him apprentice to a carpenter in Wych-street. 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 loose women, among 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 where he was employed, stealing tankards, spoons, and other articles, which he carried to Edgworth Bess; but not being sus-
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pected

pected of having committed these robberies, he at length resolved to commence house-breaker. 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, and taking the bars out of the cellar-window, entered, and stole goods and money to the amount of twenty-two pounds 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 connections, 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 that 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 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 continued some time longer in the family; but after associating

associating himself with the worst company, and frequently staying out the whole night, his master and he quarrelled, and the headstrong youth totally absconded in the last year of his apprenticeship, and became connected with a set of Jonathan Wild's gang. Jack now worked as a journeyman carpenter, with a view to the easier 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 girls of the town. In the month of August, 1723, Thomas Sheppard, the brother of 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 forty shillings, and taking him as a partner in his robberies. The first fact 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 Clare-street, and carried off goods to the value of fifty-five pounds; and in less than a fortnight afterwards stole some articles from the house of Mr. Phillips in Drury-lane. Tom Sheppard going to sell some of the goods
stolen

stolen at Mrs. Cooke's, was apprehended and committed to Newgate, when, in the hope of being admitted an evidence he impeached his brother and Edgworth Bess, but they were sought for in vain. At length James Sikes, otherwise called Hell and Fury, one of Sheppard's companions, meeting with him in St. Giles's, enticed him into a public-house, in the hope of receiving a reward for apprehending him; and while they were drinking, Sikes sent for a constable, who took Jack into custody, and carried him before a magistrate, who, after a short examination, sent him to St. Giles's Round-house: but he broke through the roof of that place, and made his escape in the night. Within 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 pick-pocket," on which Sheppard was taken, and lodged in St. Ann's Round-house, 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; as they passed for husband and wife, they were permitted to lodge together in a room known by the name of Newgate-Ward. Sheppard being visited by several of his acquaintances, 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

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 perfect escape. Sheppard's fame was greatly celebrated among the lower orders of people by this exploit; and all the thieves of St. Giles's court-ed his company. Sheppard did not hesitate to make this new connection; and having formed an acquaintance 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 left the door open and Lamb went to bed, to prevent suspicion: but notwithstanding this, his master suspected him, and having him taken into custody, he confessed the whole affair before a magistrate, whereupon 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, was 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 and Blueskin hired a stable near the Horse-Ferry, Westminster, in which they deposited their stolen goods, till they could dispose of them to the best advantage, and in this place they
put

put the woollen cloth which was stolen from Mr. Kneebone. They then applied to Field to look at these goods, and procure a customer for them, which he promised to do; nor was he worse than his word; for in the night he broke open their warehouse, stole the ill-gotten property, and then gave information against them to Jonathan Wild, in consequence of which they were apprehended. And at the session at the Old Bailey, in August 1724, Sheppard was indicted for several offences; among the rest, for breaking and entering the house of William Kneebone, and stealing 102 yards of woollen cloth, and other articles, and being capitally convicted, received sentence of death. On Monday the 30th of August, 1724, a warrant was sent to Newgate for his execution. Here it must be observed, 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 day, 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 down, and he effected his escape, notwithstanding some of the keepers were at that time drinking at the other end of the lodge; but, having intelligence of his retreat, took Sheppard again into custody, and conveyed him to his old lodgings. Such steps were now taken as it was thought would be effectual to prevent his future escape; notwithstanding

Sheppard

Sheppard was continually employing his thoughts on the means of 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 they would have little time to visit him; and therefore the present juncture he deemed the most favourable to carry any plan into execution. The keeper had not left him more than an hour when he began his operations. He first took off his hand-cuffs, 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 chimney: 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 keeping for his farther use, he got into an entry between the chapel
and

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 this disadvantage, he, in half an hour, forced open the box of the lock, and opened the door; but this led him to another room still more difficult, for it was barred and bolted as well as locked: however, 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, he accomplished without difficulty, and got over a wall to the upper leads. His next consideration, was how he should descend with the greatest safety; accordingly 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 to such a depth, he went back for the blanket with which he used to cover himself when he slept in the castle; and 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: wherefore he made it fast to the wall of Newgate with the spike that he took out of the chapel; and sliding down, 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 the dog or cat." Sheppard, who was exceedingly fatigued, returned to the
garret,

garret, and laid down for more than two hours : after which he crept down as far as the room where the company were, when he heard a gentleman taking his leave of the family, and saw the maid light him down stairs. As soon as the maid returned he resolved to venture at all hazards ; but in stealing down the 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, and 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 day-light, lest he should be discovered. He had now above forty shillings in his possession, but was afraid to send to 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 chissel, and a punch." Night coming on, and being pressed by hunger, he ventured to a little chandler's shop in Tottenham-court-road, where he got a supply of bread, cheese, and 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

ler'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 swore to him, and not being able to give security to the parish for its support, he 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 journeyman shoemaker, to whom he told the same story of the bastard child, and offered him twenty shillings if he would procure him a smith's hammer and a punch. The poor man, tempted by the reward, procured them accordingly, and assisted him in getting rid of his irons, which work was completed by five o'clock in the evening. 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 inclosed a letter for one of the keepers of Newgate. Some nights after this he broke open the shop of Mr. Rawlins, a pawn-broker, in Drury-lane, where 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

his old acquaintance in Drury-lane and Clare-market, he dressed himself in a suit of black and a tye-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. 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. Having been already convicted, he was carried to the bar of the court of King's Bench on the 10th of November, and the 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. Even when the day of execution arrived, he did not appear to have given over all expectations of eluding justice; for having been furnished with a pen-knife, 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 sheriffs officers could not follow on horseback. But before he left the press-yard, one Watson, an officer, searching his pockets, found the knife and was cut with it, so as to occasion a great effusion of blood. He behaved with great decency at the place of execution, and confessed the having committed two robberies, for which he had been tried and acquitted. He suffered at

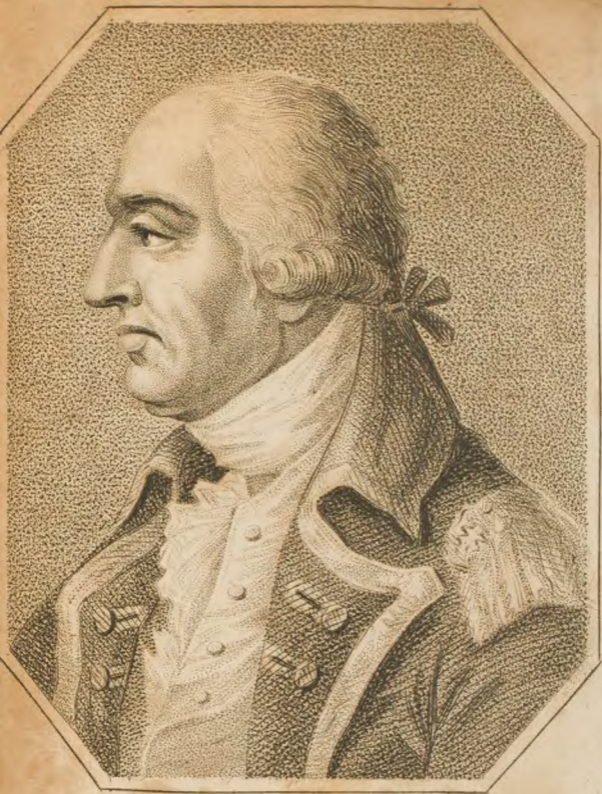
Tyburn on the 16th of Nov. 1724, in the 23d year of his age. He died with difficulty, and was much pitied by the surrounding multitude. When he was cut down his body was delivered to his friends, who carried him to a public-house in Long-Acre, whence it was removed in the evening, and buried in the church-yard of St. Martin in the Fields. This extraordinary man who was undoubtedly possessed of wonderful abilities and ingenuity, though shamefully misapplied, acquired no small degree of popularity in his time. His name employed the pens of a variety of pamphleteers, poets, and even dramatists. He was the hero of the stage in the year of his execution. John Thurmond having produced at the Theatre Royal, Drury-Lane, a pantomimical piece, called "Harlequin Sheppard, or a night scene in Grottesque Characters." He likewise employed the pencils of artists, particularly of Sir James Thornhill, whose mezzotinto likeness of Jack Sheppard gave rise to the following lines:—

“Thornhill, 'tis thine to gild with fame
Th' obscure, and raise the humble name;
To make the form elude the grave,
And Sheppard from oblivion save.

Tho' life in vain the wretch implores,
An exile on the farthest shores,
Thy pencil brings a kind reprieve,
And bids the dying robber live.

This piece to latest time shall stand,
And shew the wonders of thy hand.
Thus former masters grac'd their name,
And gave egregious robbers fame.

Apelles,



GOVENER WALL.

Published Feb. 1. 1810, by Nisbald, Fisher & Dixon, Liverpool.

Apelles, Alexander drew,
 Cæsar is to Aurelius due,
 Cromwell in Lely's works doth shine,
 And Sheppard, Thornhill, lives in thine."

WALL, JOSEPH, (MURDERER,) was descended from a good family in Ireland, and entered into the army at an early age. Of a severe and rather unaccommodating temper, he was not much liked among the officers. The late Captain Armstrong was his private agent, as well as agent to the African corps of which Mr. Wall was commandant. Mr. Wall was only Lieutenant-Governor of Senegambia, but acted as chief, the first appointment being vacant. It was an office he held but a short time, not more than two years. During which he was accused with the wilful murder of Benjamin Armstrong, by ordering him to receive 800 lashes, on the 10th of July, 1782, of which he died in five days afterwards. His emoluments were very considerable, as, besides his military appointments, he was Superintendant of Trade to the Colony. His family were originally Roman Catholics, but of course he conformed to the Protestant Church, or he could not have held his commission. As soon as the account of the murder reached the Board of Admiralty a reward was offered for his apprehension, but having evaded justice in 1784, he lived on the Continent, sometimes in France, and sometimes in Italy, but mostly in France, under an assumed name, where he lived respectable, and was admitted into good company. He particularly kept company with the officers of his own country, who served in the French army, and was well known at the Scotch and Irish Colleges in Paris. In 1797, he returned to this country, as if by a kind of fatality,

tality, without any apparent reason; and applied through the medium of a friend, to obtain a safe retreat, which was procured him at a house in Lambeth Cut, where he remained several months, seldom going out, or that either very late or early. He was frequently advised by the friend who had procured him the lodging, to leave the country again and questioned as to the motive for remaining; he never attempted, however, to give any, but appeared, even at the time when he was so studiously concealing himself, to have a distant intention of making a surrender, in order to take his trial. It is very evident his mind was not at ease, and that he was incapable of taking any firm resolution either one way or another. And even the manner in which he did give himself up, shewed a singular want of determination, leaving it to chance whether the minister should send for him or not; for rather than go to deliver himself up, he wrote to say, "he was ready to do so"—a less becoming, but not a less dangerous mode of encountering danger. He was allied by marriage to a noble family, and his wife visited him frequently when in his concealment at Lambeth; and since that time he lived in Upper Thornhaugh-street, Bedford-square, when apprehended. It is most probable, that had he not written to the Secretary of State, the matter had been so long forgotten, that he would never have been any way molested. His trial came on at the Old Bailey, Jan. 28, 1802, about *twenty years* after the commission of the crime. At the commencement of the trial, the prisoner said, he was very hard of hearing, and therefore requested that he might be allowed to sit by his Counsel. The Chief Baron of the Exchequer,

quer, Chief Justice in the commission, with whom appeared Mr. Justice Rooke, and Mr. Justice Lawrence, said to the prisoner, "that is perfectly impossible; there is a regular place appointed by the law for persons in your situation; we can make no distinction of the sort you desire: that would be invidious." It was proved by the witnesses that Armstrong was far from being undutiful in his behaviour, he was, however, tied to the gun-carriage; black men, brought there for the purpose, not the drummers, who in the ordinary course of things would have had to flog this man, supposing him to have deserved flogging; but black men were ordered to inflict on Armstrong the punishment ordered. Each took his turn, and gave this unhappy sufferer 25 lashes, until he had received the number of 800; and the instrument with which the punishment was inflicted, was not a cat-o'-nine-tails, which is the usual instrument, but a piece of rope of a greater thickness, and which was much more severe than the cat-o'-nine-tails. The rope was exhibited in evidence. While this punishment was inflicting the prisoner urged the black men to be severe: he said, among other things, "cut him to the heart and to the liver." Armstrong, the subject of this punishment, applied to him for mercy, but the observation of the defendant on this occasion, was, "that the sick season was coming on, which, together with the punishment, would do for him." After receiving a great number of lashes, that is 800, this poor creature was conducted to the hospital. He was in a situation in which it was probable his death might be the consequence; he declared in his dying moments, he was punished without any trial, and without ever

ever being so much as asked, whether he had any thing to say in his defence. The prisoner in his defence urged, that the deceased was guilty of mutiny—that the punishment was not so severe as reported, but, that the deceased was suffered to drink strong spirits when in the hospital. Several witnesses were called on the part of the prisoner, particularly Mrs. Lacy, widow of the captain who succeeded Mr. Wall, and Mary Falkner, who not only agreed with him in the outrageous conduct of the men, and the violent language they used, but both positively swore that Lewis, the first witness against the prisoner, was not the orderly serjeant on that day; John Falkner, Peter Williams, and some others who were present, were also examined, and whose testimonies went in full corroboration of the account given by the prisoner, and so far went to his justification; but which in most material points was in direct contradiction to the evidence which had been given by the witnesses for the Crown. The jury after being out of court some time, pronounced a verdict of “guilty.” The Recorder then proceeded to pass sentence of death upon him: that he be executed the following morning, and that his body be afterwards delivered to be anatomized according to the statute. Mr. Wall seemed sensibly affected by the sentence, but said nothing more than requesting the court would allow him a little time to prepare himself for death. On the 21st of January, a respite was sent from Lord Pelham’s office, deferring his execution until the 25th. On the 24th, he was further respited till the 28th. During the time of his confinement, previous to trial, he occupied the apartment which was formerly the residence of Mr. Ridgway, the bookseller. His wife

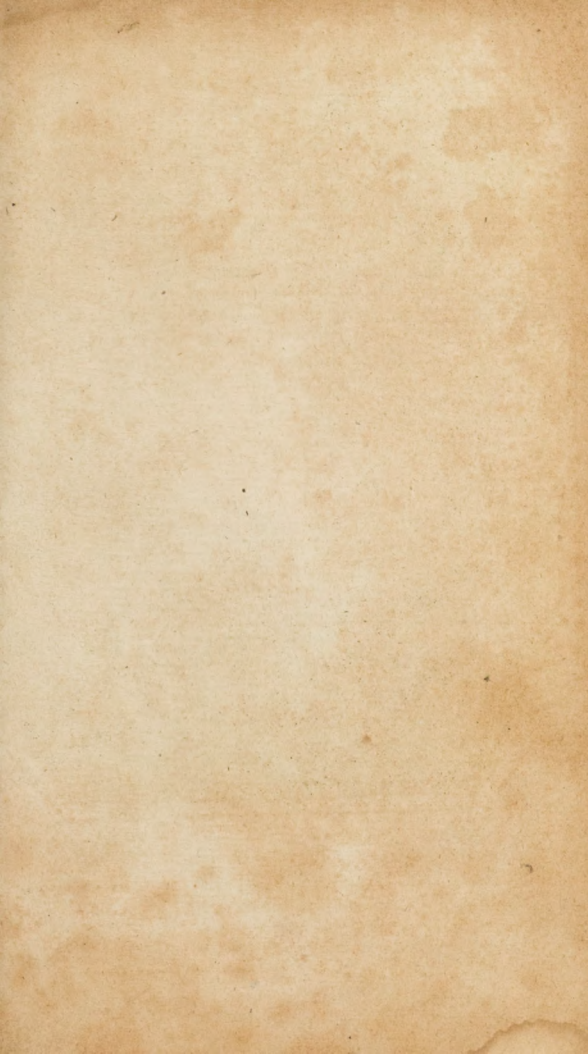
wife lived with him for the last fortnight ; although he was allowed two hours a day, from twelve to two, to walk in the yard, he did not once, embrace this indulgence ; and during his whole confinement, never went out of his room, except into the lobby to consult his Counsel. He lived well, and was at times very facetious, easy in his manners, and pleasant in conversation ; but during the night he frequently sat up in his bed and sang psalms, overheard by his fellow-prisoner. He had not many visitors, his only attendant was a prisoner, who was appointed for that purpose by the turnkey. After trial he did not return to his old apartment, but was conducted to a cell ; he was so far favoured as not to have irons put on, but a person was employed as a guard to watch him during the night to prevent his doing violence to himself. His bed was brought to him in the cell, on which he threw himself in an agony of mind, saying, it was his intention not to rise until they called him on the fatal morning. The Sheriffs were particularly pointed and precise in their orders, with respect to confining him to the usual diet of bread and water preparatory to the awful event. This order was scrupulously fulfilled. The prisoner, during a part of the night, slept, owing to fatigue and perturbation of mind. The next morning his wife applied, but was refused admittance without an order from one of the Sheriffs. She applied to Mr. Sheriff Cox, who attended her to the prison. From the time of the first respite, until 12 o'clock on Wednesday night, he did not cease to entertain hopes of his safety. The interest made to save him was very great. The whole of Wednesday occupied the great law officers ; the judges met at the Chancellor's in the afternoon. The conference lasted

lasted upwards of three hours. About a little after four o'clock, Thursday the 28th, the scaffold began to be erected by torch-light, and was completed soon after seven, except the black hanging, which is not permitted to be displayed, nor the prison-bell to toll, for the departure of any one convicted of murder. The prisoner had an effecting interview with his wife, the Hon. Mrs. Wall, the night before, from whom he was painfully separated about eleven o'clock. This disconsolate and affectionate lady, unremitting in her solicitude, caused the colonel to write a note to Mr. Kirby, the gaoler, about nine o'clock, requesting that she might be permitted to remain in the cell until eleven; thus cordially manifesting her fond but delusive hopes to the very latest moment. Mr. Kirby, with a feeling of humanity highly creditable to his character, readily complied with the request. But, greatly unfortunate lady! she had not any acquisition of reasonable hope at the hour of her departure. Eleven o'clock came and she saw the end of all her earthly joys! Numberless tender embraces now took place: the loving wife reluctantly departed, overwhelmed with grief, and bathed with tears, while the unfortunate husband declared that he could now, with Christian fortitude, submit to his unhappy fate.—During the greater part of the night he slept but little. About four o'clock in the morning, his sleep was however observed to have become sound, and according to the best recollection of his attendant, he continued in his sleep rather more than an hour; so that he could not have heard the fatal machine in its passage to the debtors' door. His voice preserved its usual strength and tone to the end; and though very particular in his questions respecting the machinery

chinery in every part, yet he spoke of his approaching execution and death with perfect calmness. At half after six in the morning, his prison-attendant going to his cell, was asked by him, "whether the noise he heard was not that of erecting his scaffold?" He was humanely replied to in the negative. The ordinary, Dr. Ford, soon after entered, when the prisoner devoutly joined him for some time in prayer. They then passed on to an anti-room, when the governor asked, "whether it was a fine morning?" On being answered in the affirmative, he said, "the time hangs heavily. I am anxious for the close of this scene." One of the officers then proceeded to bind his arms with a cord, when he extended them out firmly; but recollecting himself, he said, "I beg your pardon a moment:" and putting his hand in his pocket, he drew out two white handkerchiefs, one of which he bound over his temples, so as nearly to conceal his eyes, over which he placed a white cap, and then put on a round hat; the other handkerchief he kept between his hands. He then observed, "the cord cuts me: but it's no matter." On which Dr. Ford desired to be loosened, for which the prisoner bowed, and thanked him. As the clock struck eight, the door was thrown open, at which Sheriff Cox and his officers appeared. The Governor approaching him, said, "I attend you, sir;" and the procession to the scaffold, over the debtors' door immediately succeeded. He had no sooner ascended it, accompanied by the Ordinary, than three successive shouts from an innumerable populace, the brutal effusion of one common sentiment, evidently deprived him of the small portion of fortitude which he had summoned up. He bowed his head under the extreme pressure of ignominy, when

when the hangman put the halter over it, but took it off again to replace it; this done the Governor stooped forward, and spoke to the Ordinary, who, no doubt at his request, pulled the cap over the lower part of the face, when in an instant, without waiting for any signal, the platform dropped, and he was launched into eternity!—From the knot of the rope turning round to the back of the neck, and his legs not being pulled, as at his particular request, he was suspended in convulsive agony for more than a quarter of an hour. After hanging a full hour, his body was cut down, put into a cart, and immediately conveyed to a building in Cow-cross-street, to be dissected. He was dressed in a mixed coloured loose coat, with a black collar, swan-down waistcoat, blue pantaloons, and white silk stockings. He appeared a miserable and emaciated object, never having quitted the bed of his cell from the day of condemnation till the morning of his execution. The crowd, though prodigious, was said not to be so great as that which attended the execution of Adamson and Wilkinson for forgery, about three years before; but the public indignation had never been so high since the death of Mrs. Brownrigg. The body of the unfortunate Governor was not exposed to public view, as usual in such cases. Mr. Belfour, Secretary to the Surgeons' Company, applied to Lord Kenyon, to know whether such exposure was necessary; and, finding that the forms of dissection only were required, the body, after those forms had passed, was consigned to the relations of the unhappy man, upon their paying fifty guineas to the Philanthropic Society. His remains were interred in the Church-yard of St. Pancras.

WILD,





JONATHAN WILD.

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WILD, JONATHAN, (FELON) was born at Wolverhampton, in Staffordshire, about the year 1672. He was the eldest son of his parents, who at a proper age put him to a day-school, which he continued to attend till he had gained a sufficient knowledge of reading, writing, and accounts, to qualify him for business, and was accordingly apprenticed to a buckle-maker in Birmingham. Upon the expiration of his apprenticeship he returned to Wolverhampton, where he married a young woman of good character, and gained a tolerable livelihood by following his business as a journeyman. Having been married about two years, in which time he became the father of a son, he formed the resolution of visiting London, and soon after having deserted his wife and child, set out for the metropolis, where he got into employment, and maintained himself by his trade. Being 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. During this time he assiduously cultivated the acquaintance of the criminals who were his fellow-prisoners, and attended to their accounts of the exploits in which they had been engaged with singular satisfaction. In the Compter at this time was a woman named Mary Milner, 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 variety of felonies of which she had been guilty she was put under confinement for debt. A strict intimacy was contracted between Wild and this woman; and they had no sooner obtained their freedom than they lived

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together as man and wife. By their iniquitous practices they soon obtained a sum of money, which enabled them to open a little public-house in Cock-Alley, facing Cripplegate-Church. Miliner 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, she was considered by Wild as a most useful companion; and indeed she very materially contributed towards rendering him one of the most accomplished characters in the arts of villany. 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 booties; and they looked upon him with a kind of awe: for, being acquainted with their proceedings they were conscious that their lives were continually in his power. He found no great difficulty in selling the articles brought to him by thieves, at something less than the real value; for at this period no law existed for the punishment of the receivers of stolen goods: but the evil encreasing 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 new act; to obviate the intention of which, however, he suggested the following plan: he called a meeting of all the thieves whom he knew, and observed to them, that if they carried their booties to such of the pawnbrokers who were known to be not much troubled with scruples of conscience,

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 observed 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 great and continual danger of Tyburn. He informed them that he had devised a plan for removing the inconveniences under which the labourer, 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 owners, 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 it to be imprudent to have them left at his own house. This 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 that some suspected 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 possession 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
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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 expence necessarily attending prosecutions, people generally approved the conduct of Wild, and sometimes rewarded him even with one half of the real value of the goods restored. For several years he preserved a tolerably fair character, so consummate was the art he employed in the management of all his schemes. As his business now greatly encreased and his name became exceeding 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 hopes of recovering their effects. He made a great parade in his business, and assumed a consequence that enabled him to impose on the public. 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. These celebrated co-partners in villainy, under the pretext of reforming the manners of the dissolute part of the public, parade the streets from Temple-bar to the Minories, searching houses of ill-fame, and apprehending disorderly and suspected persons; but such as complimented these public reformers with private douceurs were allowed to practice every species of wickedness with impunity. Hitchen and Wild, however, became jealous of each other, and an open rupture taking place, they parted, each pursuing the business of thief-taking on his own account. In the year 1715, Wild removed from his house in Cock-Alley, to a Mrs. Seague's in the Old Baily, where he pursued his business with the usual success, notwithstanding

notwithstanding the efforts of Hitchen (his rival in iniquity) to suppress his proceedings. In 1718 the marshal attacked Wild in a pamphlet, called, "The Regulator; or a Discovery of Thieves, Thief-takers, &c." which was severely answered by his antagonist. The Marshal declared the *Thief-taker* to be worst than the *Thief*. Wild, in retaliation, represented the Marshal as the greatest rogue in the World. In this literary contest between Hitchen and Wild, the latter seemed to have gained the victory. Wild was, in fact, more artful; and, if we may be allowed the expression, more *honourable*. When the thieves with whom he was in league faithfully related to him the particulars of the robberies they had committed, and entrusted to him the disposal of their booties, he assured them that they might safely rely on him for protection against the vengeance of the law: Such as complied with his measures he would never interrupt; but on the contrary, he was a most implacable enemy to those who were hardy enough to reject his terms, and dispose of their stolen effects for their own separate advantage. He was then industrious to an extreme in his endeavours to surrender them into the hands of justice; and being acquainted with all their usual places of resort, it was scarcely possible for them to escape his vigilance. A young gentleman named Knap accompanied his mother to Sadler's Wells, on Saturday, March 31, 1716. On their return they were attacked about ten at night near the wall of Gray's Inn-Gardens by five villains. The young gentleman was immediately 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 perpetrators 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, Wild immediately judged the gang to be composed of William White, Thomas Thurland, John Chapman, alias Edward Darvel, Timothy Dun, and Isaac Ragg. On Sunday, April 8, in the evening, Wild received intelligence that some of the above named men was drinking with their girls at a house kept by John Weatherly, in Newtoner's-Lane. He accordingly went to Weatherley's accompanied by his man Abraham, and seized White, whom he brought away about midnight in a hackney-coach, and lodged him in the Round-house. Hearing afterwards that James Aires was at the Bell Inn, Smithfield, and having an information against him, Wild, accompanied by his assistants, he repaired to the inn, under the gateway of which they met Thurland, whose person had been mistaken by the informer 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 yeapons, 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 blunderbus and wounding Chapman in the arm, on which the villains retired. Wild also apprehended

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ed Isaac Ragg at a house which he frequented in St. Giles's, in consequence of an information charging him with burglary. Being taken before a magistrate, in the course of his examination Ragg impeached twenty two accomplices, charging them with being house-breakers, footpads, and receivers of stolen effects; and in consequence hereof, he was admitted evidence for the crown. This Isaac Ragg was convicted of a misdemeanor in January, 1714-15, and sentenced to stand three times in the pillory. He was indicted in October, 1715, for a burglary in the house of Elizabeth Stanwell on the 24th of August; but was acquitted. White, Thurland, and Chapman were arraigned on the 18th of May, 1716, at the session-house in the Old Bailey, on an indictment for assaulting John Knap, gent. putting him in fear, and taking from him a hat and wing, on the 31st of March, 1716. They were also indicted for the murder of Mary Knap, widow; White by discharging a pistol with powder and bullets, and thereby giving her a wound, of which wound she immediately died, May 31, 1716. They were a second time indicted for assaulting and robbing John Gough. White was a fourth time indicted with James Russel for a burglary in the house of George Barclay. And Chapman was a fourth time indicted for a burglary in the house of Henry Cross. These three offenders were executed at Tyburn, on the 28th of June, 1716. Wild was indefatigable in his endeavours to apprehend Timothy Dun, who had hitherto escaped the hands of justice by removing to a new lodging, where he concealed him-self in the most cautious manner. However, he did not despair of discovering this offender, whom he supposed must either perish through want of the necessaries of life

life, or obtain the means of subsistence by returning to his felonious practices; and so confident was he of success that he laid a wager of ten guineas that he would have him in custody before the expiration of an appointed time. Dun'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 Black Friars, and landed at the Falcon, but suspecting the man was employed to trace her, she again took water and crossed at White Friars; observing that she was still followed, she ordered the waterman to proceed to Lambeth, and having landed there, 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 the Bank-side, 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 his man Abraham, one Riddelsden, and another, went on the following morning to the house where the woman was seen to enter. Dun hearing a noise, and thence suspecting that he was discovered, got through a back window on the second floor upon the roof of a pantry, the bottom of which was about eight feet from the ground. Abraham discharged a pistol, and wounded Dun in the arm, in consequence of which he fell from the pantry into the yard: after his fall Riddelsden discharged a pistol and wounded him in the face with small shot. Dun was secured and carried to Newgate, and being

tried at the ensuing sessions, he was soon after executed at Tyburn. This Riddelsden was bred to the law, but he entirely neglected that business and abandoned himself to every species of wickedness. His irregular course of life having greatly embarrassed his circumstances, he broke into the chapel at Whitechapel, and stole the communion plate. He was convicted of this offence, and received sentence of death, but through the exertion of 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 to 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. One Arnold Powell, a thief of most infamous character 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

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 proposed, in consequence of which Powell was assured that his life should be preserved. Upon the approach of the sessions Wild himself informed the prosecutor that the first and second days would be employed in their trials, and as he was willing Mr. Eastlick should avoid attending with his witnesses longer than was necessary, he would give him timely notice when Powell would be arraigned. Then 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 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

severity. Powell put himself into a salivation in order to avoid being brought to trial the next sessions, but notwithstanding the stratagem he was arraigned, convicted, and executed on the 20th of March, 1717-16. At this time Wild had quitted his apartments at Mrs. Seague's, and hired a house adjoining to the Cooper's Arms on the opposite side of the Old Bailey. The unexampled villainies of this man were now become an object of so much consequence as to excite the particular attention of the legislature. In the year 1718 an act was passed deeming every person guilty of a capital offence who should accept a reward in consideration of restoring stolen effects without prosecuting the thief. It was the general opinion that this law would effectually suppress the iniquitous practices of Wild; but after some interruption to his proceedings he devised means for evading the law, which were for several years attended with success. His business having increased exceedingly, he opened another office in Newtoner's-Lane, in the management of which he appointed his man Abraham. This Israelite proved a remarkably industrious and faithful servant to Jonathan, who intrusted him with matters of the greatest importance. By an intense application to business Wild much impaired his health, so that he judged it prudent to retire into the country for a short time. He hired a lodging at Dulwich, leaving both offices under the direction of Abraham. On account of his business, Wild did not remain long at Dulwich; and being under great inconvenience from the want of Abraham's assistance, he did not keep open the office in Newtoner's-Lane for more than three months. On the 23d or 24th of January, 1718-19, Margaret Dodwell,

Dodwell and Alice Wright went to Wild's house and desired to have a private interview with him. 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 follow my advice you may acquire a thousand pounds, or perhaps many thousand pounds" Jonathan here expressed the utmost willingness to engage in an enterprize so highly lucrative, and the woman proceeded thus: "My plan is this; you must procure two or three stout resolute fellows, who will undertake to rob a house in Wormwood-street, near Bishopsgate. This house is kept by a cane chair-maker, named John Cooke, who has a lodger an ancient maiden 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 saw-pit there; he may let his companions in when the family are 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, that no murder may be committed." Upon this Wright said, "Phoo! phoo! 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 now resumed her discourse to Jonathan: "The boys being secured no kind of difficulty will attend 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, Cooke and his wife lie: he is a man of remarkable courage; great caution, therefore, must be observed respecting him; and indeed

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." Wild upon hearing of the above proposal, 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. He prosecuted them both for a misdemeanor, 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 as 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. Having been informed that he lodged at a public house in Bishopsgate-street, he went to the house early one morning, when Butler, hearing him ascending 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, but was exceedingly disappointed to find that the man whom he was in pursuit of had escaped. 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

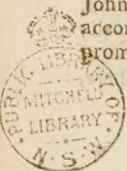
himself in the coal hole. Upon this Jonathan came out of the ale house, and seeing a shop on the opposite side of the way open, enquired of the master, who was a dyer, whether a man had not taken refuge in his house. The dyer answered in the negative, saying he had not left his shop more than a minute 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 informing them that the man he sought for was a thief, they said he would find him in the coal-hole. Wild and his attendants got a constable and having searched every part of the house without effect; he observed that the villain must have escaped into the street; on which the dyer said, that could not be the case; that if he had entered, he must be in the house, for 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 went together 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 as being guilty of 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 recompence him for his time and trouble. Wild went to the place, and found what perfectly satisfied him; but as Butler had been apprehended in a public manner, the other

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was under the necessity of taking him before a magistrate, who committed him for trial, which took place the ensuing sessions at the Old Bailey: but by the artful management of Wild, instead of being condemned to die, 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, hastened home, and instructed one of the thieves he employed to carry it off. The man who performed this business was named Jeremiah Rann, and he was reckoned one of the most dexterous thieves in London. Having dressed himself so as exactly to resemble a porter, he carried away the trunk without being observed. Mr. Jarvis, a whip-maker by trade, and the proprietor of the trunk, had no sooner discovered his loss than he applied to Wild, who returned him the goods in consideration of receiving ten guineas. Some time after, a disagreement took place between Jonathan and Rann, and the former apprehended the latter, who was tried and condemned to die. The day preceding that on which Rann was executed, he sent for Mr. Jarvis, and related to him all the particulars relative to the trunk. Mr. Jarvis threatened Wild with a prosecution, but all apprehensions on that score were soon dissipated by the decease of Mr. Jarvis. Being now much embarrassed in endeavoring to find out some method by which he might safely dispose of the property that was not claimed by the respective proprietors, 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 where this vessel principally traded, 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. and these commodities were landed in the night, without causing any increase in the business of the revenue officers. This trade was continued about two years, when two 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 running a great quantity of various kinds of goods. In consequence of this the vessel was exchequered, Johnson cast in damages to the amount of 700*l.* and the commercial proceedings were entirely ruined. A disagreement had for some time subsisted between Johnson and Thomas Edwards, who kept a house of resort for thieves in Long-lane, concerning the division of some booty. 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 being searched, a great quantity of stolen goods were found. 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 procured bail. Edwards, determined to wreak revenge upon Johnson, for some time industriously sought for him in vain; but meeting him accidentally in White-chapel road he gave him into the custody of a peace officer, who conducted him to an adjacent ale-house. Johnson sent for Wild, who immediately attended, accompanied by his man Quilt Arnold. Wild promoted a riot, during which Johnson availed him-

self



self of an opportunity of effecting an escape. Information being made against Wild for the rescue of Johnson, he judged it prudent to abscond, and remained concealed for three weeks, at the end of which time, supposing all danger to be over, he returned to his house. 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, 1723, and apprehending him and Quilt Arnold, took them before Sir John Fryer who committed them to Newgate on a charge of having assisted in the escape of Johnson. On the 24th, 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 were affixed the following articles of information :

1. " That for many years past he had been a confederate with great numbers of highwaymen, pick-pockets, house-breakers, shop-lifters, 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, &c. and at both houses of parliament, circuits, and country fairs.

4. "That the persons employed by him were for the most part felons convict, who had returned from transportation before the time for which they were transported, was expired; and that he made choice of them to be his 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 cloaths, and lodged them in his own house, the better to conceal them: particularly some, against whom there are now information for counterfeiting and diminishing broad pieces or guineas.

6. "That he had not only been a receiver of stolen goods, as well as writings of all kinds, for near fifteen years past, but had frequently been a confederate, and robbed along with the above-mentioned convicted felons.

7. "That, in order to carry on these vile practices, 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 robbing.

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, where he had 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
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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 persons into facts they were not guilty of; 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. On the 10th 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 his trial on so frivolous a pretext as that made
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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. Wild now informed the court that his witnesses were——Hays, at the Packhorse, on Turnham green, and——Wilson, a clothier at Frome: adding, that he had heard it slightly intimated that he was indicted for a felony committed upon a person named Stetham. The prisoner's council 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 council 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 indulgence. Follard and Butler were, at length, bound each in the penalty of three hundred pounds, to appear at the ensuing sessions, when it was agreed that Wild's fate should be determined. On Saturday May 15, 1725, he was indicted for privately stealing in the house of Catharine Stetham, in the parish of St. Andrew, Holboin, fifty yards of lace, the property of the said Catharine, on the 22d of January, 1724-5. He was a second time indicted for feloniously receiving of the said Catharine on the 10th of March ten guineas on account, and under pretence of restoring the said lace, without apprehending and prosecuting the felon who stole the property. Previous to his trial, Wild distributed among the jurymen, and other persons who were walking on the leads before 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 high-way: and also

also for burglary and house-breaking; and also for returning from transportation; by Jonathan Wild."

This list contained the name 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 shop-lifting, 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 of being exposed. In regard therefore of the numbers above convicted, some, that have yet escaped justice, are endeavoring to take away the life of the said

JONATHAN WILD."

The prisoner being put to the bar, he requested that the witnesses might be examined a part, which was complied with. Henry Kelly swore, 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 their booty, and rescuing them if they should be taken into custody; that they returned together to Wild's house, where the box being opened was found to contain eleven pieces of lace; that

that Wild said he could afford to give no more than five guineas as he should not be able to get more than ten guineas for returning the goods to the owner; that he received, as his share, three guineas and a crown, and that Murphy had what remained of the five guineas. Margaret Murphy was next sworn, and her evidence corresponded in every particular with that of the former witness. Catharine Stetham, the elder, swore, that between three and four in the afternoon of the 22d of January, a man and woman came to her house pretending that they wanted to purchase some lace; that she shewed 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, the value of which she estimated at fifty pounds. The prisoner's council 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 on this trial, and in summing up the evidence his lordship observed, that the guilt of the prisoner was a point beyond all dispute; but 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 perfectly satisfied that the construction urged by the counsel

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sel 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. Wild was indicted a second time for having taken rewards for stolen goods without giving up the offenders to justice, during his confinement in Newgate, agreeable to an act passed in the 4th year of Geo. I.

“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 whosoever 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 such 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.”

Catharine Stetham, the principal witness, gave the following evidence:—

“A box of lace being stolen out of the shop, on the 22d of January, I went in the evening of the same

same

same day to the prisoner's house, in order to employ him in recovering my goods; but not finding him at home. I advertised them, offering a reward of fifteen 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 enquiry 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 learned something concerning my goods, and expected 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 plated 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 fifteen, I would give twenty or twenty-five 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 ten 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

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must give the porter ten 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 be soon able to recover the other piece of lace, and to return you the ten 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 may be the consequence of this imprisonment."

The prisoner's counsel argued, that as Murphy had sworn that Wild, Kelly, and herself was 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 founded; 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 inforced 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, whom he did not prosecute. The facts being proved, the jury pronounced him guilty, and he received sentence of death. While under sentence of death, he frequently declared that he thought the service he had rendered the public in returning 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 not 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, however, observed 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 against those who had incurred his displeasure. He was observed to be in an unsettled state of mind, and 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, 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.

behaviour. He said he had fasted four days, which had greatly increased his weakness. He asked 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 to 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 was to suffer, he enquired 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 the practice of suicide in the most express terms. He now pretended to be convinced that self-murder was a most impious crime: but about two in the morning he endeavoured to put an end to his life by drinking laudanum: however, on account of the largeness of the dose and his having fasted for 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 soon became exceedingly pale, and grew very faint; a profuse sweating ensued, and soon afterwards his stomach discharged the greatest part of the laudanum. Though he was now 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 him 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 shewn 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 therefore judged it prudent to comply with their demands, and having set about the execution, the popular clamor ceased. He suffered at Tyburn, Monday, May 24, 1725. The next morning about 2 o'clock his remains were interred in St. Pancras church-yard: but a few nights afterwards the body was taken up (for the use of the surgeons, as it was supposed). At midnight a hearse and six was waiting at the end of Fig-lane, where the coffin was found the next day. Wild had by the woman he married at Wolverhampton, a son about 19 years old, who came to London a short time before the execution of his father. He
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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 the plantations. Besides this woman to whom he was married at Wolverhampton, five others lived with him under the pretended sanction of matrimony; the first was Mary Milliner, already mentioned; the second, Judith Nun, by whom he had a daughter; the third, Sarah Gregson, alias Perrin; the fourth Elizabeth Man, who cohabited with him above five years; the fifth, whose real name is uncertain, was married sometime after his execution. History cannot furnish an instance of such complicated villainy 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 the abandoned people with whom he became acquainted.— During his apprenticeship Wild was observed to be fond of reading, but as his finances would not admit of his buying books, his studies were confined to such as casually fell in his way; and they unfortunately happened to contain those abominable doctrines to which thousands have owed the ruin of both their bodies and souls. In short, at an early period of life he imbibed the principles of Deism and Atheism, and the sentiments he thus

early contracted he strictly adhered to nearly till the period of his dissolution. Margaret Murphy, who had been one of the witnesses against Wild, suffered death for stealing plate, March 27, 1728. In April of the preceding year, Charles Hitchin, Wild's rival and literary antagonist was found guilty of a heinous offence for which he stood in the pillory—was fined and confined. For further particulars of Wild, see BELLAMY, &c. &c.

WALTHAM BLACKS, the, (MURDERERS AND DEER-STEALERS). The actions of these offenders became so much the object of public notice, that it was deemed proper to frame a particular act of parliament in order to bring them to justice. Having blackened their faces they went in the day-time to the parks of the nobility and gentry, whence they repeatedly stole deer, and at length murdered the bishop of Winchester's keeper on Waltham-Chace; and from the name of the place, and their blacking their faces, they obtained the name of the Waltham Blacks. The offence of deer-stealing was formerly only a misdemeanor at common law, but by this act, which has been since rendered perpetual by a subsequent statute, it is rendered a capital offence. The following is the substance of the act:—"Any person appearing in any forest, chace, 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

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er not) breaking down the head or mound of any fish-pond, 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, hovel, cock, mow, or stack of corn, straw, hay, or wood; or maliciously shooting at any person, in any dwelling-house 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.” The Waltham Blacks were chiefly composed of the following gang, Richard Parvin, Edward Elliot, Robert Kingsheil, Henry Marshall, Edward Pink, John Pink, and James Ansell.

RICHARD PARVIN was heretofore the master of a public-house in Portsmouth, which he had kept with reputation for a considerable time, till he was imprudent enough to engage with this gang of ruffians who, in disguise, robbed the noblemen's and gentlemen's parks through the country. A servant-maid of Parvin's having left his house during his absence, had repaired to an ale house in the country; and Parvin calling there on his return from one of his dishonest expeditions, the girl discovered him; in consequence of which he was committed to Winchester

chester Gaol, by the mayor of Portsmouth, till his removal to London for trial.

EDWARD ELLIOT was an apprentice to a taylor 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 they not been relieved by persons who accidently saw them, they must have perished. Shocked at the atrocity of this transaction, he left them; and for some time served a lady as footman; but having casually met them in the fields, on their promising that no harm should attend him, he unhappily consented to bear them company. Having provided themselves with pistols, and blacked their faces with gunpowder, they proceeded to their lawless depredations; and while the rest were killing of deer, Elliot went in search of a fawn; as he was looking for it, 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 fray ensued, in which the keeper was shot by Henry Marshal, so that he died on the spot, and Elliot made his escape; but he was soon afterward taken into custody, and lodged in the gaol of Guildford.

ROBERT KINGSMILL, 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, even before he associated himself with the Waltham Blacks. While he was in bed the night preceding

preceding the fatal murder, one of the gang awaked 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, particularly for 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 in this case, the chief murderer.

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 gang of deer-stealers.

JAMES ANSEL was a resident at Portsmouth, and for some years was a highwayman; he had been concerned with the Waltham Blacks about two years before the commission of the murder.

It having been deemed most prudent to bring these offenders 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 their trial in the court of King's Bench, and being convicted on the clearest evidence, were found guilty and sentenced to die; which sentence was ordered to take place on the fourth of the succeeding month. One circumstance was very remarkable on this occasion:—the judge had no sooner pronounced the sentence, than Henry Marshall, the man who had shot the keeper, was immediately deprived of the use of his tongue: nor did he recover the use of his speech till the day before his death. After passing the solemn sentence,

tence, the convicts behaved in a manner equally devout and resigned, were regular in their devotions, and prepared themselves for eternity with every mark of unfeigned contrition. They received the sacrament before they left Newgate, acknowledged the justness of the sentence against them, and said they had been guilty of many crimes besides that for which they were to suffer. At the place of execution they were so dejected as to be unable to address the populace. They suffered at Tyburn, on the 4th of December, 1723.

WESTON, HENRY, (FORGER) belonged to a very respectable family in Ireland, and was nephew to the late Sir Hugh Palliser. He left his native county when 18 years of age, on account of having defrauded his father and uncle of several sums of money. As they would not give him any further countenance, he came to London, where he was almost destitute of every necessary, and applied to Mr. Bonus, a countryman of his, who recommended him to Mr. Cowan of Ely place, to manage his army agency business. His attention to business was such, as soon gained him the confidence of his employer. Mr. Cowan, about the year 1794, having occasion to be absent in the country, gave Weston the unlimited order to draw upon his banker for any sums he might want; this implicit confidence of his employer became the origin of his ruin: for having no person to overlook or to be a check upon him, he was tempted to hazard a large sum of money at a gaming-house in Pall-Mall, which he lost; and having gamed away nearly the whole property of his employer, he was at length induced, by the fatal hope of recovering it, to forge the name of General Tonyn, to a warrant of attorney, whereby he received upwards of
10,000l.

10,000*l.* at the Bank, which did not uphold his extravagance more than two nights. This matter lay undiscovered for some time, as he remitted the general's dividends regularly as they became due; he likewise obtained from his cousin, Mr. Walter, (now Sir Hugh Walter,) a large part of his fortune left him by his uncles, under the idea of laying it out to advantage in the stocks, all of which was sunk at the gaming-table. This brought him to such a state of desperation, that to obtain more money, at any rate—at any risk, he had the audacity to take a woman to the bank to personate the sister of General Tonyn, and in consequence obtained another considerable sum. This he had a favorable opportunity of doing, as he was in the habit of transacting money affairs for that lady, who met him about two months after at the Panorama, where she accused him of neglecting her payments; he immediately set off for Ipswich, and arriving at the Post-office just in time next morning to intercept her letter to her brother, which he answered, as from the General, to the lady's satisfaction. Finding at length, that he could hold it out no longer, he set off for Liverpool, attended by the servant of Mr. Cowan, who accompanied him as far as Finchley Common; when they parted, the servant returned home, and was immediately taken into custody under the supposition that he was his confidant, as his name was signed as witness to the warrant of attorney. Weston was taken at Liverpool, on board of a vessel on the point of sailing for America, to which place he intended to emigrate; when he was about to be taken, he made several attempts to destroy himself by cutting his throat. His trial came on May 14, 1796, at the
Sessions

Sessions House in the Old Bailey, before Mr. Common Serjeant. The prisoner's counsel objected to the evidence of General Tonyn, but the Bank having reinvested his property, the Court deemed him an admissible witness.—The following letter, written to this gentleman, and which was produced in evidence, will sufficiently evince the character of this unhappy youth.

“ Sir,

“ In the unfortunate situation in which I am plunged by my own misconduct, I beg you will permit me to confess to you the forgery with which I am charged, and for which I must unquestionably suffer. The cause of my committing a crime, which I acknowledge to be of the most atrocious nature, arose from a violent attachment to play; and having lost great sums at gambling-houses, I fondly hoped to repair my fortune by this most imprudent step. I am now an unfortunate and ruined young man: I have been unsuccessful in many speculations, and particularly by the baneful practice of insuring, by which I lost 1600l. in the last lottery, and have lost 7000l. in gambling at different houses. I cannot but express my deep concern at so dissipated a line of conduct, for which I can make reparation only with my life. The thought of a violent dissolution fills me with horror, but not more pungent than the reflection, that I have so early in life disgraced my friends. Could I but be spared to evince a different conduct! but hope is in vain, and I can only bid you an everlasting farewell.

Newgate

“ HENRY WESTON.”

The prisoner after a most affecting trial, was
 1 found

found guilty.—When sentence of death was passed, he addressed the court as follows:—

“ My Lord, I beg to return my humble thanks to this honourable court, for the great attention and kindness which I experienced on the awful day of my trial; and would beg now to trouble your Lordship with a few observations. My Lord, I acknowledge the crime of which I have been convicted; but I solemnly declare that I did not do the act with any intention ultimately to defraud General Tonym. If I had had any such intention, it is plain that I had an opportunity to have escaped from justice, and to have gone to the remotest part of the globe: but although I was too much attached to the vice of gambling, yet I fully intended to make restitution to the utmost of my power, of that property which I became possessed of through this forgery. My Lord, I solemnly declare that I have never committed any bad act, except the unfortunate act for which I am now justly sentenced to die. I put my trust in God, hoping that he will enable me to bear my sufferings with resignation; and that he who knows the hearts of every one will judge me according to my intentions; and I most humbly request that the execution of my sentence may be delayed, so as to allow me time to prepare for that awful and important event which awaits me.”

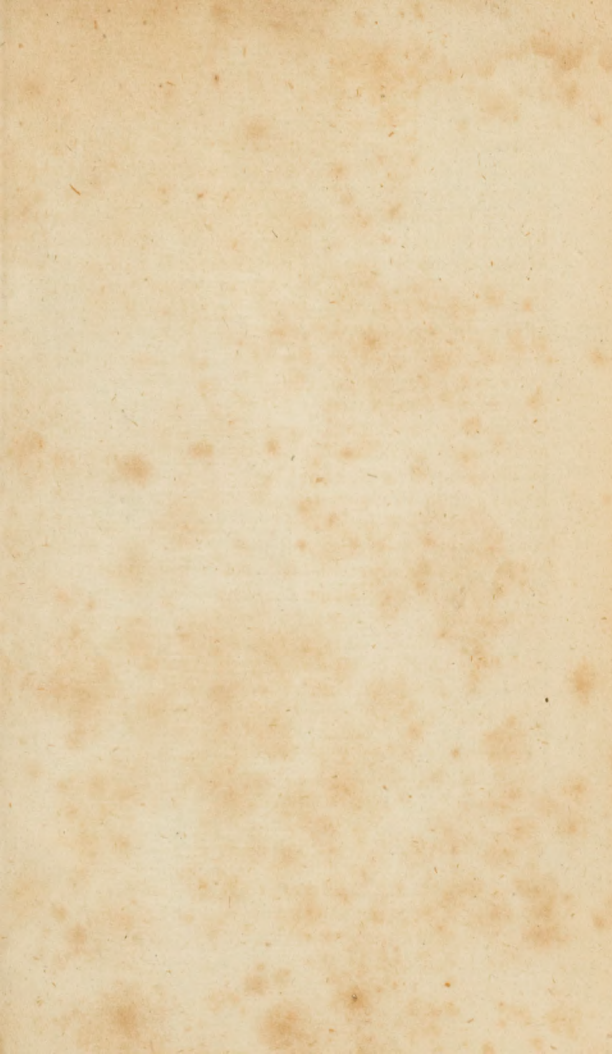
He was attended the next morning by three reverend divines who conducted him to chapel, in order that he might receive the sacrament with his fellow sufferer, who particularly expressed how happy he should be if Mr. Weston would grant him that favor; “ if not (said he) I hope, never-

theless, we may meet in heaven." It must be observed that Weston did not usually come to chapel; not being there above three or four times during his confinement, having been waited upon by some clergyman or other in his own room. However, on the morning of his execution, July 6. he attended and communicated with the reverend gentlemen and his fellow-convict, John Roberts, alias Colin Reculest, who was found guilty of forging a promissory note for 5 guineas, aged 24; the sacrament was administered by the ordinary, who afterwards prayed with the unhappy prisoners on the scaffold, attended by one of the divines alone, as the other two could not make up their minds to go on the platform, though requested by the unhappy young Weston. Upon the executioner's putting on the cap, he pulled it as far as he possibly could himself over his face, and at the same time held a white handkerchief to his mouth, so that during prayers, the populace could by no means see his countenance. He wept abundantly just before he was turned off, and squeezed his friend, the minister's hand, being no doubt at that time much agitated. It is said, that his mother died in Ireland a few days before his execution, of a broken heart.

END OF VOL. II.

*** Certain Lives referred to in the two first volumes, will be given in the subsequent one, under the particular crimes for which they suffered.











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