

The Newgate Calendar

Supplement 3

Edited By

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CONTENTS

SIR HENRY MORGAN. <i>Pirate who became Governor of Jamaica (1688)</i>	4
MAJOR STEDE BONNET. <i>Wealthy Landowner turned Pirate, Hanged 10th December 1718</i>	13
ANN HOLLAND <i>Wife of a highwayman with whom she robbed many people. Executed 1705</i>	15
DICK MORRIS. <i>Cunning and audacious swindler, executed 1706</i>	16
WILLIAM NEVISON <i>Highwayman who robbed his fellows. Executed at York, 4th May 1684</i>	19
CAPTAIN AVERY <i>Pirate who died penniless, having been robbed of his booty by merchants</i>	24
CAPTAIN MARTEL <i>Pirate</i>	31
CAPTAIN TEACH <i>alias BLACK BEARD, the Most Famous Pirate of all</i>	33
CAPTAIN EDWARD ENGLAND <i>Pirate</i>	39
CAPTAIN CHARLES VANE. <i>Pirate</i>	49
CAPTAIN JOHN RACKAM. <i>Pirate</i>	54
MARY READ. <i>Who Passed as a Man, and became a Soldier, Sailor, and Pirate</i>	57
ANNE BONNEY <i>The Famous Woman Pirate</i>	60
CAPTAIN DAVIS <i>Pirate</i>	61
CAPTAIN ROBERTS <i>Pirate</i>	75
CAPTAIN KENNEDY. <i>Pirate</i>	84
STEPHEN BUNCE <i>A Most Brazen and Ingenious Thief</i>	87
NICHOLAS WELLS <i>Burglar, Highwayman and Hired Assassin</i>	91
WILLIAM HALLOWAY <i>Highwayman</i>	93
— AVERY. <i>Bricklayer and Highwayman</i>	95
WILLIAM GETTINGS <i>Highwayman, executed 25th September 1713</i>	97
CAPTAIN URATZ <i>Highwayman and murderer, who argued with the divine under the gallows</i>	99
CHRISTOPHER DICKSON, JOHN GIBSON, AND CHARLES WEYMOUTH <i>Highwaymen, executed 10th March, 1714</i>	101
RICHARD KEELE <i>Highwayman, executed 23rd December, 1713</i>	102
CAPTAIN WORLEY <i>Pirate, whose beginning was bold and desperate, his course short and prosperous, and his end bloody and disgraceful</i>	104
CAPTAIN LOWTHER <i>Pirate</i>	105
CAPTAIN SPRIGGS. <i>Pirate</i>	109
CAPTAIN UPTON <i>Pirate</i>	111
CAPTAIN EDWARD LOW <i>Pirate</i>	112
CAPTAIN JAEN <i>Captain who flogged his cabin-boy to death</i>	115
NAN HERFORD <i>Swindler and Shoplifter, Executed 22 December 1690</i>	117
TOM MARSH <i>Thief, Executed 4 May 1696</i>	119
ANDREW BAYNES. <i>A Hardened Malefactor, who Tried Many Dodges, and was Hanged on 8 August 1711</i>	120
WILLIAM WARD, SAMUEL LYNN, RALPH EMMERY, JOHN PRIOR, ROBERT VICKERS, AND FRANCIS PARQUET <i>Malefactors who Were all Hanged on 19 February 1719</i>	122
JOHN TRIPPUCK, ROBERT CANE, THOMAS CHARNOCK, AND RICHARD SHEPHERD. <i>Malefactors who were all Hanged on 29 January 1720</i>	124
TOM DORBEL <i>Highwayman Turned Servant who Robbed and Murdered his Mistress' Niece</i>	126

Supplement 3

TOM GARRET *Highwayman, who Proved less Clever than his Victim* 128
COLONEL TURNER *Officer and Gentleman who Maintained his Position by
Robbery* 130
CONCLUDING NOTE *To the Jackson 1795 edition.* 131

SIR HENRY MORGAN.

Pirate who became Governor of Jamaica (1688)

The distinguished courage of Sir Henry Morgan, and the scenes in which he engaged, entitle him to occupy the first station in this history. He was a native of Wales, and descended of a respectable family. His father was a wealthy farmer, but young Morgan had no inclination to that industrious mode of life. Abandoning his father's house, he hastened to a sea-port town where several vessels were bound for the isle of Barbados. He went into the service of one of these; and, upon his arrival in the island, was sold as a slave. Having obtained his liberty, he went to Jamaica. Finding two pirate vessels ready to go to sea, he went on board one of them, with the intention of becoming pirate. Having performed several successful voyages, he agreed with some of his companions to unite their wealth to purchase a vessel; which being done, he was unanimously chosen captain.

With this vessel he went to cruise upon the coasts of Campeachy, and, capturing several vessels, returned in triumph to Jamaica. Upon his arrival, one Mansvelt, an old pirate, was equipping a fleet with the intention of landing upon the continent and pillaging the country. The success of Morgan induced Mansvelt to choose him for his vice-admiral. With a fleet of fifteen ships and five hundred men, they set sail from Jamaica, and arrived at the isle of St. Catharine. Here they made a descent, and landed the greater part of their men.

They soon forced the garrison to surrender, and to deliver up all the forts and castles, which they demolished, only reserving one, into which they placed an hundred men, and the slaves they had taken from the Spaniards. They proceeded to an adjoining small island, and, having destroyed both islands with fire and sword, and made what arrangements were necessary at the castle, which they had garrisoned, they set sail in quest of new spoils. They cruised upon the coasts of Costa Rica, and entered the river Calla with an intention to pillage all the towns upon the coast. Informed of their arrival and of their former depredations, the governor of Panama collected a force to oppose the pirates. They fled at his approach, and hastened to the isle of St. Catharine to visit their companions that were left in the garrison. Le Sieur Simon, the governor, had put the large island in a posture of defence, and cultivated the small island with such care, that it was able to afford fresh provisions to the whole fleet. The vicinity of these islands to the Spanish dominions, and the ease with which they could be defended, strongly inclined Mansvelt to retain them in perpetual possession.

With this view, he returned to Jamaica to send out greater numbers, that so they might be able to defend themselves in case of an attack from the Spaniards. He signified his intentions to the governor of Jamaica, upon his return home; but, afraid of offending the king of England, and of weakening the strength of his own island, the governor declined complying with his wishes. Baffled in his designs, he went to the island of Tortuga to solicit reinforcements from the governor, but, before he could effect his purpose, death suddenly put an end to his wicked career. Meanwhile, the governor of the garrison of St. Catharine receiving no intelligence of his admiral, was greatly anxious concerning the cause of his long absence. The Spanish governor of Costa Rica, apprised of the injury which would accrue to his master, by these two islands remaining in the hands of the pirates, equipped a considerable fleet to retake the islands. But, before proceeding to extremities, he wrote to Le Sieur Simon to

Supplement 3

inform him, that if he willingly surrendered, he should be amply rewarded, but if he resisted, severely punished. Having no hope of being able to defend the islands against such a superior force, he surrendered them into the hands of their rightful owner. A few days after this, an English vessel arrived from Jamaica with a large supply of men, women, and stores. The Spaniards, seeing the ships from the castle, prevailed upon Le Sieur Simon to go on board to decoy them into the harbour; which he dexterously effecting, they were all made prisoners.

But the active and intrepid mind of Morgan was soon employed in the execution of new plans. He at first equipped one ship with the intention of collecting as many as he possibly could to form a strong fleet to carry on his depredations. Being successful in collecting a fleet of twelve sail, with seven hundred men, he rendezvoused in a certain part of the island of Cuba. This island is situated in twenty to twenty-three degrees north latitude, one hundred and fifty leagues in length, and about forty in breadth. Its fertility is equal to that of Hispaniola, is convenient for commerce, and affords plenty of the hides called hides of Havana. It is surrounded with a number of small islands, which obtain the general name of Cayos. These are a place of refuge for the pirates, where they hold their councils concerning their attacks upon the Spaniards. It is plentifully watered with copious streams and pleasant rivers, and many convenient harbours adorn the coasts of this beautiful island. There are two principal cities to which all the other cities and villages are subject. Hides, tobacco, sugar and Campeachy wood, are the principal articles of commerce, of which great quantities are annually transported to Europe. Captain Morgan had only been two months in the south of Cuba, when he called a council of his fleet to concert measures for attacking some part of the Spanish dominions. Several proposals were agitated; but it was finally resolved to attack the town of el Puerto del Principe. When arrived in the bay of that place, a Spaniard, who was on board the pirate fleet, swam on shore during the night, and gave intelligence of their designs to the governor and inhabitants of the town. They hastened to conceal their riches, and to muster their whole force to oppose the invaders. Having collected about eight hundred men, cut down trees and placed them across the roads to impede the march of the pirates, and placed several ambuscades, and taken possession of a pass through which they behoved to penetrate; the governor, with the remainder of his forces, drew up in an extended plain in the vicinity of the town. Captain Morgan, finding the passages to the town impenetrable, made a circuit through the woods, escaped several of the ambuscades, and, with great difficulty, arrived at the plain where the Spaniards were waiting to give them a warm reception. A detachment of horse first attacked them, but Morgan formed his men into a semicircle, and so valiantly and dexterously assailed the Spaniards, that they fled towards the woods for safety; but before they could reach the woods, the greater part fell under the swords of the invaders. After a skirmish of four hours, Morgan and his men entered the town, but the inhabitants, having shut themselves up in their houses, fired upon the enemy. Being severely annoyed by the inhabitants, in this position. Captain Morgan threatened them, "that if they did not surrender willingly, they should soon behold their city in flames, and their wives and children torn to pieces before their eyes." Thus intimidated, they submitted to the discretion of the pirates.

The pirates then proceeded to unexampled cruelty; shut up men, women, and children in the several churches, and pillaged the town; then searched and pillaged the whole adjacent country, and began to feast and rejoice, while they left their prisoners to starve. Unsatisfied even with this, they began to torment them, in order to constrain them to reveal where their money or goods were concealed. Finding no more to

pillage, and provisions becoming scarce, they meditated a departure. With this intention, they intimated to the wretched inhabitants, "that if they did not ransom themselves, they should all be transported to Jamaica, and their city laid in ashes." The Spaniards accordingly sent some of their number to search the woods and the country, for the required contributions. In a short time they returned, informing Captain Morgan that they had been unsuccessful, but requested the space of fifteen days, in order to obtain the required ransom. To this he consented, but, in a short time, a Negro was taken with letters from the governor of St. Jago, requiring the prisoners to labour to gain time from the invaders, until he should come to their assistance. Upon this, Captain Morgan ordered all the spoils to be put on board the ships, and informed the Spaniards, that if they did not on the following day pay the ransom, he would set fire to the city.

The inhabitants replied, that it was totally impossible for them to give such a sum in so short a time, since the messengers whom they had sent were not in all the neighbourhood. Morgan knew their intention, but deeming it unsafe to remain longer in that place, demanded of them four hundred oxen or cows, together with sufficient salt to prepare them, with the additional condition, that they should put them on board his ships. Under this stipulation he retired with his men, taking six of the principal inhabitants as hostages for the performance of the stipulation. With all possible expedition, the oxen were slain, salted, and put on board, the hostages were relieved, and Captain Morgan took leave of that place, and directed his course to a certain island where he intended to divide his booty. Arrived at that place, he found that he had only fifty thousand pieces of eight in money and in goods. This sum being insufficient to pay their debts in Jamaica, the captain proposed that they should attempt new exploits before returning home. To secure success, he admonished them to confide implicitly to his direction, and he would certainly accomplish the desired object. The Frenchmen, however, discording with the English, departed and left Captain Morgan and his countrymen, to the amount of four hundred and sixty, to seek their fortune in their own way. This rupture did not intimidate the heroic captain, but, labouring to inspire his men with the same spirit, he, with a fleet of nine ships, directed his course towards the continent.

Meanwhile, he concealed his intentions from every person in the fleet, only assuring them that, by following his directions, he would certainly enrich them with immense spoil. Arrived upon the coast of Costa Rica, he informed them, that his intention was to attack the town of Puerto Vela by night. He encouraged them to this bold enterprise with the assurance of success: as he had communicated his design to none, therefore the inhabitants would be taken by surprise. To this some objected, on account of the fewness of their numbers; but the captain replied, "If our number is small, our hearts are great, and the fewer persons we are, the more union, and the better shares of the spoil." Stimulated with the hope of great riches, they unanimously agreed upon the attack.

This place is esteemed the strongest that the king of Spain possesses in the West Indies, except Havana and Carthagena. There are two castles situated in the entry of the harbour, which are deemed almost impregnable. The garrison consisted of three hundred men, and the town is inhabited by about four hundred families. The place being unhealthy, on account of certain noxious vapours which descend from the mountains, the merchants only reside here when the galleons come and go from Spain. Captain Morgan being thoroughly acquainted with the whole coast, and all the

Supplement 3

approaches to the city, arrived in the dusk of the evening, at a place about ten leagues west of the town. He proceeded up the river to another harbour called Puerto Pontia, and came to anchor. Leaving the vessels with a few men, the rest went into the boats and canoes, and about midnight they went on shore, and marched to the first watch of the city. An Englishman, who had been prisoner in that town, was their guide; and he was commanded, with some others, either to take or slay the sentinel. They seized him before he could give the alarm, bound his hands, and brought him to Captain Morgan, who asked him, "how matters went in the city, and what force they had," with many other questions, threatening him with instant death, upon his refusing to declare the truth. He then advanced towards the city, with the sentinel walking before, and when he arrived at the first castle, he surrounded it with his men.

In this position, he commanded the sentinel to accost those within the walls, and inform them, that if they did not surrender, they would all be cut to pieces without the least mercy. But, regardless of their threatenings, they instantly began to fire, which gave the alarm to the whole city. The pirates, however, took the castle, and having shut up the officers and men into one room, they blew up the castle with all its inhabitants. Pursuing their victory, they attacked the city. The governor not being able to rally, the citizens fled to one of the castles, and from hence fired upon the pirates. The assault continued from the dawn of the morning until noon; and victory remained in great suspense, until a troop of those who had taken the other castle, came to meet their captain with loud shouts of victory. This inspired the captain with new resolutions to exert every effort to take this castle also. He was the more stimulated to this, as the principal inhabitants with their riches, and all the plate belonging to the different churches, were deposited in that fort.

With this view, he caused ten or twelve ladders to be constructed with all expedition; and having brought a number of the religious men and women from the cloisters, he commanded them to place these upon the walls. The governor of the castle was, however, little influenced by the superstition of his countrymen; therefore, he was deaf to all their cries and entreaties to surrender and save their lives and his own. That brave commander declared, that he would never surrender the castle, and, continuing to fire upon the besiegers, many of the holy brothers and sisters were slain before the ladders could be fastened on the wall. This, however, being at length effected, the pirates ascended in vast numbers, carrying in their hands fire-balls and earthen pots full of powder, which they kindled at the top of the walls, and threw among the Spaniards.

Unable any longer to defend the castle, they threw down their arms and surrendered. But the brave governor would not submit, and not only slew many of the invaders, but even some of his own men, because they would not continue to repulse the enemy. Unable to take him prisoner, they were constrained to put him to death, who, nevertheless of the lamentation and entreaties of his wife and daughter, remained inflexible, declaring, "that he would rather die as a valiant soldier, than be hanged as a coward." Having taken the castle, they placed all the wounded by themselves, leaving them to perish in their wounds, and the men and women in separate apartments, with a strong guard upon them, and gave themselves up to all manner of debauchery and riotous excess. They next proceeded to torture the prisoners, to constrain them to inform them where they had deposited their money or their goods.

The Newgate Calendar

Meanwhile, intelligence of their disasters, and of the taking of the city, were conveyed to the president of Panama, who immediately endeavoured to raise such a force as might expel the pirates. The unhealthfulness of the climate, their own debaucheries, and the sword, having greatly lessened the number of his men, Captain Morgan gave orders to carry on board all their spoils, and to prepare to sail to another port. While these preparations were advancing, Captain Morgan requested the inhabitants to pay one hundred thousand pieces of eight as the ransom of their city, or he would reduce it to ashes.

In this unhappy dilemma, two messengers were dispatched to the president of Panama, to inform him of their misfortunes, and to solicit his assistance. Having an army collected, he marched towards Puerto Vela. But Morgan, stationing an hundred of his men in a narrow pass through which it was necessary that he should come, the Spaniards were instantly put to flight, and the president returned home with the remainder of his forces. Thus abandoned to their cruel fate, the wretched inhabitants collected the sum demanded, and Captain Morgan having victualled his fleet, and taken several of the best guns from the castles, he sailed for the island of Cuba to divide his spoils. These he found to amount to two hundred and fifty thousand pieces of eight, with a large quantity of cloth, linen, silks, and other goods. With this immense wealth they sailed for Jamaica, and, arriving there, gave loose to their usual riot and excess.

After having lavished the wealth which they had acquired, Morgan gave orders to his fleet to rendezvous at Cow Island. Rendered famous by his recent adventure, many other pirates joined him, and he soon saw himself at the head of a more powerful fleet than he had ever commanded. The French, however, that joined him, diffident of his fidelity to them, abandoned his flag, and went to pursue their own measures. Leaving that place, Captain Morgan set sail for the island of Savona, with a fleet of fifteen ships, and a full complement of men. He proceeded on his voyage until he arrived at the port of Ocoa. Here he landed some of his men, and sent them into the woods to seek water and fresh provisions. They returned with several beasts which they had slain; but the Spaniards, dissatisfied with their conduct, laid a snare to entrap them in their second attempt to hunt in their territories.

They ordered three or four hundred men from Santo Domingo to hunt in all the adjacent woods, and emptied them of animals. The pirates, returning in a few days to the hunting, could find none, which induced them to venture farther into the woods. Watching all their motions, the Spaniards collected a herd of cows, and committed the care of them to two or three men. The pirates slew several of them; but the moment they were about to carry them off, the Spaniards fell upon them with desperate fury, and constrained them to retreat to their ships; but, during their retreat, they frequently fired upon their pursuers, so that they fled in their turn, and were pursued into the woods, and many of them slain. Enraged at this attack. Captain Morgan next day landed two hundred men, and ranged the woods; but finding no enemy, he set fire to the scattered cottages of the peasants, and so returned to his ships.

Having waited, with no small degree of impatience, for some of his ships that had not arrived, he sailed for the isle of Savona. Arrived at this place, he was still disappointed in seeing the remainder of his fleet join him; and while he, with great impatience, waited for them, he sent some of his men to fetch provisions. The Spaniards, however, were now so vigilant, and so well prepared to defend themselves and their property, that they were constrained to return empty-handed.

Supplement 3

Despairing of the arrival of his other ships. Captain Morgan made a review of those who were present, and found them to amount to five hundred men, provided with eight ships. With this small number he was unable to pursue his original plan, and, by advice of a Frenchman who had been at the taking of Maracaibo, he resolved to sack that place a second time. After watering at the island of Ruba, they arrived at the sea of Maracaibo, and, after some hot actions, in taking possession of the forts at the entrance, they arrived at the city in small boats and canoes. The inhabitants deserted the city at their approach; and, after taking what property they could find, and exercising unheard-of cruelties and tortures upon the prisoners they found in the neighbourhood. Captain Morgan resolved to sail for Gibraltar, and run the hazard of a battle. Some of the principal prisoners he took with him, and sent others to Gibraltar, to tell the inhabitants of the barbarous cruelty they had seen exercised towards their townsmen, and to assure them, that unless they surrendered to Morgan, they would share the same fate. Notwithstanding a show of resistance at first, every person in the city, with the exception of an idiot, fled when the pirates approached, taking with them their riches and gunpowder, and destroying the guns of the fortress.

This solitary individual who had remained in the city, notwithstanding it was evident to Morgan and his associates that he was an idiot, they tortured with unparalleled cruelty, to force him to discover to them the retreat of the inhabitants; of this he knew nothing, yet he died under their ferocious hands. Detachments were sent to scour the country round in search of the fugitives, whom, when they found, they treated with the most barbarous inhumanity. One of these was headed by Morgan himself, who directed his search against the governor, but the latter retired to a high mountain, and completely foiled Morgan and his army. The heavy rains, and want of ammunition, had reduced the pirates to great distress; and if the Spaniards had not been so dismayed, they would, at this time, have found their invaders an easy prey.

Morgan returned to Gibraltar with a great many prisoners, who negotiated a ransom to save the city from being burnt. He then returned to Maracaibo, where he was informed that a Spanish fleet, consisting of several large vessels, lay at the entrance of the strait, to prevent his escape; which struck his men and himself with great consternation. He assumed a fictitious courage, and sent a letter to the admiral, demanding a very high ransom to prevent the town of Maracaibo from being committed to the flames. This, however, met with no gracious reception, and the Spanish admiral would listen to nothing but the surrender of all the prisoners, hostages, and property. In this dilemma, Morgan assembled his men, and asked them, whether they would give up what they had acquired with such toil and danger, or fight their way through the enemy? To the latter proposition they unanimously agreed.

Despair sharpened their invention and their courage. They set about immediately to prepare a fire-ship, with which they intended to destroy the Spanish admiral's vessel, and considerably strengthened their other vessels. Captain Morgan sailed with his fleet, and attacked the enemy early in the morning: the fire-ship grappled with the largest vessel, and soon destroyed her; the other two fled towards the castle at the entrance, where one of them was sunk by her own crew, and the other surrendered to the pirates. Elated with this signal victory, the pirates immediately landed, hoping to find the castle surrender at their appearance. In this they were, however, disappointed, for they met with a most spirited resistance, and were at last obliged to fly to their ships.

The Newgate Calendar

The Spanish admiral escaped on shore, and was greatly dismayed to see so many of his brave countrymen perish in the waves, rather than permit themselves to be taken prisoners by the pirates.

Morgan again sailed for Maracaibo, where he repaired the large ship he had taken, on board of which he hoisted his own flag. He again sent to the Spanish admiral, demanding a ransom for the city of Maracaibo, to which that brave officer would not listen, but threatened vengeance on the pirates. The inhabitants, however, offered the sum of 20,000 pieces of eight, besides 500 beeves to victual his fleet, if he would spare the town, and free the Spaniards he had made prisoners. To this last clause, however, he would not agree; he feared the Spanish admiral might destroy his fleet with the guns of the castle, in passing through the strait; and, for this purpose, he wished to retain the prisoners, to hold out a bribe to the admiral. He sent some of them to the castle, to inform the governor, that unless they were permitted to pass the castle unmolested, he would hang every prisoner in his power. The admiral would not listen to the supplications of these unfortunate prisoners, but accused them of cowardice, and returned for answer, that he would oppose the passage of the pirates by every means in his power.

This resolution made Morgan pause for a while, before he decided what was to be done. In the first place, they divided their plunder, which amounted to 250,000 pieces of eight, besides an immense quantity of merchandise and slaves. Morgan then harangued his men, and took counsel what steps they were to follow, in order to get past the castle. A stratagem was at length agreed upon, in which they succeeded. During the day time they sent on shore their boats loaded with men, as if they intended to attack the castle by land. The canoes were hid from the castle for some time, by the trees on the banks, but in a short while returned, with the appearance of only two or three men in them, to deceive the enemy, while they were all lying in the bottom of the boats. The Spaniards expected the forces that had been landed would attack the castle at night; they removed all their heavy guns to the land side, and left that which commanded the sea without any, by which the pirates passed unmolested during the night.

When the Spaniards perceived that they were about to escape, they transported their guns to the other side of the castle, and commenced a dreadful fire upon the pirates; but they effected their escape without much loss or damage. Captain Morgan now sent a canoe to the castle, with some of the prisoners, and fired seven great guns as a farewell salute.

In this voyage they were suddenly overtaken with a great tempest; were constrained to cast anchor, and again to put to sea; and were alternately harassed with the dread of being overwhelmed in the deep, or cast upon shore and murdered by the Spaniards or Indians. Fortunately, however, for Morgan and his crew, the tempest was calmed, and they arrived safe at Jamaica.

Not long after their arrival there, their excesses emptied their coffers, and constrained them to seek for new spoils. Having collected his men at Port Caullion, he held a council to deliberate upon their next adventure. Meanwhile it was found necessary to send four ships and one boat, with four hundred men, to the continent, to pillage some coast towns for provisions, and to search the woods for wild beasts. These vessels were for some days becalmed in the mouth of the river Cow, which informed the Spaniards of their arrival, and gave them time to hide their money and goods, and to prepare for their own defence. Here they seized a ship richly laden, and

landed in defiance of all the resistance of the Spaniards, whom they pursued into the woods, and, by torture, constrained many of them to deliver up their money and property. Dissatisfied with all that they had received, they, upon their departure, demanded four thousand bushels of maize as a ransom for the town.

The return of these ships, and their great success, was cause of exultation to Morgan and his men. Having equally divided the spoil, they directed their course towards Cape Tiburon; the fleet consisting of thirty-seven sail, with two thousand men, besides marines and boys. The captain divided his fleet into two squadrons, and gave the command of the second squadron to a vice-admiral. He then summoned a council of all his captains, and, besides other directions, enjoined them to carry on hostilities with the Spaniards, as the enemies of the English nation.

From Cape Tiburon, Morgan sailed for St. Catharine's, then in the possession of the Spaniards; landed a thousand men, and advanced to the governor's residence: but he found that the garrison had retired to the adjacent small island, and fortified themselves in the strongest manner.

Upon their approach, they received such a warm reception, that they were under the necessity of lying all night upon the ground, destitute of every kind of provisions. But a flag of truce being hoisted, a capitulation took place, and it was finally agreed to surrender the island to Morgan and his crew. Having become masters of the island, they hastened to satiate their hungry appetites, and to indulge in all manner of riot and excess. After some time, they pillaged the store-houses of powder and other stores, carried on board the principal guns, destroyed the remainder, and directed their attack upon the castle of Chagre.

This castle is situated at the entrance of the river, upon a high mountain, and surrounded with wooden pallisadoes. On the land side, it has four bastions, and is wholly inaccessible by sea. Unintimidated by these obstacles, these pirates made an attack, but were repulsed with some loss. In the action one of the pirates was wounded with an arrow, which he instantly pulled out, wrapped it in cotton, and discharged it from his musket. The arrow fell upon a house thatched with palm-leaves, and the cotton being kindled by the powder, set the house on fire, which communicated to a large quantity of powder, that blew up and caused a dreadful conflagration. While the Spaniards were labouring to extinguish the flames, the pirates set fire to the pallisadoes, and in a short time entered the place. The governor was slain, and the greater part of his men chose rather to leap into the sea, than await the tortures of these cruel pirates.

Upon the intelligence of this fortunate adventure, Morgan left St. Catharine's, and hastened to that place, where he was received with every demonstration of joy. Having garrisoned the place, and seized all the vessels, he directed his course towards Panama, at the head of twelve hundred men; but, too confident of the smiles of fortune, he took a small stock of provisions with him. In their march they suffered much from famine, but in the space of nine days he beheld Panama.

On the morning of the tenth. Captain Morgan arranged his men; but, by the advice of one of his guides, he did not take the direct road to the city, and therefore escaped some of the ambuscades that were laid for him. The governor of Panama came out to meet him with two squadrons, four regiments, and a number of wild bulls driven by the Indians. Upon the approach of the Spaniards, their number and hostile appearance almost intimidated the pirates; but, despairing of all mercy from the hands

The Newgate Calendar

of those whom they had so often offended, they resolved to give them battle. They were first attacked by a party of horse, but, routing them, the foot soon followed their example, and victory declared upon the side of the pirates. The greater part were either slain or taken prisoners. A Spanish captain was also taken prisoner, who informed Morgan concerning the strength and position of the town; which inclined him to attack the town in another direction.

Morgan and his men were bravely repulsed, and suffered much from the great guns placed in every direction; but, in defiance of every opposition and danger, the pirates, in three hours, carried the town. Thus victorious, they slew all who came in their way, and seized upon all the property of the place. To prevent his men from intoxication, (that the Spaniards might not have an opportunity to fall upon them,) Morgan assembled his men, and prohibited them from tasting the wine, assigning as his reason, that the Spaniards had mingled it with poison.

The captain gave secret orders to set fire to the city in different places. His own men being dissatisfied with this measure, he endeavoured to throw the odium upon the Spaniards themselves. After doing incredible harm, the pirates retired from the town, and encamped in the fields. They, however, upon finding themselves safe from a second attack, returned to the city, and conveyed away a large quantity of plate and other valuable articles which the fire had not consumed.

While Morgan continued at Panama, he sent out parties in all directions, who so pillaged the country, that he departed from that place loaded with immense plunder, both in money and in goods. About half way to Chagre they were all searched, beginning with the captain himself, to find whether they had concealed any part of the booty. Several of the company, however, boldly accused the captain of concealing some of the more valuable jewels, as it was impossible that no more than 200 pieces of eight should fall to the share of each man, from such an immense spoil.

The captain, finding his authority lessened, endeavoured to escape from St. Catharine's with two or three ships; but the arrival of a new governor in Jamaica put a period to the depredations of Morgan and many of his associates

MAJOR STEDE BONNET.
Wealthy Landowner turned Pirate, Hanged 10th December
1718

THIS pirate was a gentleman of a considerable fortune in the island of Barbados; it was therefore surprising that he should embark in such a dishonourable and dangerous undertaking. Having formed his resolution, he equipped a small vessel of ten guns and seventy men at his own expense, and in the night commenced his voyage.

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

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

Black Beard some time after surrendered to the royal proclamation, and obtained pardon. The major then assumed the command of his own ships, immediately sailed to Bath Town in North Carolina, and likewise surrendered to his majesty's proclamation.

The war now commenced between the triple allies and Spain, and Major Bonnet went to the island of St. Thomas, to obtain leave of the emperor to privateer upon the Spaniards. Upon his return, he found that Black Beard had pillaged the great ships of money and arms, and set on shore on a desolate island seventeen of the men; which Bonnet being informed of by two who had escaped, he sent the long-boat to their assistance; so that, after remaining two days without food, and in the prospect of a lingering death, they were all taken on board the major's ships.

Bonnet then informed his men, that his intention was to take a commission to act against the Spaniards; and that he would take them along with him if they were inclined. To this they all readily complied. Just, however, as they were about to sail, they received intelligence, that Black Beard was not far off, with only eighteen or twenty men. The major pursued, but was too late to apprehend him. Disappointed in their pursuit, they directed their course to Virginia. When off the Capes, they met a vessel, out of which they took twelve barrels of pork, and four hundred weight of bread, and, in return, gave them eight or ten casks of rice, and an old cable. Two days after, he captured a vessel off Cape Henry; in which were several casks of rum, and other articles of which they stood greatly in want.

The Newgate Calendar

Under the name of Captain Thomas, Major Bonnet suddenly resumed his former depredatory courses. Off Cape Henry, he took two ships bound from Virginia to Glasgow, which only supplied them with some hundreds weight of tobacco. The following day he seized one bound to Bermudas, which supplied him with twenty barrels of pork, and in return, gave her two barrels of rice, and a hogshead of molasses. From this ship, two men entered into their service. The next prize was a Virginiaman bound for Glasgow, from which they received nothing of value. In the course of their cruising, several vessels were captured, though of no considerable amount.

Our pirates next sailed for Cape Fier river, where they waited too long, because their vessel proved leaky, and they could not proceed until she was refitted. A small shallop now afforded the materials for this purpose. Meanwhile, the intelligence was received, that a pirate was discovered with her prizes at no great distance; upon this information, the Council of South Carolina was alarmed, and two vessels were equipped and sent in search of the pirates. After a considerable search, they were discovered, a severe engagement ensued, and Bonnet and his crew were made prisoners. In a short time, however, the major and one Herriot made their escape. This greatly alarmed the inhabitants, lest he should again find means to get a vessel, and wreak his vengeance upon them. Accordingly, one Colonel Rhet was sent in pursuit of him, and a reward of seven hundred pounds offered for his apprehension.

They were discovered; Herriot was killed upon the spot, the major surrendered, was brought to Charlestown, and, along with several others, was tried, found guilty, and received the sentence of death, which was carried out in Charlestown, 10 December 1718.

ANN HOLLAND

Wife of a highwayman with whom she robbed many people. Executed 1705

This woman was born of obscure parents. She possessed a great share of natural accomplishments; which was, perhaps, more unlucky for her than if she had been deformed and ugly. She entered into the service of several families, but as regularly decamped with some valuable booty. She at last was bar-maid at a low coffee-house, where she served her master's customers in a double capacity; and here she became acquainted with a Mr. French, a comb-maker, who was fascinated with her appearance. He never once suspected her virtue, and paid her honourable courtship: a match was concluded. She, however, proved as bad a mistress as she had been a maid; and, after forcing her husband, by her bad conduct, to turn her out of doors, he went to Ireland, and there died.

Ann Holland again found herself a wandering vagabond, and left to shift for a livelihood among the wicked. In this she was not unsuccessful; for, being young and very cunning, she played her cards to great advantage. She was soon after married to James Wilson, a noted highwayman of the time, who found her very serviceable in the way of his profession. The justice of the law, however, deprived her of her second husband, and Nan was again a widowed vagabond. Her misdemeanours introduced her into Newgate, where she became acquainted with one Tristram Savage, with whom she continued in company after their liberation.

This pair once waited upon a conjuror. Savage being disguised as a woman, and she in her own character. They wished to have their nativity calculated, and told the doctor they would pay him well. After a great deal of unintelligible jargon. Savage says to the conjuror, "Can you tell me, sir, what I think?" The conjuror replied, with a surly countenance, "It is no part of my profession to tell peoples' thoughts." "Why, then," replied Savage, "I'll show them you. I was thinking as how you must be very rich, and able to spare some of your money: so I now demand, upon the pain of instant death, whatever money you have about you." The old conjuror seemed magic-struck; and so powerful an argument was Savage's pop, (as thieves call their pistols,) that he gave them twenty guineas, a gold watch, a silver tobacco-box, and two rings of his finger; after which they bound and gagged him, telling him to raise the devil to his assistance.

Holland and her associate got clear off with this valuable booty, and we have no further account of her until 1705, when she was executed at Tyburn. Instead of imploring mercy for the pardon of her offences, she execrated the hard heart of her judge, the rigour of the laws, and abused the executioner; forgetting to repent of the guilt which brought her to this disgraceful end, and would, unrepented of, deliver her soul into the far less merciful hands of another hereafter.

DICK MORRIS.

Cunning and audacious swindler, executed 1706

WE have no account of this malefactor's birth and education, but they were probably very obscure. His transactions were remarkable for ingenuity; and, without endeavouring to trace his life, we shall relate the most remarkable of his exploits.

One time Dick, drinking at an inn in Winchester, overheard the conversation of two gentlemen, in which they discovered their mutual misfortune in loving two ladies who utterly slighted them. He put on a bold face, intruded himself upon their company, and rendered himself agreeable, by pretending to have received from his late master, an eminent astrologer and magician, the infallible power of turning the affections of women's hearts on whom ever he pleased. The gentlemen stated their cases to him, and he agreed that, at the height of the moon, he would work his enchantment upon the fair ones, provided they could procure some of their hair, which the lovers promised to obtain. It was some time until the moon should be at her full, during which interval Dick was sumptuously entertained at the expense of these weak lovers.

Dick next ordered them to buy a new sack, a small stout cord, and another larger one, a new knife, a chain, and a brush, which were delivered into his custody. The long looked-for period having at last arrived, the gentlemen, by- Dick's directions, dressed themselves in their richest apparel, and mounted their best horses, with plenty of money in their pockets. The three rode about two miles out of the city to a quiet road, the place where this magical trial was to be put into execution. They alighted, and Dick began immediately to make strange sour faces, drew a circle on the ground, all the while muttering unintelligible words, and turning himself in strange postures, sometimes towards the east, sometimes towards the west, performing most surprising ceremonies with his hands and feet, and making the gentlemen no less astonished than fearful.

Dick having finished his own manoeuvres, began with the first gentleman, whom he ordered to strip, at the same time teaching him to repeat certain insignificant words in pulling off each article of clothing, which the other faithfully performed. Though it was in the depth of winter, he was stripped naked, and a knife placed in his hand, with which he was directed to make some stabs to the different quarters of the globe; and then to creep into the sack, with his head foremost, and there to remain in perfect quietness for half an hour, for if he stirred a limb, he was told he would be in Barbary in a minute. Thus terrified into compliance, he followed implicitly Dick's directions.

The other gentleman he conducted to a tree, round which he drew a circle, into which the gentleman had to walk completely naked. His hands were tied with a twisted cord of his mistress's hair, and a rope tied round his body, and fixed to the tree. He gave the same injunction as to the other, with regard to quietness; and, having thus secured his prey, he packed up their clothes, which he hoisted on the back of the best horse, mounted, rode off, and arrived in London early next morning.

The fire of love, which flamed with such ardour in the breasts of these two gentlemen, was somewhat allayed before they were released, for they were found almost dead with cold. One of them remarked, that the poets had good reason to feign

love blind, because, if they had not been so, they would have perceived the pretended power of the conjuror to be ridiculous, and his promises nothing but a trick to obtain their money and their clothes.

Morris being at Northampton, he made repeated attempts to rob a rich Presbyterian parson, who lived in the neighbourhood; but had been as often unsuccessful: he was averse, however, to leave the country thus, outwitted by "a fusty piece of divinity," and once more tries his ingenuity. Knowing the parson to be ignorant and superstitious, he obtained a waggoner's linen frock, which he daubed thick with paste, and stuck it full of card matches. He entered the church unseen by the woman who was preparing it for Sunday—mounted the pulpit—struck a light with his tinder-box, and set his frock on fire; then, standing upright, quoth Dick, "Woman! Woman! hearken unto my voice!"

The old woman, upon sight of this blazing spectacle, run out in great alarm, but Dick called after her, saying, "Woman! unless thou comest back, and hearkeneth unto my voice, thou shalt presently perish." She trembling returned, but he encouraged her, and told her not to be in fear, for he was an angel come to order her to go to the minister of the meeting-house, and to tell him of what she had seen, and that his soul was required of him that very day. That he must bring all his money and plate along with him, but to be sure not to come with a lie in his mouth; for if he did, he would fare the worse in the place to which he was to carry him. The woman made a church curtsy, and went with all speed to the parson's house, to deliver her fateful message. Morris descended from the pulpit, freed himself of his angelic garb, and followed the woman. She wrought so much upon the superstition and terror of this hypocrite, that he proceeded to pack up his plate, and bundle his money; and, calling his servant, told her, that his time was come, and that he must leave her, as an angel was in waiting for him. She expressed her sorrow at the loss of her kind master, and, reminding him of past favours, hoped he would not leave her unprovided for. "That's true," said the parson, "and I pity you with all my heart. There is ten pounds in that silver tankard—go take it; for, perhaps, as it is an act of charity, it may be forgiven."

These words were overheard by Morris, who concealed himself at the inside of the door; upon which he returned with all expedition to the meeting-house, where he assumed his former posture and appearance. The parson soon appeared, and observing the awful brightness of the angel, approached him trembling. Morris repeated to him the purpose for which he had been sent, and inquired whether he had brought all his money and plate along with him.

The parson answered he had. "Where, then," cried Dick, "is the ten pounds that was in the silver tankard?" "Ah!" replied the parson, trembling, "see thou art really an angel, for thou knowest the secrets of men's hearts." So, telling Dick he would go and bring it, he ran straight home to his maid, saying to her, "Oh! Hannah! Hannah! you must let me have the ten pounds again, for the angel knew I had not brought all my money." The maid restored it to him, for fear it should be a hindrance to his salvation, and when he returned with it to Dick, the latter pointed to a large sack, and said, "Go into that, and if you meet with any difficulties in your spiritual journey, you must not complain, because narrow is the way which leads to life, and few there be that find it." Then, tying him close up, he threw him over his shoulders; but many a hard knock had the poor parson, as he carried him over gates and stiles; and, about a quarter of a mile from the meeting-house, he threw this lump of ignorance and iniquity into a hog-sty, and there left him.

The Newgate Calendar

Some of the servants coming up soon after, and observing something moving in the sack, they were affrighted, and ran to tell their master, who, also coming, said to the servant, "Take the pitch-fork and run it through;" upon which the poor parson, imagining that he had arrived at the infernal regions, and that this was the command of Satan to his angels, called out for mercy. Upon opening the sack, they were astonished to see their parson, who, after amazing them with the recital of his adventure, returned to his maid Hannah above a hundred and twenty pounds poorer than when he left her.

Our adventurer, was travelling between Settlingbourne and Rochester, at a time when he was disguised like a farmer. Overtaking a cart of hay, he conversed with the driver, and assisted in preserving the equilibrium of the cart at any low part of the road. While passing through Chatham, an innkeeper asks him the price of his hay, supposing him to be the owner. The driver not hearing this, proceeds, while Morris, taking a handful to the vintner, bids him smell it, and say if he ever saw better hay. The innkeeper liked it very well, when, after some pro's and con's about the price, he paid Dick one pound eight for the hay, out of which they had some ale. Dick then observes to the vintner, "I suppose you will know my cart again from the rest in the market; go, and bid my man bring the hay to your house, and to make haste home with the team." After which, he made off with all convenient speed. The innkeeper, however, after a battle with the bumpkin, appealed to a justice of peace, who ordained him to lose the money for his credulity.

Morris was soon after detected, tried, condemned, and executed, with Arthur Chambers and Jack Goodwin, at Tyburn, in 1706.

WILLIAM NEVISON
***Highwayman who robbed his fellows. Executed at York, 4th
May 1684***

THE progress of the arts and sciences is not more rapid than that of folly and vice. The latter is natural, while the former is acquired. In the following memoir it will be demonstrated, that the best education may be perverted by vicious dispositions.

William Nevison was born at Pomfret in Yorkshire, and his parents being in good circumstances, conferred upon him a decent education. He remained at school until he was about thirteen years of age. During that period, his blooming talents promised a luxuriant harvest. But the general bent of his future character, and the ruling motive of all his actions, were exhibited at that period. He commenced his depredations by stealing a silver spoon from his own father. The too indulgent parent, instead of chastising him for the crime, transferred the unpleasant work to the schoolmaster. That father who loses the authority over his own children, may either expect to lose them altogether, or have his heart grieved, and his family dishonoured by their conduct. The schoolmaster having punished young Nevison for his theft, he spent a sleepless night in meditating revenge. He knew that Syntax had a favourite horse who grazed in an adjacent park. William rose early in the morning, moved quietly into his father's closet, stole his keys, and supplied himself with cash to the amount of ten pounds. Then taking a saddle and bridle from his father's stable, he hastened to the park where the schoolmaster's horse fed. He saddled and bridled the animal, and with all haste rode towards London. About a mile or two from the capital, he cut the throat of the poor horse, for fear of being detected. Arrived in London, he changed his name and clothes, and then hired himself to a brewer.

Though under the necessity of being laborious, in order to obtain the necessaries of life, his mind was always upon the stretch to invent some more expeditious mode of acquiring money, than the slow return of annual pay. He often, ineffectually, attempted to rob his master. One evening, however, the clerk happening to use his bottle too freely, he followed him to the counting-room, and while he was enjoying a recruiting nap, he stole the keys of the desks, and relieved them of their burden, to the amount of about two hundred pounds. Without waiting to discover whether the clerk or the servant should be blamed for the cash, he sailed for Holland.

But change of climate did not change his dispositions. Through his instigations the daughter of a respectable citizen robbed her father of a large sum of money, and a quantity of jewels, and eloped with the Englishman. They were pursued, taken, and committed to prison. Thus detected, Nevison would certainly have finished a short but villainous career in a foreign land, had he not made his escape.

With no small difficulty he arrived in Flanders, and enlisted into a regiment of English volunteers, under the command of the Duke of York. In that station he behaved with considerable reputation, and even acquired some money. But his restless temper and avaricious disposition did not permit him to remain in a situation of industry or sobriety. He deserted, went over to England with his money, purchased a horse, together with all other necessaries, and commenced his depredations in a systematic form. His success was uncommon, and he every day found means to

replenish his coffers, and to nourish his extravagancies. Nor would he unite his fortune with any one, who, from selfish motives, might interrupt him in his lucrative employment. One day when Nevison was in search of booty upon the highway, he met two countrymen, who admonished him not to proceed in his journey, as the place was infested with robbers, and they had just been rifled of forty pounds. He requested them to turn back with him, to show him the road the robbers had taken, and he would engage to recover their money. They complied, and they soon came within sight of their plunderers. He then requested the countrymen to remain at a distance, and he would manage the matter alone. He accosted the first one, saying, "Sir, by your dress, and the colour of your horse, you appear to be the person that I was in search of; and if so, my business is to demand the repayment of the forty pounds you borrowed from two friends of mine." "How," quoth the highwayman, "forty pounds, sir!—what! is the fellow mad?" "So mad," replied William, "that your life shall answer me, unless you give me better satisfaction." Then instantly presenting his pistol to his breast, the robber cried, "My life is at your mercy." "No," says our hero, "it is not that I seek, but the money you robbed these two men of, who are riding up to me, which you must refund." He delivered what he possessed, informing him that his companions had the remainder. Upon this Nevison causes him to dismount, and delivered him into the custody of the two countrymen, while he himself mounted the thief's horse, and rode after his associates. Supposing, from the colour of the horse, that it was their friend whom they had left behind, they, upon his appearance, waited his arrival.

"How now. Jack," says one of them, "what made you engage with yon fellow?" "No, gentlemen, you are mistaken in your man: Thomas, by the token of your horse and arms, hath sent me to you for the ransom of his life, which comes to no less than the price of the day, which, if you presently surrender, you may go about your business; if not, I must have a little dispute with you at sword and pistol." At which one of them let fly at him, but, missing his aim, Nevison lodged his bullet in the right shoulder of his antagonist. The other robber seeing his companion wounded, called for quarter. After some negotiation, it was agreed that their friend should be liberated, upon condition of their delivering their cash, which amounted to about one hundred and fifty pounds. William took his leave of them, returned to the countrymen, delivered them their forty pounds, and released the prisoner, according to agreement. He, at the same time, rallied the countrymen upon their cowardice, in so tamely surrendering their money.

In all his exploits William was tender of the fair sex, and bountiful to the poor. He was also a true loyalist, and never made any contributions upon that party. He one day fortunately encountered a rich usurer, stopped his coach, and demanded that he would deliver the money which he had extorted from poor widows and orphans.

The pistol presented to his breast, and the reproaches of William, filled his guilty mind with inexpressible terror, and he began to expostulate for his life. "That shall be granted," replied Nevison, "upon condition of your surrendering your gold." He reluctantly drew out sixty pieces of gold; but this sum being inadequate to the necessities of William, he constrained the usurer to mount upon the postilion's horse, and allowed the coach with three ladies in it to proceed. The poor Jew, now thinking that the hour was at hand when he would be bereft of his life, and separated from his treasures, experienced all the violent emotions of terror, chagrin, and despair. William compelled him to draw a note upon sight for five hundred pounds upon a scrivener in London. He then permitted him to ride after his friends to acquaint them with his

Supplement 3

misfortunes; while he himself rode all night, that he might have the money drawn before advice could be sent to prevent it.

After several adventures of a similar nature, William one day robbed a rich grazier of four hundred and fifty pounds, and then resolved to retire. Accordingly he returned home, and, like the prodigal son, was joyfully received by his father, who, not having heard of him during seven or eight years, supposed that he had been dead. He remained with his father until the day of his death, living as soberly and honestly as if no act of violence had ever stained his hands. Upon the death of his father, however, he returned to his former courses, and in a short time, his name was a terror to every traveller upon the road. To such a degree did he carry his plan, that the carriers and drovers who frequented that road, willingly agreed to leave certain sums at such places as he appointed, to prevent them being stripped of their all.

Continuing his wicked courses, he was at last apprehended, thrown into Leicester jail, put in irons, and strictly guarded. But, in spite of all the precautions of the county, he effected his escape. One day, two or three of his trusty friends visited him; one of whom being a physician, he gave out that he was infected with the plague, and that, unless he was removed to a larger room, where he might enjoy free air, he would not only himself perish, but communicate the infection to all the inhabitants of the jail. He was instantly removed, and the jailor's wife would not allow her husband to go farther than the door of his room, for fear of the infection; which afforded Nevison and his friends time to perfect their scheme. The physician came twice or thrice every day to see him; and continued to declare his case hopeless. At last a painter was brought in, who painted all his body with spots, similar to those that appear upon a person infected with the pestilence.

In a few days after, he received a sleeping-draught, and was declared to be dead. The inquest who sat upon his body were afraid to approach in order to make minute inspection, and thus a verdict was returned that he had died of the plague. His friends demanding his body, he was carried out of prison in a coffin.

This interview with a coffin only rendered him more callous and daring in vice. He, with redoubled vigour, renewed his depredations, and, meeting his carriers and drovers, he informed them that it was necessary to increase their rents, to refund his expenses while in jail, and his loss of time. It was at first supposed that it was his ghost, who carried on the same pranks that he had done in his lifetime. The truth of this, however, came to be suspected, and the jailor offered a reward of twenty pounds to any person who would restore him to his former dwelling.

Resolved to revisit the capital, he upon his journey met a company of canting beggars, pilgrims, and idle wanderers through the earth. Continuing in their company for some time, and observing the merry life that they pursued, he took an opportunity to propose himself as a candidate for admission into their honourable fraternity. Their leader applauded his resolution, and addressed him in these words: "Do not we come into the world arrant beggars, without a rag upon us? And do we not all go out of the world like beggars, saving only an old sheet over us? Shall we then be ashamed to walk up and down the world like beggars, with old blankets pinned about us? No, no, that would be a shame to us, indeed. Have we not the whole kingdom to walk in at our pleasure? Are we afraid of the approach of quarter-day? Do we walk in fear of sheriffs, sergeants, and catchpoles? Who ever knew an arrant beggar arrested for debt? Is not our meat dressed in every man's kitchen? Does not every man's cellar afford us beer? And the best man's purses keep a penny for us to spend?" Having by

these words, as he thought, fully fixed him in love with begging, he then acquainted the company with Nevison's desires; in consequence of which they were all very joyful, being as glad to add one to their society, as a Turk is to gain a proselyte to Mahomet.

The first question they asked him was, if he had any *loure* in his *bung*. He stared on them, not knowing what they meant; till at last, one informed him it was money in his purse. He told them he had but eighteen pence, which he gave them freely. This, by a general vote, was condemned to be spent in a booze for his initiation. Then they commanded him to kneel down, which being done, one of the chief of them took a *gage* of *booze*, which is a quart of drink, and poured the same on his head, saying, "I do, by virtue of this sovereign liquor, install thee in the Roage, and make thee a free denizen of our ragged regiment. So that henceforth it shall be lawful for thee to cant, and to carry a doxy or mort along with thee, only observing these rules; first, that thou art not to wander up and down all countries, but to keep to that quarter that is allotted thee; and, secondly, thou art to give way to any of us that have borne all the offices of the wallet before; and, upon holding up a finger, to avoid any town or country village, where thou seest we are foraging for victuals for our army that march along with us. Observing these two rules, we take thee into our protection, and adopt thee a brother of our numerous society." Having ended his oration, Nevison rose up, and was congratulated by all the company's hanging about him, like so many dogs about a bear, and making such a hideous noise, that the chief, commanding silence, addressed him as follows: "Now that thou art entered into our fraternity, thou must not scruple to act any villainies, whether it be to cut a purse, steal a cloak-bag or portmanteau, convey all manner of things, whether a chicken, sucking pig, duck, goose, hen, or steal a shirt from the hedge; for he that will be a *quier cove* (a professed rogue) must observe these rules. And because thou art but a novice in begging, and understandest not the mysteries of the canting language, thou shalt have a doxy to be thy companion, by whom thou mayest receive instructions." And thereupon, he singled him out a girl of about fourteen years of age, which tickled his fancy very much; but he must presently be married to her, after the fashion of their *patrico*, who amongst beggars is their priest. The ceremony was performed after this manner:—

They took a hen, and, having cut off the head of it, laid the dead body on the ground, placing him on the one side, and his doxy on the other; this being done, the priest standing by, with a loud voice, bid them live together till death did them part; then shaking hands, and kissing each other, the ceremony of the wedding was over, and the whole group appeared intoxicated with joy. Night approaching, and all their money being spent, they betook to a barn not far off, where they broached a hogshead, and went to sleep.

Nevison, having met with this odd piece of diversion in his journey, slipped out of the barn when all were asleep, took a horse, and posted directly away. But, coming to London, he found there was too much noise about him, to permit him to tarry there; he therefore returned into the country, and fell to his old pranks again. Several who had been formerly robbed by him, happening to meet him, imagined that his ghost walked abroad, having heard the report of his pestilential death in Leicester jail. In short, his crimes became so notorious, that a reward was offered to any that would apprehend him; this made many waylay him, especially two brothers named Fletcher, one of whom Nevison shooting dead, he got off; from thence going into a

Supplement 3

little village about thirteen miles from York, he was taken by Captain Hardcastle, and sent to York jail, where in a week's time he was tried, condemned, and executed, at the Knavesmire on 4 May 1684, aged forty-five

CAPTAIN AVERY

Pirate who died penniless, having been robbed of his booty by merchants

During his own time, the adventures of Captain Avery were the subject of general conversation in Europe. It was reported that he had married the Great Mogul's daughter, who was taken in an Indian ship that fell into his hands, and that he was about to be the founder of a new monarchy; that he gave commissions in his own name to the captains of his ships, and the commanders of his forces, and was acknowledged by them as their prince. In consequence of these reports, it was at one time resolved to fit out a strong squadron to go and take him and his men; and at another time, it was proposed to invite him home with all his riches, by the offer of his Majesty's pardon. These reports, however, were soon discovered to be groundless, and he was actually starving without a shilling, while he was represented as in the possession of millions. Not to exhaust the patience, nor lessen the curiosity, of the reader the facts in this man's life shall be briefly related.

He was a native of Devonshire, and, at an early period, sent to sea: advanced to the station of a mate in a merchantman, he performed several voyages. It happened, previous to the peace of Ryswick, when there existed an alliance between Spain, England, Holland, and other powers, against France, that the French in Martinique carried on a smuggling trade with the Spaniards on the continent of Peru. To prevent their intrusion into the Spanish dominions, a few vessels were commanded to cruise upon that coast, but the French ships were too strong for them; therefore the Spaniards came to the resolution of hiring some foreigners to act against them. Accordingly, some merchants of Bristol fitted out two ships of thirty guns, well manned, and provided with every necessary; and commanded them to sail for Corunna, to receive their orders.

Captain Gibson commanded one of these ships, and Avery was his mate. He was a fellow of more cunning than courage; and, insinuating himself into the confidence of some of the boldest men in the ship, he represented the immense riches which were to be acquired upon the Spanish coast, and proposed to run off with the ship. The proposal was scarcely made, when it was agreed upon, and put in execution at ten o'clock the following evening. Captain Gibson was one of those who mightily love their bottle, and spent much of his time on shore. But he remained on board that night; which did not, however, frustrate their design, because he had taken his usual dose, and so went to bed. The men who were not in the confederacy went also to bed, leaving none upon deck but the conspirators. At the time agreed upon, the long-boat of the other ship came, which Avery hailing in the usual manner, he was answered by the men in her, "Is your drunken boatswain on board?" which was the watchword agreed between them. Avery replying in the affirmative, the boat came on board, with sixteen stout fellows, who joined in the adventure. They next secured the hatches, then softly weighed anchor, and immediately put to sea without bustle or noise. There were several vessels in the bay, and a Dutchman of forty guns, the captain of which was offered a considerable reward to go in pursuit of Avery, but he declined. When the captain awoke, he rung his bell, and Avery and another conspirator going into the cabin, found him yet half asleep. He inquired, saying, "What is the matter with the ship— does she drive? what weather is it?" supposing that it had been a storm, and

Supplement 3

that the ship was driven from her anchors. "No, no," answered Avery, "we're at sea, with a fair wind and good weather." "At sea!" says the captain, "how can that be?" "Come," says Avery, "don't be in a fright, but put on your clothes, and I'll let you into a secret. You must know that I am captain of this ship now, and this is my cabin, therefore you must walk out; I am bound to Madagascar, with a design of making my own fortune, and that of all the brave fellows joined with me."

The captain having a little recovered his senses, began to understand the meaning. However, his fright was as great as before; which Avery perceiving, desired him to fear nothing; "for," says he, "if you have a mind to make one of us, we will receive you; and if you turn sober, and attend to business, perhaps, in time, I may make you one of my lieutenants; if not, here's a boat, and you shall be set on shore." He accepted of the last proposal; and the whole crew being called up to know who was willing to go on shore with the captain, there were only about five or six who chose to accompany him.

They proceeded on their voyage to Madagascar, and it does not appear that they captured any vessels upon their way. When arrived at the north-east part of that island, they found two sloops at anchor, who, upon seeing them, slipped their cables, run themselves ashore, while the men all landed, and concealed themselves in the woods. These were two sloops which the men had run off with from the West Indies, and, seeing Avery's ship, supposed that he had been sent out after them. Suspecting who they were, he sent some of his men on shore, to inform them that they were friends, and to propose a union for their common safety.

The sloops' men were well armed, had posted themselves in a wood, and placed sentinels to observe whether the ship landed her men to pursue them. The sentinels only observing two or three men coming towards them, unarmed, they did not oppose them. Upon being informed that they were friends, the sentinels conveyed them to the main body, where they delivered their message. They were, at first, afraid that it was a stratagem to entrap them, but when the messengers assured them that their captain had also run away with his ship, and that a few of their men, along with him, would meet them unarmed, to consult matters for their common advantage, confidence was established. They were mutually well pleased, as it added to their strength.

Having consulted what was most proper to be attempted, they endeavoured to get off the sloops, and hastened to prepare all things, in order to sail for the Arabian coast. Near the river Indus, the man at the mast-head spied a sail, upon which they gave chase; as they came nearer to her, they discovered that she was a tall vessel, and might turn out to be an East Indiaman. She, however, proved a better prize; for, when they fired at her, she hoisted Mogul's colours, and seemed to stand upon her defence. Avery only cannonaded at a distance, when some of his men began to suspect that he was not the hero that they supposed. The sloops, however, attacked, the one on the bow, and another upon the quarter of the ship, and so boarded her. She then struck her colours. She was one of the great Mogul's own ships, and there were in her several of the greatest persons in his court, among whom, it was said, was one of his daughters going upon a pilgrimage to Mecca; and they were carrying with them rich offerings to present at the shrine of Mahomet. It is a well-known fact, that the people of the east travel with great magnificence; so that these had along with them all their slaves and attendants, with a large quantity of vessels of gold and silver, and immense sums of

money to defray their expenses by land; therefore, the spoil which they received from that ship was almost incalculable.

They took the treasure on board their own ships, and plundered their prize of everything valuable, and then allowed her to depart. As soon as the Mogul received this intelligence, he threatened to send a mighty army to extirpate the English from all their settlements upon the Indian coast. The East India Company were greatly alarmed, but they found means to calm his resentment, by promising to search for the robbers, and deliver them into his hands. The noise which this made over all Europe gave birth to the rumours that were circulated concerning Avery's greatness.

In the meantime our adventurers made the best of their way back to Madagascar, intending to make that place the deposit of all their treasure, to build a small fort, and to keep always a few men there for its protection. Avery, however, disconcerted this plan, and rendered it altogether unnecessary.

While steering their course, Avery sent a boat to each of the sloops, requesting that the chiefs would come on board his ship to hold a conference. They obeyed, and being assembled, he suggested to them the necessity of securing the property which they had acquired, in some safe place on shore, and observed, that the chief difficulty was to get it safe on shore; adding, that if any of the sloops should be attacked alone, they would not be able to make any great resistance, and thus she must either be sunk or taken with all the property on board. That, for his part, his vessel was so strong, so well manned, and such a swift-sailing vessel, that he did not think that it was possible for any other ship to take or overcome her. Accordingly, he proposed that all their treasure should be sealed up in three chests;—that each of the captains should have keys, and that they should not be opened until all were present—that the chests should be then put on board his ship, and afterwards lodged in some safe place upon land.

This proposal seemed so reasonable, and so much for the common good, that it was accordingly agreed to, and all the treasure deposited in three chests, and carried to Avery's ship. The weather being favourable, they remained all three in company during that and the next day; meanwhile Avery, tampering with his men, suggested, that now they had on board what was sufficient to make them all happy; "and what," added he, "should hinder us from going to some country where we are not known, and living on shore all the rest of our days in plenty?" They soon understood his hint, and all readily consented to deceive the men of the sloops, and fly with all the booty; this they effected during the darkness of the following night. The reader may easily conjecture what were the feelings and indignation of the other two crews in the morning, when they discovered that Avery had made off with all their property.

Avery and his men hastened towards America, and, being strangers in that country, they agreed to divide their booty, to change their names, and separately to take up their residence, and live in affluence and honour. The first land they approached was at the island of Providence, then newly settled. It however occurred to them, that the largeness of their vessel, and the report that one had been run off with from the Groine might create suspicion; therefore they resolved to dispose of their vessel at Providence. Upon this resolution, Avery, pretending that his vessel had been equipped for privateering, and having been unsuccessful, he had orders from the owners to dispose of her to the best advantage, he soon found a merchant. Having thus sold his own ship, he immediately purchased a small sloop.

Supplement 3

In this he and his companions embarked, and landed at several places in America, where, none suspecting them, they dispersed and settled in the country. Avery, however, had been careful to conceal the greater part of the jewels and other valuable articles; so that his riches were immense. Arriving at Boston, he was almost resolved to settle there; but as the greater part of his wealth consisted of diamonds, he was apprehensive that he could not dispose of them at that place, without being taken up as a pirate. Upon reflection, therefore, he resolved to sail for Ireland, and in a short time arrived in the northern part of that kingdom, and his men dispersed into different places. Some of them obtained the pardon of King William, and settled in that country.

The wealth of Avery, however, now proved of small service, and occasioned him great uneasiness. He could not offer his diamonds for sale in that country, without being suspected. Considering, therefore, what was best to be done, he thought there might be some person at Bristol he could venture to trust. Upon this he resolved; and, going into Devonshire, sent to one of his friends to meet him at a town called Biddiford. When he had unbosomed himself to him and other pretended friends, they agreed that the safest plan would be to put his effects into the hands of some wealthy merchants, and no inquiry would be made how they came by them. One of these friends told him, he was acquainted with some who were very fit for the purpose, and if he would allow them a handsome commission, they would do the business faithfully. Avery liked the proposal, particularly as he could think of no other way of managing this matter, since he could not appear to act for himself. Accordingly the merchants paid Avery a visit at Biddiford, where, after strong protestations of honour and integrity, he delivered them his effects, consisting of diamonds, and some vessels of gold. After giving him a little money for his present subsistence, they departed.

He changed his name, and lived very quietly at Biddiford; therefore there was no notice taken of him. In a short time his money was all spent, yet he heard no word from his merchants; he wrote to them repeatedly; at last they sent him a small supply, but it was not sufficient to pay his debts. In short, the remittances they sent him were so trifling, that he could with difficulty exist. He therefore determined to go privately to Bristol, and have an interview with the merchants himself; where, instead of money, he met with a mortifying repulse; for, when he desired them to come to an account with him, they silenced him by threatening to disclose his character; the merchants thus proving themselves as good pirates at land as he was at sea.

Whether he was frightened by these menaces, or had seen some other persons who recognized him, is not known; however, he went immediately to Ireland, and from thence solicited his merchants very hard for a supply, but to no purpose; so that he was reduced to beggary. In this extremity he was determined to return, cast himself upon the mercy of these honest Bristol merchants, let the consequence be what it would. He went on board a trading vessel, and worked his passage over to Plymouth, from whence he travelled on foot to Biddiford. He had been there but a few days, when he fell sick and died; not being worth so much as could buy him a coffin.

We shall now turn back and give our readers some account of what became of the other two sloops. Flattering themselves that Avery had outsailed them during the night, they held on their course to the place of rendezvous; but, arrived there, to their sad disappointment no ship appeared. It was now necessary for them to consult what was most proper to do in their desperate circumstances.

Their provisions were nearly exhausted, and though both fish and fowl were to be found on shore, yet they were destitute of salt to cure them. As they could not subsist at sea without salt provisions, they resolved to form an establishment upon land. Accordingly, making tents of the sails, and using the other materials of the sloops for what purposes they could serve, they encamped upon the shore. It was also a fortunate circumstance, that they had plenty of ammunition and small arms. Here they met with some of their countrymen; and, as the digression is short, we will inform our readers how they came to inhabit this place.

Captain George Dew, and Thomas Tew, had received commission from the governor of Bermudas to sail for the river Gambia in Africa, that, with the assistance of the Royal African Company, they might seize the French factory situated upon that coast. Dew, in a violent storm, not only sprung a mast, but lost sight of his companion. Upon this he returned to refit. Instead of proceeding in his voyage. Tew made towards the Cape of Good Hope, doubled that cape, and sailed for the Straits of Babel-Mandel. There he met with a large ship richly laden coming from the Indies, and bound for Arabia. Though she had on board three hundred soldiers, besides seamen, yet Tew had the courage to attack her, and soon made her his prize. It is reported, that by this one prize every man shared near three thousand pounds. Informed by the prisoners that five other ships were to pass that way. Tew would have attacked them, but was prevented by the remonstrances of his quarter-master and others. This difference of opinion terminated in a resolution to abandon the sea, and to settle on some convenient spot on shore; and the island of Madagascar was chosen. Tew, however, and a few others, in a short time went for Rhode Island, and obtained a pardon.

The natives of Madagascar are Negroes, but different from those of Guinea in the length of their hair, and in the blackness of their complexion. They are divided into small nations, each governed by its own prince, who carry on a continual war upon each other. The prisoners taken in war are either rendered slaves to the conquerors, sold, or slain, according to pleasure. When the pirates first settled among them, their alliance was much courted by these princes, and those whom they joined were always successful in their wars, the natives being ignorant of the use of fire-arms. Such terror did they carry along with them, that the very appearance of a few pirates in an army would have put the opposite army to flight.

By these means they in a little time became very formidable, and the prisoners which they took in war they employed in cultivating the ground, and the most beautiful of the women they married; nor were they contented with one, but married as many as they could conveniently maintain. The natural result was, that they separated, each choosing a convenient place for himself, where he lived in a princely style, surrounded by his wives, slaves, and dependants. Nor was it long before jarring interests excited them also to draw the sword against each other, and they appeared at the head of their respective forces in the field of battle. In these civil wars their number and strength were greatly lessened.

The servant, exalted to the condition of a master, generally becomes a tyrant. These pirates, unexpectedly elevated to the dignity of petty princes, used their power with the most wanton barbarity. The punishment of the very least offence, was to be tied to a tree, and instantly shot through the head. The Negroes, at length exasperated by continued oppression, formed the determination of extirpating them in one night; nor was it a difficult matter to accomplish this, since they were now so much divided

Supplement 3

both in affection and residence. Fortunately, however, for them, a Negro woman, who was partial to them, ran twenty miles in three hours, and, warning them of their danger, they were united and in arms to oppose the Negroes before the latter had assembled. This narrow escape made them more cautious, and induced them to adopt the following system of policy:—

Convinced that fear was not a sufficient protection, and that the bravest man might be murdered by a coward in his bed, they laboured to foment wars among the Negro princes, while they themselves declined to aid either party. It naturally followed, that those who were vanquished fled to them for protection, and increased their strength.

When there was not war, they fomented private discords, and encouraged them to wreak their vengeance against each other; nay, even taught them how to surprise their opponents, and furnished them with fire-arms, with which to dispatch them more effectually and more expeditiously. The consequences were, that the murderer was constrained to fly to them for protection, with his wives, children, and kindred. These, from interest, became true friends, as their own safety depended upon the lives of their protectors. By this time the pirates were so formidable, that none of the Negro princes durst attack them in open war.

Pursuing this system of policy, in a short time each chief had his party greatly increased, and they divided like so many tribes, in order to find ground to cultivate, and proper places chosen to build places of residence and of defence. The fears that agitated them were also obvious in their general policy, for they vied with each other in constructing places for their defence, and using every precaution to prevent the possibility of sudden danger, either from the Negroes, or from one another.

A description of one of these dwellings, will both show the fears that agitated these tyrants, and prove entertaining to the reader. They selected a spot overgrown with wood, near a river; raised a rampart or ditch round it, so straight and steep that it was impossible to climb it, more particularly by those who had no scaling-ladders. Over that ditch there was one passage into the wood; the dwelling, which was a hut, was built in that part of the wood which the prince thought most secure, but so covered, that it could not be discovered until you came near it. But the greatest ingenuity was displayed in the construction of the passage that led to the hut, which was so narrow, that no more than one person could go abreast, and contrived in so intricate a manner, that it was a perfect labyrinth—the way going round and round, with several small cross ways, so that a person unacquainted with it, might walk several hours without finding the hut. Along the sides of these paths, certain large thorns, which grew on a tree in that country, were stuck into the ground with their points outwards; and the path itself being serpentine, as before mentioned, if a man should attempt to approach the hut at night, he would certainly have struck upon these thorns.

Thus like tyrants they lived, dreading and dreaded by all, and in this state they were found by Captain Woods Rodgers, when he went to Madagascar in the *Delicia*, a ship of forty guns, with the design of purchasing slaves. He touched upon a part of the island where no ship had been seen for seven or eight years before, where he met with some pirates who had been upon the island above twenty-five years. There were only eleven of the original stock then alive, surrounded with a numerous offspring of children and grand-children.

The Newgate Calendar

They were struck with terror upon the sight of the vessel, supposing that it was a man-of-war sent out to apprehend them; they therefore retired to their secret habitations. But when they found some of the ship's crew on shore, without any signs of hostility, and proposing to treat with them for slaves, they ventured to come out of their dwellings attended like princes. Having been so long upon the island, their cloaks were so much worn, that their majesties were extremely out at elbows. It cannot be said that they were ragged, but they had nothing to cover them but the skins of beasts in their natural state, not even a shoe or stocking; so that they resembled the pictures of Hercules in the lion's skin; and being overgrown with beard, and hair upon their bodies, they appeared the most savage figures that the human imagination could well conceive.

The slaves that they had in their possession soon provided them with more suitable clothes, and all other necessaries, which they received in exchange. Meanwhile, they became very familiar, went frequently on board, and were very eager in examining the inside of the ship, talking very familiarly with the men, and inviting them on shore. Their design was to surprise the ship during the night. They had a sufficient number of men and boats to effect their purpose; but the captain suspecting them, kept so strong a watch upon deck, that they found it in vain to hazard an attempt. When some of the men went on shore, they entered into a plan to seize the ship, but the captain observing their familiarity, he prevented any one of his men from speaking to the pirates, and only permitted a confidential person to purchase their slaves. Thus he departed from the island, leaving these pirates to enjoy their savage royalty. One of them had been a waterman upon the Thames, and having committed a murder, fled to the West Indies. The rest had all been fore-mast men, nor was there one among them who could either read or write.

CAPTAIN MARTEL

Pirate

WAR is not the harvest-time of pirates. Those who are naturally of a rambling turn of mind, then find employment in privateering. Provincial mobs are most frequent in times of peace; and those turbulent spirits which give energy to tumult, prove brave and useful soldiers when disciplined and introduced into the ranks. In the same manner, pirates, under the influence of royal clemency, would prove brave and hardy seamen.

The origin and first adventures of this man, upon whose history we are now to enter, are involved in obscurity. He was commander of a private sloop of eight guns and eighty men, upon the coast of Jamaica, where he took the *Berkley* galley. Captain Sanders, and plundered him of a thousand pounds; and afterwards he took some money and provisions from a sloop called *King Solomon*. He proceeded after this to the port of Cavena in the island of Cuba, and in his way captured two sloops, which he plundered and then dismissed. Near the port, he met a fine galley of twenty guns, commanded by Captain Wilson, which was attacked under the black flag, and forced to surrender. Some of the men were put on shore, and others were detained. Captain Martel then desired Captain Wilson to inform his owners, that his sloop would admirably answer his purpose, by removing one deck; and as for the cargo, which consisted chiefly of log-wood and sugar, he would take care it should be carried to a good market.

This ship being equipped, he mounted her with twenty-two guns and a hundred men, leaving twenty-five hands in the sloop, and went to cruise off the Leeward Islands. Here fortune was propitious to the pirates. After taking two small vessels, they gave chase to a stout ship, which, upon the sight of the black flag, suddenly struck. This was the *Dolphin* of twenty guns, bound for Newfoundland. The men were made prisoners, and the ship was taken along with our pirates. They seized another vessel in her voyage from Jamaica, put her provisions on board their own ship, and so let her depart. Thus she was obliged to return to Jamaica before she could prosecute her voyage. These fortunate pirates, not long after, captured a small ship and a sloop belonging to Barbados, and having taken out the provisions, and such of the men as chose to go along with them, allowed them to depart. Their next prize was the *Greyhound* galley of London, from Guinea to Jamaica. They speedily emptied her of her valuable cargo, and permitted her to prosecute her voyage.

It was necessary to repair to some harbour, both to refit, to obtain provisions, and to dispose of their cargo. Santa Cruz was deemed the most proper place for this purpose; which is ten miles long and two broad, lying south-east by Porto Rico, and belonging to the French settlements. Here they hoped to repose for a while, in order to prepare themselves for greater adventures. Nor did fortune yet forsake these daring adventurers; for on their voyage they captured another vessel, and speedily arrived at the place of their destination. They had now a ship of twenty guns, a sloop of eight, and three prizes. This little fleet they stationed in a small harbour, or road, upon the north-west of the island.

Their first employment, on their arrival, was to fortify themselves against any attack. They erected a battery of four guns upon the island, and another of two guns,

upon the north point of the road. They also stationed one of the sloops, with eight guns, at the mouth of the channel, to prevent any vessel from entering. Having thus fortified themselves, they began to unrig their vessels, in order to clean them.

General Hamilton sent a sloop with an express to Captain Hume, to acquaint him that two pirate ships infested the coast. The *Scarborough*, of thirty guns and a hundred and forty men, commanded by Captain Hume, had then near forty sick, and had buried twenty, and was, therefore, in a bad condition for sea; but, having received this intelligence, Captain Hume left his sick men behind, sailed to the other islands for a supply of hands, and went in search of the pirates. After several disappointments, and when now about to return, despairing to meet with these marauders, he was informed by a boat which had come from Santa Cruz, that two pirate ships, with some others, were in that place. On Captain Hume's arrival there, the pilot refused to enter the harbour. They were welcomed by the pirates saluting them with red-hot balls from the shore. At length Captain Hume came to anchor alongside the reef, and cannonaded both the vessels and batteries during several hours.

The sloop which guarded the channel was at length sunk, and the man-of-war then directed her fire against the large pirate ships. In the following night it calmed, and Captain Hume, fearing that he might fall upon the reef, weighed anchor, and hovered in the neighbourhood, for a few days, to block them up. One evening, the pirates observed the man-of-war set out for sea, and they took the opportunity to warp out, in order to evade the enemy. They soon run aground, and in this situation saw Captain Hume returning to pay them another visit, which threw them into such dreadful consternation, that they quitted their ship, leaving in it twenty Negroes, who all perished. Nineteen of the pirates escaped in a long-boat, while the captain and the rest of the crew fled into the woods, and there, in all probability, perished.

CAPTAIN TEACH

alias BLACK BEARD, the Most Famous Pirate of all.

EDWARD TEACH was a native of Bristol, and, having gone to Jamaica, he frequently sailed from that port, as one of the crew of a privateer, during the French war. In that station, he gave frequent proofs of his boldness and personal courage; but he was not intrusted with any command, until Captain Benjamin Hornigold gave him the command of a prize which he had taken.

In the spring of 1717, Hornigold and Teach sailed from Providence, for the continent of America, and in their way captured a small vessel, with a hundred and twenty barrels of flour, which they put on board their own vessels. They also seized other two vessels; from one they took some gallons of wine, and from the other, plunder to a considerable value. After cleaning upon the coast of Virginia, they made a prize of a large French Guineaman, bound to Martinique, and Teach, obtaining the command of her, went upon a cruise. Hornigold, with the two vessels, returned to the island of Providence, and surrendered to the king's clemency.

Teach now began to act an independent part. He mounted his vessel with forty guns, and named her *The Queen Anne's Revenge*. Cruising near the island of St. Vincent, he took a large ship, called the *Great Allan*, and, after having plundered her of what he deemed proper, he set her on fire. A few days after, Teach encountered the *Scarborough* man-of-war, and engaged her for some hours; but, perceiving his strength and resolution, she retired, and left Teach to pursue his depredations. His next adventure was with a sloop of ten guns, commanded by Major Bonnet, whose actions we have already related; and these two having united their fortunes, they co-operated for some time; but Teach finding him unacquainted with naval affairs, gave the command of Bonnet's ship to Richards, one of his own crew, and entertained Bonnet on board of his own vessel. Watering at Turniff, they discovered a sail, and Richards, with the *Revenge*, slipped her cable, and ran out to meet her. Upon seeing the black flag hoisted, the vessel struck, and came to, under the stern of Teach, the commodore. This was the *Adventure*, from Jamaica. They took the captain and his men on board the great ship, and manned his sloop for their own service.

They weighed from Turniff, where they remained during a week, and, sailing to the bay, found there a ship and four sloops. Teach hoisted his flag, and began to fire at them, upon which the captain and his men left their ship, and fled to the shore. Teach burned two of these sloops, and let the other three depart.

They afterwards sailed to different places; and, having taken two small vessels, they anchored off the Bar of Charlestown for a few days. Here they captured a ship bound for England, as she was coming out of the harbour. They next seized a vessel coming out of Charlestown, and two pinks coming into the same harbour, together with a brigantine with fourteen Negroes. The audacity of these transactions, performed in sight of the town, struck the inhabitants with terror, as they had been lately visited by some other notorious pirates. Meanwhile there were eight sail in the harbour, none of which durst set to sea, for fear of falling into the hands of Blackbeard. The trade of this place was fatally interrupted, and the inhabitants were abandoned to despair. Their calamity was greatly augmented from this circumstance,

that a long and desperate war with the natives had just been terminated, when they began to be infested by these robbers.

Teach having detained all the persons taken in these ships, as prisoners, they were soon in great want of medicines, and he had the audacity to demand a chest from the governor. This demand was made in a manner not less daring than insolent. Teach sent Richards, the captain of the *Revenge*, with Mr. Marks, one of the prisoners, and several others, to present their request. Richards informed the governor, that unless their demand was granted, and he and his companions returned in safety, every prisoner on board the captured ships would instantly be slain, and the vessels consumed to ashes.

During the time that Mr. Marks was negotiating with the governor, Richards and his associates walked the streets at pleasure, while indignation flamed from every eye against them, as the robbers of their property, and the terror of their country. Though the affront thus offered the government was great and most audacious, yet, to preserve the lives of so many men, they granted their request, and sent on board a chest valued at three or four hundred pounds.

Teach, as soon as he received the medicines and his fellow pirates, pillaged the ships of gold and provisions, and then dismissed the prisoners with their vessels. From the bar of Charlestown they sailed to North Carolina. Teach now began to reflect how he could best secure the spoil, along with some of the crew, who were his favourites. Accordingly, under pretence of cleaning, he run his vessel on shore, and grounded; then ordered the men in Hands' sloop to come to his assistance, which they endeavouring to do, also run aground, and so they were both lost. Then Teach went into the tender with forty hands; and, upon a sandy island, about a league from shore, where there was neither bird nor beast, nor herb for their subsistence, he left seventeen of his crew, who must have inevitably perished, had not Major Bonnet received intelligence of their miserable situation, and sent a long-boat for them. After this barbarous deed. Teach, with the remainder of his crew, went and surrendered to the governor of North Carolina, retaining all the property which had been acquired by his fleet.

This temporary suspension of the depredations of Blackbeard, (for so he was now called,) did not proceed from the conviction of his former errors, or a determination to reform, but to prepare for future and more extensive exploits. As governors are but men, and not, unfrequently, by no means possessed of the most virtuous principles, the gold of Blackboard rendered him comely in the governor's eyes, and, by his influence, he obtained a legal right to the great ship called *The Queen Anne's Revenge*. By order of the governor, a court of vice-admiralty was held at Bath-town, and that vessel was condemned as a lawful prize that he had taken from the Spaniards, though it was a well-known fact that she belonged to English merchants. Before he entered upon his new adventures, he married a young woman of about sixteen years of age, the governor himself performing the ceremony. It was reported that this was only his fourteenth wife, about twelve of whom were yet alive; and, though this woman was young and amiable, he behaved towards her in a manner so brutal, that was shocking to all decency and propriety, even among the abandoned race of pirates.

In his first voyage, Blackboard directed his course to the Bermudas, and, meeting with two or three English vessels, emptied them of their stores and other necessaries, and allowed them to proceed. He also met with two French vessels bound

for Martinique, the one light, and the other loaded with sugar and cocoa; he put the men on board the latter into the former, and allowed her to depart. He brought the loaded vessel into North Carolina, where the governor and Blackboard shared the prizes. Nor did their audacity and villainy stop here. Teach and some of his abandoned crew waited upon his excellency, and swore that they had seized the French ship at sea, without a soul on board; therefore, a court was called, and she was condemned. The honourable governor received sixty hogsheads of sugar for his share, his secretary twenty, and the pirates the remainder. But, as guilt always inspires suspicion. Teach was afraid that someone might arrive in the harbour that might detect the roguery; therefore, upon pretence that she was leaky, might sink, and so stop up the entrance to the harbour, where she lay, they obtained the governor's liberty to drag her into the river, where she was set on fire, and when burnt down to the water, her bottom was sunk, that so she might never rise in judgment against the governor and his confederates.

Blackboard now being in the province of friendship, he passed several months in the river, giving and receiving visits from the planters; while he traded with the vessels which came to that river, sometimes in the way of lawful commerce, and sometimes in his own way. When he chose to appear the honest man, he made fair purchases on equal barter; but when this did not suit his necessities, or his humour, he would rob at pleasure, and leave them to seek their redress from the governor; and, the better to cover his intrigues with his excellency, he would sometimes outbrave him to his face, and administer to him a share of that contempt and insolence which he so liberally bestowed upon the rest of the inhabitants of the province.

But there are limits to human insolence and depravity. The captains of the vessels who frequented that river, and had been so often harassed and plundered by Blackboard, secretly consulted with some of the planters what measures to pursue, in order to banish such an infamous miscreant from their coasts, and to bring him to deserved punishment. Convinced, from long experience, that the governor himself, to whom it belonged, would give no redress, they represented the matter to the governor of Virginia, and entreated that an armed force might be sent from the men-of-war lying there, either to take or to destroy those pirates who infested their coast.

Upon this representation, the governor of Virginia consulted with the captains of the two men-of-war as to the best measures to be adopted. He was resolved that the governor should hire two small vessels, which could pursue Blackboard into all his inlets and creeks; that they should be manned from the men-of-war, and the command given to Lieutenant Maynard, an experienced and resolute officer. When all was ready for his departure, the governor called an assembly, in which it was resolved to issue a proclamation, offering a great reward to any who, within a year, should take or destroy any pirate.

Upon the 17th of November, 1717, Maynard left James's river in quest of Blackboard, and, on the evening of the 21st, came in sight of the pirate. This expedition was fitted out with all possible expedition and secrecy, no boat being permitted to pass that might convey any intelligence, while care was taken to discover where the pirates were lurking. His excellency the governor of Bermudas, and his secretary, however, having obtained information of the intended expedition, the latter wrote a letter to Blackboard, intimating, "that he had sent him four of his men, who were all he could meet with in or about town, and so bidding him be upon his guard."

These men were sent from Bath-town to the place where Blackbeard lay, about the distance of twenty leagues.

The hardened and infatuated pirate, having been often disconcerted with false intelligence, was the less attentive to this information; nor was he convinced of its accuracy, until he saw the sloops sent to apprehend him. Though he had then only twenty men on board, he prepared to give battle. Lieutenant Maynard arrived with his sloops in the evening, and anchored, as he could not venture, under cloud of night, to go into the place where Blackbeard lay. The latter spent the night in drinking with the master of a trading-vessel, with the same indifference as if no danger had been near. Nay, such was the desperate wickedness of this villain, that it is reported, that, during the carousals of that night, one of his men asked him, "that in case anything should happen to him during the engagement with the two sloops that were waiting to attack him in the morning, whether his wife knew where he had buried his money;" he impiously replied, "that nobody but himself and the devil knew where it was, and the longest liver should take all."

In the morning Maynard weighed, and sent his boat to sound, which coming near, the pirate received her fire. Maynard then hoisted royal colours, and made directly towards Blackbeard with every sail and oar. In a little time the pirate ran aground, and so also did the king's vessels. Maynard lightened his vessel of the ballast and water, and made towards Blackbeard. Upon this he hailed him in his own rude style, "D— you, for villains, who are you, and from whence come you?" The lieutenant answered, "You may see from our colours we are no pirates." Blackbeard bid him send his boat on board, that he might see who he was. But Maynard replied, "I cannot spare my boat, but I will come on board of you as soon as I can, with my sloop." Upon this Blackbeard took a glass of liquor and drank to him, saying, "I'll give no quarters, nor take any from you." Maynard replied, "he expected no quarters from him, nor should he give him any."

During this dialogue, the pirate's ship floated, and the sloops were rowing with all expedition towards him. As she came near, the pirate fired a broadside, charged with all manner of small shot, which killed or wounded twenty men. Blackbeard's ship in a little after fell broadside to the shore; one of the sloops called *The Ranger* also fell a-stern. But Maynard, finding that his own sloop had way, and would soon be on board of Teach, ordered all his men down, while himself and the man at the helm, whom he commanded to lie concealed, were the only persons who remained on deck. He, at the same time, desired them to take their pistols, cutlasses, and swords, and be ready for action upon his call; and, for the greater expedition, two ladders were placed in the hatchway. When the king's sloop boarded, the pirate's case-boxes, filled with powder, small-shot, slugs, and pieces of lead and iron, with a quick match in the mouth of them, were thrown into Maynard's sloop. Fortunately, however, the men being in the hold, they did small injury on the present occasion, though they are usually very destructive. Blackbeard seeing few or no hands upon deck, cried to his men, that they were all knocked on the head, except three or four; "and therefore," says he, "let's jump on board, and cut to pieces those that are alive."

Upon this, during the smoke occasioned by one of these case-boxes, Blackbeard, with fourteen of his men, entered, and were not perceived until the smoke was dispelled. The signal was given to Maynard's men, who rushed up in an instant. Blackbeard and the lieutenant exchanged shots, and the pirate was wounded; then they engaged sword in hand, until the sword of the latter broke; but fortunately, one of his

men at that instant gave Blackbeard a terrible wound in the neck and throat. The most desperate and bloody conflict ensued—Maynard with twelve men, and Blackbeard with fourteen. The sea was dyed with blood all around the vessel, and uncommon bravery was displayed upon both sides. Though the pirate was wounded by the first shot from Maynard, yet he fought with desperate valour, though he had received twenty cuts, and five more shot; at length, when cocking his pistol, he fell down dead. By this time eight of his men had fallen, and the rest being wounded, cried out for quarter, which was granted, as the ring-leader was slain. The other sloop also attacked the men who remained in the pirate-vessels, until they also cried out for quarter. And such was the desperation of Blackbeard, that, having small hope of escaping, he had placed a Negro with a match at the gunpowder-door, to blow up the ship the moment that he should have been boarded by the king's men, in order to involve the whole in general ruin. That destructive broadside, at the commencement of the action, which at first appeared so unlucky, was, however, the means of their preservation from the intended destruction.

Maynard severed the pirate's head from his body, suspended it upon his bowsprit-end, and sailed to Bath-town, to obtain medical aid for his wounded men. In the pirate sloop, several letters and papers were found, which Blackbeard would certainly have destroyed previous to the engagement, had he not determined to blow her up upon his being taken, which disclosed the whole villainy between the honourable governor of Bermudas and his honest secretary, and the notorious pirate, who had now suffered the just demerit of his crimes.

Scarcely was Maynard returned to Bath-town, when he boldly went and made free with the sixty hogsheads of sugar in the possession-of the governor, and the twenty in that of his secretary.

After his men were healed at Bath-town, the lieutenant proceeded to Virginia, with the head of Blackbeard still suspended on his bowsprit-end, as a trophy of his victory, to the great joy of all the inhabitants. The prisoners were tried, condemned, and executed; and thus all the crew of that infernal miscreant Blackbeard, were destroyed except two. One of these was taken out of a trading-vessel, only the day before the engagement, in which he received no less than seventy wounds, of all which he was cured.

The other was Israel Hands, who was the master of the *Queen Anne's Revenge*; he was taken at Bath-town, being wounded in one of Blackboard's savage humours. One night Blackbeard, drinking in his cabin with Hands, the pilot, and another man, without any pretence took a small pair of pistols, and cocked them under the table; which being perceived by the man, he went on deck, leaving the captain, Hands, and the pilot together. When his pistols were prepared, he extinguished the candle, crossed his arms, and fired at his company. The one pistol did no execution, but the other wounded Hands in the knee. Interrogated concerning the meaning of this, he answered with an imprecation, "that if he did not now and then kill one of them, they would forget who he was." Hands was tried and condemned, but as he was about to be executed, a vessel arrived with a proclamation prolonging the time of his Majesty's pardon, which Hands pleading, he was saved from a violent and shameful death.

We shall close the narrative of this extraordinary man's life by an account of the cause why he was denominated Black Beard. He derived this name from his long black beard, which, like a frightful meteor, covered his whole face, and terrified all America more than any comet that had ever appeared. He was accustomed to twist it

The Newgate Calendar

with ribbon, in small quantities, resembling those of some fashionable wigs, and turned them about his ears. In time of action he wore a sling over his shoulders with three brace of pistols. He stuck lighted matches under his hat, which appearing on both sides of his face and his eyes, naturally fierce and wild, made him such a figure that the human imagination cannot form a conception of even a fury more terrible and alarming; and if he had the appearance and look of a fury, his actions corresponded with that character.

CAPTAIN EDWARD ENGLAND

Pirate

THIS adventurer was mate of a sloop that sailed from Jamaica, and was taken by Captain Winter, a pirate, just before the settlement of the pirates at Providence Island.

After the pirates had surrendered to his Majesty's pardon, and Providence Island was peopled by the English government, our captain sailed to Africa. There he took several vessels, particularly the *Cadogan*, from Bristol, commanded by one Skinner. When he struck to the pirate, he was ordered to come on board in his boat. The person upon whom he first cast his eye proved to be his old boatswain, who stared him in the face, and accosted him in the following manner: "Ah, Captain Skinner, is it you?—the only person I wished to see: I am much in your debt, and I shall pay you all in your own coin." The poor man trembled every joint, and dreaded the event, as he well might.

It happened that Skinner and his old boatswain, with some of his men, had quarrelled, so that he thought fit to remove them on board a man-of-war, while he refused to pay them their wages. Not long after, they found means to leave the man-of-war, and went on board a small ship in the West Indies. They were taken by a pirate, and brought to Providence; from thence they sailed as pirates along with Captain England. Thus accidentally meeting their old captain, they severely revenged the treatment which they had received.

After the rough salutation which has been related, the boatswain called to his comrades, laid hold of Skinner, tied him fast to the windlass, and pelted him with glass bottles, until they cut him in a shocking manner; then whipped him about the deck until they were quite fatigued, remaining deaf to all his prayers and entreaties; and at last, in an insulting tone, observed, that as he had been a good master to his men, he should have an easy death; and upon this, shot him through the head.

Having taken such things as they stood most in need of out of the snow, she was given to Captain Davis, in order to try his fortune, with a few hands.

Captain England, some time after, took a ship called the *Pearl*, for which he exchanged his own sloop, fitted her up for piratical service, and called her the *Royal James*. In that vessel he was very fortunate, and took several ships of different sizes and different nations. In the spring of 1719, the pirates returned to Africa, and, beginning at the River Gambia, they then sailed down the coast to Cape Corse, and captured several vessels. Some of them they pillaged, and allowed to proceed, some they fitted out for the pirate service, and others they burnt.

Leaving our pirate upon this coast, the *Revenge* and the *Flying King* sailed for the West Indies, where they took several prizes, then cleared and sailed for Brazil. There they captured some Portuguese vessels; but a large Portuguese man-of-war coming up to them, proved an unwelcome guest. The *Revenge* escaped, but was soon lost upon that coast. *Flying King* in despair run ashore. There were then seventy on board, twelve of whom were slain, and the remainder taken prisoners. The Portuguese hanged thirty-eight of them.

Captain England, whilst cruising upon that coast, took the *Peterborough* of Bristol, and the *Victory*. The former they detained, the latter they plundered and dismissed. In the course of his voyage, England met with two ships, but these taking shelter under Cape Corse Castle, he unsuccessfully attempted to set them on fire. He next sailed down to Whydah road, where Captain La Bouche had been before England, and left him no spoil. He now went into the harbour, cleaned his own ship, and fitted up the *Peterborough*, which he called the *Victory*. During several weeks the pirates remained in this quarter, indulging in every species of riot and debauchery, until the natives, exasperated with their conduct, came to an open rupture, when several of the Negroes were slain, and one of their towns set on fire by the pirates.

Leaving that port, the pirates, when at sea, determined, by vote, to sail for the East Indies, and arrived at Madagascar. After watering and taking in some provisions, they sailed for the coast of Malabar. This place is situated in the Mogul empire, and is one of its most beautiful and fertile districts. It extends from the coast of Canora to Cape Comorin. The original natives are Negroes; but a mingled race of Mahometans, who are generally merchants, have been introduced in modern times. Having sailed almost round the one half of the globe, literally seeking whom they might devour, our pirates arrived in this country. Not long after their settlement at Madagascar, they took a cruise, in which they captured two Indian vessels and a Dutchman. They exchanged the latter for one of their own, and directed their course again to Madagascar.

Several of their hands were sent on shore with tents and ammunition, to kill such beasts and venison as the island afforded. They also formed the resolution to go in search of Avery's crew, which they knew had settled upon the island; but, as their residence was upon the other side of the island, their loss of time and labour were all the fruits of their search.

They tarried here but a very short time, then steered their course to Juanna, and, coming out of that harbour, fell in with two English and an Ostend ship, all Indiamen, which, after a desperate action, they captured. The particulars of this extraordinary action are related in the following letter from Captain Mackra:—

"Bombay, November 16, 1720.

"We arrived the 25th of July last, in company with the *Greenwich*, at Juanna, an island not far from Madagascar. Putting in there to refresh our men, we found fourteen pirates that came in their canoes from the Mayotta, where the pirate ship to which they belonged, viz. *The Indian Queen*, two hundred and fifty tons, twenty-eight guns, and ninety men, commanded by Captain Oliver de la Bouche, bound from the Guinea coast to the East Indies, had been bulged and lost. They said they left the captain and forty of their men building a new vessel, to proceed on their wicked designs. Captain Kirby and I, concluding that it might be of great service to the East India Company to destroy such a nest of rogues, were ready to sail for the purpose on the 17th of August, about eight o'clock in the morning, when we discovered two pirates standing into the bay of Juanna, one of thirty-four, and the other of thirty-six guns. I immediately went on board the *Greenwich*, where they seemed very diligent in preparations for an engagement, and I left Captain Kirby with mutual promises of standing by each other. I then unmoored, got under sail, and brought two boats a-head to row me close to the *Greenwich*; but he, being open to a valley and a breeze, made the best of his way from me; which an Ostender, in our company, of twenty-two guns, seeing, did the same, though the captain had promised heartily to engage with us, and I believe would have been as good as his word, if Captain Kirby had kept his. About half an hour after twelve, I called several times to the *Greenwich* to bear down to our assistance, and fired a shot at hiin, but to no purpose. For though we did not doubt but

Supplement 3

he would join us, because, when he got about a league from us, he brought his ship to, and looked on; yet both he and the *Ostender* basely deserted us, and left us engaged with barbarous and inhuman enemies, with their black and bloody flags hanging over us, without the least appearance of ever escaping, but to be cut to pieces. But God, in his good providence, determined otherwise; for, notwithstanding their superiority, we engaged them both about three hours; during which time the largest of them received some shot betwixt wind and water, which made her keep off a little to stop her leaks. The other endeavoured all she could to board us, by rowing with her oars, being within half a ship's length of us above an hour; but, by good fortune, we shot all her oars to pieces, which prevented them, and by consequence saved our lives.

"About four o'clock most of the officers and men posted on the quarter-deck being killed and wounded, the largest ship making up to us with diligence, being still within a cable's length of us, often giving us a broadside; there being now no hopes of Captain Kirby coming to our assistance, we endeavoured to run ashore; and, though we drew four feet of water more than the pirate, it pleased God that he stuck fast on a higher ground than, happily, we fell in with; so was disappointed a second time from boarding us. Here we had a more violent engagement than before: all my officers and most of my men behaved with unexpected courage; and, as we had a considerable advantage by having a broadside to his bow, we did him great damage; so that, had Captain Kirby come in then, I believe we should have taken both the vessels, for we had one of them sure; but the other pirate (who was still firing at us) seeing the *Greenwich* did not offer to assist us, he supplied his consort with three boats full of fresh men. About five in the evening the *Greenwich* stood clear away to sea, leaving us struggling hard for life, in the very jaws of death; which the other pirate that was afloat, seeing, got a warp out, and was hauling under our stern. By this time many of my men being killed and wounded, and no hopes left us of escaping being all murdered by enraged, barbarous conquerors, I ordered all that could to get into the long-boat, under the cover of the smoke of our guns; so that, with what some did in boats and others by swimming, most of us that were able got ashore by seven o'clock.

"When the pirates came aboard, they cut three of our wounded men to pieces. I, with some of my people, made what haste I could to the King's-town, twenty-five miles from us, where I arrived next day, almost dead with the fatigue and loss of blood, having been sorely wounded in the head by a musket-ball.

"At this town I heard, that the pirates had offered ten thousand dollars to the country people to bring me in; which many of them would have accepted, only they knew the king and all his chief people were in my interest. Meantime, I caused a report to be spread, that I was dead of my wounds, which much abated their fury. About ten days after, being pretty well recovered, and hoping the malice of our enemies was nigh over, I began to consider the dismal condition we were reduced to; being in a place where we had no hopes of getting a passage home, all of us in a manner naked, not having had time to get off another shirt, or a pair of shoes, than what we had on.

"Having obtained leave to go on board the pirates, and gotten a promise of safety, several of the chief of them knew me, and some of them had sailed with me, which I found to be of great advantage; because, notwithstanding their promise, some of them would have cut me, and all that would not enter with them, to pieces, had it not been for the chief captain, Edward England, and some others whom I knew. They talked of burning one of their ships, which we had so entirely disabled as to be no farther useful to them, and to fit the *Cassandra* in her room; but in the end I managed the affair so well, that they made me a present of the said shattered ship, which was Dutch built, and called the *Fancy*; her burden was about three hundred tons. I procured also a hundred and twenty-nine bales of the Company's cloth, though they would not give me a rag of my own clothes.

The Newgate Calendar

"They sailed the 3d of September; and I, with jurymasts, and such old sails as they left me, made a shift to do the like on the 8th, together with forty-three of my ship's crew, including two passengers and twelve soldiers; having no more than five tons of water on board. After a passage of forty-eight days, I arrived here on the 26th of October, almost naked and starved; having been reduced to a pint of water a day, and almost in despair of ever seeing land, by reason of the calms we met with between the coast of Arabia and Malabar. We had in all thirteen men killed, and twenty-four wounded; and we were told, that we destroyed about ninety or a hundred of the pirates. When they left us, there were about 300 whites, and 80 blacks, in both ships. I am persuaded, had our consort the *Greenwich* done his duty, we had destroyed both of them, and got two hundred thousand pounds for our owners and selves; whereas, the loss of the *Cassandra* may justly be imputed to his deserting us. I have delivered all the bales that were given me into the Company's warehouse, for which the governor and council have ordered me a reward. Our governor, Mr. Boon, who is extremely kind and civil to me, had ordered me home with the packet; but Captain Harvey, who had a prior promise, being come in with the fleet, goes in my room. The governor hath promised me a country voyage to help to make up my losses, and would have me stay and accompany him to England next year."

Captain Mackra was certainly in imminent danger, in trusting himself and his men on board the pirate ship; and unquestionably nothing but the desperate circumstances in which he was placed, could have justified such a hazardous step. The honour and influence of Captain England, however, protected him and his men from the fury of the crew, who would willingly have wreaked their vengeance upon them.

It is pleasing to discover any instance of generosity or honour among such an abandoned race, who have bid defiance to all the laws of honour, and are regardless of all laws human and divine. Captain England was so steady to Captain Mackra, that he informed him, that it would be with no small difficulty and address that he would be able to preserve him and his men from the fury of the crew, who were greatly enraged at the resistance which had been made. He likewise acquainted him, that his influence and authority among them was giving place to that of Captain Taylor, chiefly because the dispositions of the latter were more savage and brutal. They therefore consulted between them what was the best method to secure the favour of Taylor, and to keep him in good humour. Mackra made the punch to flow in great abundance, and employed every artifice to soothe the mind of that ferocious villain. A singular incident was also very favourable to the unfortunate captain. It happened that a pirate with a prodigious pair of whiskers, a wooden leg, and stuck round with pistols, came blustering and swearing upon the quarterdeck, inquiring, where was Captain Mackra. He naturally supposed that this barbarous-looking fellow would be his executioner; but, as he approached him, he took the captain by the hand, swearing that he was an honest fellow, and that he had formerly sailed with him, and would stand by him; and let him see the man that would touch him. This terminated the dispute, and Captain Taylor's disposition was so ameliorated with punch, that he consented that the old pirate ship, and so many bales of cloth, should be given to Mackra; and then sunk into the arms of intoxication. England now pressed Mackra to hasten away, lest the ruffian, upon his becoming sober, should not only retract his word, but give liberty to the crew to cut him and his men in pieces.

But the gentle temper of Captain England, and his generosity towards the unfortunate Mackra, proved the origin of much calamity to himself. The crew, in general, deeming that kind of usage which Mackra had received, inconsistent with piratical policy, they circulated a report that he was coming against them with the

Company's force. The result of these invidious reports was, to deprive England of his command, and to excite those cruel villains to put him on shore, with three others, upon the island of Mauritius. If England and his small company had not been destitute of every necessary, they might have made a comfortable subsistence here, as the island abounds with deer, hogs, and other animals. It is even said, that the shores are replete with coral and ambergris; but, had this been the fact, the Dutch would not have abandoned such a rich treasure. Dissatisfied with their solitary situation. Captain England and his three men exerted their industry and ingenuity, and formed a small boat, with which they sailed to Madagascar, where they subsisted upon the generosity of some more fortunate piratical companions.

Captain Taylor detained some of the officers and men belonging to Captain Mackra, and, having repaired their vessel, sailed for India. The day before they made land, they espied two ships to the eastward, and, supposing them to be English, Captain Taylor ordered one of the officers of Mackra's ship to communicate to him the private signals between the Company's ships, swearing, that if he did not do so immediately, he would cut him into pound pieces. But the poor man being unable to give the information demanded, he was under the necessity of enduring their threats. Arrived at the vessels, they found that they were two Moorish ships, laden with horses. The pirates brought the captains and merchants on board, and tortured them in a barbarous manner, to constrain them to tell where they had hid their treasure. They were, however, disappointed, and the next morning they discovered land, and at the same time a fleet on shore plying to windward. In this situation, they were at a considerable loss how to dispose of their prizes. To let them go, would lead to their discovery, and thus defeat the design of their voyage; and it was a distressing matter to sink the men and the horses, though many of them were for adopting that measure. They, however, brought them to anchor, threw all her sails overboard, and cut one of her masts half through.

While they lay at anchor, and were employed in taking in water, one of the above-mentioned fleet moved towards them with English colours, and was answered by the pirate with a red ensign, but they did not hail each other. At night they left the Muscat ships, and sailed after the fleet. About four next morning, the pirates were in the midst of the fleet, but, seeing their vast superiority, they were greatly at a loss what method to adopt. The *Victory* was become leaky, and their hands were so few in number, that it only remained for them to deceive, if possible, the English squadron. They were unsuccessful in gaining anything out of that fleet, and only had the wretched satisfaction of burning a single galley. They, however, that day seized a galliot, loaded with cotton, and made inquiry of the men concerning the fleet. They protested that they had not seen a ship since they left Gogo, and earnestly implored their mercy; but, instead of treating them with lenity, they racked their joints, in order to extort farther confession. The day following, a fresh easterly wind blew hard, and rent the galliot's sails; upon this the pirates put her company into a boat, with nothing but a try-sail, no provisions, and only four gallons of water; and, though they were out of sight of land, left them to shift for themselves.

It may be proper to inform our readers, that one Angria, an Indian prince, of considerable territory and strength, had proved a troublesome enemy to Europeans, and particularly to the English. Callaba is his principal fort, situated not many leagues from Bombay, and he possesses an island in sight of the port, from whence he molests the Company's ships. His art in bribing the ministers of the great Mogul, and the

shallowness of the water, that prevents large ships of war from approaching, are the principal causes of his safety.

The Bombay fleet, consisting of four grabs, the *London* and the *Candois*, and two other ships with galliot, having an additional thousand men aboard for this enterprise, sailed to attack a fort belonging to Angria, upon the Malabar coast. Though their strength was great, yet they were totally unsuccessful in their enterprise. It was this fleet, returning home, that our pirates discovered upon the present occasion. Upon the sight of the pirates, the commodore of the fleet intimated to Mr. Brown, the general, that as they had no orders to fight, and had gone upon a different purpose, it would be improper for them to engage.

Informed of the loss of this favourable opportunity to destroy the robbers, the governor of Bombay was highly enraged, and, giving the command of the fleet to Captain Mackra, ordered him to pursue and engage them wherever they should be found.

The pirates having barbarously sent away the galliot with her men, they arrived southward, and between Goa and Carwar they heard several guns; so that they came to anchor, and sent their boat to reconnoitre, which returned next morning with the intelligence of two grabs lying at anchor in the road. They accordingly weighed, run towards the bay, and in the morning were discovered by the grabs, who had just time to run under India-Diva Castle for protection. This was the more vexatious to the pirates, as they were without water; some of them, therefore, were for making a descent upon the island, but that measure not being generally approved, they sailed towards the south, and took a small ship, which had only a Dutchman and two Portuguese on board. They sent one of these on shore to the captain, to inform him, that if he would give them some water and fresh provisions, he might have his vessel returned. He replied, that if they would give him possession over the bar, he would comply with their request. But, suspecting the integrity of his design, they sailed for Lacca Deva islands, uttering dreadful imprecations against the captain.

Disappointed in finding water at these islands, they sailed to Malinda island, and sent their boats on shore, to discover if there was any water, or if there were any inhabitants. They returned with the information that there was abundance of water; that the houses were only inhabited by women and children, the men having fled at the appearance of the ships. They accordingly hastened to supply themselves with water, used the defenceless women in a brutal manner, destroyed many of their fruit trees, and set some of their houses on fire.

While off this island, they lost several of their anchors by the rockiness of the ground; and, one day blowing more violently than usual, they were forced to take to sea, leaving several people and most of the water casks; but, when the gale was over, they returned to take in their men and water. Their provisions being nearly exhausted, they resolved to visit the Dutch at Cochin. After sailing three days, they arrived off Tellechery, and took a small vessel belonging to Governor Adams, and brought the master on board, very much intoxicated, who informed them of the expedition of Captain Mackra. This intelligence raised their utmost indignation. "A villain," said they, "to whom we have given a ship and presents, to come against us; he ought to be hanged! and, since we cannot show our resentment to him, let us hang the dogs his people, who wish him well, and would do the same, if they were clear." "If it be in my power," says the quarter-master, "both masters and officers of ships shall be carried

with us for the future, only to plague them. Now, England, we may mark him for this."

They proceeded to Calicut, and, attempting to cut out a ship, were prevented by some guns placed on shore. One of Captain Mackra's officers was under deck at this time, and was commanded, both by the captain and quartermaster, to tend the braces on the booms, in hopes that a shot would take him before they got clear. He was about to have excused himself, but they threatened to shoot him; and, when he expostulated, and claimed their promise to put him on shore, he got an unmerciful beating from the quarter-master; Captain Taylor, to whom that duty belonged, being lame of his hands.

The day following they met a Dutch galliot, loaded with limestone, bound for Calicut, on board of which they put one Captain Fawks; and, some of the crew interceding for Mackra's officer, Taylor and his party replied, "If we let this dog go, who has overheard our designs and resolutions, we will upset all our well-advised resolutions, and particularly this supply we are seeking for at the hands of the Dutch."

When they arrived at Cochin, they sent a letter on shore by a fishing-boat, entered the road, and anchored, each ship saluting the fort with eleven guns, and receiving the same number in return. This was the token of their welcome reception, and at night a large boat was sent, deeply laden with liquors and all kinds of provisions, and in it a servant of John Trumpet, one of their friends, to inform them that it would be necessary for them to run farther south, where they would be supplied both with provisions and naval stores.

They had scarcely anchored at the appointed place, when several canoes, with white and black inhabitants, came on board, and continued, without interruption, to perform all the good offices in their power, during their stay in that place. In particular, John Trumpet brought a large boat of arrack, and sixty bales of sugar, as a present from the governor and his daughter; the one receiving a table-clock, and the other a gold watch, the spoil of Captain Mackra's vessel. When their provisions were all on board, Trumpet was rewarded with about six or seven thousand pounds, was saluted with three cheers, and eleven guns; and several handfuls of silver were thrown into the boat, for the men to gather at pleasure.

There being little wind that night, they remained at anchor, and in the morning were surprised with the return of Trumpet, bringing another boat equally well stored with provisions, with chests of piece-goods and ready-made clothes, and along with him the fiscal of the place. At noon they espied a sail towards the south, and immediately gave chase, but she out-sailed them, and sheltered under the fort of Cochin. Informed that they would not be molested in taking her from under the castle, they sailed towards her; but upon the fort firing two guns, they ran off for fear of more serious altercation, and, returning, anchored in their former station. They were too welcome visitants to be permitted to depart, as long as John Trumpet could contrive to detain them. With this view he informed them, that in a few days a rich vessel, commanded by the General of Bombay's brother, was to pass that way.

That government is certainly in a wretched state, which is under the necessity of trading with pirates, in order to enrich itself. Nor will such a government hesitate by what means an injury can be repaired, or a fortune gained. Neither can language describe the low and base principles of that government which can employ such miscreants as John Trumpet in its service. He was a tool in the hands of the

government of Cochin; and, as the dog said in the fable, "What is done by the master's orders, is the master's action."

While under the direction of Trumpet, some proposed to proceed directly to Madagascar, but others were disposed to wait until they should be provided with a store-ship. The majority being of the latter opinion, they steered to the south, and, seeing a ship on shore, they were desirous to get near her; but the wind preventing, they separated, the one sailing northward and the other southward, in hopes of securing her when she should come out, whatever direction she might take. They were now, however, almost entrapped in the snare laid for them. In the morning, to their astonishment and consternation, instead of being called to give chase, five large ships were near, who made a signal for the pirates to bear down. The pirates were in the greatest dread lest it should be Captain Mackra, of whose activity and courage they had formerly sufficient proof. The pirate ships, however, joined and fled with all speed from the fleet. In three hours' chase, none of the fleet gained upon them, except one grab. The remainder of the day was calm, and, to their great consolation, the next day this fleet was entirely out of sight.

This alarm being over, they resolved to spend the Christmas in feasting and mirth, in order to drown care, and to banish thoughtfulness. Nor did one day suffice, but they continued their revelling for several days, and made so free with their fresh provisions, that in their next cruise they were put upon short allowance; and it was entirely owing to the sugar and other provisions that were in the leaky ship that they were preserved from perishing.

In this condition they reached the island of Mauritius, refitted the *Victory*, and left that place with the following inscription written upon one of the walls: "Left this place on the 5th of April, to go to Madagascar for Limos." This they did lest any visit should be paid to the place during their absence. They, however, did not sail directly for Madagascar, but to the island of Mascarius, where they fortunately fell in with a Portuguese of seventy guns, lying at anchor. The greater part of her guns were thrown over-board, her masts lost, and the whole vessel disabled by a storm; therefore she became an easy prey to the pirates. Conde de Ericeira, Viceroy of Goa, who went upon the fruitless expedition against Angria the Indian, and several passengers, were on board. Besides other valuable articles and specie, they found in her diamonds to the amount of four millions of dollars. Supposing that the ship was an Englishman, the viceroy came on board next morning, was made prisoner, and obliged to pay two thousand dollars as a ransom for himself and the other prisoners. After this he was set ashore, with the express engagement to leave a ship to convey him and his companions to another port.

Meanwhile they received the intelligence that a vessel was to the leeward of the island, which they pursued and captured. But, instead of performing their promise to the viceroy, which they could easily have done, they sent the *Ostender* along with some of their men to Madagascar, to inform their friends of their success, with instructions to prepare masts for the prize; and they soon followed, carrying two thousand Negroes in the Portuguese vessel.

Madagascar is an island larger than Great Britain, situated upon the eastern coast of Africa, abounding with all sorts of provisions, such as oxen, goats, sheep, poultry, fish, citrons, oranges, tamarinds, dates, cocoa-nuts, bananas, wax, honey, rice, cotton, indigo, and all the other fruits common in that quarter of the globe; ebony, of which lances are made, gums of several kinds, and many other valuable productions.

Supplement 3

The locusts on land, and the crocodiles in the river, form the principal inconvenience that the inhabitants experience. Here, in St. Augustine's bay, the ships sometimes stop to take in water, when they take the inner passage to India, and do not intend to stop at Johanna.

Though they are still few in number, compared to the natives, yet the Europeans, and particularly the pirates, have reared a mulatto race since the discovery of this island by the Portuguese in 1506. The natives are Negroes, with short curled hair, active, and formerly malicious and revengeful; but, on account of the presents they are accustomed to receive, they are become tractable and communicative. They live in terms of friendship with the Europeans who reside amongst them, and the latter can, on a minute's warning, muster two or three hundred. The natives find it their interest to cultivate their friendship, because they are divided into small governments, who carry on a continued war with each other; so that the pirates render the party with whom they join, always victorious. When the Portuguese ship arrived here, they received the intelligence that the Ostender had taken the advantage of an hour when the men were intoxicated, rose upon them, and carried the ship to Mozambique, from whence the governor ordered her to Goa.

The pirates now divided their plunder, receiving forty-two diamonds per man, or in smaller proportion according to their magnitude. A foolish jocular fellow, who had received a large diamond of the value of forty-two, was highly displeased, and so went and broke it in pieces, exclaiming, that he had many more shares than either of them. Some, contented with their treasure, and unwilling to run the risk of losing what they possessed, and perhaps their lives also, resolved to remain with their friends at Madagascar, under the stipulation, that the longest livers should enjoy all the booty. The number of adventurers being now lessened, they burnt the *Victory*, cleaned the *Cassandra*, and the remainder went on board her under the command of Taylor, whom we must leave for a little, to give an account of that squadron that arrived in India in 1721.

When the commodore arrived at the Cape, he received a letter that had been written by the governor of Pondicherry to the governor of Madras, informing him, that the pirates were strong in the Indian seas; that they had eleven sail, and fifteen hundred men; but adding, that many of them retired about that time to Brazil and Guinea, while others fortified themselves at Madagascar, Mauritius, Johanna, and Mohilla. And that a crew under the command of Condin, in a ship called the *Dragon*, had captured a vessel with thirteen lakhs of rupees on board, and, having divided their plunder, they had taken up their residence with their friends at Madagascar.

Upon receiving this intelligence, Commodore Matthews sailed for these islands, as the most probable place of success. He endeavoured ineffectually to prevail on England, at St. Mary's, to communicate to him what information he could give respecting the pirates. But the pirate declined, thinking that this would be almost to surrender at discretion. He then took up the guns of the *Jubilee* sloop that were on board, and the men-of-war made several cruises in search of the pirates, but to no purpose. The squadron was then sent down to Bombay, was saluted by the port, and, after these exploits, returned home.

The pirate, Captain Taylor, in the *Cassandra*, now fitted up the Portuguese man-of-war, and resolved upon another voyage to the Indies; but, informed that four men-of-war had been sent after the pirates in that quarter, he changed his determination, and sailed for Africa. Arrived there, they put in at a place near the river

Spirito Sancto, on the coast of Monomotapa. As there was no correspondence by land, nor any trade carried on by sea to this place, they thought that it would afford a safe retreat. To their astonishment, however, when they approached the shore, it being in the dusk of the evening, they were accosted by several shot. They immediately anchored, and in the morning saw that the shot had come from a small fort of six guns, which they attacked and destroyed.

This small fort was erected by the Dutch East India Company a few weeks before, and committed to the care of an hundred and fifty men, the one half of whom had perished by sickness or other causes. Upon their petition, sixteen of these were admitted into the society of the pirates, and the rest would also have been received, had they not been Dutchmen, to whom they had a rooted aversion.

In this place they continued during four months, refitting their vessels, and amusing themselves with all manner of diversions, until the scarcity of their provisions awakened them to industry and exertion. They, however, left several parcels of goods to the starving Dutchmen, which Mynheer joyfully exchanged for provisions with the next vessel that touched at that fort.

Leaving that place, they were divided in opinion what course to steer: some went on board the Portuguese prize, and, sailing for Madagascar, abandoned the pirate life; and others, going on board the *Cassandra*, sailed for the Spanish West Indies. The *Mermaid* man-of-war, returning from a convoy, got near the pirates, and would have attacked them, but a consultation being held, it was deemed inexpedient and thus the pirates escaped. A sloop was, however, dispatched to Jamaica with the intelligence, and the *Lancaster* was sent after them, but they were some days too late, the pirates having, with all their riches, surrendered to the governor of Portobello.

Calming their consciences, that others would have acted a similar part, without the least remorse they took up their residence here, to spend the remainder of their days in living upon the spoil of nations. Nor can the reflection be restrained, that if they had known what was transacting in England by South-sea Directors, they would at least have had one proof to adduce, "that whatever robberies they had committed, they might be pretty sure that they were not the greatest villains then living in the world." It is difficult to compute the injury done by this crew during five years. Whether to gratify their humour, to prevent intelligence, or for the want of men to navigate, or from the brave resistance made, or from wanton folly and barbarity, the moment the resolution was formed, the vessels they captured were frequently sent to the bottom. After their surrender to the Spaniards, several of them left that place, and it is reported that Captain Taylor accepted of a commission in the Spanish service, and commanded the man-of-war that attacked the English logwood-cutters in the Bay of Honduras.

CAPTAIN CHARLES VANE.

Pirate

CHARLES VANE was one of those who stole away the silver which the Spaniards had fished up from the wrecks of the galleons, in the Gulf of Florida, and was at Providence when Governor Rogers arrived there with two men-of-war, as the reader has been informed.

All the pirates who were then found at this colony of rogues, submitted, and received certificates of their pardon, except Captain Vane and his crew; who, as soon as they saw the men-of-war enter, slipped their cable, set fire to a prize they had in the harbour, sailed out with their piratical colours flying, and fired at one of the men-of-war, as they went off from the coast.

Two days after, they met with a sloop belonging to Barbados, which they took, and kept the vessel for their own use, putting aboard five and twenty hands, with one Yeats as commander. In a day or two they fell in with a small interloping trader, with a quantity of Spanish pieces of eight aboard, bound for Providence, which they also took along with them. With these two sloops Vane went to a small island and cleaned; where they shared their booty, and spent some time in a riotous manner.

About the latter end of May, 1718, they sailed, and, being in want of provisions, they beat up for the Windward Islands; in the way they met with a Spanish sloop, bound from Porto Rico to the Havanna, which they burnt, stowed the Spaniards into a boat, and left them to get to the island by the blaze of their vessel. Steering between St. Christopher's and Anguilla, they fell in with a brigantine and a sloop, freighted with such cargo as they wanted; from whom they got provisions for sea-store.

Sometime after this, standing to the northward, in the track the Old England ships take in their voyage to the American colonies, they took several ships and vessels, which they plundered of what they thought fit, and let them pass.

The latter end of August, Vane, with his consort Yeats, came off South Carolina, and took a ship belonging to Ipswich, laden with logwood. This was thought convenient enough for their own business, and therefore they ordered their prisoners to work, and throw all the lading over-board; but when they had more than half-cleared the ship, the whim changed, and they would not have her; so Coggershall had his ship again, and he was suffered to pursue his voyage home. In this voyage the pirates took several ships and vessels, particularly a sloop from Barbados, a small ship from Antigua, a sloop belonging Curaçao, and a large brigantine from Guinea, with upwards of ninety Negroes aboard. The pirates plundered them all and let them go, putting the Negroes out of the brigantine aboard of Yeats' vessel.

Captain Vane always treated his consort with very little respect, and assumed a superiority over him and his crew, regarding the vessel but as a tender to his own. This gave them a disgust; for they thought themselves as good pirates, and as great rogues as the best of them; so they caballed together, and resolved, at the first opportunity, to leave the company, and accept of his Majesty's pardon, or set up for themselves; either of which they thought more honourable than to be servants to Vane. The putting aboard so many Negroes, where there were so few hands to take

care of them, still aggravated the matter; though they thought fit to conceal or stifle their resentments at that time.

In a day or two, the pirates lying off at anchor, Yeats in the evening slipped his cable, and put his vessel under sail, standing into the shore; which when Vane saw, he was highly provoked, and got his sloop under sail to chase his consort. Vane's brigantine sailing best, he gained ground of Yeats, and would certainly have come up with him, had he had a little longer run; but just as he got over the bar, when Vane came within gunshot of him, he fired a broadside at his old friend, and so took his leave.

Yeats came into North Edisto river, about ten leagues to the southward of Charlestown, and sent an express to the governor, to know if he and his comrades might have the benefit of his Majesty's pardon; promising that, if they might, they would surrender themselves to his mercy, with the sloops and Negroes. Their request being granted, they all came up, and received certificates; and Captain Thomson, from whom the Negroes were taken, had them all restored to him, for the use of his owners.

Vane cruised some time off the bar, in hopes to catch Yeats at his coming out again, but therein he was disappointed; however, he there took two ships from Charlestown, which were bound home to England. It happened just at this time, that two sloops, well manned and armed, were equipped to go after a pirate, which the governor of South Carolina was informed lay then in Cape Fear River, cleaning. But Colonel Rhet, who commanded the sloops, meeting with one of the ships that Vane had plundered, going back over the bar for such necessaries as had been taken from her, and she giving the colonel an account of being taken by the pirate Vane, and also, that some of her men, while they were prisoners on board of him, had heard the pirates say they should clean in one of the rivers to the southward, he altered his first design, and, instead of standing to the northward, in pursuit of the pirate in Cape Fear River, he turned to the southward after Vane, who had ordered such reports to be given out, on purpose to send any force that should come after him upon a wrong scent; for he stood away to the northward, so that the pursuit proved to be of no effect.

Colonel Rhet's speaking with this ship was the most unlucky thing that could have happened, because it turned him out of the road which, in all probability, would have brought him into the company of Vane, as well as of the pirate he went after, and so they might have been both destroyed; whereas, by the colonel's going a different way, he not only lost the opportunity of meeting with one, but if the other had not been infatuated to lie six weeks together at Cape Fear, he would have missed him likewise; however, the colonel having searched the rivers and inlets, as directed, for several days, without success, he at length sailed in prosecution of his first design, and met with the pirate accordingly, whom he fought and took, as has been before related in the life of Major Bonnet.

Captain Vane went into an inlet to the northward, where he met with Captain Teach, otherwise Blackbeard, whom he saluted (when he found who he was) with his great guns loaded with shot; it being the custom among pirates when they meet to do so, though they are wide of one another, or up into the air: Blackbeard answered the salute in the same manner, and mutual civilities passed between them some days; when, about the beginning of October, Vane took leave, and sailed further to the northward.

Supplement 3

On the 23d of October, off Long Island, he took a small brigantine bound from Jamaica to Salem in New England, besides a little sloop: they rifled the brigantine, and sent her away. From hence they resolved on a cruise between Cape Meise and Cape Nicholas, where they spent some time, without seeing or speaking with any vessel, till the latter end of November; they then fell in with a ship, which, it was expected, would have struck as soon as their black colours were hoisted; but, instead of that, she discharged a broadside upon the pirate, and hoisted French colours, which showed her to be a French man-of-war.

Vane desired to have nothing further to say to her; but trimmed his sails, and stood away from the Frenchman; however, Monsieur having a mind to be better informed who he was, set all his sails and crowded after him. During this chase, the pirates were divided in their resolutions what to do: Vane, the captain, was for making off as fast as he could, alleging the man-of-war was too strong for them to cope with; but one John Rackam, their quartermaster, and who was a kind of check upon the captain, rose up in defence of a contrary opinion, saying, "that though she had more guns, and a greater weight of metal, they might board her, and then the best boys would carry the day." Rackam was well seconded, and the majority was for boarding: but Vane urged, "that it was too rash and desperate an enterprise, the man-of-war appearing to be twice that force, and that their brigantine might be sunk by her, before they could reach to board her." The mate, one Robert Deal, was of Vane's opinion, as were about fifteen more, and all the rest joined with Rackam, the quarter-master. At length, the captain made use of his power to determine this dispute, which, in these cases, is absolute and uncontrollable, by their own laws, viz. fighting, chasing, or being chased: in all other matters whatsoever, he is governed by a majority: so, the brigantine having the heels, as they term it, of the Frenchman, she came clear off.

But, the next day, the captain's behaviour was obliged to stand the test of a vote, and a resolution passed against his honour and dignity, which branded him with the name of coward, deposed him from the command, and turned him out of the company, with marks of infamy; and with him went all those who did not vote for boarding the French man-of-war. They had with them a small sloop, that had been taken by them some time before, which they gave to Vane and the discarded members; and, that they might be in a condition to provide for themselves by their own honest endeavours, they let them have a sufficient quantity of provisions and ammunition.

John Rackam was voted captain of the brigantine in Vane's room, and he proceeded towards the Caribee Islands; where we must leave him, till we have finished our story of Charles Vane.

The sloop sailed for the Bay of Honduras, and Vane and his crew put her in as good a condition as they could by the way, that they might follow their old trade. They cruised two or three days off the north-west part of Jamaica, and took a sloop and two pettiaguas, all the men of which entered with them: the sloop they kept, and Robert Deal was appointed captain.

On the 16th of December the two sloops came into the bay, where they found only one vessel at anchor. She was called the *Pearl of Jamaica*, which got under sail at the sight of them; but the pirate sloops coming near Rowland, and showing no colours, he gave them a gun or two, whereupon they hoisted the black flag, and fired three guns each at the *Pearl*. She struck, and the pirates took possession, and carried

her away to a small island called *Barnacho*, where they cleaned. By the way, they met with a sloop from Jamaica, as she was going down to the bay, which they also took.

In February, Vane sailed from *Barnacho*, in order for a cruise; but, some days after he was out, a violent tornado overtook him, which separated him from his consort, and, after two days' distress, threw his sloop upon a small uninhabited island, near the Bay of Honduras, where she was staved to pieces, and most of her men were drowned: Vane himself was saved, but reduced to great straits for want of necessaries, having no opportunity to get anything from the wreck. He lived here some weeks, and was supported chiefly by fishermen, who frequented the island with small craft from the main, to catch turtles and other fish.

While Vane was upon this island, a ship put in there from Jamaica, for water, the captain of which, one Holford, an old buccaneer, happened to be Vane's acquaintance; he thought this a good opportunity to get off, and accordingly he applied to his old friend; but Holford absolutely refused him, saying to him, "Charles, I shan't trust you aboard my ship, unless I carry you as a prisoner; for I shall have you caballing with my men, knock me on the head, and run away with my ship a-pirating." Vane made all the protestations of honour in the world to him; but it seems Captain Holford was too intimately acquainted with him, to repose any confidence at all in his words or oaths.

He told him, "He might easily find a way to get off, if he had a mind to it: I am now going down the bay," says he, "and shall return hither in about a month; and if I find you upon the island when I come back, I'll carry you to Jamaica, and there hang you." "Which way can I get away?" answers Vane. "Are there not fishermen's dories upon the beach? Can't you take one of them?" replies Holford. "What!" says Vane, "would you have me steal a dory, then?" "Do you make it a matter of conscience," said Holford, "to steal a dory, when you have been a common robber and pirate, stealing ships and cargoes, and plundering all mankind that fell in your way? Stay there, if you are so squeamish:" and he left him to consider of the matter.

After Captain Holford's departure, another ship put into the same island, in her way home, for water; none of the company knowing Vane, he easily passed for another man, and so was shipped for the voyage. One would be apt to think that Vane was now pretty safe, and likely to escape the fate which his crimes had merited; but here a cross accident happened that ruined all: Holford, returning from the bay, was met with by this ship; and the captains being very well acquainted together, Holford was invited to dine aboard of him, which he did. As he passed along to the cabin, he chanced to cast his eye down into the hold, and there saw Charles Vane at work. He immediately spoke to the captain, saying, "Do you know who you have got aboard there?" "Why," says he, "I have shipped a man at such an island, who was there cast away in a trading-sloop, and he seems to be a brisk hand." "I tell you," says Captain Holford, "it is Vane, the notorious pirate." "If it be him," replies the other, "I wont keep him." "Why, then," says Holford, "I'll send, and take him aboard, and surrender him at Jamaica." This being agreed to, Captain Holford, as soon as he returned to his ship, sent his boat with his mate, armed, who, coming to Vane, showed him a pistol, and told him, he was his prisoner. No man opposing, he was brought aboard, and put into irons; and when Captain Holford arrived at Jamaica, he delivered his old acquaintance into the hands of justice, at which place he was tried, convicted, and executed, as was, some time before, Vane's consort, Robert Deal, who was brought thither by one of the men-of-war. Thus we may see how little ancient friendship will

Supplement 3

avail a great villain, when he is deprived of the power that had before supported him, and made him formidable.

CAPTAIN JOHN RACKAM.

Pirate

THIS John Rackam, as has been reported in the foregoing pages, was quarter-master to Vane's company, till the crew were divided, and Vane turned out of it, for refusing to board the French man-of-war; in his room Rackam was voted captain of the division that remained in the brigantine. The 24th of November, 1718, was the first day of his command; his first cruise was among the Caribbee Islands, where he took and plundered several vessels.

We have already taken notice, that when Captain Woods Rogers went to the Island of Providence, with the king's pardon to such of the pirates as should surrender, this brigantine, which Rackam now commanded, made its escape through another passage, bidding defiance to the mercy that was offered.

To the windward of Jamaica, a Madeira-man fell into the pirates' way, which they detained two or three days, till they had their market out of her, and then they gave her back to the master, and permitted one Hosea Tidsel, a tavern-keeper at Jamaica, who had been picked up in one of their prizes, to depart in her, she being bound for that island.

After this cruise, they went into a small island, and cleaned, and spent their Christmas ashore, drinking and carousing as long as they had any liquor left, and then they went to sea again for more: they succeeded but too well, though they took no extraordinary prize for above two months, except a ship laden with convicts from Newgate, bound for the plantations, which in a few days was retaken, with all her cargo, by an English man-of-war that was stationed in those seas.

Rackam stood towards the island of Bermudas, and took a ship bound to England from Carolina, and a small pink from New England, both which he brought to the Bahama islands, where, with the pitch, tar, and stores, they cleaned again, and refitted their own vessel; but, staying too long in that neighbourhood. Captain Rogers, who was governor of Providence, hearing of these ships being taken, sent out a sloop well manned and armed, which retook both the prizes, though in the meanwhile the pirate had the good fortune to escape.

From hence they sailed to the Back of Cuba, where Rackam kept a little kind of a family; at which place they staid a considerable time, living ashore with their Delilahs, till their money and provisions were expended, and they concluded it time to look out for more. They repaired their vessel, and were making ready to put to sea, when a *guarda de costa* came in with a small English sloop, which she had taken as an interloper on the coast. The Spanish guard-ship attacked the pirate, but Rackam being close in behind a little island, she could do but little execution where she lay; therefore, the Dons warped into the channel that evening, in order to make sure of her the next morning. Rackam, finding his case desperate, and that there was hardly any possibility of escaping, resolved to attempt the following enterprise. The Spanish prize lying, for better security, close into the land, between the little island and the Main, our desperado takes his crew into the boat, with their cutlasses, rounds the little island, and falls aboard their prize silently, in the dead of the night, without being discovered; telling the Spaniards that were aboard her, that, if they spoke a word, or made the least noise, they were all dead men: and so they became masters of her.

Supplement 3

When this was done he slipped her cable, and drove out to sea. The Spanish man-of-war was so intent upon their expected prize, that they minded nothing else, and, as soon as day broke, they made a furious fire upon the empty sloop; but it was not long before they were apprised of the matter, when they cursed themselves sufficiently, for a company of fools, to be bit out of a good rich prize, as she proved to be, and to have nothing but an old crazy hull in the room of her.

Rackam and his crew had no reason to be displeased at the exchange, as it enabled them to continue some time longer in a way of life that suited their depraved tempers.

In August 1720, we find him at sea again, scouring the harbours and inlets of the north and west parts of Jamaica, where he took several small craft, which proved no great booty to the rovers; but they had but few men, and, therefore, they were obliged to run at low game, till they could increase their company and their strength.

In the beginning of September, they took seven or eight fishing-boats in Harbour Island, stole their nets and other tackle, and then went off to the French part of Hispaniola, where they landed, and took the cattle away, with two or three Frenchmen they found near the waterside, hunting of wild hogs in the evening. The Frenchmen came on board, whether by consent or compulsion, I cannot say. They afterwards plundered two sloops, and returned to Jamaica, on the north coast of which island, near Porto Maria Bay, they took a schooner, Thomas Spenlow, master; it being then the 19th of October. The next day, Rackam seeing a sloop in Dry Harbour Bay, he stood in and fired a gun; the men all run ashore, and he took the sloop and lading; but when those ashore found that they were pirates, they hailed the sloop, and let them know they were all willing to come aboard of them.

Rackam's coasting the island in this manner proved fatal to him; for intelligence came to the governor of his expedition, by a canoe, which he had surprised ashore in Ocho Bay. Upon this a sloop was immediately fitted out, and sent round the island in quest of him, commanded by Captain Barnet, and manned with a good number of hands.

Rackam, rounding the island, and drawing round the westernmost point, called Point Negril, he saw a small pettiagua, which, at sight of the sloop, ran ashore and landed her men; when one of them hailed her. Answer made was, they were Englishmen, and begged the pettiagua's men to come on board, and drink a bowl of punch; which they prevailed upon them to do. Accordingly the company, in an evil hour, came all aboard of the pirate, consisting of nine persons; they were armed with muskets and cutlasses, but what was their real design by so doing, we shall not take upon us to say. They had no sooner laid down their arms and taken up their pipes, than Barnet's sloop, which was in pursuit of Rackam's, came in sight.

The pirates, finding she stood directly towards them, feared the event, and weighed their anchor, which they had but lately let go, and stood off. Captain Barnet gave them chase; and, having the advantage of little breezes of wind, which blew off the land, came up with her, and brought her into Port Royal, in Jamaica.

About a fortnight after, the prisoners were brought ashore, viz. November 16, 1720, and Captain Rackam and eight of his men condemned and executed. Captain Rackam and two others were hung in chains.

But what was very surprising, was the conviction of the nine men that came aboard the sloop on the same day she was taken. They were tried at an adjournment of

The Newgate Calendar

the court, on the 24th of January, the magistracy waiting all that time, it is supposed for evidence, to prove the piratical intention of going aboard the sloop; for it seems there was no act of piracy committed by them, as appeared by the witnesses against them, who were two Frenchmen taken by Rackam, off the island of Hispaniola, who merely deposed that the prisoners came on board the pirate without compulsion. The court considered the prisoners' cases, and the majority of the commissioners being of opinion that they were all guilty of the piracy and felony they were charged with, which was, "the going over with a piratical and felonious intent to John Rackam, &c., then notorious pirates, and by them known to be so," they all received sentence of death, and were executed on the 17th February, at Gallows Point at Port Royal.

MARY READ.
*Who Passed as a Man, and became a Soldier, Sailor, and
Pirate.*

THE attention of our readers is now to be directed to the history of two female pirates—a history which is chiefly remarkable from the extraordinary circumstance of the softer sex assuming a character peculiarly distinguished for every vice that can disgrace humanity—and, at the same time, for the exertion of the most daring though brutal courage.

Mary Read was a native of England, but at what place she was born is not recorded. Her mother married a sailor when she was very young, who, soon after their marriage, went to sea and never returned. The fruit of that marriage was a sprightly boy. The husband not returning, she again found herself with child, and, to cover her shame, took leave of her husband's relations, and went to live in the country, taking her boy along with her. Her son in a short time died, and she was relieved from the burden of his maintenance and education. The mother had not resided long in the country before Mary Read, the subject of the present narrative, was born.

After the birth of Mary, her mother resided in the country for three or four years, until her money was all spent; and her ingenuity was set at work to contrive how to obtain a supply. She knew that her husband's mother was in good circumstances, and could easily support her child, provided she could make her pass for a boy, and her son's child.

But it seemed impossible to impose upon an old experienced mother. She, however, presented Mary in the character of her grandson. The old woman proposed to take the boy to live with her, but the mother would not on any account part with her boy; therefore, the grandmother allowed a crown per week for his support.

The ingenuity of the mother being successful, she reared her daughter as a boy. But as she grew up, her mother informed her of the secret of her birth, in order that she might conceal her sex. The grandmother, however, dying, the support from that quarter failed, and she was obliged to hire him out as a foot-boy to a French lady. The strength and manly disposition of this boy increased with his years; and, leaving that servile employment, he engaged on board a man-of-war.

The volatile disposition of this supposed youth did not permit him to remain long in this station, and he next went into Flanders, and joined a regiment of foot as a cadet. Though in every action she conducted herself with the greatest bravery, yet she could not obtain a commission, as they were in general bought and sold. She accordingly quitted that service, and enlisted into a regiment of horse; there she behaved herself so valiantly, that she gained the esteem of all her officers. It however happened that her comrade was a handsome young Fleming, and she fell violently in love with him. The violence of her feelings rendered her negligent of her duty, and effected such a change in her behaviour as attracted the attention of all. Both her comrade and the rest of the regiment deemed her mad. Love, however, is inventive; and, as they slept in the same tent, she found means to discover her sex without any seeming design. He was both surprised and pleased, supposing that he would have a mistress to himself; but he was greatly mistaken, and he found that it was necessary to

court her for his wife. A mutual attachment took place; and, as soon as convenient, women's clothes were provided for her, and they were publicly married.

The singularity of two troopers marrying produced a general conversation, and many of the officers honoured the ceremony with their presence, and resolved to make presents to the bride, to provide her with necessaries. After marriage they were desirous to quit the service; and his discharge being easily obtained, they set up an ordinary, with the sign of the "Three Shoes," and soon acquired a considerable run of business.

But her felicity was of short duration; the husband died, and, peace being concluded, her business diminished. In these circumstances she again resumed her man's dress, and, going into Holland, enlisted into a regiment of foot quartered in one of the frontier towns. But there being no view of preferment in time of peace, she left that service, and went on board a vessel bound for the West Indies.

During the voyage, the ship was captured by English pirates; and, as Mary was the only English person on board, they detained her, and, having plundered the vessel of what they chose, they allowed it to depart. Mary continued in that unlawful commerce for some time; but the royal pardon being tendered to all those in the West Indies who should, before a specified day, surrender, the crew to which she was attached availed themselves of this, and lived quietly on shore with the fruits of their adventures. But, from the want of their usual supplies, their money became exhausted; and, being informed that Captain Rogers, in the Island of Providence, was fitting out some vessels for privateering, Mary, with some others, repaired to that island to serve on board his privateers.

We have already heard, that scarcely had the ships sailed, when some of their crews mutinied, and run off with the ships, to pursue their former mode of life. Among these was Mary Read. She indeed frequently declared, that the life of a pirate was what she detested, and that she was constrained to it both on the former and present occasion.

It was, however, sufficiently ascertained, that both Mary Read and Anne Bouncy were among the bravest and most resolute fighters of the whole crew; that when the vessel was taken, these two heroines, along with another of the pirates, were the last three upon deck; and that Mary, having in vain endeavoured to rouse the courage of the crew, who had fled below, discharged a pistol among them, killed one, and wounded another.

Nor was Mary less modest than brave; for though she had remained many years in the character of a sailor, yet no one had ever discovered her sex, until she was under the necessity of doing so to Anne Bonney. The reason of this was, that Anne, supposing her to be a handsome fellow, became greatly enamoured of her, and discovered her sex and her wishes to Mary, who was thus constrained to reveal her secret to Anne. Rackam being the paramour of Bonney, and observing her partiality towards Mary, threatened to shoot her lover; so that, to prevent any mischief, Anne also informed the captain of the sex of her companion.

Rackam was enjoined secrecy; and here he behaved honourably: but love again assailed and conquered Mary. It was usual with the pirates to retain all the artists who were captured in the trading-vessels: among these there was a handsome young man, of very engaging manners, who vanquished the heart of Mary. In a short time her love became so violent, that she took every opportunity of enjoying his

Supplement 3

company and conversation; and, after she had gained his friendship, discovered her sex. Esteem and friendship were speedily converted into the most ardent affection, and a mutual flame burned in the hearts of these two lovers. An occurrence soon happened that put the attachment of Mary to a severe trial. Her lover having quarrelled with one of the crew, they agreed to fight a duel on shore. Mary was all anxiety for the fate of her lover; and she manifested a greater concern for the preservation of his life, than that of her own; but she could not entertain the idea that he should refuse to fight, and so be esteemed a coward. Accordingly she quarrelled with the man who had challenged her lover, and called him to the field two hours before his appointment with her lover, engaged him with sword and pistol, and laid him dead at her feet.

Though no esteem or love had formerly existed, this action was sufficient to have kindled the most violent flame. But this was not necessary, for the lover's attachment was equal, if not stronger; they pledged their faith, which they esteemed as binding as if the ceremony had been performed by a clergyman. Captain Rackam, one day, before he knew that she was a woman, asked her why she followed a line of life that exposed her to so much danger, and at last to the certainty almost of being hanged. She replied, that, as to hanging, she thought it no great hardship, for were it not for that, every cowardly fellow would turn pirate, and so infest the seas, and men of courage would starve; that, if it was put to her choice, she would not have the punishment less than death, the fear of which kept some dastardly rogues honest; that many of those who are now cheating the widows and orphans, and oppressing their poor neighbours who have no money to obtain justice, would then rob at sea, and the ocean would be as crowded with rogues as the land; so that no merchants would venture out, and the trade in a little time would not be worth following.

Being with child at the time of her trial, her execution was delayed, and it is probable that she would have found favour; but in the meantime she fell sick and died.

Mary Read was of a strong and robust constitution, capable of enduring much exertion and fatigue. She was vain and bold in her disposition, but susceptible of the tenderest emotions, and of the most melting affections. Her conduct was directed by virtuous principles—while at same time she was violent in her attachments. Though she was inadvertently drawn into that dishonourable mode of life which has stained her character, and given her a place among the criminal actors in the drama of this work, yet she possessed a rectitude of principle and of conduct, far superior to many who have not been exposed to so great temptations to swerve from the path of female virtue and honour.

ANNE BONNEY
The Famous Woman Pirate

THIS female pirate was a native of Cork in Ireland. Her father was an attorney, and, by his activity in business, rose to considerable respectability in that place. Anne was the fruit of an unlawful connexion with his own servant-maid, with whom he afterwards eloped to America, leaving his own affectionate and lawful wife. He settled at Carolina, and for some time followed his own profession; but soon commenced merchant, and was so successful as to purchase a considerable plantation. There he lived with his servant in the character of his wife; but she dying, Anne his daughter superintended the domestic affairs of her father.

During her residence with her father, she was supposed to have a considerable fortune, and was accordingly addressed by young men of respectable situations in life. It happened with Anne, however, as with many others of her youth and sex, that her feelings, and not her interest, determined her choice of a husband. She married a young sailor without a single shilling. The avaricious father was so enraged, that, deaf to the feelings of a parent, he turned his own child out of doors. Upon this cruel usage of her father, and the disappointment of her fortune, Anne and her husband sailed for the Island of Providence, in the hope of gaining employment.

Acting a part very different from that of Mary Read, Anne's affections were soon estranged from her husband by Captain Rackam, and, eloping with him, went to sea in men's clothes. Proving with child, the captain put her on shore, and intrusted her to the care of some friends, until her recovery, when she again accompanied him in his expeditions. Upon the king's proclamation, offering a pardon to all pirates, he surrendered, and went into the privateering business, as was related in the former life. He, however, soon embraced an opportunity to return to his favourite employment. In all his piratical exploits, Anne accompanied him, and, as we have already related, displayed such courage and intrepidity, that she, along with Mary Read and another seaman, were the last three who remained on board when the vessel was taken.

Anne was known to many of the planters in Jamaica, who remembered to have seen her in her father's house, and they were disposed to intercede in her behalf. Her unprincipled conduct, in leaving her own husband, and forming an illicit connexion with Rackam, tended, however, to render them less active. By a special favour, Rackam was permitted to visit her the day before he was executed; but, instead of condoling him on account of his sad fate, she only observed, that she was sorry to see him there, but if he had fought like a man, he needed not have been hanged like a dog. Being with child, she remained in prison until her recovery—was reprieved from time to time; and, though we cannot communicate to our readers any particulars of her future life, or the manner of her death, yet we are certain that she was not executed.

CAPTAIN DAVIS

Pirate

DAVIS was born in Monmouthshire, and, from a boy, trained to the sea. His last voyage from England was in the sloop Cadogan, from Bristol, in the character of chief mate. This vessel was captured by the pirate England, upon the Guinea coast, whose companions plundered the crew, and murdered the captain, as already related in England's life.

Upon the death of Captain Skinner, Davis pretended that he was urged by England to become pirate, but that he resolutely refused. He added, that England, pleased with his conduct, had made him captain in room of Skinner, giving him a sealed paper, which he was not to open until he was in a certain latitude, and then expressly to follow the given directions. When he arrived in the appointed place, he collected the whole crew, and solemnly read his sealed instructions, which contained a generous grant of the ship and all her stores, to Davis and his crew, requesting them to go to Brazil, and dispose of the cargo to the best advantage, and make an equal division of the money.

Davis then commanded the crew to signify whether they were inclined to follow that mode of life, when, to his astonishment and chagrin, the majority positively refused. Then, in a transport of rage, he desired them to go where they would.

Knowing that part of the cargo was consigned to merchants in Barbados, they directed their course to that place. When arrived there, they informed the merchants of the unfortunate death of Skinner, and of the proposal which had been made to them. Davis was accordingly seized, and committed to prison, but he having never been in the pirate service, nothing could be proved to condemn him, and he was discharged without a trial. Convinced that he could never hope for employment in that quarter, after this detection, he went to the island of Providence, which he knew to be a rendezvous for pirates. Upon his arrival there, he was grievously disappointed, because the pirates who frequented that place, had just accepted of his Majesty's pardon, and had surrendered.

Captain Rogers having equipped two sloops for trade, Davis obtained employment in one of these, called the *Buck*. They were laden with European goods to a considerable value, that they were to sell or exchange with the French and the Spaniards. They first touched at the island of Martinique, belonging to the French, and Davis knowing that many of the men were formerly in the pirate service, enticed them to seize the master, and to run off with the sloop. When they had effected their purpose, they hailed the other ship, in which they knew that there were many hands ripe for rebellion, and, coming to, the greater part joined Davis. Those who did not choose to adhere to them, were allowed to remain in the other sloop, and continue their course, after Davis had pillaged her of what things he pleased.

In full possession of the vessel, and stores, and goods, a large bowl of punch was made; under its exhilarating influence, it was proposed to choose a commander, and to form their future mode of policy. The election was soon over; and as a large majority of legal votes were in favour of Davis, and no scrutiny being demanded, Davis was declared duly elected. He then drew up a code of laws, to which he himself

swore, and required the same bond of alliance from all the rest of the crew. He then addressed them in a short and appropriate speech, the substance of which was, a proclamation of war with the whole world.

They next consulted, what part would be most convenient to clean the vessel, and it was resolved to repair to Coxon's Hole, at the east end of the island of Cuba, where they could remain in perfect security, as the entrance was so narrow, that one ship could keep out an hundred.

They, however, had no small difficulty in cleaning their vessel, as there was no carpenter among them. They performed that laborious task in the best manner they could, and then made to the north side of Hispaniola. The first sail they met with was a French ship of twelve guns, which they captured; and, while they were plundering her, they discovered a sail in view. Inquiring at the Frenchman, they learned that she was a ship of twenty-four guns and sixty men. Davis proposed to his crew to attack her, assuring them that she would prove a rich prize. This appeared to the crew such an hazardous enterprise, that they were rather adverse to the measure. But he acquainted them, that he had conceived a stratagem that he was confident would succeed; they might, therefore, safely leave the matter to his management. He then commenced chase, and ordered his prize to do the same. Being a better sailer, he soon came up with the enemy, and showed his black colours. With no small surprise at his insolence in coming so near them, they commanded him to strike. He replied, that he was disposed to give them employment until his companion came up, who was able to contend with them. Meanwhile, assuring them, that if they did not strike to him, it would most certainly fare the worse with them. Then, giving them a broadside, he received the same in return.

When the other pirate ship drew near, they, according to the directions of Davis, appeared upon deck in white shirts, which making an appearance of numbers, the Frenchman was intimidated, and struck. Davis ordered the captain, with twenty of his men, to come on board, and they were all put in irons except the captain. Then he dispatched four of his men to the other ship, and, calling aloud to them, desired that his compliments should be given to the captain, and request him to send a sufficient number of hands on board their new prize, to see what they had got in her; at the same time, giving them a written paper with their proper instructions, even to nail up all the small guns, and to take out all the arms and powder, and to go every man on board the new prize. When his men were on board her, he ordered the greater part of the prisoners to be removed into the empty vessels; and, by this means, he secured himself from any attack to recover their ship.

During three days, those three vessels sailed in company; but, finding that his late prize was a heavy sailer, he emptied her of everything that he stood in need of, and then restored her to the captain, with all his men. The French captain was so enraged at being thus miserably deceived, that, upon the discovery of the stratagem, he would have thrown himself overboard, had not his men prevented him.

Captain Davis then formed the resolution of parting with the other prize ship also, and afterwards steered his course northward, and took a Spanish sloop. He next steered his course towards the western islands, and from Cape Verde islands cast anchor at St. Nicholas, and hoisted English colours. The Portuguese supposed that he was a privateer; and Davis going on shore, he was hospitably received, and they traded with him for such articles as they found most advantageous. He remained here five weeks, and he and the half of his crew visited the principal town of the island.

Supplement 3

Davis, from his appearing in the dress of a gentleman, was greatly caressed by the Portuguese, and nothing was spared to entertain and render him and his men happy. Having amused themselves during a week, they returned to the ship, and allowed the other half of the crew to visit the capital, and enjoy themselves in like manner. Upon their return, they cleaned their ship and put to sea; but four of the men were so captivated with the ladies and the luxuries of the place, that they remained in the island, and one of them married and settled there.

Davis now sailed for Bonavista; and, perceiving nothing in that harbour, they steered for the Isle of May. Arrived there, they found several vessels in the harbour, and plundered them of whatever they found necessary. They also received a considerable reinforcement of men, the greater part of whom entered willingly into the piratical service. They likewise made free with one of the ships, equipped her for their own purpose, and called her the *King James*. They next proceeded to St. Jago, to take in water. Davis with some others going on shore to seek water, the governor came to inquire who they were, and expressed his suspicion of their being pirates. Upon this Davis seemed highly affronted, and expressed his displeasure in the most polite but determinate manner. He however hastened on board, informed his men, and suggested the possibility of surprising the fort during the night. Accordingly, all his men being well armed, advanced to the assault; and, from the carelessness of the guards, they were in the garrison before the inhabitants were alarmed. Upon the discovery of their danger, they took shelter in the governor's house, and fortified it against the pirates; but the latter throwing in some granado-shells, ruined the furniture, and killed several people.

The alarm was circulated in the morning, and the country assembled to attack them; but, unwilling to stand a siege, the pirates dismounted the guns, pillaged the fort, and fled to their ships.

When at sea, they mustered their hands, and found that they were about seventy strong. They then consulted among themselves what course they should steer, and they were divided in opinion; but, by a majority, it was carried to sail for Gambia on the coast of Guinea: of this opinion was the captain, who, having been employed in that trade, was acquainted with the coast, and informed his companions, that there was always a large quantity of money deposited in that castle, and he was confident, that if the matter was intrusted to him, he would successfully storm that fort. From their experience of his former prudence and courage, they cheerfully submitted to his direction, in the assurance of success.

Arrived at Gambia, he ordered all his men below, except as many as were necessary to work the vessel, that those from the fort, seeing so few hands, might have no suspicion that she was any other than a trading-vessel. He then run under the fort and cast anchor; and, having ordered out the boat, manned with six men indifferently dressed, while he, with the master and doctor, dressed themselves like gentlemen, in order that the one party might look like common sailors, and the other like merchants. In rowing ashore, he instructed his men what to say if any questions were put to them by the garrison.

When he came to land, he was conducted by a file of musketeers into the fort, and kindly received by the governor, who inquired what they were, and whence they came? They replied, that they were from Liverpool, and bound for the river Senegal, to trade for gum and elephants' teeth; but that they were chased on that coast by two French men-of-war, and narrowly escaped being taken.

"We are now disposed," continued Davis, "to make the best of our voyage, and would willingly trade here for slaves." The governor then inquired what were the principal articles of their cargo. They replied, that they were iron and plate, which were necessary articles in that place. The governor then said, that he would give them slaves for all their cargo; and asked if they had any European liquor on board. They answered, a little for their own use, but that he should have a hamper of it. He then treated them with the greatest civility, and desired them all to dine with him. Davis answered, that as he was commander of the vessel, it would be necessary for him to go down to see if she was properly moored, and to give some other directions; but that these gentlemen might stay, and he would return before dinner, and bring the hamper with him.

While in the fort, his eyes were keenly employed to discover the position of the arms, and how the fort might most successfully be surprised. He discovered that there was a sentry standing near a guard-house, in which there was a quantity of arms heaped up in a corner, and that a considerable quantity of small arms were in the governor's hall. When he went on board, he ordered some hands on board a sloop lying at anchor, lest, hearing any bustle, they should come to the aid of the castle; then, desiring his men to avoid too much liquor, and to be ready when he should hoist the flag from the castle, to come, twenty of them, to their assistance, he procured the castle.

Having taken these precautions, and formed these arrangements, he ordered every man who was to accompany him to arm himself with two pair of pistols, which he himself also did, concealed under their clothes. He then directed them to go into the guard-room, and fall into conversation, and immediately upon his firing a pistol out of the governor's window, to shut the men up, and secure the arms in the guard-room.

When Davis arrived, dinner not being ready, the governor proposed that they should pass the time in making a bowl of punch. Davis's boatswain attending him, had an opportunity of visiting all parts of the house, and observing their strength. He whispered his intelligence to his master, who, being surrounded by his own friends, and seeing the governor unattended by any of his retinue, presented a pistol to the breast of the latter, informing him that he was a dead man, unless he should surrender the fort and all its riches. The governor, thus taken by surprise, was submissive; for Davis took down all the pistols that hung in the hall, and loaded them. He then fired his pistol out of the window. His men flew like lions, presented their pistols to the soldiers, and while some carried out the arms, the rest secured the military, and shut them all up in the guard-house, placing a guard on the door. Then one of them struck the union flag on the top of the castle, which the men from the vessel perceiving, rushed to the combat, and in an instant were in possession of the castle, without tumult or bloodshed.

Davis then harangued the soldiers, and many of them enlisted with him, and those who declined, he put on board the small ships; and, to prevent the necessity of a guard, or the possibility of escape, carried off the sails, rigging, and cables.

That day being spent in feasting and rejoicing, the castle saluting the ship, and the ship the castle, on the day following they proceeded to examine the contents of their prize. They, however, were greatly disappointed in their expectations, a large sum of money having been sent off a few days before. But they found money to the amount of about two thousand pounds in gold, and many valuable articles of different

kinds. They carried on board their vessel whatever they deemed useful, gave several articles to the captain and crew of the small vessel, and allowed them to depart, while they dismounted the guns, and demolished the fortifications.

After doing all the mischief that their vicious minds could possibly devise, they weighed anchor; but, in the meantime, perceiving a sail bearing towards them with all possible speed, they hastened to prepare for her reception, and made towards her. Upon her near approach they discovered that she was a French pirate of fourteen guns and sixty-four men, the one half French and the other half Negroes. The Frenchman was in high expectations of a rich prize, but when he came nearer, he suspected, from the number of her guns and men, that she was a small English man-of-war; but he determined, notwithstanding, upon the bold attempt of boarding her, and immediately fired a gun, and hoisted his black colours: Davis immediately returned the compliment. The Frenchman was highly gratified at this discovery; both hoisted out their boats, and congratulated each other. Mutual civilities and good offices passed, and the French captain proposed to Davis to sail down the coast with him, in order to look out for a better ship; assuring him, that the very first that could be captured should be his, as he was always willing to encourage an industrious brother.

They first touched at Sierra Leone, where they spied a large vessel, and Davis being the swiftest sailer, came first up to her. He was not a little surprised that she did not endeavour to make off, and began to suspect her strength.

When he came along side of her, she fired a whole broadside, and hoisted black colours. Davis did the same, and fired a gun to leeward. The satisfaction of these brothers in iniquity was mutual, by having thus acquired so much additional strength and ability to undertake more formidable adventures. Two days were devoted to mirth and song, and, upon the third, Davis and Cochlyn, the captain of the new confederate, agreed to go in the French pirate ship to attack the fort. When they approached, the men in the fort, apprehensive of their character and intentions, fired all the guns upon them at once. The ship returned the fire, and afforded employment until the other two ships arrived, when the men in the fort seeing such a number on board, lost courage, and abandoned the fort to the mercy of the robbers.

They took possession, remained there seven weeks, and cleaned their vessels. They then called a council of war, to deliberate concerning future undertakings, when it was resolved to sail down the coast in company; and, for the greater regularity and grandeur, Davis was chosen Commodore. That dangerous enemy, strong drink, had well-nigh, however, sown the seeds of discord among these affectionate brethren. But Davis, alike prepared for council or for war, addressed them to the following purport: "Hear ye, you Cochlyn and La Boise, (which was the name of the French captain) I find, by strengthening you, I have put a rod into your hands to whip myself; but I am still able to deal with you both; however, since we met in love, let us part in love; for I find that three of a trade can never agree long together." Upon this, the other two went on board of their respective ships, and steered different courses.

Davis held down the coast, and, reaching Cape Appolonia, he captured two English and one Scottish ship, plundered them, and allowed them to proceed. In five days after, he met with a Dutchman, of thirty guns and ninety men. She gave Davis a broadside, and killed nine of his men; a desperate engagement ensued, which continued from one o'clock at noon until nine next morning, when the Dutchman struck.

Davis equipped her for the pirate service, and called her the Rover. With his two ships he sailed for the bay of Anamaboe, which he entered about noon, and took several vessels which were there waiting to take in Negroes, gold, and elephants' teeth. Davis made a present of one of these vessels to the Dutch captain and his crew, and allowed them to go in quest of their fortune. When the fort had intelligence that they were pirates, they fired at them, but without any effect: Davis fired also, and hoisted the black colours, but deemed it prudent to depart. Before proceeding farther in the life of Davis, it may afford variety and instruction, to insert a description given by an ingenious gentleman, of the Portuguese settlements on this coast.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE ISLANDS OF ST. THOME, DEL PRINCIPE, AND ANNOBONO.

The Portuguese were the great improvers of navigation, and the first Europeans who settled on the coasts of Africa, even round to India, and made those discoveries, so much to the advantage of other nations.

The attractive power of the loadstone was universally known to the ancients; but its directive, or polar virtue, has only been known within these 350 years, and is said to be found out by John Goia, of Malphi, in the kingdom of Naples; though others assure us, that it was transported by Paulus Venetus, from China to Italy, like the two other famous arts of printing and the use of guns.

The other properties or improvements of the magnet, its variation, or deflection from an exact N. or S. line, variation of that variation, and its inclination, were the inventions of Sebastian Cabot, Mr. Gellibrand, and Mr. Norman; the inclination of the needle, or that property whereby it keeps an elevation above the horizon, in all places but under the equator, where it is parallel, is as surprising a phenomenon as any, and was the discovery of our countrymen; and, could it be found regular, I imagine it would very much help towards the discovery of the longitude; at least it would point out better methods than are hitherto known, when ships draw nigh land; which would answer as useful an end almost as the other.

Before the verticity and use of the compass, the Portuguese navigations had extended no farther than Cape Non; which was their *ne plus ultra*, and therefore so called. Distress of weather, indeed, had drove some coasters to Porto Santo and Madeira, before any certain method of steering was invented; but after the needle was seen, thus inspired, navigation every year improved, under the great encouragement of Henry, Alphonsus, and John II. , kings of Portugal.

King Alphonsus was not so much at leisure as his predecessors, to pursue these discoveries; but, having seen the advantages that accrued to Portugal by them, and that the Pope had confirmed the perpetual donation of all they should discover between Cape Bajadore and India, inclusively, he resolved not to neglect the proper assistance, and so farmed the profits that did or might ensue, to one Bernard Gomez, a citizen of Lisbon, who was, every voyage, obliged to discover 100 leagues still farther on. About the year 1470, he made these islands.—the only place of all the considerable and large colonies they had in Africa, that do now remain to that crown.

St. Thome is the principal of the three, whose governor is styled captain-general of the islands, and from whom the other at Prince's receives his commission, though nominated by the court of Portugal. It is a bishopric, with a great many secular

clergy, who appear to have neither learning nor devotion, as many of them are Negroes. One of the chief of them invited us to hear mass, as a diversion to pass time away; when he and his inferior brethren acted such affected gestures and strains of voice, as showed, to their dishonour, that they had no other aim than that of pleasing us; and, what I think was still worse, it was not without a view of interest; for, as these clergy are the chief traders, they stoop to pitiful and scandalous methods for ingratiating themselves. They and the government, on this trading account, maintain no great harmony, being ever jealous of each other, and practising little deceitful arts, to monopolize what strangers have to offer for sale, whether toys or clothes, which, of all sorts, are ever profitable commodities with the Portuguese, in all parts of the world: an ordinary suit of black will sell for seven or eight pounds a middle-row wig of four shillings, for a moidore; a watch of forty shillings, for six pounds.

The town is of mean building, but large and populous; it is the residence of the greater part of the natives, who, throughout the whole island, are computed at 10,000, the militia at 3000, and are, in general, a rascally, thievish generation, as an old grave friend of mine can witness; for he, having carried a bag of second-hand clothes on shore, to truck for provisions, seated himself on the sand for this purpose, and presently gathered a crowd round him to view them; one of these desired to know the price of a black suit, that unluckily lay uppermost, and was the best of them: agreeing to the demand, with little hesitation, provided it would but fit him, he put them on immediately, in as much hurry as possible, without any *co-licentia seignor*; and when my friend was about to commend the goodness of the suit, and exactness they sat with, not dreaming of the impudence of his running away from a crowd, the rascal took to his heels; my friend followed and bawled very much, and though there were 500 people about the place, it served to no other end but making him a clear stage, that the best pair of heels might carry it; so he lost the suit of clothes, and, before he could return to his bag, others of them had beat off his servant, and shared the rest.

Most of the ships from Guinea, of their own nation, and frequently those of ours, call at one or other of these islands, to recruit with fresh provisions, and take in water; which on the coast are not so good, nor so conveniently come by: their own ships likewise, when they touch here, are obliged to leave the king his custom for their slaves, which is always in gold, at so much a head, without any deduction for the mortality that may happen afterwards; this, by being a constant bank, to pay off the civil and military charges of the government, prevent the inconveniency of remittances, and keeps both St. Thome and Prince's Isle rich enough to pay ready money for everything they want of the Europeans.

The beefs are small and lean, few of them exceeding two hundred weight, none of them much more; but the goats, hogs, and fowls, are very good; their sugar is coarse and dirty, and their rum is very ordinary; as these refreshments lay most with people who are in want of other necessaries, they come to us, in a way of bartering, very cheap: a good hog, for an old cutlass; a fat fowl, for a span of Brazil tobacco (no other sort being valued,) and so in proportion to the rest. But, in money, you give eight dollars per head for cattle, three dollars for a goat, six dollars for a grown hog, a testune and a half for a fowl, a dollar per gallon for rum, two dollars a roove for sugar, and half a dollar for a dozen of paroquets: here are likewise plenty of corn and farine, limes, citrons, and yams.

The island is reckoned to be almost square, each side being 18 leagues long; it is hilly, and under the equinoctial—a wooden bridge, just without the town, being said

not to deviate the least part of a minute, either to the southward or northward; and, notwithstanding this warm situation, and the continual vertical suns, the islanders are very healthy; which is imputed, in a great measure, to the want of even so much as one surgeon or physician!

The isle Del Principe, the next in magnitude, is a pleasant and delightful spot to the grave and thoughtful disposition of the Portuguese; it is an improvement of country retirement, in that this may be a happy and uninterrupted retreat from the whole world.

The southern coast of Africa runs in a western line of latitude, the northern on an eastern line, but both straight, with the fewest inlets, gulfs, or bays, of either of the four continents; the only large and remarkable one is that of Benin and Calabar, towards which the currents of each coast tend, and which is strongest from the southward, because more open to a large sea, whose rising is (though little and scarcely discernible at any distance from the land,) that gives rise to these currents close in shore; which are nothing but tides, altered and disturbed by the make and shape of lands.

In proof of this I shall lay down the following observations; viz. that in the rivers of Gambia and Sierra Leone, in the straits and channels of Benin, and in general along the whole coast, the flowings are regular on the shores, with this difference, that, in the above-mentioned rivers, and in the channels of Benin, where the shores contract the waters into a narrow compass, the tides are strong and high as well as regular; but, on the dead coast, where it makes an equal reverberation, weak and low, increasing as you advance towards Benin; and this is farther evident, in that at Cape Corso, Succonda, and Commenda, and where the land rounds and gives any stop, the tides flow regularly on, four feet and upwards; when on an even coast, they shall not exceed two or three feet; and ten leagues out at sea, they become scarcely, if at all, perceptible.

What I would adduce from this, besides a confirmation of that ingenious theory of the tides, by Captain Halley, is first, that the ships bound to Angola, Cabenda, and other places on the southern coast of Africa, should cross the equinoctial from Cape Balnias, and run into a southern latitude, without keeping too far to the westward; and the reason seems plain, for, if you endeavour to cross it about the islands, you meet calms, southerly winds, and opposite currents; and, if too far to the westward, the trade-winds are strong and unfavourable; for it obliges you to stand into eight degrees or thirty degrees southern latitude, till they are variable.

On the north side of Guinea, if ships are bound from the Gold Coast to Sierra Leone, Gambia, or elsewhere to windward, considering the weakness of these currents, and the favourableness of land breezes, and the southerly rains, tornadoes, and even the trade-wind, when abreast of Cape Palmas, it is more expeditious to pursue the passage this way, than by a long perambulatory course of 400 or 500 leagues to the westward, and as many more to the northward, which must be before a wind can be obtained that could recover the coast.

Lastly, it is, in a great measure, owing to this want of inlets, and the rivers being small and unnavigable, that the seas rebound with so dangerous a surf through the whole continent.

Hound the shores of this island, and in July, August, and September—the mouths we were there—there is a great resort of whale-fish, tame, and sporting very

nigh the ships as they sail in; they are always in pairs, the female being much the smaller, and are often seen to turn on their backs for dalliance—the prologue to engendering. This fish has an enemy called the thresher, a large fish too, that has its haunts here at this season, and encounters the whale, raising himself out of the water a considerable height, and falling again with great weight and force. It is commonly said also, that there is a sword-fish in these battles, who pricks the whale up to the surface again; but without this, I believe, he would suffocate when put to quick motions, unless frequently approaching the air, to ventilate and remove the impediments to a swifter circulation. Nor do I think he is battled for prey, but to remove him from what is, perhaps, the food of both. The number of whales here, has put me sometimes on thinking that an advantageous fishery might be made of it; but I presume these, no more than those of Brazil, are the sort which yield the profitable part, called whalebone. All, therefore, that the islanders do, is now and then to go out with two or three canoes, and set on one for their diversion.

The rocks and outer lines of the island are the haunts of a variety of sea-birds, especially boobies and noddies; the former are of the bigness of a gull, and of a dark colour; named so from their simplicity, because they often sit still and let the sailors take them up in their hands; but I fancy this succeeds more frequently from their weariness, and the largeness of their wings, which, when they once have rested, cannot have the scope necessary to raise and float them on the air again. The noddies are smaller, and flat-footed also.

What I would remark more of them, is, the admirable instinct in these birds, with respect to the proper seasons, and the proper places for support. In the aforementioned months, when the large fish are here, numerous flocks of fowl attend for the spawn and superfluity of their nourishment; and in January few of either. For the same reason, there are scarce any sea-fowl seen on the African coast; rocks and islands being generally their best security and subsistence.

The harbour of Princes is at the E. S. E. point of the island; the north side has gradual soundings, but here is deep water, having no ground at a mile offshore, with one hundred and forty fathom of line. The port, when entered, is a smooth, narrow bay, safe from winds, unless a little swell when southerly, and draughted into other smaller and sandy ones, convenient for raising of tents, watering, and hauling the seam; the whole protected by a fort, or rather battery, of a dozen guns on the larboard side. At the head of the bay stands the town, about a mile from the anchoring place, and consists of two or three regular streets of wooden-built houses, where the governor and chief men of the island reside. Here the water grows shallow for a considerable distance, and the natives at every ebb, (having before encompassed every convenient angle with a rise of stones, sometimes like the weirs in England,) resort for catching of fish, which, with them, is a daily diversion as well as subsistence; five thousand attending with sticks and wicker baskets; and, if they cannot dip them with one hand, they knock them down with the other. The tides rise regularly six feet in the harbour, and yet not half that height without the capes that make the bay.

Here are constantly two missionaries, who are sent for six years, to inculcate the Christian principles, and more especially attend to the conversion of the Negroes. The present are Venetians, ingenious men, who seem to despise the loose morals and behaviour of the seculars, and complain of them as of the slaves. They have a neat conventual-house, and a garden appropriated, which, by their own industry and labour, not only thrives with the several natives of the soil, but many exotics and

curiosities;—a fruit, in particular, larger than a chestnut, yellow, containing two stones, with a pulp or clammy substance about them, which, when sucked, exceeds in sweetness sugar or honey, and has this property beyond them, of giving a sweet taste to every liquid you swallow for the whole evening after. The only plague infesting the garden, is a vermin called land-crabs, which are in vast numbers: they are of a bright red colour, but in other respects like the sea ones. They burrow in these sandy soils like rabbits, and are altogether as shy.

The island is a pleasant intermixture of hill and valley; the hills are spread with palms, cocoa-nuts, and cotton-trees, with numbers of monkeys and parrots among them; the valleys with fruitful plantations of yams, kulalu, papas, variety of salads, ananas or pineapples, guavas, plantains, bananas, maniocs, and Indian corn; with fowls, Guinea-hens, Muscovy ducks, goats, hogs, turkeys, and wild beeves; with each a little village of Negroes, who, under the direction of their several masters, manage the cultivation, and exchange or sell the product for money, much after the same rates with the people of St. Thome.

The palm-trees are numerous on the shores of Africa, and may be reckoned the first of their natural curiosities, in that they afford them meat, drink, and clothing; they grow very straight to forty and fifty feet high, and, at the top only, have three or four circles of branches, that spread and make a capacious umbrella. The trunk is very rough with knobs, either excrescences, or the healings of those branches that were lopped off to forward the growth of the tree, and make it answer better in its fruit. The branches are strongly tied together with a cortex, which may be unravelled to a considerable length and breadth; the inward lamella of this cortex are woven like a cloth at Benin, and afterwards dyed and worn. Under the branches, and close to the body of the tree, hang the nuts, thirty bunches, perhaps, on a tree, and each of thirty pounds weight; with prickly films from between them, not unlike hedgehogs. Of these nuts comes a liquid and pleasant-scented oil, used as food and sauce all over the coast, but chiefly in the windward parts of Africa, where they stamp, boil, and skim it off in great quantities; underneath, where the branches fasten, they tap them for wine, called cokra, in this manner: the Negroes, who are mostly limber, active fellows, encompass themselves and the trees with a hoop of strong with, and run up with a great deal of agility, at the bottom of a branch of nuts; he that ascends makes an excavation of an inch and a half over, and, tying fast his calabash, leaves it to distil, which it does to two or three quarts in a night's time; when done, he plugs it up, and chooses another; for, if suffered to run too much, or in the day time, the sap is unwarily exhausted, and the tree spoiled; the liquor thus drawn is of a wheyish colour, very intoxicating; it sours in twenty-four hours, but, when new drawn, is pleasant to thirst and hunger both. It is from these wines they draw their arrack in India. On the very top of the palm grows a cabbage; called so, we believe, from some resemblance its taste is thought to have with ours, being used like it; the covering has a down that makes the best of tinder, and the weavings of other parts are drawn out into strong threads.

Cocoa-nut trees are branched like, but not so tall as palm-trees, the nut, like them, growing under the branches, and close to the trunk; the milky liquor they contain, to the quantity of half a pint, or more, is often drank to quench thirst, but is apt to surfeit; and this may be observed in their way of nourishment, that when the quantity of milk is large, the shell and meat are very thin, and they harden and thicken in proportion as that loses.

Supplement 3

Cotton-trees, also, are the growth of all parts of Africa, as well as the islands; they are of vast bigness, yet not so apt to increase as the shrubs or bushes of five or six feet high; these bear a fruit (if it may be so called) about the bigness of pigeons' eggs, which, as the sun swells and ripens it, bursts forth and discovers three cells loaded with cotton, and seeds in the middle of them: this, in most parts, the Negroes know how to spin, and here, at Nicongo, and the island of St. Jago, how to weave into cloths.

Yams are a common root, sweeter, but not unlike potatoes: kubalu is an herb like spinach; papa, a fruit less than the smallest pumpkins; they are all three for boiling, and to be eat with meat; the latter are improved, by the English, into a turnip or an apple taste, with a due mixture of butter or limes.

Guavas are a fruit as large as a pippin, with seeds and stones in it, of an uncouth astringent taste, though never so much be said in commendation of it. In the West Indies, it is common for the Creolians, (who have tasted both,) to give it a preference to peach or nectarine; no amazing thing for men whose tastes are so degenerated, as to prefer a toad in a shell (as Ward calls turtle) to venison, and Negroes to fine English ladies.

Plantains and bananas are fruit of oblong figure, that I think differ only *secundum majus et minus*; if any, the latter are preferable, and, by being less, are more juicy; they are usually, when stripped of their coat, eat at meals instead of bread. The leaf of this plantain is an admirable detergent, and, externally applied, has been known to cure the most obstinate scorbutic ulcers.

Manioc is a root that shoots in branches, about the height of a currant bush; from this root the islanders make a farine of flour, which they sell at three rials a roove, and drive a considerable trade for it, with the ships that call in. The manner of making it is first to press the juice from it, (which is poisonous) by the help of engines, and then the Negro women, upon a rough stone, rub it into a granulated flour, which they reserve in their houses, either to still, as we do our wheat, when it makes a hearty food for the slaves; or to make it into bread, fine, white, and well-tasted, for themselves. One thing worth taking notice about manioc in this island, is, that the woods abound with a wild, poisonous, and more mortiferous sort, which sometimes men, unskilled in the preparation of it, feed on to their destruction: this, the missionaries assured me, they often experimented in their hogs, and believed we did, in the mortality of our sailors.

Indian corn is likewise, as well as the *farine de manioc* and rice, the common victualling of our slave-ships, and is afforded here at one thousand heads for two dollars. This corn grows eight or nine feet high, on a hard reed or stick, shooting forth, at every six inches height, some long leaves; it has always an ear, or rather head, at the top of it, perhaps containing four hundred fold increase; and often two, three, or more, about midway.

Here are some tamarind trees; another tree called cola, whose fruit, or nut (about twice the bigness of a chestnut, and bitter) is chewed by the Portuguese, to give a sweet gust to their water which they drink; but, above all, the bark of one is gravely affirmed, by the inhabitants, to have a peculiar property of enlarging the virile member; those who are not fond of such conceits, nor believe it in the power of any vegetables, have acknowledged they have seen sights of this kind, among the Negroes, very extraordinary; yet, that there may be no wishes among the ladies for the

importation of this bark, I must acquaint them, that they are found to grow less merry, as they increase in bulk. I had like to have forgot their cinnamon trees; there is only one walk of them, which is the entrance of the governor's villa; they thrive extremely well, and the bark is not inferior to our cinnamon from India. The reason why they and other spices, in a soil so proper, receive no farther cultivation is, probably, their suspicion that so rich a produce might make some potent neighbour take a fancy to the island.

They have two winters, or rather springs, and two summers: their winters, which are the rainy seasons, come in September and February, or March, and continue two months, returning that fatness and generative power to the earth, that makes it yield a double crop every year, with little sweat or labour.

Their first coming is with tornadoes, i.e. sudden and hard gusts of wind, with thunder, lightning, and heavy showers; but the continuance of these tempests is very short; and the next new or full moon, at those times of the year, infallibly introduces the rains, which, once begun, fall with little intermission, and are observed to be coldest in February. Similar to these are rainy seasons, also, over all the coast of Africa: if there may be allowed any general way of calculating their time, they happen from the course of the sun, as it respects the equinoctial only; for if these equinoxes prove rainy seasons all over the world, (as we are apt to think they do,) whatever secret cause operates with that station of the sun to produce them, will more effectually do it in these vicine latitudes; and, therefore, as the sun advances, the rains are brought on the Whydah and Gold coast by April, and on the windwardmost part of Guinea, by May; the other season of the sun's returning to the southward, makes them more uncertain and irregular in North Africa; but then to the southward again, they proceed in like manner, and are at Cape Lopez in October, at Angola in November, and so in proportion at the other parts.

The manner of living among the Portuguese here, is with the utmost frugality and temperance, even to penury and starving: a familiar instance of this appears in the voracity of their dogs, who, finding such clean cupboards at home, are wild, in a manner, with hunger, and tear up the graves of the dead for food, as has been often seen. They themselves are lean with covetousness, and that Christian virtue, which is often the result of it, self-denial; they would even train up their cattle in the same way, could they fetch as much money, or had they not their provisions more immediately of Providence. The best of them (excepting the governor, now and then) neither pay nor receive any visits of escapade or recreation; they meet and sit down at each other's doors, in the streets, every evening; and, as few of them, in so small an island, can have their plantations at any greater distance than that they may see them every day if they will, so the subject of their tale is mostly how affairs went there, with their Negroes or their ground; and then they part, one with another, innocently, but as empty as when they came together.

The Negroes have yet no hard duty with them; they are rather happy in slavery: for, as their food is chiefly vegetables, that could no way else be expended, there are no murmurs bred on that account; and as their business is domestic, either in the services of the house, or in gardening, sowing, or planting, they have no more than what every man would prefer for his health and pleasure; the hardest of their work is the carriage of their masters or their wives, to and from the plantations: this they do in hammocks, (called at Whydah, serpentines,) flung across a pole, with a cloth overhead, to screen the person so carried from sun and weather; and the slaves are at

each end: and yet even this, methinks, is better than the specious liberty a man has, for himself and his heirs, to work in a coal mine.

The Negroes are, most of them, through the care of their patrons, Christians, at least nominal; but, excepting a very few, they adhere still to many silly Pagan customs, in their mournings and rejoicings; and, in some measure, a powerful majority of these people has introduced their manners among the vulgar of the Mulatto and Portuguese race.

When a person of that colour dies, his relations and friends meet at the house, where the corpse is laid out decently on the ground, and covered, all except the face, with a sheet; they sit round it, crying and howling dreadfully, not unlike what the natives are said to do in Ireland. This mourning lasts eight days and nights, but not equally intense; for as the friends, who compose the chorus, go out and in, they grow weary, and are unequally affected; so that the tone lessens daily, and the intervals of grief are longer.

In rejoicings and festivals they are equally ridiculous; these are commonly made on some friend's escape from shipwreck, or other danger. They meet in a large room of the house, with a strum, strum, to which one of the company, perhaps, sings woefully; the rest, standing round the room close to the partitions, take it in their turns, one or two at a time, to step round, in a manner which they call dancing, the whole clapping their hands continually, and whooping out, every minute, "Abeo," which signifies no more than. How do you do? And this foolish mirth will continue three or four days together at a house, and, perhaps, twelve or sixteen hours at a time.

The Portuguese, though eminently abstemious and temperate in all other things, are unbounded in their lusts; and, perhaps, they substitute the former in the room of a surgeon, as a counterpoison to the mischiefs of a promiscuous salacity. They have most of them venereal taints, and with age become meagre and hectic. I saw two instances here of venereal ulcers that had cancerated in the bowels—spectacles enough to have effectually persuaded men how salutary the restriction of laws are.

Annobono is the last, and of the least consequence of the three islands: there are plenty of fruits and provisions, which they exchange for old clothes and trifles of any sort; they have a governor nominated from St. Thome, and two or three priests, neither of which are minded, every one living at discretion, filled with ignorance and lust.

But to return to Captain Davis.—The next day after he left Anamabona, the man at the mast-head discovered a sail. It may be proper to inform our readers, that, according to the laws of pirates, the man who first discovers a ship, is entitled to the best pair of pistols in the ship; and such is the honour attached to these, that a pair of them has been known to sell for thirty pounds.

Davis pursued that vessel, which being between him and the shore, laboured hard to run aground. Davis, perceiving this, got between her and land, then fired a broadside at her, when she immediately struck. She proved to be a very rich prize, having on board the governor of Accra, with all his substance, going to Holland. There was, in money, to the amount of fifteen thousand pounds, besides a large quantity of merchant goods, and other valuable articles.

Before they reached the isle of Princes, the *St. James* sprung a leak; so that the men and the valuable articles were removed into Davis's own ship. When he came in

The Newgate Calendar

sight of the fort, he hoisted English colours. The Portuguese, seeing a large ship sailing towards the shore, sent a sloop to discover her character and destination. Davis informed them, that he was an English man-of-war, sent out in search of some pirates which they had heard were in this quarter. Upon this, he was piloted into the port, and anchored below the guns at the fort. The governor was happy to have Englishmen in his harbour; and, to do honour to Davis, sent down a file of musketeers to escort him into the fort; while Davis, the more to cover his design, ordered nine men, according to the custom of the English, to row him on shore.

During the time that Davis remained here, a French vessel came into the harbour, which Davis plundered, alleging to the governor, that it was only some goods that were in her that he knew belonged to pirates.

Davis also took the opportunity of cleaning and preparing all things for renewing his operations. He, however, could not contentedly leave the fort, without receiving some of the riches of the island. He formed a scheme to accomplish his purpose, and communicated the same to his men. His design was to make the governor a present of a few Negroes in return for his kindness; then to invite him, with a few of the principal men and friars belonging to the island, to dine on board his ship, and secure them all in irons, until each of them should give a large ransom. They were accordingly invited, and very readily consented to go: deeming themselves honoured by his attention, all that were invited, would certainly have gone on board. Fortunately, however, for them, a Negro, who was privy to the horrible plan of Davis, swam on shore during the night, and gave information of the danger to the governor.

In present circumstances, the governor also thought it proper to dissemble his indignation, and to wait the event. The day arrived, and Davis, the better to secure his prey, and to delude his intended guests on board, along with his *fellow nobles*, (a title which Davis and his principal officers had assumed,) went on shore to bring the governor and the rest on board to dinner; and they were desired to walk up to the fort to take a little refreshment. An ambush was laid for them, and a whole volley being fired at them, every man fell except one, who ran back and gained the boat. Davis was wounded in the bowels, and, in his dying agony, fired his pistols at his pursuers.

CAPTAIN ROBERTS

Pirate

Bartholomew Roberts was trained to a seafaring life. Among other voyages which he made during the time that he lawfully procured his maintenance, he sailed for the Guinea coast, where he was taken by the pirate Davis. He was at first very averse to that mode of life, and would certainly have deserted, had an opportunity occurred. It happened to him, however, as to many upon another element, that preferment calmed his conscience, and reconciled him to that which he formerly hated.

Davis having fallen in the manner related, those who had assumed the title of Lords, assembled to deliberate concerning the choice of a new commander. There were several candidates, who, by their services, had risen to eminence among their brethren, and each of them thought himself qualified to bear rule. One addressed the assembled Lords, saying, "that the good of the whole and the maintaining of order, demanded a head, but that the proper authority was deposited in the community at large; so that, if one should be elected who did not act and govern for the general good, he could be deposed, and another one substituted in his place."

"We are the original," said he, "of this claim; and, should a captain be so saucy as to exceed prescription at any time, why, down with him! It will be a caution, after he is dead, to his successors, of what fatal consequence any kind of assuming may be. However, it is my advice, while we are sober, to pitch upon a man of courage, and skilled in navigation—one who, by his prudence and bravery, seems best able to defend this commonwealth, and ward us from the dangers and tempests of an unstable element, and the fatal consequences of anarchy; and such a one I take Roberts to be—a fellow in all respects worthy of your esteem and favour."

This speech was applauded by all but Lord Simson, who had himself strong expectations of obtaining the highest command. He at last, in a surly tone, said he did not regard whom they chose as a commander, provided he was not a Papist; for he had conceived a mortal hatred to them, because his father had been a sufferer in Monmouth's rebellion.

Thus, though Roberts had only been a few weeks among them, yet his election was confirmed by the Lords and Commons. He, with the best face he could, accepted of the dignity, saying, "that since he had dipped his hands in muddy water, and must be a pirate, it was better being a commander than a private man." The government being settled, and other officers chosen in the room of those who had fallen with Davis, it was resolved not to leave this place without revenging his death. Accordingly, thirty men, under the command of one Kennedy, a bold and profligate fellow, landed, and, under cover of the fire of the ship, ascended the hill upon which the fort stood. They were no sooner discovered by the Portuguese, than they abandoned the fort, and took shelter in the town. The pirates then entered without opposition, set fire to the fort, and tumbled the guns into the sea.

Not satisfied with this injury, some proposed to land and set the town in flames. Roberts, however, reminded them of the great danger to which this would inevitably expose them;—that there was a thick wood at the back of the town, where the inhabitants could hide themselves; and that, when their all was at stake, they

would certainly make a bolder resistance; and that the burning or destroying a few houses would be a small return for their labour, and the loss that they might sustain. This prudent advice had the desired effect, and they contented themselves with lightening the French vessel, and battering down several houses of the town, to show their high displeasure.

Roberts sailed southward, captured a Dutch Guineaman, and, having emptied her of everything they thought proper, they returned her to the commander. Two days after, they captured an English ship, and, as the men joined in pirating, they emptied and burnt the ship, then sailed for St. Thomas. Meeting with no prize, they sailed for Anamaboe, and there watered and repaired. Having again put to sea, a vote was taken, whether they should sail for the East Indies or for Brazil. The latter place was voted, and they arrived there in twenty-eight days. To show what a beneficial commerce might be carried on here by the West India merchants, a description of Brazil and the adjacent coast, written by an intelligent gentleman, may be given to our readers.

A DESCRIPTION OF BRAZIL, &C.

Brazil, which signifies the holy cross, was discovered for the King of Portugal, by Alvarez Cabral, A. D. 1501; it extends almost from the equinoctial to twenty-eight degrees south. The air is temperate and cool, in comparison to the West Indies, from stronger breezes and an opener country, which gives less interruption to the winds.

The northernmost part of it, stretching about one hundred and eighty leagues, is a fine, fertile country, and was taken from the Portuguese by the Dutch West India Company; but the conquerors, as is natural where there is little or no religion subsisting, made such heavy exactions on the Portuguese, and extended such cruelty to the natives, that prepared them both to unite in a voluntary revolt, facilitated by the Dutch mismanagement.

There are only three principal towns of trade on the Brazil coast—St. Salvadore, St. Sebastian, and Pernambuco. St. Salvadore, in the Bahia los todos Santos, is an archbishopric and seat of the viceroy, the chief port of trade for importation, where most of the gold from the mines is lodged, and whence the fleets for Europe generally depart.

The seas about it abound with whale-fish, which, in the season, they catch in great numbers; the flesh is salted up, generally to be the victualling of their slave-ships, and the train reserved for exportation, at thirty and thirty-five millrays a pipe.

Rio Janeiro, or the town of St. Sebastian, is the southernmost of the Portuguese ports, and the worst provided with necessaries; but commodious for a settlement, because nigh the mine, and convenient to supervise the slaves, who, as we have been told, do usually allow their master a dollar *per diem*, and have the overplus of their work to themselves. The gold from hence is esteemed the best, it being of a copperish colour; and they have a mint to run it into coin, both here and at Bahia—the moidores of either having the initial letters of each place upon them.

Pernambuco, though mentioned last, is the second in dignity—a large and populous town, and has its rise from the ruins of Olinda, or the Handsome, a city of a far more pleasant situation, six miles up the river, but not so commodious for traffic and commerce. Just above the town the river divides itself into two branches, not running directly into the sea, but to the southward; and, in the nook of the island made

by that division, stands the governor's house, a square, plain building of Count Maurice's, with two towers, on which is only this date inscribed, *Anno* 1641. The avenues to it are very pleasant, through vistas of tall cocoa-nut trees.

Over each branch of the river is a bridge; that leading to the country is all of timber, but the other to the town, consisting of twenty-six or twenty-eight arches, is half of stone, and made by the Dutch, who, in their time, had little shops and gaming-houses on each side, for recreation.

The pavements, also, of the town are in some places of broad tiles, the remaining fragments of their conquest. The town has the outer branch of the river behind it, and the harbour before it; jutting into which latter are close quays, for the weighing and receiving of customage on merchandise, and for the meeting and conferring of merchants and traders. The houses are strong built, but homely latticed, like those of Lisbon, for the admission of air, without closets, and, what is worse, without hearths, which makes their cookery consist all in frying and stewing upon stoves; and that they do till the flesh becomes tender enough to shake it to pieces, when one knife is thought sufficient to serve a table of half a score.

The greatest inconvenience of Pernambuco is, that there is not one public-house in it; so that strangers are obliged to hire any ordinary one they can get, at a guinea a month; and others, who come to transact affairs of importance, must come recommended, if it were only for the sake of privacy.

The market is well stocked, beef being at five farthings per pound, a sheep or a goat at nine shillings, a turkey at four shillings, and very large fowls at two shillings a-piece. These may be procured much cheaper, by hiring a man to fetch them out of the country. The dearest in its kind is water, which, being fetched in vessels from Olinda, will not be put on board in the road under two crusados a pipe.

There are three monasteries, and about six churches, none of them rich or magnificent, unless one dedicated to St Antonio, the patron of their kingdom, which shines all over with exquisite pieces of paint and gold.

The export of Brazil, besides gold, is chiefly sugars and tobacco; the latter are sent off in rolls of a quintal weight, kept continually moistened with molasses, which, with the soil it springs from, imparts a strong and peculiar scent, more sensible than the snuff made from it, which, though under prohibition of importing to Lisbon, sells here at two shillings per pound, as the tobacco does at about six millrays a roll. The finest of their sugar sells at eight shillings per roove, and a small ill-tasted rum, drawn from the dregs and molasses, at two testunes a gallon.

Besides these, they send off great quantities of Brazil wood, and whale oil, with some gums and parrots; the latter are different from the African in colour and size; for, as they are blue and larger, these are green and smaller; and the females of them ever retain the wild note, and cannot be brought to talk.

In lieu of this produce, the Portuguese, once every year, by their fleet from Lisbon, import all manner of European commodities; and whoever is unable to lay in store, or neglect supplying himself at that season, buys at a very advanced rate before the return of another.

To transport passengers, slaves, or merchandise, from one settlement to another, or in fishing, they make use of bark logs, by the Brazilians called Jingadahs. They are made of four pieces of timber, the two outermost being the longest, pinned

and fastened together, and sharpened at the ends: towards each extremity a stool is fixed, to sit on for paddling, or to hold by, when the agitation is more than ordinary; with these odd sort of engines, continually washed over by the water, do these people, with a little triangular sail, spritted about the middle of it, venture out of sight of land, and along the coasts for many leagues, in any sort of weather; and, if they overset with a squall, which is not uncommon, they swim, and presently turn it upright again.

The natives are of the darkest copper colour, with thin hair, of a square make, and muscular; but not so well-looking as the woolly generation. They acquiesce patiently to the Portuguese government, who use them much more humanely and Christian-like than the Dutch did, and, by that means, have extended quietness and peace, as well as their possessions, three or four hundred miles into the country—a country abounding with fine pastures and numerous herds of cattle, and which yields a vast increase from everything that is sown. Hence they bring down to us parrots, small monkeys, armadillos, and sanguins; and we have been assured they have, in the inland parts, a serpent of a vast magnitude, called siboya—able, they say, to swallow a whole sheep; several have seen the skin of another species full six yards long; and therefore we think the story not improbable.

The harbour of Pernambuco is perhaps singular: it is made of a ledge of rocks, half a cable's length from the main, and but little above the surface of the water, running at that equal distance and height several leagues towards Cape Augustine; a harbour running between them, capable of receiving ships of the greatest burden. The northernmost end of this wall of rock is higher than any part of the contiguous line; on this a little fort is built, commanding the passage either of boat or ship, as they come over the bar into the harbour. On the starboard side, or the side towards the main, after you have entered a little way, stands another fort, which is a pentagon, that would prove of small account, I imagine, against a few disciplined men; and yet, in these consist all their strength and security, either in the harbour or town. They have begun, indeed, a wall, since their removing from Olindo, designed to surround the latter; but the slow progress they make in raising it, leaves room to suspect it will be a long time in finishing.

The road without is used by the Portuguese, when they are nigh sailing for Europe, and wait for the convoy, or are bound to Bahia; and by strangers, only when necessity compels them: the best of it is ten fathom water, near three miles W. N. W. from the town; nigher in it is foul, from the many anchors lost there by the Portuguese ships; and farther out, in about fourteen fathoms, it is corally and rocky. July is the worst and winter season of this coast, the trade-winds being then very strong and dead, bringing in a prodigious and unsafe swell into the road, intermixed every day with squalls, rain, and a hazy horizon, but at other times serener skies and sunshine.

In these southern latitudes is a constellation, which, from , some resemblance to a Jerusalem cross, bears the name of Crosiers—the brightest of the hemisphere; and observations are taken by it as by the northern latitudes. What we mention this for, is to introduce the admirable phenomenon in these seas, of the Magellanic clouds, whose risings and settings are so regular, that, we have been assured, the same nocturnal observations are made by them as by the stars. These are two clouds, small and whitish, no larger in appearance than a man's hat, and are seen here in July, in 88 S. lat. about four in the morning: if their appearance should be said to be the reflection of light from some stellary bodies above them, yet the difficulty is not easily answered, how these, beyond others, become so durable and regular in their motions.

Supplement 3

Upon this coast our rovers cruised for about nine weeks, keeping generally out of sight of land, but without seeing a sail; which discouraged them so, that they determined to leave the station, and steer for the West Indies; and, in order thereto, they stood in to make the land for the taking of their departure; by which means they fell in, unexpectedly, with a fleet of forty-two sail of Portuguese ships, off the bay of los Todos Santos, with all their lading in for Lisbon; several of them of good force, who lay there waiting for two men-of-war of seventy guns each for their convoy, however, Roberts thought it should go hard with him but he would make up his market among them; and thereupon he mixed with the fleet, and kept his men hid till proper resolutions could be formed: that done, they came close up to one of the deepest, and ordered her to send the master on board quietly, threatening to give them no quarter, if any resistance or signal of distress was made. The Portuguese, being surprised at these threats, and the sudden flourish of cutlasses from the pirates, submitted without a word, and the captain came on board. Roberts saluted him after a friendly manner, telling him that they were gentlemen of fortune, and that their business with him was only to be informed which was the richest ship in that fleet; and, if he directed them right, he should be restored to his ship without molestation, otherwise, he must expect instant death.

He then pointed to one of forty guns, and a hundred and fifty men; and, though her strength was greatly superior to Roberts, yet he made towards her, taking the master of the captured vessel along with him. Coming along side of her, Roberts ordered the prisoner to ask, "How Seignior Captain did?" and to invite him on board, as he had a matter of importance to impart to him. He was answered, "that he would wait upon him presently." Roberts, however, observing more than ordinary bustle on board, at once concluded that they were discovered, and, pouring a broadside into her, they immediately boarded, grappled, and took her. She was a very rich prize, laden with sugar, skins, and tobacco, with four thousand moidores of gold, besides other valuable articles.

In possession of so much riches, they were now solicitous to find a safe retreat to spend their time in mirth and wantonness. They determined upon a place called the Devil's Islands, upon the river Surinam, where they arrived in safety, and met with a kind reception from the governor and the inhabitants.

In this river they seized a sloop, which informed them that she had sailed in company with a brigantine loaded with provisions. This was welcome intelligence, as their provisions were nearly exhausted. Deeming this too important business to trust to foreign hands, Roberts, with forty men in the sloop, gave chase to that sail. In the keenness of the moment, and trusting to his usual good fortune, Roberts supposed that he had only to take a short sail, in order to bring in the vessel with her cargo; but, to his sad disappointment, he pursued her during eight days; and, instead of gaining, was losing way. In these circumstances, he came to anchor, and sent off the boat to give intelligence of their distress to their companions.

In their extremity of want, they took up part of the floor of the cabin, and patched up a sort of tray with rope-yarns, to puddle on shore to get a little water to preserve their lives. After their patience was almost exhausted, the boat returned; but, instead of bringing provisions, they brought the unpleasing information, that the lieutenant, one Kennedy, had run off with both the ships.

The misfortune and misery of Roberts were greatly aggravated from reflecting upon his own imprudence and want of foresight, as well as from the baseness of

Kennedy and his crew. Impelled by the necessity of his situation, he now began to reflect upon what means to employ for future support. Under the foolish supposition, that any laws, oaths, or regulations, could bind those who had bid open defiance to all divine and human laws, he proceeded to form a code of regulations, to maintain order and unity in his little commonwealth.

But present necessity compelled them to action, and they, with their small sloop, sailed for the West Indies. They were not long before they captured two sloops, which supplied them with provisions, and a few days after a brigantine; and then proceeded to Barbados. When off that island they met a vessel of ten guns, richly laden, from Bristol; after plundering, and detaining her three days, they allowed her to prosecute her voyage. This vessel, however, informed the governor of what had befallen them, who sent a vessel of twenty guns and eighty men, in quest of the pirates.

That vessel was commanded by one Rogers, who the second day of his cruise discovered Roberts. Ignorant of any vessel being sent after them, they made towards each other. Roberts gave him a gun; but instead of striking, the other returned a broadside, with three huzzas. A severe engagement ensued, and Roberts, being hard put to it, lightened his vessel and run off.

Roberts then sailed for the island of Dominica, where he watered, and was supplied by the inhabitants with provisions, for which he gave them goods in return. Here he met with fifteen Englishmen, that had been left upon the island by a Frenchman, who had made a prize of their vessel; and they, entering into his service, proved a seasonable addition to his strength.

Though they did not think this a proper place for cleaning, yet as this was absolutely necessary, they directed their course to the Granada islands for that purpose. This, however, had well-nigh proved fatal to them; for the governor of Martinique fitted out two sloops to go in quest of the pirates. They sailed to the above-mentioned place, cleaned with unusual dispatch, and just left that place the night before the sloops which were in pursuit of them arrived.

They next sailed for Newfoundland, and entered the harbour of Trepassi, with their black colours flying, drums beating, and trumpets sounding. In that harbour there were no less than twenty-two ships, which the men abandoned upon the sight of the pirates. It is impossible to describe the injury which they did at this place, by burning or sinking the ships, destroying the plantations, and pillaging the houses. Power, in the hands of mean and ignorant men, renders them wanton, insolent, and cruel. They are literally like madmen, who cast firebrands, arrows, and death, and say, "Are not we in sport?"

Roberts saved a Bristol galley from his depredations in the harbour, which he fitted and manned for his own service. Upon the banks he met ten sail of French ships, and destroyed them all, except one of twenty-six guns, which he seized and carried off, and called her the *Fortune*. Then giving the Bristol galley to the Frenchman, they sailed in quest of new adventures, and soon took several prizes, and from them increased the number of their own hands. The *Samuel*, one of these, was a very rich vessel, having some respectable passengers on board, who were roughly used, and threatened with death, if they did not deliver up their money and their goods. They stripped the vessel of every article, either necessary for their vessel or themselves, to the amount of eight or nine thousand pounds. They then deliberated whether to sink or

burn the *Samuel*; but in the mean time they discovered a sail; so they left the empty *Samuel*, and gave the other chase. At midnight they overtook her, and she proved to be the *Snow* from Bristol; and, because of his country, they used the master in a cruel and barbarous manner. Two days after, they took the *Little York* of Virginia, the *Love* of Liverpool, both of which they plundered and sent off. In three days they captured other three vessels, removing the goods out of them, sinking one, and sending off the other two.

They next sailed for the West Indies, but provisions growing short, they sailed to St. Christopher's, when, being denied provisions by the governor, they fired on the town, and burnt two ships in the roads. They then repaired to the island of St. Bartholomew, where the governor supplied them with every necessary, and caressed them in the kindest manner. Fatigued with indulgence, and having taken in a large stock of everything necessary, they unanimously voted to hasten to the coast of Guinea. In their way they took a Frenchman; and, as she was fitter for the pirate service than their own, they informed the captain, that, as "a fair exchange was no robbery," they would exchange sloops with him; accordingly, having shifted their men, they set sail. They, however, by a mistake, going out of the track of the trade-winds, were under the necessity of returning to the West Indies.

They now directed their course to Surinam, but they had not sufficient water for the voyage. They were soon reduced to a mouthful of water in the day; their numbers daily diminished by thirst and famine, and the few who survived were reduced to the greatest weakness. They at last had not one drop of water or any other liquid, when, to their inexpressible joy, they anchored in seven fathoms of water. This tended to revive decayed nature, and to inspire them with new vigour, though as yet they had received no relief. In the morning they discovered land, but at such a distance that their hopes were greatly damped. The boat was, however, sent off, and at night returned with plenty of that salubrious and necessary element. But this remarkable deliverance produced no reformation in the manners of those unfeeling and obdurate men.

They steered their course from that place to Barbados, and in their way met with a vessel which supplied them with all necessaries. Not long after, they captured a brigantine, the mate of which joined their association. Having from these two obtained a large supply, they changed their course and watered at Tobago. Informed that there were two vessels sent in pursuit of them, they went to return their compliments to the governor of Martinique for this kindness.

It is the custom of the Dutch interlopers, when they approach this island to trade with the inhabitants, to hoist their jacks. Roberts knew the signal, and did so likewise. They, supposing that a good market was near, strove who could first reach Roberts. Determined to do them all possible mischief, he destroyed them one by one, as they came into his power. He only reserved one ship to send the men on shore, and burnt the remainder, to the number of twenty.

Roberts and his crew were so fortunate as to capture several vessels, and to render their liquor so plenty, that it was esteemed a crime not to be continually drunk. One man, remarkable, for his sobriety, along with other two, took an opportunity to set off, without taking a formal leave of their friends. But a dispatch being sent after them, they were brought back, and in a formal manner tried and sentenced; but one of them was saved by the humorous interference of one of the judges, whose speech was truly worthy of a pirate; while the other two suffered the punishment of death.

When necessity again compelled them, they renewed their cruising; and, dissatisfied with capturing vessels which only afforded them a temporary supply, they directed their course to the Guinea coast, to forage for gold. Intoxication rendered them unruly, and the brigantine at last embraced the cover of night to abandon the commodore. Unconcerned at the loss of his companion, Roberts pursued his voyage. He fell in with two French ships, the one of ten guns and sixty-five men, and the other of sixteen guns and seventy-five men. These dastards no sooner beheld the black flag than they surrendered. With these they went into Sierra Leone, constituting one of them a consort, by the name of the *Ranger*, and the other a store-ship. That port being frequented by the greater part of the traders to that quarter, they remained here six weeks, enjoying themselves in all the splendour and luxury of a piratical life.

After this they renewed their voyage; and, having captured a vessel, the greater part of the men united their fortunes with the pirates. On board of one of the ships was a clergyman, whom some of them proposed taking along with them, for no other reason than that they had not a chaplain on board. They endeavoured to gain his consent, and assured him that he should want for nothing, and his only work would be, to make punch, and say prayers. But, depraved as these men were, they did not choose to constrain him to go. They displayed their civility farther, by permitting him to carry along with him whatever he called his own. After several cruises, they now went into a convenient harbour at Old Calabar, where they cleaned, refitted, divided their booty, and for a considerable time caroused, to banish care and sober reflection.

According to their usual custom, the time of festivity and mirth was prolonged until the want of means recalled them to reason and exertion. Leaving this port, they cruised from place to place with varied success; but in all their captures, either burning, sinking, or devoting their prizes to their own use, according to the whim of the moment. The *Swallow* and another man-of-war being sent out expressly to pursue and take Roberts and his fleet, he had frequent and certain intelligence of their destination; but having so often escaped their vigilance, he became rather too secure and fearless. It happened, however, that while he lay off Cape Lopez, the *Swallow* had information of his being in that place, and made towards them. Upon the appearance of a sail, one of Roberts' ships was sent to chase and take her. The pilot of the *Swallow* seeing her coming, manoeuvred his vessel so well, that though he fled at her approach, in order to draw her out of the reach of her associates, yet he at his own time allowed her to overtake the man-of-war.

Upon her coming up to the *Swallow*, the pirate hoisted the black flag, and fired upon her; but-how greatly were her crew astonished, when they saw that they had to contend with a man-of-war; and, seeing that all resistance was vain, they cried out for quarter, which was granted, and they were made prisoners.

Convinced that Roberts would tarry in his station, in the hope of his ship returning with the prize after which she had been sent, they made towards him. As she approached, it was discovered who was about to pay them an unwelcome visit. Roberts inquired at one of his men, who had once sailed on board of her, how she sailed, in order to ascertain the best way of flying from her, should it be necessary. He then dressed himself in the most elegant manner, with his pistols suspended over his shoulders, and a gold chain about his neck. The *Swallow* attacked him with determined bravery; and he resisting with equal courage, a desperate and bloody engagement ensued. Roberts at last fell, and, by his own directions, he was

Supplement 3

immediately thrown over-board. The officers and men being deprived of their commander, lost courage, and in a short time cried for quarter.

This extraordinary man, and daring pirate, was tall, of a dark complexion, about forty years of age, and born in Pembrokehire. His parents were honest and respectable, and his natural activity, courage, and invention, were superior to his education. At a very early period, he, in drinking, would imprecate vengeance upon "the head of him who ever lived to wear an halter." He went willingly into the pirate service, and served three years as a second man. It was not for want of employment, but from a roving, wild, and boisterous turn of mind. It was his usual declaration, that, "In an honest service, there is commonly low wages and hard labour; in this plenty, satiety, pleasure, and ease, liberty and power; and who would not balance creditor on this side, when all the hazard that is run for it at worst, is only a sour look or two at choking? No—a merry life and a short one, shall be my motto!" But it was one favourable trait in his character, that he never forced any man into the pirate service.

The prisoners were strictly guarded while on board, and, being conveyed to Cape Corso Castle, they underwent a long and solemn trial. The generality of them remained daring and impenitent for some time; but when they found themselves confined within a castle, and their fate drawing near, they changed their course, and became serious, penitent, and fervent in their devotions. Though the judges found no small difficulty in explaining the law, and different acts of parliament, yet the facts were so numerous and flagrant, that were proved against them, that there was no difficulty of bringing in a verdict of guilty.

CAPTAIN KENNEDY.

Pirate

IT was mentioned in the life of Captain Roberts, that, embracing the opportunity of his absence, the crew of the brigantine run off and made one Kennedy their captain. This originated from the following cause. Captain Roberts was insulted by one of his crew when drunk, and, in the violence of passion, he killed the insulter upon the spot. Many in the ship were displeased, but particularly one Jones, the comrade of the man who was slain. When this accident happened, Jones was on land for water, and, upon his return, being informed of what had been done, he being a bold active fellow, cursed Roberts, saying, that he ought to have been so served himself. Roberts being present, attacked Jones with his sword, and wounded him. Irritated beyond measure by the former and the present injury, Jones, though wounded, seized the captain, threw him over a gun, and gave him a severe drubbing. The whole ship was in an instant thrown into violent commotion, some taking part with the captain, and some applauding the spirit and bravery of Jones. "If the one had received a dry chastisement, the other had some of his blood shed. Nor was the provocation upon the one side equal to that upon the other. And, with regard to the captain's rank, if he acted inconsistently with his dignity and power, he was not to be exempted from punishment" Such were the sentiments that were agitated among the crew during the tumult. The quarter-master, employing his authority and influence, calmed the tumult, and the majority were of opinion, that the majesty of the vessel was insulted in the person of their captain, and that no private member was at liberty to resent any injury received from him, in the manner which Jones had done. The majority, therefore, sentenced Jones to receive two lashes from every man in the ship, as soon as his wound should be healed.

The severity of this sentence did not convince Jones of its equity, and a deep-rooted enmity and a resolution of revenge ensued. To accomplish his design, Jones, with a few who were of his sentiments, confederated with Captain Anstis, of the brigantine, whom they knew to be also disaffected to Roberts, from the haughty manner in which he behaved. Nor was it merely by his domineering conduct that he irritated Anstis; he was likewise accustomed to leave him nothing but the refuse of the plunder, when any prize was taken, though his activity and bravery had, perhaps, gained the booty. In short, the disaffection became so general, that Lieutenant Kennedy headed the party, and eloped with the privateer and the prize, in the absence of Roberts. Kennedy was chosen captain, and a division of sentiments obtained, whether they should retire from that mode of life, or pursue their depredations. But, as there was no pardon then issued for pirates, they were constrained to retain their present character.

The first act of the new government was to grant liberty to the Portuguese prize. The master was, in their language, a very honest fellow, who, upon his being taken, accosted them, saying, that they were welcome to his ship and cargo, and expressed his wish that the vessel had been larger, and the lading richer, for their sakes. In addition to these good wishes, he had given them intelligence of the brigantine, after which Roberts had now gone; and though she should never become a prize, yet it had given them an opportunity to move away, without being saluted by the well-known voice of Captain Roberts. In return for all these favours, he received

his ship and men, with the vessel half laden; and, having expressed his gratitude in the most obliging terms, he departed.

In the *Rover* Captain Kennedy sailed to Barbados, and near that island met with a very peaceable prize, commanded by Captain Knot, a Quaker. There was neither sword, pistol, nor cutlass on board. After taking what he found most necessary, he allowed the placid Quaker to meditate his way home. Meanwhile eight of the pirates embraced this opportunity to leave the *Rover*, and were by him carried to Virginia. During their voyage, they made him handsome presents, and also several presents to the sailors, and lived in a merry and jovial manner all the way, Knot not daring to interrupt them, lest they should run off with him and his vessel.

When they arrived off the island, four of the pirates went up the bay towards Maryland, and lived among the planters undiscovered. Captain Knot, though he could not, according to his principles, fight, yet he could deceive and inform. Accordingly, leaving four of the pirates on board, he went to the governor, and informed him of what passengers he had on board. They were instantly seized, and, search being made after the other four, they also were found carousing and rambling about in the country. Two Portuguese Jews, whom they had captured upon the coast of Brazil, and had brought along with them, were the principal evidences against them. The honest Quaker, at the same time, surrendered to them everything which belonged to them, and gave them presents, in place of what they had given him and his men.

Not long after, Kennedy, cruising upon the coast of Jamaica, met with a sloop bound from Boston, with bread and flour. Upon this occasion, all those who were disposed to disperse the company, went on board, and, among the rest. Captain Kennedy, who, having been educated as a pick-pocket and a house-breaker, before he entered into the pirate service, his companions now began to entertain such a mean conception of him, that they were about to throw him overboard, saying, that he would inform upon them all, the moment he arrived in England. By solemn oaths and protestations, he, however, assuaged their rage, and they allowed him to accompany them.

It was their misfortune to have only one man on board who knew anything of navigation, and even he proved to be a novice. Kennedy was chosen captain on account of his courage and bravery, but he was so ignorant, that he could neither read nor write. The pilot was desired to steer towards Ireland, but, instead of this, he run to the north coast of Scotland; and, having been tossed about for several days, they thrust the ship into a creek, and all went on shore, leaving her a prize to any who chose to take her.

They passed themselves for shipwrecked mariners, and refreshed themselves at the first village; and they might have passed without detection, had it not been for their unruly and riotous manner of living. Kennedy and another man left them, and shipped for Ireland, where they arrived in safety. A few more separated, and went to London.

But the body of the gang continued together, and, by drinking, rioting, and debauchery, alarmed the country wherever they came. In some places, they treated the whole village, throwing away their money like stones or sand. Continuing their extravagant course, about eighteen of them were apprehended in the vicinity of Edinburgh, and, upon suspicion, thrown into prison. Two became king's evidence, and the rest were tried, condemned, and executed.

The Newgate Calendar

Kennedy having wasted all his money, left Ireland, and kept an infamous house at Deptford-road. It was also supposed that he, occasionally, exacted contributions upon the highway. He was exposed to the same misfortune with all those who associate with persons of abandoned lives and dishonourable principles. One of the females in his house informed upon him as a robber; nor was she disposed to do her work partially, but, finding a man whom Kennedy had robbed, when a pirate, she took him to visit the latter in Bridewell, where he had been thrown for the robbery. He identified Kennedy, who was committed to Marshalsea prison.

Kennedy, in order to save his life, turned king's evidence; but, though he informed upon eight or ten of his companions, only one could be found, who was a sober man, and forced into the service, and therefore pardoned. Kennedy was not so fortunate; but inasmuch as he had been an old and a notorious offender, he was condemned and executed.

Those who remained in the Rover soon abandoned her upon the coast of the West Indies, and she was found strolling at sea, by a sloop near St. Christopher's island. The greater part of the crew met the fate they deserved.

STEPHEN BUNCE
A Most Brazen and Ingenious Thief

IN the plain but strong phrase, this man was born a thief.

Scarcely could his hand carry away the property of others, when he engaged in this nefarious trade. When a child, he was frequently amusing himself with the children of a charcoal-man, who lived in the neighbourhood, and would even then fill his pockets with the charcoal, and sell them to a woman that kept an apple-stall, for codlings. One day he wished to try his ingenuity upon the good woman, and requested to have some codlings beforehand, promising to pay them with his next charcoal. But, though she could purchase from him that which she knew he had stolen, yet she was not disposed to give him any credit.

Stephen was highly enraged that his fidelity should be called in question by the old woman, and he determined upon revenge. So, stealing a larger quantity of charcoal than usual, he filled the empty parts with powder, and sealed them with black wax. The old woman kindled a fire with them, and, being a very cold, frosty night, she sat down before the fire, in the usual manner, to warm her starving body. But, scarcely had the heat began to operate, when the powder catching fire, off flies the kettle from the grate, the codlings and the water flew about the woman's ears, and, in the midst of fire and smoke, she cried out in the most piteous manner, which brought a great mob about her, to assist her in the hour of misfortune and distress. Fortunately, however, the chief injury that the old woman received, was a hole burnt in her smock, a scalding to her skin, and the trouble of picking up her codlings.

But Stephen was not long to remain in correspondence with apple-wives and such low gentry. Arrived at the years of a stripling, he went into a coffee-house, and called for a dish of tea. Meanwhile, rustling among the newspapers, he picked up the lid of a silver box, and, paying his tea, went and instantly got his own initials engraven upon it. Then, with the greatest assurance, came back, saying, "Gentlemen, have not I left the bottom of my tobacco-box." So, rummaging among the papers, he found it, exclaiming, as he put the lid on, "Oh, here it is!" Upon this, the owner claimed his property, but Stephen, impudently showing his cipher upon it, claimed and retained it as his property. This filled the company with no small consternation and astonishment, at what must have become of the gentleman's box.

At one time Bunce was benighted at Branyard, in Hertfordshire, and, being destitute of money, he was at a considerable loss. But a fertile invention is a necessary qualification in a deceiver, and Stephen's was acquiring considerable strength. He called at the parson's door, and requested the maid to tell her master that a stranger wished to have the honour of speaking with him. When the clergyman made his appearance, Stephen, in an eloquent and affecting tone, informed him, that he was a poor student from Oxford, going home to his friends, and, as he was benighted, he entreated that he would afford him the friendly aid of his roof for one night. The generous-hearted parson, being pleased with his appearance, and pitying his distress, kindly received him, and entertained him according to his ability.

When Stephen was taking his leave for the night, he, with no small degree of modesty and respect, requested that he might be permitted to give the parson a sermon in the morning, the next day being Sunday. As, in general, no clergyman has any great

objections to a day of rest, the parson willingly accepted of his offered services. The morning came, and, the hour of divine service arrived, the young student was equipped in the parson's gown and cassock; and, as it was about a mile to the church, he was mounted on the parson's horse, while the latter, with his wife and family, went a nearer path through the fields. When his reverence came to the church, everyone was scraping and bowing, and inquiring why he was without his canonical robes on the day of sacred duty. He soon relieved their anxiety, by informing them that a young gentleman of the University of Oxford would be there presently, and would preach for him that day. They waited for some time, then commenced divine service; the prayers were now ended, and the last psalm sung, but no preacher appeared. In short, not to detain our readers with a long narrative, they waited until noon; the congregation went home without a sermon, and the parson without his robes and his horse, while Bunce was by this time far advanced on his journey, employing the horse to carry a thief instead of a parson.

Upon another day, as Stephen was going about seeking whom he might render lighter on their journey, he saw a gentleman, well mounted upon a gelding, and, going into the road along where he was to ride, he laid himself all along the ground, with his ear to it. When the gentleman came up to him, he asked the reason of such unusual conduct. Stephen held up his hand to him, signifying his desire that he should be silent; but the gentleman being of a hasty temper, cried, "What a pox are you listening to?" Upon this Stephen sat up, saying, "Oh! dear sir, I have often heard great talk of the fairies, but I could never have the faith to believe that there was ever any such thing in nature, till now, in this very place, I hear such a ravishing and melodious harmony of all kinds of music, that it is enough to charm me to sit here, if possible, to all eternity." Curiosity, that active principle in the human mind, inclined the gentleman to alight from his horse to hear the enchanting music. Having reached the ground, he gave his gelding to Stephen, to hold during his interview with the fairies. Then, applying his ear to the ground, he said, "I can hear nothing." Bunce desired him to turn the other ear. This being done, and his face turned away from him, Bunce leaped into his saddle, and rode off with his gelding at full speed, until he came to Rumford. Supposing that the owner would have some particular inn where he put up his horse, and, therefore, that the horse would know that place, he went after the horse at a small distance.

He no sooner appeared, than the hostler, who was standing at the door, exclaimed, "Master! master! here's Mr. Bartlet's horse come without him." Thus Stephen having discovered the name of the owner of the gelding, said to the innkeeper, "Mr. Bartlet being engaged with some gentlemen at play, in Ingerstone, he requests you to send him fifteen guineas, and to keep his horse in pledge, in the meantime, until he comes himself, in the evening." "Ay, ay," replied the innkeeper, "an hundred guineas if he stood in need of them." So Bunce, having received the fifteen guineas, prosecuted his journey to London. In a few hours, Mr. Bartlet came puffing and blowing, and covered with sweat and dust. The innkeeper accosted him, saying, "Oh, dear sir, what need you have sent your gelding, and so put yourself to the trouble of coming, in this sultry weather, on foot, for the small matter of fifteen guineas, when you might have commanded ten times as much without a pledge." Quoth the gentleman, "Hath the fellow, then, brought my gelding hither? A villain! he was pretty honest in that, but I find the rogue has made me pay fifteen guineas for hearing one tune of the fairies."

Supplement 3

Bunce was an industrious man, and frequented the billiard-tables, the cock-pits, and every place where he thought that a penny would come in his way. Though his funds often afforded him the means of reformation, he naturally hated virtue and honesty; therefore, with redoubled keenness, pursued his depredations. Once, upon foot, he met with a butcher, between Paddington and London, who, being a strong lusty fellow, was not disposed to give his contribution to Bunce, without some blows. The cudgelling commenced, and though the butcher acted his part well, yet Bunce was victorious. The conqueror, then, on searching for his spoil, found the immense sum of fourpence in his pockets. "Is this all you have got?" "And too much to lose," said the butcher. Bunce then exclaimed, "You villain I if you'd fight at this rate but for a groat, what a plague would you have done if you'd had more money?"

This was rather an unfortunate adventure, to have lost so much time, and given so many blows for so little; but, when returning home, he observed a goldsmith, who was a far richer prize than a butcher, telling a large sum of money in his shop. His eyes instantly sparkled, and his invention awoke. He went into an old shop in the vicinity, and purchased one farthing's worth of salt; then, hastening into the goldsmith's shop, threw the whole in his eyes; so that while he was rubbing his peepers, and stamping with rage, Bunce went off with about fifty pounds—very good interest for a farthing's worth of salt.

It is an old proverb, "light won, light wared." The same evening having gone to recreate himself with certain females, he was robbed of twenty pounds, when, in the most furious manner, though to no purpose, he vented his imprecations against all the sex—asserting, "that every woman was a *crocodile* at ten, a *prostitute* at fifteen, a *fury* at thirty, and a *witch* at fourscore."

Under the influence of vexatious disappointment, Bunce soon spent the remainder of his fifty pounds, and stern necessity again impelled him to action. Along with one of his trusty companions, he went into a woollen-draper's shop, just as the good man was about to shut up; and, while he was cheapening a remnant of cloth, his companion stole the key of the shop from its usual place of residence. They both went off without making a purchase. Favoured by the darkness of the night, they returned, and, without interruption or difficulty, abstracted from the shop, cloth to the amount of eighty pounds.

Bunce having been afterwards, by an order of the court, sent a soldier into Spain, while there, he and his comrade were one day in great want of victuals; and, having loitered all day about the market-place of Barcelona, without finding anything to remove their hunger, they discovered in the evening a countryman returning home on an ass. They followed him, and, having to ascend a steep hill, he alighted, and led the ass. Bunce, with his companion, slipped quietly forward, and, dexterously removing the bridle from the ass's head to his own, his comrade went off with the ass, and Bunce trudged after the man upon all fours. Arrived at the top of the hill he looked around, and, to his great consternation and amazement, he saw his ass transformed into a man.

Stephen, observing his surprise, said, "Dear master, don't be troubled at this strange alteration that you see in your beast; for, indeed, I was no ass, as you supposed me, but a man, real flesh and blood as you yourself are; but, you must know, that it being my misfortune to commit a sin against the Virgin Mary, she resented it so heinously, that she transformed me into the likeness of an ass, for seven years; and now, the time being expired, I resume my proper shape again, and I am at my own

The Newgate Calendar

disposal. However, sir, I return you many thanks for your goodness towards me; for, since I have been in your custody, you put me to no more labour than what I, you, or any other ass, might be able to bear."

The countryman was greatly surprised at the relation, but was so far satisfied on receiving the grateful thanks of his former ass, for the kind treatment he had given him during the period of his degradation. Stephen returned to his comrade, who had made the ass undergo another transmigration into money, so that these two hungry sharks hastened to set their teeth at work, lest they should lose the power of action by long disuse. Meanwhile, the countryman returned to town to purchase another ass to carry him home. But, to his astonishment, the first thing he met with was his own individual ass. Stepping up to the animal, he said, "Oh, I see that you have committed another sin against the Virgin Mary! but I shall take care how I buy you again."

Bunce was married to a victualler's daughter in Plymouth, and, for some time, lived with her with tolerable regularity, making the table roar, and the bowl to foam, and entertaining all the merry beaux in the town, until one of the tars offended Bunce with his politeness. Upon this he left his young wife, and plunged into all those scenes of debauchery which are the usual attendants of the acquisition of money by unlawful means. In the progress of time, his manners became so abandonedly profligate, and his conversation so lascivious, that he was the abhorrence of all decent persons, and a disgrace to human nature. He was at last detected in his wickedness, and suffered at Tyburn along with Dick Low and Jack Hall.

NICHOLAS WELLS
Burglar, Highwayman and Hired Assassin

THIS man was a native of Kent, and, in the character of a travelling merchant, assisted his grandmother in supporting two sisters after his parents were dead. Leaving that employment, he learned the trade of a butcher. It was also his good fortune to marry a woman with an hundred and twenty pounds of portion. This might have proved a competent stock for a butcher, and he might have made a respectable figure among his honest neighbours. But Wells knew not how to husband so much money. His wife and he were pretty comfortable until the money was totally spent, which was not indeed long. Then he showed, by his conduct, that he had courted her for money, and not for love. He abandoned her company for no honourable exchange.

Unable to pursue his own business, when all his stock was exhausted, he was constrained to drive a cart to a woodmonger. In this character, one day he went to deliver a cart of faggots to a gentleman, and, finding means to get into his parlour, he stole a gold watch, several diamonds, and two hundred and fifty guineas. With this sum in his possession, he forgot to return to his master.

His next adventure was with the handsome Fielding, riding over Putney Heath. Wells knocked him off his gelding, tied his hands and his feet, and, robbing him of twenty guineas, burst forth into the following exclamation: "O gold almighty, thou art good for the heart-sick at night, sore eyes in the morning, and for wind in the stomach at noon; indeed, thou art a never-failing remedy for any distemper, at any time, in all cases, and for all constitutions."

Meanwhile, Fielding recovering his senses, quoth he, "Sirrah, dost thou know on whom thou hast committed this insolence?" "Not I, nor do I care, for it is better you cry than I starve!" "I'm General Fielding, who'll make you dearly suffer for this, if ever you come into my clutches." "Art thou beau Fielding? I've heard thy fame and shame long ago: I think thou art one of those amorous coxcombs who never go without verses in praise of a mistress, and write elegies upon the mighty misfortune of losing your buttons. Thou art one of those whining puppies that waste day and night with her that you admire, taking up her gloves, and robbing her of a handkerchief, which you'll pretend to keep for her sake. In fine, let me tell you, thou art translated out of man into a whimsy." Thus, leaving beau Fielding, he went home to his landlord and landlady, who were overjoyed at seeing his booty. Nor was any member of this fraternity of villainy without a part of the spoils of Wells.

Though our adventurer often risked his neck, yet it is said he was destitute of real courage. He would often boast that he was ready to enter the lists with those who were noted for their cowardice, when he was certain that they would not fight any man. Like every other coward, he was blood-thirsty.

One time a woman, of the name of Elizabeth Herman, was condemned for picking the pocket of Samuel Wigfield; and such was her implacable malice, that she said she could not die satisfied unless she had the blood of her prosecutor before her death. Communicating her desire of revenge to Wells, he agreed with her to murder him for three guineas. He accordingly went to his shop, under pretence of purchasing a lock, and, watching his opportunity, when Mr. Wigfield was going home about twelve, he stabbed him through the heart, and the unfortunate man instantly fell.

The Newgate Calendar

He was at last apprehended for robbing a butcher of thirty guineas, a watch, and some money. After his sentence, he confessed the fore-mentioned murder. He was executed along with one Noble, an attorney, for barbarously murdering one John Sayer, Esq.

WILLIAM HALLOWAY

Highwayman

THIS man was born at Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and bred up to husbandry. He was, however, soon wearied of that laborious employment, and went to London to gather gold upon the streets and highways.

He commenced with caution, and ventured only upon petty depredations. In the character of a scourer, with an apron on, he went up stairs into a gentleman's house, and, seeing three or four footmen's liveries, he brought them off under his arm. As he was going out, the coachman, standing at the door with his coach, asked, "Whither he was going with these clothes and waistcoats?" Quoth Halloway, "The parliament being to sit within this week, and your master being willing his men's liveries should look somewhat fresh and decent, the steward has ordered me to scour them against then." "Here, here, then," said he, "take my cloak too, and scour it well." Halloway had no objection to take his cloak also, but he neglected to return either with it or the other clothes. The coachman suffered for his simplicity, the very boys crying after him wherever he went, "Here, here, take my cloak, too!"

Upon another day, when there was a great throng of coaches in the street, William went up to the coach of a gentleman, pretending that he had something very particular to say to him, and, while the gentleman was leaning over the door, one of his comrades stole one of the couch seats at the other door. When the gentleman had done conversing with William, and, missing his couch, he looked out at the other door after the thief, and, in the meantime, William made sure of the other couch, and went off undiscovered. The gentleman, then, in a great surprise, called to his coachman, "Tom, hast thou got the horses there?" "Yes, sir," quoth Tom. "Ay, but are you sure you have them?" "Why, yes, sir, I am sure I have them, for their reins are now in mine hand." "Well, be sure and keep them there, for I have lost the seats out of the coach, and, if you have not a special care, you will lose my horses too."

Not long after this adventure, whilst a Mr. Innes, who kept a punch-house, was taking an airing in his calash, William perceived that the driver was fast asleep, and, stepping forward, robbed him of his watch and two guineas. Not satisfied with this, he tied his legs together, and, pulling the pins out of the axle-trees, he waited behind a hedge until he saw what would come to pass. In a short time off go the wheels, and calash and driver embraced the street.

Becoming more hardened in villainy, William resolved to commence highwayman in form. Accordingly, he purchased a horse, and, meeting with a farmer, asked him the time of the day. "About twelve," said the farmer. "Why, then, it may be high time to ask one favour of you." "What's that?" "Why, truly, understanding that you received ten pounds at the inn from whence you now came, necessity obliges me to borrow this of you; and, if you are not willing to lend it me by fair means, I'll take it by foul means." The farmer immediately drew his hanger, but this proved no defence against pistols; therefore, he was constrained to surrender.

At another time he overtook a gentleman upon the road, who informed him that he was well-nigh robbed in coming along, and advised William, if he had any money about him, to be very careful where he lodged it. He replied, that he had but little, but, to take care of it, he would put it in his mouth. The gentleman never

The Newgate Calendar

suspecting into what company he had been involved, replied, "that he had been getting his rent from his tenants, and that he had a considerable sum, which he had secured in the folds of his stockings." When they came to a convenient place, Holloway desired him to "stand and deliver!" Unable to resist such a demand, the gentleman gave him a purse with eighty guineas.

Holloway, continuing his depredations, was at length apprehended, tried, and condemned, but he obtained a reprieve during his Majesty's pleasure. Meanwhile, he broke the prison, and, being one day intoxicated, he had the impudence to go to the session of the Old Bailey, when the judges were sitting, and some of the turnkeys, offering to apprehend him for breaking the jail, he shot one of them dead upon the spot. He was seized, along with a woman who was found accessory to the murder. They were both executed, and Holloway was hung in chains.

He, in the most solemn manner, declared that he never had any enmity towards the person he murdered, and that it was merely in consequence of his being intoxicated: thus adding one to the many fatal effects of giving way to the ruinous habit of drinking, and thus inflaming the passions to the commission of the most disgraceful crimes, from which the mind would shrink in the moment of sobriety and reflection.

— AVERY.

Bricklayer and Highwayman

THIS man was a native of Oxfordshire, and by his parents bound an apprentice to a bricklayer in London. He served his time both actively and faithfully, and even carried on business for several years. Nor was any one suspicious that he occasionally took a walk or a ride upon the highway.

One day, being out riding in search of booty, he, after being pretty successful, went by several bye-ways, until he came to a gate where several men were standing. It occurred to him, that, if he was to ride back in haste it would create suspicion; therefore, he went forward and requested leave to pass. One who had the key said, that, if he would go and fetch a colt that was feeding in the park, he would permit him to pass. He did so, and the gate was opened.

When walking on the road together, he said to the man who owned the colt, "What must I have for catching the colt for you?" "Have! O dear, sir, what can you expect for such a matter? Why, I think that was a kindness to let you through the gate, or else you must have rode a great way about." Avery swore, in a most terrible manner, that he would have something for his trouble. The countryman, seeing him in a rage, promised him a pot of ale. This would not satisfy, and, pulling out his pistols, swore that he would not undergo all that trouble for nothing, and that, if they did not all presently deliver up their money, he would instantly shoot every one of them. The plain, unarmed men pulled out their purses, and gave him all they had in their possession, and he rode off in triumph, exulting that he himself had robbed half-a-dozen of men. Among his companions he frequently boasted of this action; so that one of them, when he was going up Holborn in the cart, said, "So ho! friend Avery, what! are you going to fetch another colt?" Avery was then too much engaged to make him any reply.

Upon another day, riding up and down, like the ravens in quest of food, he met an honest tradesman. They rode together for some time, when Avery asked him what trade he followed. The man replied, that he was a fishmonger; and retorted, by saying, "And what occupation are you?" "Why, I am a limb of St. Peter, too." "What! are you a fishmonger?" "Ay, I am something towards it, for every finger I have an hook." "Indeed, I don't understand your meaning, sir." Avery, pulling out his pistols, coolly observed, "My meaning may soon be comprehended, for there's not a finger upon my hand but will catch gold or silver without any bait at all." So, robbing the unsuspecting man, and cutting the girth and bridle of his horse, he rode off for London.

The return of want made him return to his former employment. Meeting an exciseman whom he knew, but to whom Avery was unknown, because he was masked, at a convenient place he commanded him to deliver, or he was a dead man! "Here, take what I have, for if there is a devil, certainly thou art one." "It may be so," replied Avery, "but yet, as much a devil as I am, I see an exciseman is not such a good bait as people say, to catch him." "No, he is not," replied the other; "the hangman is the only bait to catch such devils as you."

The Newgate Calendar

In a short time he was apprehended, along with the Waterman, who, through interest, was reprieved. Encouraged by his companion's success, he also made every effort, by frequent petitions, but to no effect.

WILLIAM GETTINGS

Highwayman, executed 25th September 1713.

WILLIAM'S father was a grazier, in Herefordshire, and he lived with him until he was sixteen years old, and then came up to London. Sometimes in the capacity of a footman, and sometimes in that of a butler, he spent five years in a very irreproachable manner. Unfortunately, however, he became acquainted with evil company, and soon became corrupted both in principles and in practice.

He began his course under the name of William Smith, and traded in the smaller matter of pilfering. In the dress of a porter, he, one evening, went into the house of a doctor of medicine, took down a rich bed, and packed it up.

In carrying it off, he fell down stairs, and had almost broke his neck. The noise alarming the old doctor and his son, they came running to see what was the matter; whereupon Gettings, puffing and blowing, as if he was quite out of breath, perceiving them nearer than they should be, said to the doctor, "Is not your name so and so?" "Yes," replied the doctor, "and what then?" "Why, then, sir," said William Gettings, "there's one Mr. Hugh Hen and Penhenribus has ordered me to bring these goods hither, which have almost broke my back, and fetch them away to a new lodging, which he has taken some way hereabouts." "Mr. Hugh Hen and Penhenribus," replied the doctor again, pray who's he? for, to the best of my knowledge, I don't know any such gentleman." "I can't tell for that," said Gettings, "but, indeed, the gentleman knows you, and ordered me to leave the goods here." "I don't care," said the doctor, "how well he knows me: I tell you I'll not take the people's goods, unless they were here themselves; therefore, I say, carry them away!" "Nay, pray, sir," said Gettings, "let me leave the goods here, for I am quite weary already, in bringing them hither." "I tell you," replied the doctor, "there shall none be left here; therefore, take them away, or I'll throw them into the street!" "Well, well," said Gettings, "I'll take the goods away, then; but, I'm sure the gentleman will be very angry, because he ordered me to leave them here." "I don't care," replied the doctor, "for his anger, nor yours neither! I tell you I'll take no charge of other people's goods, unless they were here themselves to put them into my custody." "Very well, sir," said Gettings, "since I must carry them away, I beg the favour of you and the gentleman there to lift them on my back." "Ay, ay, with all my heart," replied the doctor; "come, son, and lend a hand to hit them on the fellow's back."

Scarcely was William gone, when the doctor's wife, coming home from the market, and going into the room, saw the bed taken down, and came running, in a great passion, to her husband, exclaiming, "Why, truly, this is a most strange business, that I can never stir out of doors but you must be making some whimsical alteration or other in the house!" "What's the matter," replied the doctor, "with the woman? Are you beside yourself?" "No," said the wife, "but truly you are, in thus altering things as you do, almost every moment!" "Certainly, my dear," replied the doctor, "you must have been spending your market-penny, or else you would not talk at this rate, as you do, of alterations, when not the smallest have been made since you have gone out." Quoth the wife, "I am not blind, I think, for I am sure the bed is taken out of the room, two pair of stairs backward; and pray, husband, where do you design to put it now?" The doctor and his son then went upstairs, and not only found that the bed was stolen, but that they had assisted the thief to carry it off.

The Newgate Calendar

Our hero next resolved to try his fortune upon the highway, and, meeting with a sharper on the road, he commanded him to "stand and deliver!" He robbed him of two-pence-halfpenny, when the sharper remarked, that "the world was come, indeed, to a very sad pass, when one rogue must prey upon another."

He next robbed a man of twelve shillings and a pair of silver buckles. From hence, he proceeded to rob the stagecoach, and recovered some money and a silver watch. Not long after, he robbed Squire Dashwood and his lady, of a gold watch and some money.

These, however, were only smaller exhibitions of his dexterity. One evening, well mounted, he passed by Tooling in Richmond, and, perceiving Sir James B—— walking in his gardens, he inquired of the gardener, if he might be permitted to view the gardens, of which he had heard so much. The gardener, well acquainted with the vanity and benevolence of his master, granted his request. Giving his horse to the gardener, he walked forward, and, in a very respectful manner, accosted the squire, who received him very courteously, and, sitting down together in an arbour, Gettings said, "Your worship has got a very fine diamond ring upon your finger." "Yes," replied Sir James, "it ought to be a very fine one, for it cost me a very fine price." "Why, then," said Gettings, "it is the fitter to bestow on a friend; therefore, if your worship pleases, I must make bold to take it, and wear it for your sake." Sir James stared at his impudence, but Gettings presented a pistol, and made a short process of the matter. Having taken the ring, he added, "I am sure your lordship does not go without a good watch, too." Making free with that also, and some guineas, he bound the gentleman, and went off with his booty, requesting the good squire to be patient, and he would send some person to set him at liberty. When he came to the gate, he gave the gardener a shilling, informing him that Sir James wanted to speak to him. He accordingly went, and untied his master, who returned him thanks for sending a man into his own garden to rob him.

Upon another day he undertook a long journey, for the express purpose of robbing the house of a friend; and he being well acquainted with all parts of the house, he was successful, and brought off money, plate, and goods, to a considerable amount. He at last robbed Squire Harrison of four guineas, some silver, and a watch; and being detected, he was tried, condemned, and executed, in the twenty-second year of his age.

CAPTAIN URATZ

Highwayman and murderer, who argued with the divine under the gallows

THIS robber was the son of a gentleman in Pomerania. The scantiness of his fortune determined him to commence highwayman, and he had so much temerity, that he would undertake what was sufficient for six men. One day he attacked the King of Poland, the Duke of Lorraine, and their attendants, and seized as many diamonds as brought him eight thousand ducatoons, besides a considerable quantity of gold. He also continued his depredations in Hungary, until he acquired as much money as purchased a captain's commission in the German service.

In this station he became acquainted with Count Koningsmark, who, being disappointed in a young lady, by the more successful addresses of Thomas Thynn, Esq., the count was so enraged, that he was resolved that nothing but the fortunate lover's life would satiate his revenge. He intimated his desire to Captain Uratz, who procured John Stern, lieutenant, and George Borosky, who way-laid Mr. Thynn in his coach, shot him with a blunderbuss, and he died in a few days.

The murderers were apprehended, committed to Newgate, and, being tried, were sentenced to death. While Captain Uratz was under sentence, he was visited by Dr. Herneck and Dr. Burnet. The former of these divines says, "that, putting the criminal in mind of the all-seeing eye who knew his crimes, though he concealed them from man, he said, that he had far other apprehensions of God than I had, and was confident that he would consider a gentleman according to his rank, and would not be offended, if a soldier, who lived by the sword, should revenge an affront.

"I replied, that there was only one way to eternal happiness, and that God had made no difference between any man in that respect; and that revenge in a gentleman as well as in a peasant, was criminal in his sight; and that he would not pardon it without repentance. He asked what I meant by repentance. I replied, that it was to hate and to avoid sin. The captain replied, that though he was to live, he would always give any man as good as he brought, with many other similar expressions, that made such an unpleasant impression upon my mind, that I left him." Dr. Herneck adds, that "the last time I visited him, I said, that I hoped that he had seriously reflected upon his situation, and that he had a better sense of his character, than when I saw him last. He said he was ignorant of my meaning. I explained. He replied, that he was convinced that he was a great sinner—that he truly repented, and was confident that God had forgiven him; that he could not well understand the English divines, who pressed him to declare things contrary to truth; and he was the more surprised at this, because our church was against auricular confession. When he had finished his speech, I informed him, that he was mistaken in his sentiments concerning the Church of England, who neither revealed private confessions, nor obliged offenders to confess contrary to the truth; that the confession he was exhorted to, was a public confession of a public offence; and I farther informed him, that the blood of Christ was only applied to the penitent, and that true repentance must discover itself in meekness, humility, tender-heartedness, compassion, righteousness, candid confession, and reparation, in so far as in our power, as, notwithstanding the blood of Christ, men might drop into hell. Upon this he replied, that he did not fear hell. I answered, that probably he did not believe in

any, or it might be an easy one of his own making. He said, he was not such a fool as to believe that souls could fry in material fire, or be roasted as meat upon a great hearth, or in a kitchen, pointing to the chimney. He believed, that the punishment of the wicked consisted in deprivation from the presence of God; upon which deprivation, there arose a terror and anguish in their minds, because they had missed so great a happiness. He added, that possibly I might think him an Atheist; but he was so far from that, that he could scarcely suppose that there was a man so sottish in the world, as not to believe in the being of a God, gracious, just, and generous to his creatures; nor could any man, who was not either mad or drunk, believe that things came fortuitously, or that this world was governed by chance. I said, that I was glad to find him settled in the reasonableness of that principle; and for material fire, I would not quarrel with him for denying it, but rather supposed, that the fire and brimstone spoken of in Scripture, were emblems of those inward terrors which would gnaw and tear the consciences of impenitent sinners; but still, this was a greater punishment than material fire, and that this punishment he had reason to fear, without a sincere repentance. I was once in doubt whether I should publish his answers, as some of them approach to profaneness; but I have done it in hopes that these may be a warning, to prevent others from running into the same erroneous sentiments. He seemed to be carried away with false conceptions of honour and bravery, and to view God as some generous but partial prince, who would regard men's rank and quality, and make great allowances for breeding and education." Doctor Burnet has also recorded the substance of his conversations with him. Among other things the doctor says, "when I saw him at the place of execution he smiled, and before I spoke to him, said, "that I should see that it was not a false bravery, but that he was fearless to the last" I wished him to consider well upon what he grounded his confidence. He said, that he was sure to be received into heaven, and that his sins were forgiven. I asked him if he had anything to say to the people. He said, no. After he had whispered a little to a gentleman, he was willing that the rope should be tied to the gibbet. He called for the German minister, who could not get near for the crowd.

"He desired me to pray in French, but I told him, that, as he understood English, I would pray in that language. I observed that he had some touches in his mind, when I offered up that petition, that for the sake of the blood of Christ, the innocent blood shed in that place might be forgiven, and that the cry of the one for mercy, might prevail over the cry of the other for justice. At these words, he looked up to heaven with the greatest fervour I had at any time observed him. After prayer he said nothing, but that he was now going to be happy with God." He continued in his undaunted manner, looking up often to heaven, and sometimes round upon the spectators. After he and his two fellow-sufferers had stood about half an hour under the gibbet, they were asked to give the signal; so in a little time the cart was driven forward. His fellow sufferers were also grave and penitent.

**CHRISTOPHER DICKSON, JOHN GIBSON, AND
CHARLES WEYMOUTH**

Highwaymen, executed 10th March, 1714

THESE men were companions in guilt, and they are therefore united in this narrative. Their first adventure upon the highway was with a poor old man, who had nothing but a pair of spectacles. Dickson took these from him, upon which he earnestly entreated him to return them, because, being above threescore, he could not see without them. Dickson swore that he would not, but Gibson interfered, saying, "Prithee, Dickson, give the old fellow his spectacles; for, if we follow this trade, we may assure ourselves we shall never reach his years to make use of them." One morning, as these brethren were waiting to see what would come to pass, they found the carcass of a dead horse by the wayside, and removed it into the centre of the road.

A countryman came riding at full gallop before it was light, and, stumbling over the horse, was not only thrown from his own horse, but cast into a ditch. The robbers drew him out of the ditch, robbed him of three pounds, bound him hand and foot, while his horse, through fear, had run home with all speed. Some passengers soon relieved the countryman, who, seeing the dead horse upon the road, exclaimed, "Such rogues as these were never heard of before, for they have stolen the very skin of the horse that I rode on." But going home and seeing his horse in the stable, he said to his wife and servants, "How came Dobbin alive again? I'm sure it can't be him—it must be the devil in his shape; for my horse was killed and flayed not above three or four hours ago, by a parcel of rogues, who robbed me of all the money I had about me." Nor could he ever be persuaded that it was his own horse.

These desperate fellows continued their depredations with varied success, until they were apprehended for assaulting and robbing Mr. Thomas Blake, Mr. Samuel Slap, and Mr. John Edwards (who was dangerously wounded by Weymouth) taking from them several goods and money, upon the Queen's highway in Stepney parish, on the 8th of February 1714. They were tried, and suffered the punishment awarded to their crimes.

RICHARD KEELE

Highwayman, executed 23rd December, 1713

THIS man was born at Ramsey, in Hampshire, and was bound apprentice to a barber in Winchester. In that station he acquitted himself so well, that he received his master's daughter in marriage. But, after remaining with her about seven or eight years, he went to reside with another woman, who had an annuity of fifty pounds.

To gratify his vicious inclinations, his time was chiefly spent in the company of the most abandoned men and women; and it was not long before he excelled them in every species of wickedness. He at last commenced bailiff, of which character one says, "that the beginning is detestable, the course desperate, and the end damnable;"—assertions equally absurd and unjust: the office of bailiff being both necessary and lawful, it may be, and often is, executed to the honour of the individual, and the good of the community.

Not long after he went to reside with the annuitant, he set up an alehouse, but was soon arrested in an action at the instance of a soldier in the Foot-guards, for keeping company with his wife, whom he aided in her robberies, until she was condemned, but obtained a pardon. When arrested, no person would bail him out, and he had not been long there before no less than forty robberies were laid to his charge. But, no prosecution being instituted against him, he was admitted to bail. But, being a prisoner on the first action, he removed himself by a writ of habeas corpus to the Fleet prison. He was, not long after, removed to Newgate, upon an accusation of blasphemous expressions.

He was tried before Justice Parker, who sentenced him to stand twice in the pillory—once at Charing-cross, and once without Temple-bar—and to suffer imprisonment during a year.

His time being expired, he became a bailiff's follower; but that being a poor trade, he again began to make free with other men's property. A coat and two periwigs were his prize, for which he was unluckily committed to Newgate. He was found guilty, burned in the hand, and ordered to hard labour in the Bridewell for twelve months.

Accordingly, along with William Lowther and Charles Houghton, he was carried to Bridewell. When Captain Bureman was going to put them in irons, they rebelled. Houghton was shot dead, Lowther wounded, and Keele had one of his eyes shot out. But, having killed Edward Perry, one of the turnkeys, they were committed again to Newgate. Keele was maintained in prison by Isabel Thomas, for whom an arrest was formerly issued against him by her husband. She was a notorious thief, and had been married to many husbands; was burnt several times in the hand, but was at last tried, condemned, and executed for theft.

In addition to the villainies of Keele, before he was committed at this time, he was one time in want of money, having paid twenty or thirty pounds to an adversary; and, meeting an honest man called Bond and Judgment, from his lending money on bond, and, when it became due, pushing very hard for payment, he commanded him to "stand and deliver!" Bond and Judgment answered, "Do you not know me, sir?" "Ay," replied Dick, "you villain! I know you to be a mercenary rogue, who would

Supplement 3

send your mother and father to jail for the fillip of a farthing; therefore, it is but a just judgment befallen you, to take all you have from you." So, clapping a pistol to his breast, poor Bond and Judgment was under the necessity of stopping the force of the bullet by three-score guineas. This so lessened his stock, that, when he was, not long after, lodged in Newgate, he found a difficulty to raise as much money as would remove his corrupted carcass to the King's Bench prison.

At another time, Keele being well mounted, and accoutred with sword and pistol, met an officer, lately a tradesman, on Hounslow Heath. Keele gave him the word of command, "Stand and deliver!" He was indeed at a stand, but, supposing that the colour of his coat would inspire Dick with fear, said, "Don't you see what livery I wear?" "See whose livery you wear!" replied Dick; "you are a footman." "No," said C—— again, "I am an officer in the army; therefore, at your peril be it, if you presume to stop me when I am about lawful occasions." "Nay," said Dick, "if you go about lawful occasions, I am about unlawful. Therefore, deliver what you have, or we must try who is the best man." Said C——, "I don't bear a commission to fight with highwaymen. I only wear her Majesty's cloth, to fight for my queen and country." "Why, then," replied Dick, "this cloth, nor any other, must be a protection against my arrest; therefore, as this pistol is my tip-staff, I demand your money upon pain of death." But, finding no money in the affair, he stripped off his coat, waistcoat, and small-clothes, and ordered him to get another suit, and place it to the account of the regiment.

Dick was at last brought to his trial, and, the evidence being decisive against him, he and William Lowther were both sentenced to death. In consequence of the influence of a sister, who lived with a gentleman of rank, he was confident that he would obtain a pardon, but was miserably disappointed.

It may be proper to remark, that it was his usual custom to say, that he boasted in all manner of wickedness, and that, should he ever come under the sentence of death, he would never behave himself similar to the generality of those in that condition: that he should neither confess his crimes, shed a tear, nor show the least contrition or uneasiness. But, when he came to be in that situation, he was neither without his dread, nor the expressions of his awful forebodings.

CAPTAIN WORLEY

Pirate, whose beginning was bold and desperate, his course short and prosperous, and his end bloody and disgraceful

IN a small open boat with only eight companions, Worley entered upon service. Provided with six old muskets, and correspondent ammunition, with a few biscuits, one or two dried tongues, and a cag of water, they left New York, and sailed towards Delaware river. Though the distance is about fifty miles, they met with no prey, so they went up the river as far as Newcastle. Near this place they captured a shallop with household goods and plate, and, having emptied her of everything valuable, they permitted her to depart. As this was not done upon the high seas, it could not be construed piracy. The shallop conveyed the intelligence to New York, which, alarming government, several vessels were fitted out to go in quest of this formidable rover. But he was not yet destined to be taken; for, after several days cruising, the government vessels returned without their prize.

In sailing down the river, Worley met with a sloop bound for Philadelphia, and, quitting his own shallop, he and his men went on board the sloop, and increased their strength by the hands who were in her. In a few days they took a sloop homeward-bound for Hull, with all manner of provisions, which enabled them to undertake some bolder adventure.

Upon the success of these pirates, the government issued a proclamation for apprehending all pirates who refused to surrender upon a specified day. To follow out the intentions of this proclamation, a vessel of twenty guns was fitted out to cruise upon the coast, and to protect the trade. Informed of this, Worley and his men set out to sea. In their cruise, they captured a sloop and a brigantine; the former they sunk, as she belonged to New York, and might inform upon them; and they permitted the other to prosecute her voyage.

Worley was now in reality become formidable. He had twenty-five men, six guns, plenty of small arms, and a good vessel. Accordingly, he assumed a more systematic plan, hoisted black colours, formed certain regulations, and swore every man to stand to his colours, and receive no quarter.

They now went into an inlet in North Carolina, to clean their vessel, and the government receiving intelligence of their being in that place, two sloops, one of eight and another of six guns, manned with seventy men, were sent in search of them. Worley was gone before they arrived, but, tracing his course, they discovered him off the Capes of Virginia. Upon the supposition that they were two vessels intending to enter St. James's river, Worley hastened to got between them and that entrance of the river, in order to secure his prize. The inhabitants of St. James's Town, supposing that all three were pirates, and that they would land to plunder and destroy the country, the Governor ordered all the vessels to hale into the shore, unless they thought that they were in a situation to fight the pirates. He beat to arms, collected all the force that could be mustered, erected a temporary battery with the guns of the ships, and put the island in a posture of defence. But to their surprise, they soon saw what they imagined to be pirates, fighting with each other.

Meanwhile, as Worley was waiting at the entrance of the river, with the black colours flying, to seize the two vessels as they approached, to his sad mortification they hoisted King's colours, and fired a gun. Thus he found, that, instead of entrapping others, he himself was entrapped and hemmed in by a superior force. Agreeably to their engagements to each other, the pirates determined to conquer or die.

The two sloops gave him a broadside, and immediately boarded, the one upon the quarter, the other upon the bow. Worley and his men drew up on deck, and fought it hand to hand, in a most desperate manner. They were true to their oath—not a man called for quarter, and many were slain before they could be overcome; not one survived, except the captain and another man, who were both severely wounded. These were brought on shore in irons, and, lest they should have died of their wounds, they were hanged the following day. Thus Worley's beginning was bold and desperate, his course short and prosperous, and his end bloody and disgraceful.

CAPTAIN LOWTHER

Pirate

GEORGE LOWTHER sailed from the Thames, in the character of second mate in the *Gambia Castle*, of sixteen guns and thirty men, belonging to the African Company. There was a number of soldiers, under the command of John Massey, intended to garrison a fort which was destroyed by Captain Dawson.

The *Gambia Castle* arrived safe, and landed Massey and his men; but the military power was overruled by the merchants and traders. To them it belonged to victual the garrison; and, being scanty in their allowance, Massey was highly offended, and remonstrated in terms more suitable to his feelings than their interests. He boldly declared, that he had brought these brave men here under the assurance that they were to have plenty of provisions, and to be treated in the most handsome manner; therefore, if they were not so treated, he would be under the necessity of consulting for himself.

The governor was then sick, and, for his better accommodation, was taken on board the *Gambia Castle*. During this period, the captain being offended with George Lowther, his second mate, ordered him to be punished. The men interfered in behalf of Lowther, and the captain was disobeyed. Lowther and Massey having become intimate during the voyage, they now aggravated their grievances to each other, and the result of their consultations were, to seize the ship, and sail for England.

When matters were ripe for execution, Lowther sent a letter to Massey, informing him, "that he must repair on board, as it was now time to put their design in execution." Massey then harangued the soldiers in the barracks, saying, "You that have a mind to go to England, now is the time." They in general agreed, and, when all things were ready, he sent off the boat with this message to the chief mate, "that he should get the guns ready, for that the king of Barro would come on board to dinner." Lowther knew the meaning—confined the chief mate, and prepared to sail. In the afternoon, Massey came on board with the governor's son, having almost emptied the store-houses, and dismounted the guns of the fort.

The captain of the *Gambia Castle* having gone on shore to hold a council with the governor and others, was not permitted to come on board. He called to Lowther

and his associates, and offered them what terms they chose, to restore the ship; but all in vain. They put the governor's son on shore, and three others who did not choose to go along with them, and immediately sailed.

Scarcely were they out at sea, when Lowther addressed them in the following manner: "That it was the greatest folly imaginable, to think of returning to England, for what they had already done could not be justified upon any pretence whatever, but would be looked upon by the government as a capital offence, and none of them were in a condition to withstand the attacks of such powerful adversaries as they would meet with at home. For his part, he told them he was determined not to run such an hazard; and therefore, if his proposal was not agreed to, he desired to be set on shore in some place of safety; that they had a good ship under them, a parcel of brave fellows in her; that it was not their business to starve or be made slaves; and therefore, if they were all of his mind, they would seek their fortunes upon the seas, as other adventurers had done before them." The crew was unanimous, knocked down the cabins, prepared black colours, and named the ship, the *Delivery*. She was mounted with sixteen guns, and had fifty hands on board.

To enforce order, and to provide for the stability of this government, several articles were drawn up, signed, and sworn to; and they soon began their operations, by capturing a vessel belonging to Boston, emptied her of her stores, and allowed her to depart.

Proceeding to Hispaniola, the *Delivery* met with a French vessel laden with wine and brandy. In the character of a merchant, Captain Massey went on board, viewed the liquors, and offered a price for the greater part of them, which was not accepted of. But after a while, he whispered in the Frenchman's ear, "that they must have them all without money." The captain understood his meaning, and with no small reluctance agreed to the bargain. They took out of her about seventy pounds, besides thirty casks of brandy, five hogsheads of wine, several pieces of chintzes, and other valuable goods. Lowther returned five pounds to the Frenchman for his civility.

But this commonwealth was soon to experience the effects of discord. Massey had been trained a soldier, and was solicitous to move in his own sphere; therefore, he proposed to land with fifty or sixty men and plunder the French settlements. Lowther represented the rashness, imprudence, and impracticability of such an adventure; Massey remained resolute in his determination. It became necessary to decide the matter, by a reference to the community. A great majority were of the opinion of Lowther; but, though overruled, Massey was not convinced, so became fractious, and quarrelled with Captain Lowther. The men also were divided; some were land pirates, and some were sea pirates, and, ere long, they were prepared to decide the matter with the sword.

But employment terminated dissension. The man at the mast-head cried, "A sail! a sail!" In a few hours they came up with her, and found that she was bound for England. They supplied themselves with necessaries, and took a few hands out of her. Lowther proposed to sink her and all the passengers on board; but Massey interfered, and prevented this cruel action. Accordingly, she was permitted to depart, and arrived safe in England.

The next day they captured a small sloop, and detained her. Massey still remained uneasy, and declared his resolution to leave the *Delivery*. Lowther proposed that he and all those who were of his sentiments should go on board the sloop which

they had just taken, and seek their own fortunes. This was instantly agreed to, and Massey, with ten more, went on board, and sailed directly for Jamaica. With a bold countenance he went to the governor, informed him that he had assisted in running off with the vessel; but his object was to save the lives of his Majesty's subjects from perishing, and that his express design was to land them in England; but, in opposition to this determination, Lowther and the majority were for becoming pirates; and that he had embraced the first opportunity to leave them, and surrender himself, his men, and his vessel, to his excellency.

Massey was kindly received, and sent along with Captain Laws to cruise in quest of Lowther; but, not finding him, returned to Jamaica, received certificates of his surrender, and came home a passenger to England. When he came to town, he wrote a narrative of the whole matter to the African Company, who returned him for answer, "that he should be fairly hanged." He was accordingly seized, and, upon his own letter, and the evidence of the late captain of the ship, who had been left at the fort, and the governor's son, and some others, he was condemned to end his course at Tyburn.

Lowther, cruising off Hispaniola, captured a small ship from Bristol, and a Spanish pirate. He rifled and burnt both ships, sending the Spaniards away in their launch, and constraining the Englishmen to turn pirates. In a few days they took another sloop, which they manned, and carried along with them, and then harboured at a small island to clean. Here they spent their time more like demons than men, in all manner of debauchery, drunkenness, and rioting.

Having again set to sea, they met with Edward Low, a pirate, in a small vessel with thirteen hands; and, upon the request of Lowther, he united his strength with theirs, Lowther retaining the command, and Low becoming lieutenant. Proceeding on their voyage, they met with a vessel of two hundred tons, called the *Greyhound*, commanded by Benjamin Edwards. Piratical colours were hoisted, and she was commanded to strike. The captain declined, an engagement ensued; but, finding the pirates too strong for him, he surrendered. Instead of treating the captain and his men with generous lenity, they beat them in a merciless manner, drove them on board their own ship, and then set fire to it.

In their course they took several other ships, rifled and dismissed them; but two they fitted up for their own service. With this small fleet:—viz. Admiral Lowther in the *Happy Delivery*, Captain Low in the *Rhode Island* sloop, and Captain Harris (who was second mate, in the *Greyhound*) in a sloop formerly belonging to Jamaica, they sailed to Port Mayo in the gulf of Matique, and made preparations to clean their vessels; with this view they made tents of their sails, stored their provisions in tents also, and then commenced their operations; but scarcely were they at work, when a body of the natives came down upon them, drove them to their ships, seized their tents and stores, and set fire to the *Delivery*, which was stranded on shore.

Lowther and his men now went on board the largest sloop, called the *Ranger*, and left the other at sea. They were soon reduced to great want, and commotion ensued; but when they had got to the West Indies, they took a prize, which supplied their wants; and, having sunk her, they sailed for America.

They in a short time captured a brigantine, and the company, being divided in their sentiments, Low, and those who were of his views, went on board the prize, and went off, while those who agreed with Lowther remained in the *Ranger*. On his way

The Newgate Calendar

to the mainland of America, Lowther took several ships with very little resistance; but, upon the coast of South Carolina, he met with a ship bound for England. An engagement took place, and Lowther was so hard pressed, that he was under the necessity of running aground, and landing his men; but when the captain of the English vessels had taken the boat, in order to burn the pirate ship, a bullet from the pirates on shore put an end to his life; which so discouraged his men, that they returned to their vessel.

After their departure, Lowther got off his sloop, though in a very shattered condition, having suffered much in the engagement, and many of his men having been killed or wounded. With no small difficulty he went into an inlet in North Carolina, where he remained during the winter.

In spring he again took to sea, steered for Newfoundland, took several vessels of small importance, and, in his way to the West Indies, captured a brigantine, plundered her, took two men into their own ship, and sent her off. Having cruised a considerable time, it was necessary to clean, and, for that purpose, went into the Isle of Blanco. While they were keenly employed in this work, the *Eagle* sloop, belonging to the South Sea Company, with thirty-five men, attacked Lowther, and constrained him to cry for quarter. While they were surrendering, Lowther and twelve of the crew escaped out of the cabin window, and fled to the woods. Five of them were taken, but the rest remained upon the island.

Informed of this meritorious action, the Spanish government condemned the ship to the crew of the *Eagle*, and sent a small sloop to the island, with twenty-five men, to search the woods for the other pirates. Three others were found, but Captain Lowther, with three men and a boy, escaped! As the captain was afterwards found dead, and a pistol beside him, it is supposed that in desperation he had shot himself.

The *Eagle* sloop brought the prisoners to St. Christopher's, where they were all tried; three were acquitted, eleven found guilty, and two recommended to mercy.

CAPTAIN SPRIGGS.

Pirate.

SPRIGGS sailed with Lowther for some time, and left him in company with Low. He was quarter-master, and, by consequence, had a large share in all the barbarities of that execrable crew. He quarrelled with Low concerning one of the men who had killed another—Spriggs insisting that he should be hanged, and the other that he should not. After this dispute, Spriggs took an opportunity to leave him in the night, along with eighteen men, having seized the *Delight*, a prize of twelve guns.

Scarcely were they beyond reach of Lowther and his crew, when Spriggs was elected captain, black colours hoisted, and the guns fired as a salute to themselves and their captain. In their way to the West Indies, they took a Portuguese barque, loaded with rich plunder, and, after using the men in a cruel and barbarous manner, they put them into the boat, with a small quantity of provisions, and set the ship on fire.

They took another vessel belonging to Barbados, which they plundered, used the men also in a most barbarous manner, then put them into the boat—left them to the mercy of the waves, and set fire to the ship. Some of the men signed their articles, and joined their association. The next capture was a ship from Martinique; and, though they did not burn the vessel, the men were used in the same cruel manner. Some days after, they took one coming from Jamaica, robbed her of stores, arms, ammunition, and everything that they pleased, and what they did not think useful, they threw overboard. They forced the two mates and several other hands into their service, and then sent her off. They were not more fortunate in gaining prizes, than they were wantonly cruel to the men. A sloop from Rhode Island fell into their hands; they constrained all the men to join them; and the mate, being a grave, sober man, he resolutely declined. He was then informed that he should be allowed to go with his discharge written upon his back—this was, a lash from every man in the ship; which was rigorously put in execution.

The next day one of the mates taken out of the prize signed their articles, which was deemed a great acquisition, because he was a good artist. They gave three huzzas, fired all the guns, and appointed him master. The day was devoted to feasting and carousing, and, among other healths, that of George II. was drunk. It had been related to them that the old king was dead, and they expected a general pardon upon the accession of the new sovereign. Thus they proclaimed his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, saying, "that they doubted not but there would be a general pardon in twelve months, which they would embrace, and come in upon; but, if they should be excepted from it, they would murder every Englishman that should fall into their hands."

Not long after, they espied a sail and gave her chase. They supposed that she was a Spaniard, and so gave her a broadside. But a lamentable cry for quarter being heard from every part of the ship, they ceased firing. But how mortified were the rogues, when they found that it was the same vessel that they had sent away, not worth a penny. Enraged at this disappointment, about fifteen of these cruel wretches attacked the captain with sharp cutlasses, and would certainly have put an end to his life, had not Burridge, his former mate, rushed in among the thickest of them, and begged for his life. In the madness of their rage, they made a bonfire of the ship, and,

The Newgate Calendar

even when they were sat down to supper, they called down the unfortunate captain, to have some more cruel sport at his expense. In two days they anchored at an uninhabited island, and, with a musket and some ammunition, they sent on shore the captain and several of his men. They subsisted for some time, and then were taken off by one Jones.

Spriggs now anchored at a small island and cleaned, and then sailed in search of the *Eagle* sloop, which had taken Lowther at Blanco, with the determined resolution to put him to death as soon as found, for attacking his friend and brother. But, to his surprise, this vessel proved to be a French man-of-war, on which he crowded all the sail he could. He would, however, have been taken, had not the main-top-mast of the Frenchman been broken.

Spriggs then sailed northward, took a schooner belonging to Boston, took out the men, sunk the vessel, and, having taken another sloop, they used the men in the most cruel and barbarous manner, hoisting them as high as the main and fore-tops, and letting them fall upon the deck. After using them in that manner, they whipped them about the deck until they themselves were fatigued, then allowed them all to go except two men.

They next captured a vessel from Rhode Island with provisions and some horses. The brutal pirates mounted the horses, and rode at full gallop upon the deck, until the animals became infuriated, and threw their riders. They then wreaked their vengeance upon the men. In this manner these unnatural wretches continued their cruelties so long as they could maintain their community, to the disgrace of human nature, and to the sad sorrow of all who were so unfortunate as to fall into their hands.

CAPTAIN UPTON

Pirate

JOHN UPTON was born at Deptford, of honest but poor parents, who gave him an education such as their circumstances could afford. He served an apprenticeship to a waterman upon the river. In the character of boatswain, quartermaster, and other inferior offices, he served on board different men-of-war. After the death of his wife, he found several demands made upon him, and several actions raised, for which he was in danger of being arrested; he therefore went on board the *John and Elizabeth* merchant- man, bound for Bonavista, in Newfoundland.

When he arrived there he was discharged, and served a planter during a year, for the sum of eighteen pounds. He next went a passenger to Boston, and from thence made a voyage to the Bay of Honduras. He next went on board the *Perry* galley, bound to Barbados and Bristol. At Barbados the ship was delivered and loaded again, and set forward to England. The *Perry* galley, in her voyage home, was taken by a pirate, and Upton was constrained to enter along with them.

The pirate carried the *Perry* galley to the island of Ruby, and, in a short time, they captured a Dutch sloop. Upton and some others were put on board that sloop, and, embracing an opportunity, escaped, carrying off the sloop.

He left the pirate service, and, after moving from place to place, he was, at last, pressed on board his Majesty's ship the *Nottingham*, where he remained until he was accused of piracy, and brought home for trial.

Upon his trial it was proved, that he had entered with the pirates, signed their articles, been active in their exploits, and received a share of their plunder; and that he had advised to burn the *Perry* galley, with her captain and mate in her; and that he had made a cat-o'-nine-tails, with which the mate received two hundred lashes. He was condemned, and, at the age of fifty years, suffered as a pirate.

CAPTAIN EDWARD LOW

Pirate

THIS ferocious villain was born at Westminster, and received an education similar to that of the common people in England. He was by nature a pirate; for even when very young he raised contributions among the boys of Westminster, and if they declined compliance, a battle was the result. When he advanced a step farther in life, he began to exert his ingenuity at low games, and cheating all in his power; and those who pretended to maintain their own right, he was ready to call to the field of combat.

He went to sea along with his brother, and continued with him for three or four years. Going over to America, he wrought in a rigging-house at Boston for some time. He then came home to see his mother in England, returned to Boston, and continued for some years longer at the same business. But being of a quarrelsome temper, he differed with his master, and went on board a sloop bound for the Bay of Honduras.

While there, he had the command of a boat employed in bringing logwood to the ship. In that boat there were twelve men well armed, because of the Spaniards, from whom the wood is taken almost by force. It happened one day that the boat came to the ship just a little before dinner was ready, and Low desired that they might dine before they returned. The captain, however, ordered them a bottle of rum, and requested them to take another trip, as no time was to be lost. The crew were enraged, particularly Low, who took up a loaded musket and fired at the captain, but, missing him, another man was shot, and they then ran off with the boat. The next day they took a small vessel, went on board her, hoisted a black flag, and declared war with the whole world.

In their roving, Low met with Lowther, who proposed that he should join him, and thus promote their mutual advantage. We have already related their adventures so long as they remained in company. Having captured a brigantine, Low, with forty more, went on board her, and leaving Lowther, went to seek their own fortune.

Their first adventure was the taking of a vessel belonging to Amboy, out of which they took the provisions, and allowed her to proceed. Upon the same day they took a sloop, plundered her, and allowed her to depart. That sloop went into Black Island, and sent intelligence to the governor that Low was on the coast. Two small vessels were immediately fitted out, but before their arrival, Low was beyond their reach. After this narrow escape. Low went into port, to procure water and fresh provisions, and then renewed his search of plunder. He next sailed into the harbour of Port Rosemary, where were thirteen ships, but none of them of any great strength. Low hoisted his black flag, assuring them, that if they made any resistance they should have no quarter; and, manning their boat, the pirates took possession of every one of them, plundered and converted to their own use according to pleasure. They put on board a schooner ten guns and fifty men, named her the *Fancy*, and Low himself went on board of her, while Charles Harris was constituted captain of the brigantine. They also constrained a few of the men to join them, and sign their articles.

After an unsuccessful pursuit of two sloops from Boston, they steered for the leeward islands, but in their way were overtaken by a terrible hurricane. The search

for plunder gave place to the most vigorous exertion to save themselves. On board the brigantine, all hands were at work both day and night; they were under the necessity of throwing over board six of her guns, and all the weighty provisions. In the storm, the two vessels were separated, and it was some time before they saw each other.

After the storm, Low went into a small island west of the Caribees, refitted his vessels, and got provision for them in exchange for goods. As soon as the brigantine was ready for sea, they went on a cruise until the *Fancy* should be prepared; and during that cruise they met with a vessel which had lost all her masts in the storm, and they plundered her of goods to the value of one thousand pounds, and returned to the island. When the *Fancy* was ready to sail, a council was held what course they should next steer. They followed the advice of the captain, who thought it not safe to sail any longer to the leeward, lest they should fall in with any of the men-of-war that cruise upon that coast; so they sailed for the Nores.

The good fortune of Low was now singular; in his way thither, he captured a French ship of thirty-four guns, and carried her along with them. Then entering St. Michael's roads, he captured seven sail, threatening with instant death all who dared to oppose him. Thus, by inspiring terror, without firing a single gun he became master of all that property. Being in want of water and fresh provisions, Low sent to the governor demanding a supply, upon condition of releasing the ships he had taken, otherwise he would commit them to the flames. The request was instantly complied with, and six of the vessels were restored. But a French vessel which was among them, they emptied of her guns and men, except the cook, who, they said, being a greasy fellow, would fry well; so bound the unfortunate man to the mast, and set the ship on fire.

The next who fell in their way was captain Carter, in the *Wright* galley; who, because he showed some inclination to defend himself, was cut and mangled in a barbarous manner. There were also two Portuguese friars, whom they tied to the foremast, and several times let them down before they were dead, merely to gratify their own ferocious dispositions. Meanwhile, another Portuguese, beholding this cruel scene, expressed some sorrow in his countenance; upon which one of the wretches said, he did not like his looks; and, so giving him a stroke over the centre with his cutlass, he fell upon the spot. Another of the miscreants, aiming a blow at a prisoner, missed his aim, and struck Low upon the under jaw. The surgeon was called, and stitched up the wound; but Low finding fault with the operation, the surgeon gave him a blow, which broke all the stitches, and he left him to sew them himself. After he had plundered this vessel, some of them were for burning her, as they had done the Frenchman, but, instead of that, they cut her cables, rigging, and sails to pieces, and sent her adrift to the mercy of the waves.

They next sailed for the island of Madeira, and took up a fishing boat with two old men and a boy. They detained one of them, and sent the other on shore with a flag of truce, requesting the governor to send them a boat of water, else they would hang the other man at the mast-arm. The water was sent, and the man dismissed.

They next sailed for the Canary islands, and there took several vessels; and, being informed that two small galleys were daily expected, the sloop was manned and sent in quest of them. They, however, missing their prey, and being in great want of provision, went into St. Michael's in the character of a trader, and being discovered, were apprehended, and the whole crew conducted to the castle, and treated according to their merits.

Meanwhile, Low's ship was overset upon the *Careen* and lost; so that, having only the *Fancy* schooner remaining, they all, to the number of an hundred, went on board her, and set sail in search of new spoils. They soon met a rich Portuguese vessel, and, after some resistance, captured her. Low tortured the men, to constrain them to inform where they had hid their treasures. He accordingly discovered that, during the chase, the captain had hung a bag with eleven thousand moidores out of the cabin window, and that, when they were taken, he had cut the rope, and allowed it to fall into the sea. Upon this intelligence. Low raved and stormed like a fury, ordered the captain's lips to be cut off and broiled before his eyes, then murdered him and all his crew.

After this bloody action, the miscreants steered northward, and in their course seized several vessels, one of which they burnt, and, plundering the rest, allowed them to proceed. Having cleaned in one of the islands, they then sailed for the Bay of Honduras. They met a Spaniard coming out of the bay, which had captured five Englishmen and a pink, plundered them, and brought away the masters prisoners. Low hoisted Spanish colours, but when he came near, hung out the black flag, and the Spaniard was seized without resistance. Upon finding the masters of the English vessels in the hold, and seeing English goods on board, a consultation was held, when it was determined to put all the Spaniards to the sword. This was scarcely resolved upon, when they commenced with every species of weapons to massacre every man; and, some flying from their merciless hands into the waves, a canoe was sent in pursuit of those who endeavoured to swim on shore. They next plundered the Spanish vessel, restored the English masters to their respective vessels, and set the Spaniards on fire.

Low's next cruise was between the Leeward islands and the main land, where, in a confirmed course of prosperity, he successively captured iio less than nineteen ships of different sizes, and in general treated their crews with a barbarity unequalled even among pirates. But it happened that the *Greyhound*, of twenty guns and one hundred and twenty men, was cruising upon that coast. Informed of the mischief these miscreants had done, the *Greyhound* went in search of them. Supposing they had discovered a prize, Low and his crew pursued them, and the *Greyhound*, allowing them to run after her until all things were ready to engage, turned upon them. When Low discovered with whom he had to contend, he run off with all the sail he could make. The *Greyhound* discontinuing the fire, took to her oars, and came up with the pirates. A desperate engagement ensued, and in a short time the *Ranger* had her main-yard shot off. In these circumstances, Low abandoned her to the enemy and fled. The crew soon cried for quarter, and were reserved to endure a more shameful death. The *Greyhound* returned with her prize, to the great joy of the country, but at the same time regretting that Low, the principal offender, had escaped.

Nothing, however, could lessen the fury, or reform the manners, of that obdurate crew. Their narrow escape had no good effect upon them, and, with redoubled violence, they renewed their depredations and cruelties. The next vessel they captured, was eighty miles from land. They used the master with the most wanton cruelty, then shot him dead, and forced the crew into the boat with a compass, a little water, and a few biscuits, and left them to the mercy of the waves: they, however, beyond all expectation, got safe to shore.

Low proceeded in his villainous career with too fatal success. Unsatisfied with satiating their avarice, and walking the common path of wickedness, those inhuman

wretches, like to Satan himself, made mischief their sport, cruelty their delight, and the ruining and murder of their fellow-men their constant employment. Of all the piratical crews belonging to the English nation, none ever equalled Low in barbarity. Their mirth and their anger had the same effects. They murdered a man from good humour, as well as from anger and passion. Their ferocious dispositions seemed only to delight in cries, groans, and lamentations. One day Low having captured Captain Graves, a Virginia-man, took a bowl of punch in his hand, and said, "Captain, here's half this to you." The poor gentleman was too much touched with his misfortunes, to be in a humour for drinking; he therefore modestly excused himself. Upon this, Low cocked and presented a pistol in the one hand, and his bowl in the other, saying, "Either take the one or the other."

Low next took a vessel called the *Christmas*, mounted her with thirty-four guns, went on board her himself, assumed the title of admiral, and hoisted the black flag. His next prize was a brigantine half manned with Portuguese, and half with English. The former he hanged, and the latter he thrust into their boat and dismissed, while he set fire to the vessel. The success of Low was unequalled, as well as his cruelty; and, during a long period, he continued to pursue his wicked course with impunity. We at present, however, take our leave of this notorious character.

CAPTAIN JAEN

Captain who flogged his cabin-boy to death

JOHN JAEN'S parents being in comfortable circumstances, he received a good education, and was bound an apprentice to a cooper. He not only served his time with approbation, but, after he entered upon business for himself, he was industrious and eager to gain money. In order to this, he frequently took a voyage at sea, and at last became master of a vessel fitted out by some merchants of Bristol for South Carolina.

It appears that Jaen's dispositions were naturally fierce and domineering; and, having used his cabin-boy so harshly that he died, he was, upon his return, immediately apprehended and committed for trial. He, however, pleaded that two of his principal witnesses were absent; therefore, his trial was delayed until their return. It appeared upon evidence, that he had either whipped, or caused to be whipped, the boy every day during the voyage, until the time of his death. That he had ordered him to be tied with ropes to the main-mast for nine days, with his arms and legs extended to the utmost, while he whipped him until he was covered with blood, then filled the wounds with brine and pickle. It was also deponed, that, under this terrible usage, the boy soon became speechless, but the captain still continued to maltreat him, by stamping upon, kicking, and bruising him; nay, causing him to eat and drink that which modesty and humanity forbid us to mention; and, to close this scene of inhuman cruelty, that, upon the very last day of his life, the unhappy youth had received eighteen lashes.

It was further deponed, that when the men were sewing up his body in a hammock, to be thrown overboard, it had as many colours as the rainbow; that his flesh was in some places as soft as jelly, and his head swelled bigger than any two. Upon the whole, that a more cruel, premeditated, and wilful murder, had never been

The Newgate Calendar

perpetrated. The evidence being decidedly against him, Captain Jaen was sentenced to suffer death.

After sentence, he behaved himself with great humility and contrition, had a clergyman to attend him daily in private, though he declined attending in the public chapel, because, from the general indignation so justly excited against him, he was in danger of being insulted, and his devotions marred. As the time of his death drew near, he became faint and feeble under the apprehensions of futurity. He was about twenty-nine years of age. In order to be a warning to others, his body was hung in chains over the King's Powder-house.

NAN HERFORD

Swindler and Shoplifter, Executed 22 December 1690

THE natural interest which we take in the history and character of the female sex, renders their actions more an object of curiosity when out of the common path. Nan was descended of honest parents, who both died when she was about seventeen years old. She then came to London, and served a family for six months. It was her misfortune to fall in with bad company, which seduced her from the path of sobriety and honesty, and led her to that course of life which was hurtful to many, and in the end destructive to herself.

One instance of her cunning and address may suffice for an example. Her ingenuity enabled her to devise means by which she always appeared genteelly dressed, and so saved appearances. She took lodgings in King-street, and entertained an old woman as her accomplice, because she could not execute her plans herself. After mature reflection, they directed their attack upon a rich apothecary in the neighbourhood. Nan remained close at home, while the old woman was sent many an errand to the apothecary's shop. Being a constant customer, from civility, he became familiar with the good woman.

One day, in a pleasing accent, she asked him, "why he did not marry?" The miser replied, "that the times were hard, trading dead, and house-keeping expensive." "That's true, man, but a rich wife, man, would make amends for all this." "A good one and a rich one, too!" quoth he, "would be a brave thing, indeed. I must confess, I should be glad to embrace such an opportunity of changing my condition." She insinuated that such a fortune might be procured. Curiosity was excited, and she left him. He was eager to embrace the first opportunity of a farther conversation. At her own time she informed him, that there was a niece of a wealthy citizen; who had two thousand pounds in her uncle's hands, to be paid at her marriage; and that, as she was once a nurse in the family, the young lady occasionally called upon her, and that every time the poor girl calls, she is lamenting the harsh usage of her uncle, and wishing that some good gentleman would free her from his unpleasant hands. The apothecary was charmed with her narrative, and engaged her to do all in her power for him.

To proceed with certainty and caution, he took a note of the names of the uncle and niece, and, upon inquiry, found that she had given a true representation. He was now all anxiety, and, to heighten his impatience, the woman did not visit his shop for some days. She at length appeared, and, with no small degree of seeming reluctance, she promised to introduce him. Nan was all modesty—all blushes—all diffidence; insomuch that she would have imposed upon one whose senses were not confounded, and his eyes dazzled with the contemplation of two thousand pounds. Their interview was short, for fear her uncle should discover that she had been from home.

The cold apothecary was now all flame, and ready to kneel before the old woman and the young heiress, in order to gain his object. The former now ventured to hint, that as she was poor, it was reasonable she should have some return for her trouble. A hint was only necessary in such an hour, and a bond was immediately executed, agreeing to give her an hundred pounds on the happy day he was married to the rich heiress.

The Newgate Calendar

He was soon favoured with another meeting; and to both parties it seemed better not to delay matters too long. The young lady consented to marry him; and, as she had been always kept so short of money and clothes by her uncle, and could not, on the present occasion, request an advance, lest it should create suspicion, therefore hinted it would be necessary to have money, that she might appear like his wife. "My fortune may be demanded," said she, "when we are married; and it is best not to trouble the old man, until all is secure." Her scheme succeeded, and two hundred and fifty pounds were instantly brought, and more offered. They were married, and, as she could not stay all night out of her uncle's house, the marriage was consummated during the day.

Both the old and young lady changed their lodging; and, after three days' impatience, the apothecary dressed himself as he was upon his wedding day, and hastened to the uncle, to demand his wife and her fortune. The coach drove to the door, and, being introduced to the uncle, he, in an imperious tone, said, "he was come to demand his wife." "I know nothing of your wife, nor you neither, and desire, therefore, you would explain your meaning." "I mean your niece, sir, who is my lawful wife." "Your wife, man! since how long, pray?" The apothecary mentioned the day and the circumstances, in order to convince. The uncle told him, that his niece was not out of his house upon that day, and he could not comprehend his meaning. They came to high words, and, the apothecary continuing positive and serious, the old man, at last, suspected that he was imposed upon. Accordingly, he asked him if he would know his wife when he saw her? "I should be glad if you would try me." The niece came. "This is none of my wife." "But this is my niece, though, and all the nieces I have in the world, too." They were both astonished, and the young lady equally so, to hear herself named a wife, without any previous knowledge why or wherefore.

The uncle then said, "Sir, I perceive that there has been some deception in this matter; relate the whole circumstances, that we may be able to judge of the case." It was done, and the conspiracy disclosed. It only remained to exercise patience, and, either by parsimony, or laying an additional price upon his medicines, to redeem his losses.

After this. Nan became enamoured of a player, who consented to reside with her. To support their extravagances, she visited the shops, and he the highways. It was fortunate for society that his first robbery proved his last: he was apprehended and hanged. Nan, however, continued her business during the space of six years, in which time it was supposed that she stole goods to the amount of four thousand pounds. But while Nan visited a linen-draper's in a chair, with two or three footmen attending, he was so uncivil as to detect her in removing a piece of muslin from his shop. Before her trial, she offered an hundred guineas to her adversary, not to appear against her. But he remained determined in his resolution. During her confinement, she attempted to set fire to Newgate, but being unsuccessful, she was fettered and hand-cuffed. She was executed before the prison, and her body given to the surgeons.

TOM MARSH
Thief, Executed 4 May 1696

MARSH was born at Ludlow, in Shropshire, was bred a mason, and, coming up to London, married a very industrious woman, by whom he had one daughter. Indulging his indolent disposition, his wages were insufficient to supply his wants; so that he commenced thief, and was, several times, detected and punished. Tom was accustomed, in his rambles, to frequent an alehouse, where the landlady, an handsome woman, was desirous to increase her customers, by the most insinuating manners. Tom ranked among her visitants; and, after arranging all the preliminaries, he was permitted, one night, to pay her a late visit. To banish thoughtfulness, and to produce repose in the absence of the husband, who had gone to the country, some of the best in the house was placed upon the table. Tom, who was as much disposed to sacrifice to avarice as to love, infused some somniferous ingredients in the indulgent hostess's cup, so that, in a little time, he, undisturbed, robbed her of three rings, the best of her clothes, and forty pounds in money.

His next adventure was to wander the country in the character either of a discharged soldier, or a disabled seaman. Nor was he very scrupulous at helping himself when the country-people were slow in their movements. He was, at length, detected in his robberies, and, entering a man's yard to steal, he was fined twenty pounds, and committed to Newgate, until it was paid. There he remained four years; and, having twice broke out, he was both times put in irons, and hand-cuffed. When his fine was remitted, and he was set at liberty, he again renewed his pilfering, was recommitted, and hanged at Tyburn. Before his death, he confessed having murdered a farmer, for which Charles Dean, the attorney, was executed.

ANDREW BAYNES.

A Hardened Malefactor, who Tried Many Dodges, and was Hanged on 8 August 1711

THIS man was vicious from his infancy, and his depravity increased with his years. His vanity and avarice first displayed themselves in renting large houses, and ordering elegant furniture from the different mechanics, and, at a convenient time, disposing of the same, and leaving the owners to seek redress where they best could. Upon one occasion he removed no less than four hundred pounds worth of goods into the Mint, which were removed from thence by an express order of court.

Being one time in want of money, he went before a justice of peace in Norwich, and swore that he had been robbed of one hundred and fifty pounds, within five miles of the city, between sun and sun. He obtained three or four knaves to swear that he had such a sum of money when he left town; the county, therefore, had to pay the money. In company with Tom Bets, he next turned housebreaker.

Bets was an old offender; he was tried at the Old Bailey, and sent over a soldier into Flanders. He was taken prisoner by the French, and, after suffering great calamities, he escaped, and went into the service of the King of Sweden. In that service he was sent into Poland, from whence he made his escape to Holland. While there, he went on board a Dutchman, which was sent to Muscovy to convey a fleet. In that country Bets went on shore in the night, stole one of the Czar's bears, which he brought to Holland, and, after his discharge, gained his bread by showing the animal. He some time after came over to England, and, having robbed the houses of Lord Georges in Covent Garden, he was tried, and condemned to be executed at Tyburn.

Undismayed by Bets' awful example, Baynes pursued his evil courses. After continuing for some time, he was detected, tried, and condemned, but had the good fortune to be reprieved. He was scarcely relieved, when he robbed the Earl of Westmoreland's house of goods to the value of five hundred pounds. Upon the information of one concerned, he was detected, but, upon restoring part of the goods, he was liberated.

Thus a second time escaping just punishment, he became more desperate than ever; and, being unsuccessful in house-breaking, he commenced foot-pad. The first that he and his associates met was a tailor, to whom he owed the making of a coat while he was in Newgate. That honest man knew Baynes, and addressed him, saying, "Don't you know me?" "Yes," replied Baynes, "I know you well enough, and therefore am resolved to send you home like a gentleman, for you shall have no money in your pockets." Then searching him, he took eight shillings and his watch. Not satisfied with that small plunder, he stripped him naked, tied him to a tree, and set a bulldog that accompanied him to bark and tear at him, until he was completely terrified, and greatly hurt; and, had it not been for the compassion of those who were with Baynes, he would have allowed the animal to tear him in pieces. Nor was his clothes restored to the poor tailor, Baynes telling him, that, whether right or wrong, he would soon provide himself of a second suit from among the remnants of his customers.

Supplement 3

A poor shoemaker upon another day met Baynes and his associates, who commanded him to "stand and deliver!" Crispin entreated them to use some degree of conscience, and not ruin both him and his family in one hour. "You son of Crispin!" said Baynes, "don't talk of conscience to us, for we shall now stretch it as you do your leather." He then took from him about sixty pounds, and tied his hands and feet Baynes then cried, "Is this all the money that you have?" "Yes, indeed!" "You, sirrah! you ought to have every bone in your skin broken for bringing no more with you." In vain did the shoemaker repeat his request to have a small part of his money restored; tying him hand and foot they bade him remain until the day of judgment, that they came to relieve him.

At another time, this band met three female Quakers, robbed them of the small sums they had upon them, then stripped them entirely naked, and left them in that exposed situation. Nor could all the entreaties of his companions in their favour mitigate the rage of Baynes.

One time Baynes was taken by Dent, the informing constable, and sent to Flanders as a soldier. Having run from his colours, he one day, along with his companions, met Dent in an alehouse, and, knowing him again, they waylaid him at Bloody-bridge, and Baynes said, "Thou insolent rascal! who hast sold many a man's blood at twenty shillings per head, I will now make you suffer for your conduct." Then using him in a cruel manner, he bound him hand and foot, and left him in that situation, where he lay until morning. After a course of villainy, this miscreant was apprehended, and executed at Tyburn in the twenty-sixth year of his age.

**WILLIAM WARD, SAMUEL LYNN, RALPH EMMERY,
JOHN PRIOR, ROBERT VICKERS, AND FRANCIS
PARQUET**

Malefactors who Were all Hanged on 19 February 1719

THE lives of these men being barren of events, and their deaths happening in one day, it was deemed proper to include them in one narrative.

William Ward was born in the county of Norfolk. His father, who was a mill-wright, removed to Norwich, and he reared his son to his own business. Having acquired the knowledge of his business, he went up to London, and there married a very amiable young woman, and conducted himself with great propriety, until falling in with improper company, he was seduced from the paths of industry and honesty. His first robbery was the taking a portmanteau from the back of a hackney-coach, in which there was a gold watch, a gold chain, and cloth to a considerable value. The spoil produced about fourteen guineas, which were divided between him and his accomplices. By some accident, however, the rightful owner recovered them at the expense of twenty-one guineas.

At another time, Ward riding through Holborn in a hackney-coach, perceiving a porter with a large trunk upon his back, desired the coachman to stop, and, calling the porter, gave him a shilling to go across the street a message, and desired him to put his burden into the coach, and he would take special care of it. Ward immediately called to the coachman to drive off to an alehouse, which was the common haunt of all kinds of villains. Upon examining the trunk, he found about eighty pounds, and a great quantity of clothes. Meanwhile, the poor porter was making an outcry through all Holborn for his trunk, which his cautioners had to reimburse to the owner, and these seeking redress from the porter, he was thrown into jail to meditate upon his folly.

Not long after, Ward was detected in taking from a coach a trunk, and, being instantly carried to Newgate, he was deprived of the pleasure of examining into the contents of his prize. Upon trial and conviction, he was sentenced to transportation; but his voyage overseas was interrupted by two indictments being brought against him; upon which he underwent a new trial, and was sentenced to visit Tyburn instead of a foreign land.

Samuel Lynn was born at Bramston, in Norfolk. His father was a grocer and tallow-chandler, and his son was taught the same business. Leaving the country, the abode of industry and innocence, he went to London, and there became acquainted with some who acquired money with more rapidity than by the slow returns of labour. In the course of picking pockets he was called to plead before a justice, and, being unsuccessful in his oratorical efforts, he was sentenced to lose his life in the presence of numerous spectators at Tyburn. The clemency of his prince, however, exchanged the sentence for that of transportation in six months. But, either to support his extravagance, during that time, or to gratify his avaricious disposition, he made free with other persons' property, and so in the nineteenth year of his age died at Tyburn.

Ralph Emmery was a parish boy, and bound apprentice for nine years to a chair-maker. He served his time with great fidelity, and afterwards gained his bread

Supplement 3

by the same employment. He commenced his wicked career by drinking, swearing, and neglecting the duties of religion, and soon proceeded to pocket-picking. For this and similar practices, he was once in Whitechapel jail, six times in Newgate, thrice whipped, and twice sent to Bridewell; but none of these punishments had the least effect in promoting his reformation.

He advanced a step farther in his profession, and went upon the road to ease passengers of the unpleasant burden of carrying either gold or silver. In this character he and two other companions met a nonjuring parson; one of them jostled the honest doctor, while the other two came to his protection. They took the doctor in between them, and went along, reproaching and quarrelling with the person who first insulted him. Arriving at a ditch, the first rogue, while the two guides were not aware, came behind, and threw the good parson into the ditch. "Look you," said the other two, "Did we not tell you that he was a rogue? therefore, we hope that you will be pleased to give us something for our trouble in bringing you here." Then they seized his hat, wig, coat, and sword, while they emptied his pockets, and left the reverend gentleman to emerge from his watery dwelling in the best manner he could.

Emery was at last convicted for being accessory to a murder along with William Audley and Sarah Brown.

John Prior was born in Bedfordshire, but his parents were either so poor or so negligent, that he was bred up in great ignorance, so that he could neither read nor write. During some years, he served in the country, but, coming to London, he enlisted into the Foot-guards. This was the beginning of a life of wickedness. He frequented the company of profligate women, who soon drove him to the highway, to support their extravagances. He speedily became dexterous in his profession, and both in the country and about London, he committed many flagrant robberies. He was at last apprehended, and, several of these robberies being put into the indictment, he was condemned to terminate his days and his depredations at Tyburn.

Robert Vickers was a native of Warwickshire, and, when very young, he was bound apprentice to a baker. When his time was expired, he went to London, and served some time with two masters, to his own honour, and to their satisfaction. But, leaving the path of industry, he went into the Foot-guards. In that station his manners and habits soon underwent a sad change. Deserting his colours, he commenced foot-pad, and the first he attacked was an Irish barrister. He not only robbed him of his money, but wantonly stripped him, and, daubing his shirt in a pond, and then putting it upon him, he said, "that now he looked something like a limb of the law, since he was in black." Then, tying him neck and heel, he left him to ponder upon the voluminous authors of the law. This robber soon terminated his journey at the well-known boundary of thieves.

Francis Parquet was born in France, and, about the age of fifteen, came over to England. He lived three years with a French traveller, then went to Bath, where he commenced business for himself, and succeeded for some time; but at last, getting into debt, he came to London and pursued his business, until, by evil companions, he was seduced to join them in house-breaking, which he continued to practise, until, with his companions in depredation, he ended his days at Tyburn.

**JOHN TRIPPUCK, ROBERT CANE, THOMAS
CHARNOCK, AND RICHARD SHEPHERD.**

Malefactors who were all Hanged on 29 January 1720

THE first of these obtained the name of the Golden Tinman, for a similar reason to that which procured another the name of the Golden Farmer. Similar also to the Golden Farmer, he scorned to be under obligations to any other man in the way of his business, or risk his neck in the hands of one that might choose to save his own. Our adventurer had carried on his depredations in town and country until he was notorious in both. Being apprehended, and sentenced, his money procured him a pardon, but it did not produce any reformation; for he renewed his depredations. It was not long before he met again a serious interruption by being requested to pay a visit to Newgate.

Nor was he so fortunate in finding an avaricious prosecutor, for no money would induce this one to turn aside the current of justice. His former pardon induced him to hope for a second; so that, while the ordinary was admonishing him to prepare for death, he would interrupt him with the inquiry, "Do you believe I can obtain a pardon?" "I don't know, indeed." "But you know one Counsellor ——; pray make use of your interest with him, and see whether you can get him to save me; I'll not be ungrateful, doctor."

The Ordinary was greatly troubled at his conduct, but he still persevered in his sacred duty. One day the criminal opened his breast to the doctor, and, showing the many scars which he had received, he said, "And will not these, good doctor, and the severe pain I have endured in their cure, in some sort lessen the heinousness of the crimes that I have committed?" "No," said the doctor, "what evils have fallen upon you in such expeditions, you have drawn upon yourself, and you are not to imagine that these will, in any degree, make amends for the multitude of your offences. You had much better clear your conscience by a full and ingenuous confession of your crimes, and prepare in earnest for another world, since I dare assure you, that there is no hope of your being permitted to remain in this any longer."

When his hopes of a reprieve had vanished, his natural courage failed, and he experienced all the terrors of an awakened conscience, and the dreadful foreboding of coming misery. It was reported that he was concerned in the murder of one Hull; but that he denied to the very last moment. And to the ordinary, a few moments before his death, pointing to the rope, he said, "As you see this instrument of death about me, what I say is the real truth." He died seemingly penitent.

Robert Cane was naturally of an active rambling turn of mind, and though his parents bound him apprentice to two different trades, he would settle at neither. He at last went to sea; and the ship in which he sailed having captured a Spanish vessel of prodigious value, he received a very large sum as his share of the prize-money, which, however, did not serve his extravagancies long. He soon emptied his pockets, and then had recourse to unlawful means to replenish them. Not long after this, Robert became enamoured of a virtuous young woman, who was a stranger to his character and crimes. She was soon prevailed upon to consent to marry him, but he pretended that it behoved to be done privately, not to offend his relations. Not having money sufficient to procure a license, he one evening went with the determination to procure some. Accordingly, he attacked a man in the streets, a little the worse for liquor, and stripped him of his hat and coat. The hue and cry was immediately raised. Cane was

Supplement 3

apprehended, and, instead of raising money to be married, he procured his death in an ignominious manner.

While he lay in Newgate, the miserable young woman constantly visited him, and bewailed his situation; and even her mother became sick, and was confined to bed on account of the wretched situation of her intended son-in-law. When the day that was to terminate his crimes and his sufferings approached, he bitterly bemoaned his vicious courses, and the sorrow which they had occasioned to his intended wife, and her poor mother. He read a paper at the place of execution, containing a confession of his crimes, a vindication of the character of his bride, and a profession of his faith, and of universal good-will to all mankind. He died in the twenty-second year of his age.

Richard Shepherd was born of respectable parents in the city of Oxford, and received an education suitable to their circumstances; but he had so totally forgot what he had been taught, that he knew neither the Lord's Prayer nor the Creed, at the time when he had most need of them.

He was trained to the profession of a butcher, and, becoming attached to an industrious, sober, young woman, he was married before his apprenticeship was finished. But though his marriage was kept secret for some time, yet it was at length discovered by his master, who lessened his weekly wages, and constrained him to grant a bond for twenty-eight pounds, which proved his ruin. Unable to support himself and his wife, while he had so considerable a sum to accumulate for his master. Shepherd was easily persuaded by vicious companions, to hazard both his conscience and his life, to procure what has been justly termed the "root of all evil." They began by housebreaking; but in his new occupation he was so unfortunate, that in his second or third attempt he was apprehended, and, being tried, was condemned; but his friends, on account of his youth, and in the hope of amendment, procured his pardon.

But in his, as in almost every similar case, clemency wrought no reformation in his morals; he returned to his former employment, and, being detected, saved his life by turning evidence against others. No unhappy criminal had ever more indulgence than Shepherd, or more warnings of his miserable fate; but, under the influence of confirmed vice, what are advices! what are terrors! and what even the sight of death itself? He had scarcely procured his liberty, when he returned to his former ways, was detected, and suffered the due demerit of his crimes.

Thomas Charnock had a short journey to Tyburn. He was soberly and religiously educated, and, when arrived at maturity, placed in a respectable mercantile house; but, desirous to make a figure above his station, he robbed his master, and soon cut a very miserable figure at Tyburn.

The very narration, and still more the sight, of so many young men, in the bloom and vigour of their lives, suffering an untimely death, is peculiarly painful to human feelings.

TOM DORBEL

Highwayman Turned Servant who Robbed and Murdered his Mistress' Niece

THIS robber was bred a glover; but before he had served one half of his time, he run off from his master, and, coming to London, soon became acquainted with men of dispositions similar to his own. About the age of nineteen, Tom ventured to appear upon the highway; but he was nearly outwitted in his first attempt.

Meeting a Welshman, he demanded Taffy's money, or he would take his life. The Welshman said, "Hur has no of hur own, but has threescore pounds of hur master's money; but Cot's blood I hur must not give hur master's money: what would hur master then say for hur doing so?" Tom replied, "You must not put me off with your cant; for money I want, and money I will have, let it be whose it will; or expect to be shot through the head." The Welshman then delivered the money, saying, "What hur gives you is none of hur own; and, that hur master may not think hur has spent hur money, hur requests you to be so kind as to shoot some holes through hur coat-lappets, that hur master may see hur was robbed." So, suspending his coat upon a tree, Tom fired his pistol through it. Taffy exclaimed, "Gots splatter a-nails! this is a pretty pounce; pray give hur another pounce for hur money I" Tom fired another shot through his coat. "By St. Davy, this is a better pounce than the other! pray give hur one pounce more!" Quoth Tom, "I have never another pounce left." "Why, then," replied the Welshman, "Hur has one pounce left for hur, and if hur will not give hur hur money again, hur will pounce hur through hur body." He quietly returned the money, and was thankful he was allowed to depart.

But this narrow escape did not deter Dorbel, and he continued his villainies about the space of five years. It happened, however, that a gentleman's son was taken for robbing on the highway; and, as he was formerly pardoned, he now despaired of obtaining mercy a second time. Tom undertook, for the sum of five hundred pounds, to bring him off. The one-half was paid in hand, and the other half was to be paid when the deliverance was effected. When the young gentleman came upon his trial he was found guilty; but when the judge was about to pass sentence, Tom cried out, "Oh I what a sad thing it is to shed innocent blood! Oh I what a sad thing it is to shed innocent blood!" and, continuing to reiterate the expression, he was apprehended, and, the judge interrogating him what he meant by such an expression, he said, "May it please your lordship, it is a very hard thing for a man to die wrongfully; but one may see how hard-mouthed some people are, by the witnesses swearing that this gentleman here at the bar now, robbed them on the highway at such a time, when indeed, my lord, I was the person that committed that robbery." Accordingly, Tom was taken into custody, and the young gentleman liberated. He was brought to trial at the following assizes; and being asked, whether he was guilty or not? he pleaded not guilty! "Not guilty!" replied the judge; "why, did not you at last assizes, when I was here, own yourself guilty of such a robbery?" Quoth Tom, "I don't know how far I was guilty then, but, upon my word, I am not guilty now; therefore, if any person can accuse me of committing such a robbery, I desire they may prove the same." No witnesses appearing, he was acquitted.

Supplement 3

Tom living at such an extravagant rate in the prison, had scarcely any part of the five hundred pounds remaining, when he obtained his liberty; therefore, endeavouring to recruit his funds by robbing the Duke of Norfolk, near Salisbury, his horse was shot, and he taken, and condemned at the next assizes. While under sentence, he found a lawyer who engaged, for the sum of fifty guineas, to obtain his pardon. He accordingly rode to London, was successful, and just arrived in time with the pardon, when Dorbel was about to be thrown off, having rode so hard, that his horse immediately dropped down dead. Such, however, was Tom's ingratitude, that he refused to pay the lawyer, alleging, that any obligation given by a man under sentence of death, was not valid.

Dorbel was so much alarmed upon his narrow escape from a violent death, that he resolved to abandon the collecting trade, and served in several families in the station of a footman. He also served six or seven years with a lady in Ormond-street, who had a brother a merchant in Bristol, who, having an only daughter sixteen years of age, she prevailed upon her father to allow her to come to London to perfect her education. Dorbel being a person in whom her aunt thought she could place unlimited confidence, he was left alone with her, when the miscreant first shockingly abused her person, then robbed her of her gold watch, diamond ring, jewels to the amount of an hundred pounds, and, cutting a hole in the back of the coach, escaped, leaving the young lady in a swoon. It was with difficulty she recovered, to inform her relations how she had been treated. Her mother hastened to town to see her, and, after speaking a few words to her, the poor girl breathed her last. The disconsolate father soon after lost his senses.

Dorbel was pursued in different directions, and apprehended just after he had robbed a gentleman of three pounds five shillings. He was tried, and condemned to be executed and hung in chains.

TOM GARRET

Highwayman, who Proved less Clever than his Victim

THOMAS GARRET was an only son of respectable parents, living at Ipswich, in Suffolk; and, being bred an ironmonger, began trade with a stock of one thousand pounds, and soon married a wife with a portion of eight hundred. In the space of two years, however, he, by gaming and dissipation, wasted all his means, and, in order to evade the importunities of his creditors, came up to London. Arrived in the capital, he was soon versant in all the ways of vice, and, to support his extravagance, he soon began to collect upon the highway.

When his father was informed of his embarrassments, he came up to town, and again gave him a thousand pounds to commence business in an honest way. But even in this situation, he and a profligate mercer frequented the road, and took a purse occasionally.

He and his companion were, one evening, at an inn in Hertfordshire, and a gentleman lodging there, gave the landlord his portmanteau to put up for safety. Acquainted with the character of Garret and his companions, the rascally innkeeper gave them the hint, and, introducing the gentleman to them, that so they might learn from himself the route he intended to take, they entertained him, and would not suffer him to pay anything. Next day they breakfasted with the gentleman, insisted upon paying the whole bill, and then proceeded on their journey. When they found a convenient place, they opened the gentleman's portmanteau, took out of it two hundred pounds, and rode off.

Finding that he had paid too dear for his supper and breakfast, he alighted from his horse, took out his penknife, and slightly wounded his horse in the foot, so that he halted; he then filled the vacancy of his portmanteau with stones, returned to the inn, and, informing the landlord that an accident had happened to his horse, it was necessary to send immediately for a farrier. Meanwhile he again gave his portmanteau to the landlord to preserve, who, finding that it was not lessened in its weight, was much chagrined, because he was to have his share of the booty. As the farrier was dressing his horse, the gentleman requested the favour of the landlord to drink a bottle with him, and the whole of the conversation turned upon the generous travellers; and the gentleman remarked, that if he knew where to find them, he would bring them down, and spend ten guineas in treating them. From this conversation the landlord was confirmed in his suspicions that he had not been robbed; therefore, gave him their names and places of abode. He expressed his satisfaction on receiving this information, and said, that "he was resolved to see them as soon as he could." The farrier assured him, he might ride safely to London, without injuring his horse; accordingly he set forward and arrived in town that evening.

At five next morning, he called at Garret's house, and when the servant answered, he told him, "He must speak with his master." The servant replied, "He was not stirring, and he believed he would not until ten or eleven of the clock, as being weary and fatigued in coming off a journey late last night." The gentleman replied, "It is upon such extraordinary business I want to see him, that I must and will speak with him just now." The servant then acquainted Garret, that "there was a gentleman below stairs, who says, he must and will speak with you presently." Conscious of guilt.

Supplement 3

Garret, with tremulous heart, put on his night-gown, and moved down stairs. Seeing that it was the gentleman he had robbed the day before, he took him into a back room, when the gentleman told him, "that he had borrowed a hundred pounds of him, which, if he would not then pay, he must expect to feel the utmost severity of justice. The money was instantly paid. He then went to the mercer's house, made the same uproar, and received the same sum.

The anecdote was circulated, but the person concealed. Even this narrow escape wrought the reformation neither of the one nor the other. After rendering themselves notorious upon the highway, they turned to house-breaking, and Garret was apprehended, and suffered for his crimes.

COLONEL TURNER
*Officer and Gentleman who Maintained his Position by
Robbery*

THIS young man was born in Winchester, in 1604, of rich and respectable parents, who sent him to be a goldsmith, and, at the termination of his time, gave him a stock of three thousand pounds to commence business; and, by marriage he received two thousand more. With this ample fortune he was very successful in business, and was soon esteemed one of the wealthiest men in the place.

But he was too much addicted to company, and greatly attached to the officers of the militia, amongst whom he was received as captain, and at last attained to the rank of colonel. He was generous and extravagant, and, in the different places where he resided, he gave such splendid entertainments as involved him in unnecessary expenses. He was also liberal with his money in other respects, and delighted in splendour. The usual effects of such conduct were experienced by the colonel. Nor had he wisdom to retrench his expenses with his diminished fortune. He had recourse to dishonourable means, and for some time remained unsuspected. Among other things, he purchased from a merchant three hundred and sixty pounds of train oil and rice, went to his house to pay him, and, while the whole of the money was lying upon the table, two of his accomplices came in, and one of them pretending some urgent business, occupied the attention of the master, while the other went off with the greater part of the money. At another time, the colonel resolved to rob a rich merchant, and, for that purpose, one of his associates conveyed himself into the gentleman's cellar, and, as soon as he was in bed and asleep, he admitted the colonel. They went to the gentleman's room, bound and used him in a most barbarous manner, went to his wareroom, and robbed it to the amount of more than five thousand pounds.

Minute inquiry was made after the robbers, and the goods being described, some of them were seen in the colonel's house; so that, notwithstanding his high character, which had screened his villainies, his house was searched, many of the articles found, and the colonel, and his wife, and three sons were liberated; but he was executed on the 1st January, 1663. After his death there was another robbery of his discovered. A letter was sent to a dealer in the country, by a rich merchant in town, requesting him to come up quickly, as there was an advantageous purchase that might be made. He hastened with all the money he could collect, and was robbed upon his journey.

CONCLUDING NOTE

To the Jackson 1795 edition.

THUS have we endeavoured, and we hope not unsuccessfully, to complete this work, in conformity to the proposals originally offered to the public. We trust we have not omitted any trials of great importance, nor inserted many of a trifling nature. Those who wish well to society will be pleased to see vice exposed in every shape, and reprobated under all the variety of forms it may assume. Too much cannot be said to discountenance its propagation, or to enhance the charms of true religion and virtue.

To advance these important purposes should be the aim and end of every publication. The book that does not tend to make people wiser and better is a nuisance to society, and a disgrace to the press.

As the reformation of prisoners, rather than the punishment of them, should be the great aim of our legislators, we beg leave to submit to our readers some extracts from letters written by a gentleman to a Member of Parliament, both of them of the most amiable private characters, and both of them zealous promoters of every public good.

Jonas Hanway, Esq., in a letter to Sir Charles Bunbury, says, 'In the general view of our prisons, I beg leave to make a few remarks, which to those who have not considered the subject may carry some degree of information. Of all the abuses which ever crept into civil society, professing Christianity, considering the evil propensities of the common run of our malefactors, the tap-house seems to stand in a distinguished rank. What reformation can be expected, where it is the interest of the keeper of a prison to promote inebriety and dissipation of thought? If he is suffered to sell strong liquors for his own emolument, he will be tempted to shut his gates against everyone who would relieve the real crying wants of those who are in need, and open them wide to all such as will supply the means of drunkenness. There can be no good reason for an indulgence, which, scattering the thoughts, will create a desperate repugnance to the calls of heaven. When the foul ought to tremble, as being on the verge of eternity, such a conduct is abominable beyond all expression.

'Doth not the magistrate prostitute his authority, in granting licences, on the puerile presumption that he shall increase the revenue? Or is it that knowing how scanty the allowance is to the keepers of prisons, he gives them a liberty which he knows cannot be used without the most deadly consequences, even that of promoting the very temper and disposition which encouraged the malefactor to commit the crime for which he is imprisoned! This conduct is reproachable in the highest degree. The magistrate ought rather to refuse the licence, and represent the necessity of allowing keepers of prisons salaries suitable to the importance of their office.

'The conversion of a house, which ought to be a scene of sorrow and repentance, into jollity, and carelessness to all events, is one of the chief causes of the evil with which we are so sorely afflicted. If this is not remedied, can any expedient restore good discipline and true economy in prisons? If some prisoners should be thus deprived of a comfort they might be entitled to, it would be far better than granting an indulgence, so pregnant with mischief to the generality.

The Newgate Calendar

'By an act of the third of his present majesty, no jailer in Ireland is to sell ale, beer, or any other liquor, by himself or any other person, under the penalty of £5 for every offence; and I am assured it operates happily in preventing the ordinary bad effects. With us the case is different; for every capital prison is a public-house; and though spirituous liquors, commonly so called, are prohibited, yet, under the name of cordials, I am told they pass; or at least that by the force of wine, and malt liquor, all the bad effects of intoxication are continued.

'Among the several grievances which rise in judgment against us, are the fees demanded of malefactors, now softened, but not abolished. The want of medical assistance—the deficiency of baths—inattention to cleanliness—foul air for want of ventilation—want of a change of clean washed and well-dried garments, with a regular change of linen—where these are wanting, death must be a familiar guest to a prisoner. Even the regular washing of hands and feet is of consequence. A proper regard to diet, according to the apparent wants of prisoners, is necessary to the preservation of life in prisons, more than in other places; and the defect often operates like a plague.'

That a reform in the management of our prisons is necessary, no man of common sense can doubt; and it remains with the wisdom of legislature to provide a remedy for the evil.

Perhaps the keeping prisoners separate from each other, and totally denying all the means of intemperance, would go far towards effecting that reformation which is so much wanted. As matters now stand, the man charged with felony is repeatedly visited by the most abandoned of his acquaintance, and they mutually harden each other in vice. These visits should be very unfrequent, and never permitted but in the presence of the keeper or his deputy, who should be people of the most unexceptionable character, and take care that not an improper word is uttered.'

To drop, however, this subject, let us conclude this volume by a fervent wish that the readers of it may carefully and steadily avoid every vice therein recorded, every folly therein exposed. Let honesty be the prevailing, the ruling, principle among us; let us be humbly content in the situation which Providence hath allotted us; not seeking to possess ourselves of the property of others; and paying a devout reverence to that divine command, the authority of which no one will deny:

'Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his man-servant, nor his maid-servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor ANYTHING that is his.'

THE END