

A COMPLETE and GENUINE
ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE and ACTIONS
OF
JOSEPH POWIS,

Convicted at the SESSIONS-HOUSE in the
Old-Bailey, for BURGLARY,

SEPTEMBER, the SIXTH, 1732.

EXECUTED at TYBURN,
On Monday, the Ninth of October.

LIKEWISE,

SOME LETTERS, by Way of Address, which
he sent to the M^{rs} of his Affections.

Faithfully Collected and Written by H. M. S. L.

To which is added,

HIS EFFIGY, drawn by HIMSELF, during his
Confinement in the Cells.

LONDON: Printed and Sold by J. APPLEBY,
in Bolt-Court, Fleet-Street; A. DOD, at the
cock without Temple-Bar; and E. NUT, at the
Royal-Exchange. M.DCC.XXXII.

[Price One Shilling.]

W. Muggrave

TO THE

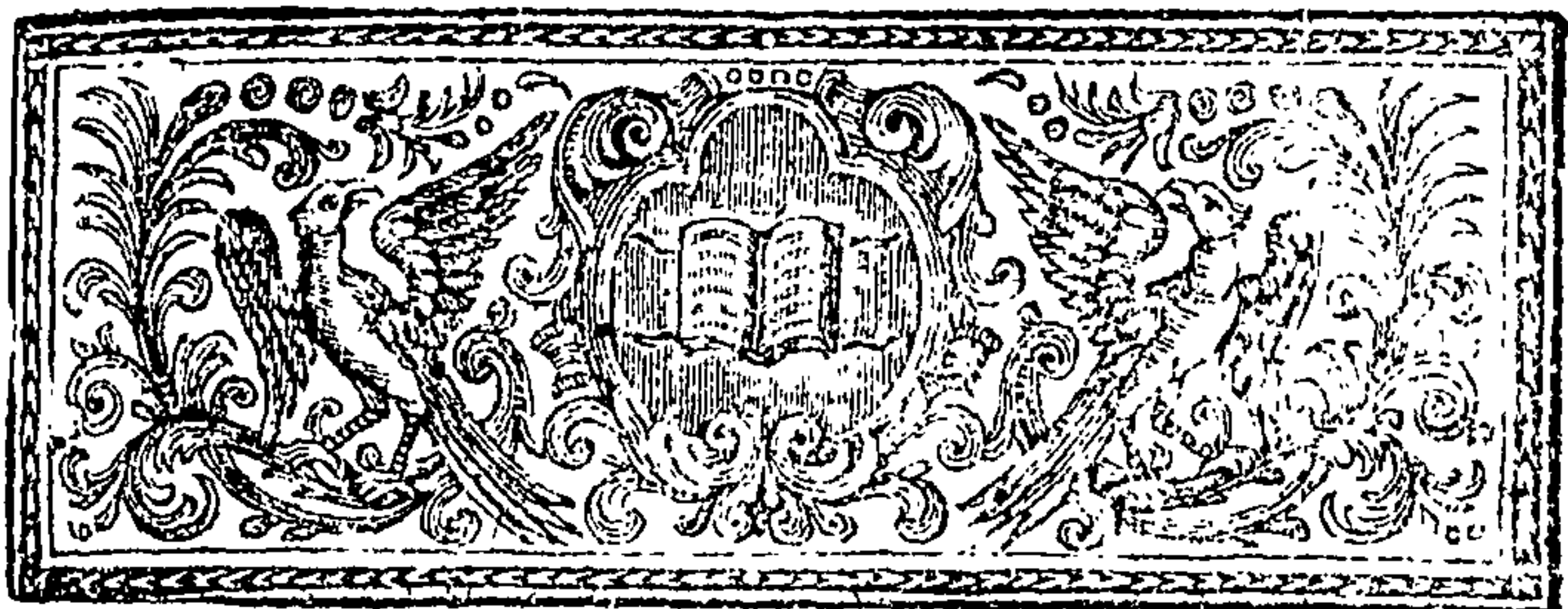
READER.

KIND Reader, before you enter into the ensuing History, I entreat you to observe two Things: First, That I have confin'd myself within the strictest Limits of Truth, having neither omitted nor enlarged any Circumstance: Secondly, That I wrote it since my receiving Sentence of Death, all not having taken me a Week, and that the Shortness of the Time wou'd not allow me to do it in a more methodical Manner, but just as I could recal Circumstances to my Memory; whereas had I had more Time, I should have adorn'd it with a proper Connexion of Matter, and a more compleat Stile, suitable to the refin'd Taste of Men of Letters; who unless a Discourse be garnish'd and set off by the Helps of Art, do not care to peruse it; but as the Design hereof was not to tickle the Ears, but to reach the Hearts of those who read it, and to warn Mankind to shun by my Misfortunes, the Snares that lay in wait to entangle them. I hope every one who Reads it will charitably and candidly, excuse any Faults or Imperfections that will arise to his View, and attribute them to the Trouble I am under at the Time of Writing it; and I intreat, that every one will Arm himself with Lenity for the Faults, and Pity for the Misfortunes of the Author,

Who is your

Well Wisher,

JOSEPH POWIS.



THE LIFE OF
JOSEPH POWIS, &c.



Was born in the Parish of *St Martin's* in the Fields, on the 30th of *August*, in the Year 1710; what passed in my Infancy I do not remember, except that I us'd to play *Truant* most enormously, till I was old enough to consider my *Lois*. When I was about eight Years of Age, the famous Mr. *Law*, who made so much Noise in *France* during the Time of the *Missippi* Company, the Parent of our South-Sea Scheme, erected several Manufactures, particularly one for *Smith's* Work at *Harcleur* in *Normandy*. My Father who was esteemed as skilful a Workman as any at that Time, was pitch'd upon by Mr. *Law* to manage that as an Overseer, and to teach the *Frenchmen* the *Smith's* Trade; He had under him thirty *Englishmen*, who

B

went

went over to make up work after the *English* Fashion, and as many *Frenchmen* and Boys to be taught, and had on that account a Salary of 4000 Livres *per Annum* ; he took me with him, and left my Mother and a younger Brother here ; I have little to say concerning the Place, for I being but a Child, I was not capable of taking Notice of any thing, but passed my Time amongst Companions about the same Size of Understanding with myself ; only I remember that not only Persons of Maturity, but even the Children, were never better pleas'd than when they were doing me some kind Office, and were more especially assiduous in teaching me their Language, by which means I was soon capable of conversing with them ; and being then thought a pretty Boy, for I wore my own Flaxen Hair, every House was open for *Petit Powis*, as they us'd to call me, and happy was they that could have me longest. During the first four or five Months, my Father was troubled with an Ague and Fever, which afflicted me as much as one of my Sense was capable of ; but the first Stroke which made any thing of an Impression upon me was the Death of my Mother, which happened when we had been there about half a Year ; my Father received a Letter, and on reading which he burst into Tears, I asked him, What was the Matter ? he looking stedfastly at me, replied, *your Mother is dead*, the Words as he spoke them went thro' my very Soul, and I cry'd very heartily ; but however, I soon forgot it, my Father as soon as had put his Business in Order, left me to the Care of an *Englishman* and his Wife who kept a House there, and went over to see after my Mother's Burial, and

and it was a Month before he returned ; during which time, I was very Ill us'd by those pretended Friends with whom he left me, and I have often reflected since if he had died what a miserable Condition I had been in ; however, in about a Month he returned and brought my Brother with him, a Child of about three Years of Age ; but while he was come to *England* some Persons had been endeavouring to supplant him, and in particularly one *John Watson*, a Man whom he had always us'd as his Bosom Friend, but whom when he found his Treachery, he never after wou'd admit him into his Company ; however, we continued here near half a Year longer, during which Time my Father had Occasion to go farther up into the Country, and having made what Observations he thought proper, he found that Mr. *Law* carried things too high to continue long, wherefore having stay'd till the Year he contracted for was expired, he told them that he found Matters wou'd not answer much longer, wherefore he wou'd not stay with them but come for *England* ; they said he was mistaken, and wou'd fain persuaded him to have stay'd, but he persisted in his Resolution, and accordingly we came on Horse-back to *Havre de Grace*, a famous fortified Town by the Sea Side, where we took shipping and arrived at *Portsmouth*, without any thing remarkable, and came from thence by the Stage-Coach to *London*, where my Father took Lodgings near St. *James's* ; here we continued a Year, at the End of which Time my Father married again, and took a Shop in *Chancery-Lane*, where he carried on his Trade, and put me to a Grammar School ; I now began

to be sensible of the Value of Learning, and to apply myself seriously and heartily to it ; but alas ! as a just Punishment for my former Neglect of it, now that I began to take Delight in Learning, I was snatch'd from it, for my Father's Circumstances not enabling him to bring me up to a learned Profession, he resolved to make me a *Smith*, which was his own Business and (*Hevis me miserum*) from hence may I Date all my Misfortunes, for I never having any great Inclination for Labour, and my Mind running upon something genteel, for want of Ability to acquire the Realities, still catch'd at Shadows, and like a be-nighted Traveller who follows an *ignis Fatuus*, have run into a Quagmire, from whence I fear I shall never get out again. But to proceed, I continued enduring Life (for from the Uneasiness of my Mind I cou'd never be said to enjoy any Comfort in the Station I was in) about four Years, during which Time, if ever my Father sent me of any Errand, as sure as I met with any *Bookseller's* Shop, or *Stall* in the Way, so surely I was lost for some Hours, but nothing else ever detain'd me, and if I escaped them, I was well enough. I was about fourteen Years old when I first began to learn my Trade or future Dependance, as it was called, and had I made it so, it had been better for me. And at about Eighteen, two young Fellows of my Acquaintance ask'd me one Day if I had a Mind for a Ramble, I directly repli'd, *with all my Heart*, never consulting how we were to be fed, nor whether we were to have *Elijah's Caterers*, the *Ravens* to bring us Provisions ; but away we went like three Asses, with each a Load at his Back ; and all

all put together, Beast and Burthens were scarcely worth three Pence; and thus we trudg'd along, thro' several Towns and Villages, sometimes one Way, and sometimes another, not one of us rightly knowing whither we were going, till we growing Hungry, and not finding any miraculous Support, and not understanding the Begging Trade, began to think of Home, and at last all concluded to return, which we did after a Week's Rambling; and this was my first Step towards the Life of a Gentleman. My Father and I being reconciled, I stay'd at home about a Year or near it; but having once got the knack of Gadding, Home became intollerable, so I made another Sally; and then having a Mind to do something extraordinary, and in Order thereto, I got a few Lines in the Tragedy of *Julius Cæsar* by Heart, and having cleaned myself, away I went to Mr. Rich, Master of the New Play-House and offered myself to him, but being of a small Stature, not at that time exceeding five Feet, I did not gain Admittance amongst the Heroes, and Demy Gods as I expected, but was forced to return Home, and upon submitting myself to my Father was again received, yet stay'd but a short time before I left him again; but having only my working Dress on, for he would not let me have my Cloaths.

I took my Opportunity when all the Family were gone to see a Relation a little Way out of Town on a *Sunday*, to convey myself into the House, and having broke open my Father's Closet, there I found all my things, which I took along with me; but the next Morning my Father finding who had been there, came in search after me,

me, and finding me, charg'd a Constable with me, and carried me before Sir *Thomas Jones*, a Justice of Peace living in *Boswell-Court*, who threatened to send me to *Bridewell*; but however, upon my promising to go Home and never do the like again, my Father let me go home before him to make my Peace with my Mother-in-Law, instead whereof I went to an Acquaintance, and told him of the Indignity which I imagin'd was put upon me, and ask'd his Advice what I should do, he said, *his Advice to me was by any means to go home and stay with my Father.*

BUT it being near the Time of *Bartholomew-Fair*, I went to one Mr. *Miller* who had a Booth at the *Queen's-Arms* by the *Sheep-pens*, and to him I engaged myself for one of the Guards to *Queen Dido* during the Fair; when the Fair was ended I went with one *D — on* into *Surrey* to a little Market Town called *Darking*; we being about ten Men and Women, by the Way as we went he made us mountainous Promises of Gain, which wou'd accrue to us by his being intimate with most of the Head People of the Town; and when we came there we found that they knew him indeed, and that he had been there before, but had behaved himself in such a scandalous Manner, that none of them wou'd come near us, nor encourage us: So that being almost starv'd, we from thence went next to *Horsbarn* in *Sussex*, where we far'd still worse, for I was put so much to my Shifts, that Lodging in a little Tenement belonging to an Inn, but a-part from the House, I got into the Kitchen Window fundry times, and took away Victuals and Flower to make a Pudding,
and

and wanting a Pair of Shoes, I one Night took away a new Pair belonging to the Master of the House, which the next Day I put on and very impudently wore thro' the Town; the Man who own'd the Shoes hearing that one of the Players had got a new Pair (which was a great Wonder) he came the next Morning to my Room and knew the Shoes; but however, knowing the Condition we were in, he contented himself with threatening me severely if ever I came there again, and so let me go about my Business, with a great Pair of old Shoes on, into either whereof I could have thrust both my Feet with ease; however, I went along with a heavy Heart, and being Clay Ground and having rain'd lately, I was often stuck fast; at last my Foot sticking and I pulling, pull'd the Sole from the Upper-Leather of one of my great Shoes, at the same time it began to rain very furiously, I was now in a worse Condition than ever, but making all the Haste my unarmed Foot wou'd let me, at last I spy'd a Barn close by the Road, and it being about Noon, the Men were all gone to Dinner, which however I knew not, but I went in and covered myself all over in the Pease, which lay therein for threshing (I have forgot to tell you that I had made away with all my Cloths during the time of my being a Gentleman) before I had been there a Quarter of an Hour in comes the Men and falls to threshing most furiously, and ever and anon, I cou'd hear them rustling, and fetching down more very near my Head, which oblig'd me to creep into the Pease for Shelter; however, Night coming on they went away and left me to consider by myself what I had

had best to do ; I resolved after a little Consideration to go back again, and crawling out to put my Design in force, I found a curious Fowling-Piece thrust in amongst the Pease, which I not having any present Use for left it behind me, and made the best of my Way for *Horsbam* ; when I came there it was so late that almost every Body was gone to Bed, so that I was not seen by any one ; I went to the Inn directly and mounted up into the Hay-Loft, where I lay still till I saw a proper Time, and then went in at the Window as formerly, and instead of going to the Pantry as I us'd to do, I got the Door of the publick Room open, where I found a Pair of Boots and Stockings which I put on, and then forc'd open a Cupboard in the Bar, from whence I took a Bottle of Rum, a Piece of Loaf Sugar, three Lemons and one Shilling in Half-pence ; having got what I thought fitting there, I went to the Pantry and refresh'd myself very comfortably with a Piece of cold Pye there, and took a Loaf along with my other Plunder, and hid it altogether in the Hay-Loft, and then laid myself down to rest for I was very weary ; there I continued all that Day until they were gone to Bed at Night, and then went to my usual Entrance, but nothing was there to be carried away but a Handkerchief and a Belt, and filling my Belly went away again to roost in the Hay-Loft, as naturally as if I had been bred there ; the People of the House finding their Provisions waste in the Night, almost as fast as they did in the Day, had a Mind to know what hungry Spirit it was that haunted their House ; in order thereto the Master of the House and our Heroe *Dutton* getting

ting each of them a furious long Gun charg'd, lay in wait for the Spirit who they suspected to be their *Hostler*, and whom they had turned away upon that Account ; but that Night having a mind to some Beer in the Town, and to hear what Discourse pass'd concerning my Exploits, I went to a House with Hay-bands round my Boots, Waist and Hat, which was slouch'd, and thus thinking not to be known, but I was mistaken, for they knew my Face and Voice, and before I had been out a Quarter of an Hour it was known all over the Town, that the little Player was seen there ; the People of the House were no longer at a Loss to know who had plunder'd them, and instead of waiting for me they resolv'd to search all over the Town but they wou'd find me if there, while others were dispatch'd along the Roads to over-take me if I were gone.

Now was I got to my Nest again, not thinking I shou'd been discovered, but was scarce gone to sleep e're I felt a Hand pull me up from the Hay where I lay, saying to me at the same time, *Ha ! Mr. Powis, have we gotten you*, looking up at this in a very great Surprise, I perceiv'd the Master of the House, *Dutton* and another Man ; they carried me into the Publick Room and began to examine me, but partly thro' surprize, and being waked out of my Sleep, and not having a Mind that they should know any more than they could find out, I spoke not a Word ; they then went to my Nest, and examining it, found the Things which I told you of before ; upon seeing which, and the Boots and Stockings making the Matter clearer, I told them how I got in ; and in short,

C own'd

own'd the Whole of every Thing. They then sent for a Constable and charg'd me, and went to see if the Justice was at Leisure, but he, it seems, was gone out of Town: (So thought I, I have spun my self a fine Thread to swing to Heaven in) And they hired thereupon a couple of sturdy Fellows to sit up with me, who were reckoned the stoutest Men in the whole Town; so I thought if I got from them, it must be by some Policy or other.

Now were all the Family gone to Bed and left me, and the two Fellows, with Beer and Tobacco before us enough to make us all drunk; of which I pretended to drink very heartily, and took the Pot oftner than it came to my Turn, and at last pretended to fall fast asleep, and snored enormously, but at the same Time heard all they said: *Z—ds*, says one, *how sound the poor Fellow sleeps notwithstanding his Misfortune: Ah*, says the Second, being almost as fast asleep, really as I was seemingly. *Jack*, cries the First, *you are asleep*: No, says the Second, *but I am very sleepy; do let me sleep for an Hour and then wake me, and I'll watch while you sleep: Agreed*, says the First, and so the Second settled himself to sleep, and in a Quarter of an Hour the first overtook him: As soon as I found they were both fast, I rose and went towards the Place where they had hung the Boots, which they had pull'd off as soon as they had took me; But before I could get at 'em, the Master of the House wak'd, and not hearing any Noise, calls to one of them by his Name, who not answering, he jump'd out of Bed, and came down Stairs to wake them: I, as soon as I heard him
move,

move, got into my Place, and was as fast asleep as ever; *prithee*, says he to them, *don't sleep, you'll let the Man get away*: On which they rous'd; *no*, says they, *we won't*. Upon which the Master of the House went up to Bed again, and in a few Minutes my Guards were relaps'd into a State of Insensibility. I got down the Boots, open'd the inner Door, went into the Yard, and opening the Yard Door, went just without, and was going to draw them on when the Door fell too with a Noise that shook the whole House, which made me run with them in my Hand all along the Dirt, till I came to a little kind of a Hovel, which was open, and in I went; and having drawn them on as well as I could for my wet Stockings, and finding no Body pursued me, I proceeded forward on my Journey for *London*, as knowing it was not my Business to remain in those Parts.

As soon as I was got about half a Mile from the Town, I came to a very large Common, and for my Life I could not find my Way out, so that I was forc'd to take Shelter in an old Cow-house, which was fill'd with Bundles of Flax, amongst which I lay still till Day-light, when the Owner came that Way, and finding his Flax tumbled, he went to put it in Order again, in doing which, he uncover'd me, and ask'd me what I did there; *I told him that I got a little in Liquor the Night before, and could not find my Way out of the Common, so was oblig'd by the Cold to take Shelter there*: It happen'd that he knew nothing at all of my Story or me; so laughing at my telling how I had wander'd round the Common, put me in my Road, which I pursued, not without Fears that every one

was come to re-take me. However, I met nothing remarkable till I came to *Darking*, into which I would not enter till dark Night. And as I was going through the Town, I heard a Door open, and turning my Head to the Noise, I saw a Woman, who call'd to me to come to her. I came, and ask'd her *what she would have with me*: She turn'd to another Woman, and said, *It is be sure enough*; and says to me, *Come in, lest any Body should see you*: So I went in, and they proved the People who used to wash my Linnen. Whilst I was in this Town, they told me, *I must take Care of my self, for every Body in this Town knew of my Exploits, and that the two Men from whom I had escaped, had been to seek after me; but not finding I had been there, concluded that I was gone another way, and so returned.* We all wonder'd that they neither saw me, nor I them, for I came along the main Road: They said, *they fancied it was me as soon as they heard the Noise of my Boots, advising me not to stay near the Town, but make the best of my Way for London*: I said, *that was my Intent*, and so took my Leave of them.

BUT I went but a little Way out of Town and hid myself till Night, and then returned into Town, and getting into a Farm House I took away two or three Books, a Knife and Fork, a Penknife, a pair of Scizars, a silver Spoon, a couple of Handkerchiefs, and some other Trifles, and some Victuals, and so in the Morning pursued my Journey for *London*; but it rained hard most Part of that Day, so that I could not reach *London* that Night; but coming to a Place call'd *Stockwell*, where my Mother-in-Law's
Father

Father kept a Publick House, I went into the Back-yard, wherein was a Barn, and they had been threshing Wheat that Day, and had lain the Straw in Trusses under a kind of Penthouse, I got in amongst them, and lay very warm that Night; and about the middle of the Night I heard something alive, as I thought, amongst the Straw, I list'ned attentively, and at last perceived it to be very near me, so that I laid hold of it, and perceiv'd that it was one of the Female Sex; who frighten'd at finding somebody there, cry'd, *who's there*: I reply'd, *Here's no Body that will hurt you*. She then said she was put Apprentice to a *Mantua-Maker*, who, because her Friends lived a great Way off, used her so hard, as obliged her to leave them; and that she was going down to her Friends who lived at *Canterbury*. It being very cold, we crept close together, and, in short, I found her to be a good-natur'd tractable Girl, and having tired our selves, we by Consent fell to sleep, and in the Morning, when I awoke, I found my Bed-fellow gone, and the Threshers come to work, by Reason whereof I was forc'd to lye still till Night.

As soon as it was dark, I went to an *Ale-house*, and call'd for three Pints of Beer one after another, which put me in such a merry Mood, that I went to the Straw again and began to Sing, so loud, as brought several People about the Place, who very civilly let me make an end of my Song, and then began to uncover my little Tenement, and drawing me forth, they conducted me into the House where my Mother-in-Law then was, who knew me, and was glad to see me; desired me to stay there, and very kindly said, *she would engage*

to reconcile my Father to me, if I was willing, which I very gladly embraced, for I was much such another naked Figure as I am at this Present, having made away all my Cloaths and Linnen, and in short every Thing I had. In about three Days my Father came there, and all was made up; and the next Morning he took me home with him, and I once more began to settle to work, and I held out pretty well all the Winter: But Summer approaching, and I being cloath'd again, could not content my self, but left him once more.

I CONTINUED shifting about without doing any base Trick for near a Month; going to see first one Acquaintance, and then another, till they were all tired of me: And one Day I went to see *Joseph Paterfon*, a young Fellow, a Player, who had been in the Country with me: *He ask'd me if I had a Mind to act a Part in the Tragedy of the Earl of Essex for a Friend of his.* I consented, and went with him to *Windmill-Hill*, which is a common Resort for all the conceited idle young Fellows in Town: Every one fancies himself to be a *Cicero*, or a *Betterton*, when scarcely one in a Hundred can speak *English*: However, I receiv'd my Part, and the Day was fix'd, and Bills were stuck up, (the Part of *Lord Burleigh*, by a young Gentleman who never perform'd there before) which was my Part. But when I came upon the Stage, had even *Heraclitus* been a Spectator, he would have burst his Sides with laughing at my Figure: For instead of a rich Suit, agreeable to the Character I represented, they had provided me an old Miser's Coat which reach'd down to my Ankles; and I having never a clean Shirt, and my black
Hands

Hands and Face, all together, concurr'd to make me a very uncommon Hero: And the People laughing at me, put me so out of Countenance, as made the Performance like my Dress, very indifferent.

HOWEVER, it being over, home I came, and coming through *Ludgate*, a Gentleman had fell down and lost three Guineas and some Silver out of his Pocket, of which he had found one Guinea again before I came. I seeing a Croud, ask'd, what was the Matter, and was inform'd by one of the By-Standers, upon which I went and search'd for them, and found the other two: I gave the Gentleman one, and kept the other my self unknown to him. The Gentleman return'd me Thanks in a very handsome Manner, and desired I would accept of a Pint of Wine, which I did, and then came home, having more Money than I had been Master of at once for some Time before.

BUT that being gone, I was at a Loss what to do for more: And one Night coming late, or rather early, home from *Windmill-Hill*, I wander'd up *Chancery-Lane*, and it beginning to rain, I went into a little Hole under the *Master in Chancery's Office*, where I continued so long, till it began to be Office Time, and People began to be about, so that I could not get out without being seen; wherefore I lay there all Day, and heard People walk and talk very near me; and turning about something too quick, it caus'd me to fall with my Head just against some Lath and Plaister which belong'd to the Office, so violently, that I broke down Part thereof, and could see into the Office very plainly. But it happened that no Body was near at that Time,

Time, and it being in a very dark Corner, it was not seen. This inspired me with a Thought which I had not before, which was to make the Hole bigger, and get into the Office, and see if there was any thing worth bringing away: And accordingly at Night I put my Design in Execution, and having search'd all about, I was coming away in despair not finding any thing worth bringing with me; when I happened to look into a little Cup-board just by the Chimney, where they put Small-Coal, Candle, &c. and I felt a Bag, which pulling it out I found therein about Fifty Shillings in Silver, and a Green Purse, in which was four Guineas, and four half Guineas; I was over-joyed with my Purchase, but it did not last me above a Week, and then I was forc'd to Pawn what Things I had bought till all was gone, and then I began to look sharp again.

BUT happening to come cross *Smithfield* on a Market-Day, I saw a Countryman receive some Money for Cattle he had sold, which he put into a greasy Leathern Bag; I was going along, not thinking any thing, when I heard an Out-cry of stop Thief, I turned about to the Noise, and saw a Man running towards where I was, pursued by several People, and just as he came by me he drop'd something (which no-body happened to see but me) which he had no sooner done but he was stop'd; I took up what he drop'd, which to my great Surprize I perceived was the Leather Pouch of Money I saw in the Countryman's Hand; I never stay'd to see what became of the Man, but went to an Ale-house and calling for a Pint of Beer, I ask'd for the Necessary-house, which

which being shewn me, I there examined the Contents, and found therein Forty-two Guineas and a half, five Three and twenty Shilling Pieces of Gold, and a Moidore, five Shillings and six Pence in Silver, making in all Fifty-two Pounds ; I was astonished at becoming Master of so much Money, but taking the half Guinea and the Silver out from the rest I put that loose in my Pocket, and put all the rest of the Gold into my Green Purse, and threw the Leather Pouch down the Vault, and going in I paid for my Beer, and went home very well satisfied with my Day's Work, without once thinking of the poor Wretch who drop'd it, who was got into the Hands of the Mob, that have as little Mercy on Gentlemen of his Profession, as a Kite has upon a Chicken when he tears it in Pieces and devours it.

I liv'd in great Splendor whilst this Money lasted, which was not a Month, for I let it go almost as freely as it came ; but when it was gone I was put to my Shifts again, and going down *Chancery-Lane* one Morning betwixt Three and Four a-Clock, I had a fancy to get into the *Chancery Coffee-house*, imagining to find something considerable in the 'Till, which is usually in Publick Houses ; but getting down the Area which is before the House, I found I cou'd not get in at the Kitchen Window as I meant, so I went into the Coal Vault which is under the Street, and getting behind a Board lay there all Day undiscovered, and in the dusk of the Evening slipped into the House, and hid myself in a Chimney in the Back-Kitchen which was full of Lumber, untill they were gone to Bed, and then came forth ; I went
D directly

directly to the Bar but found no Till there, only about three Shillings in Half-pence upon a Shelf, and a large Silver Spoon and several small ones, to about the Value of thirty Shillings, three Cambrick Handkerchiefs, and about a Pound of Tea, two Cakes of Chocolate, and a large Lump of double refin'd Sugar, and ty'd them up in a Cloth. I had neither Eat nor Drank for near thirty Hours, so I took a Bit of Bread and Butter, and made about a Quart of Punch which I Drank; and just as I had done, and was coming away, I heard somebody coming down Stairs, who were so near that I could not get out, but was forc'd to run down and hide myself in a Hole behind the Stairs, where they put broken Glafs, and having pull'd off my Shoes because they should not hear me, as I went up and down the House, I cut my Feet amongst the Glafs. The Maid who was got up to wash did not go into the Coffee-Room, but came down Stairs, and went into the Kitchen to strike a Light, which gave me an Opportunity to get up Stairs. I put on my Shoes and opened the Door and went out with my Booty, without being heard or seen, and went from thence to my old *Rendezvous*, the Office where I had a Fancy to go in again, finding the Hole not stopt up, which I did, and finding the Drawer of the Great Table lock'd, I with some Difficulty got it open, and found therein upwards of four Pounds in Silver, and half a Guinea in Gold, and several Trifles, as a Pocket-Book garnish'd with Silver, a Silver Seal, and amongst some Papers I found three Letters of so extraordinary a Nature, that I knowing the Hand in which two of them was written, put them

them in my Pocket, they belong'd to ——— Clerk to the Masters, and were in his Drawer; as soon as I got to a Place where I had an Opportunity I began to read them, but they were so very shocking that I could not go thro' them, one was *Anonymous*, the other two were sign'd, *Molly Soft-buttocks*.

I unwarily shew'd them as something very uncommon to several People, some of whom owing me no Good-will, industriously spread a Report that I was a *Sodomite*, and that I thereby got my Living, urging as a Proof thereof, what a great deal of Money I spent, which they said, I could not get honestly, (*there they were right*) and what contributed to this Report, was my going one Evening to pay a Visit to some young Women in the City, where I had been introduced some time before by an Acquaintance; I had Occasion to take out a Letter-Case, in which they were amongst my other Papers, and instead of putting it into my Pocket again, I put it beside, and it fell to the Ground. As I went in Quality of a Suitor to one of them, the Privilege which it is natural for a young Woman to take over those, who profess themselves Slaves to her Beauty, and a Female Curiosity concurring, caus'd them to examine it; in order thereto my Mistress and her Companion, who first saw it, being unwilling to be disturbed by any Person in the perusal thereof, had lock'd themselves into a Closet, and there amongst the rest they found the aforesaid Letters, which they needed not to read thro', for the Subject was plainly to be discerned at first Sight, or even by the Name at

the Bottom. By this Time I miss'd my Letter-Cafe, and running back, I ask'd if any Body had seen it? my Mistress who came to the Door, replied very smartly, *Yes, Miss Tooke, there it is.* I was not able to speak for a Minute or two, I was so confounded; for as I came along I fancy'd that if they read it they would then certainly believe that Report which before they had opposed; at last I took Courage to ask her, what she meant by calling me so? she replied, *the Gentleman who was waiting for me under the Pizza would inform me*; I knew by this that they had read them, for one of them began thus (*Dear Miss Sukey Tooke*) and appointed an Assignment under the Pizza in *Covert-Garden*; I protested that I was no way concerned in them, and told them who they belonged to; in short shew'd his Pocket-Book, which was garnish'd with Silver, and had his Name it, of the same Hand with the two Letters; and the Knowledge of my Innocence added such force and energy to my Asseverations, that they believed me innocent; but finding the ill Consequence of carrying them about me, I by the Advice of a Friend burnt them, and in a little Time after, the World finding my Behaviour to contradict those Reports, as it had always done, began to forget them, and to esteem me again as a Man who had always too great an Inclination for the Fair Sex, ever to be concerned with such Monsters, who if I could have my Desire, should not live to enjoy the common Advantage of Nature, but be cut off as they do mad Dogs to prevent Mischief.

BUT to proceed, I continued shewing my Parts in the Theatrical Way as I had Time to spare, or in plain *English* when I had no Money left ; for whenever I had Money I frequented the Coffee-houses and the Billiard-Tables (which was the only Game wherein I took delight) and the Play-house as a Spectator ; and sometimes I passed a few Hours with some *Herione* whose Conversation was any Way engaging ; and in short lost no Opportunity of pushing forwards that Time which fled away too fast of itself.

BUT my last Booty being gone, I was at Loss what to do for more, when I one Morning went into St. *Dunstan's* Church, and no body being there but the *Sexton* who opened the Doors, I unseen of him got up into one of the Gallaries, and hid myself till Night, and then I search'd about but could not do any thing, for the next Day being a Holy-day, the Ringers came into the Church and began to ring by twelve that Night, and I could see them as I lay hid, but durst not stir lest they should see me, so I was forced to lye still till 'Twelve the next Day at Noon, at which Time they all went out of the Church, and the *Sexton* lock'd the Doors, I got out of my little Ease and came down Stairs, and began to look about me to see what I could find, when Lo ! to my great Disturbance the *Sexton* came in again ; I was in a Pew where they kept the Curtains belonging to the *Church-warden's* Pew, I hearing the Door open, turn'd about to get out, which doing hastily, I struck my Foot against the Side of the Pew, with such force as sounded quite thro' the Church, which the Man hearing, turn'd his Head and saw me,

me, and instead of coming directly to me, he went back to fasten the Door, which gave me an Opportunity of retreating into my Hole again, where I lay so quiet and secure that he could not find me, tho' he very cunningly called aloud, (*where are you*) imagining perhaps, that I would be such a Fool as to tell him; but after about two Hours Employment for himself, and another Man whom he called to help him, they gave over their fruitless Search, imagining I had escaped out of the Church, and left me to proceed when I saw convenient. I lay still untill the next Morning by Day-break, which was a little after two a-Clock, and in two or three little Cupboards which were under the Seats, I found some old fashion'd Common-Prayer Books garnish'd with Silver, which I pulled off and sold for 12 Shillings, and as many Books as I sold for near as much, and in the Morning I went out when they opened the Door for Prayers unseen.

AND that Evening going to a House in *Ram-Alley* in *Fleet-street* to see an Acquaintance, I saw a Woman bringing some Goods into the Ground-Room, and fasten'd the Door with a Padlock when she went away again, I seeing that there was ne'er a Bed in the Room, concluded that no-body lay there; so I resolv'd to pay a Visit that Night to these New-Comers; so going up to my Acquaintance and staying till Nine a-Clock, I took my Leave and came down Stairs, but instead of going out I hid myself in the Cellar (which was left open for the Conveniency of the Lodgers going to the Necessary-house) till Day-break, when opening the Pad-lock with an old Nail, I went in, and searching the Chest of Drawers, in one of
the

the Upper-Drawers I found a little Box, in which was a Guinea and two plain Gold Rings, and there was loose in the Drawers, two Pair of small old fashion'd Silver Buckles, and some other Trifles ; and seeing by the Cloths which were in the Drawer that they were poor People, I took nothing else but the Gold and so came away. Going the next Day to see one who was acquainted there as well as I, he told me the Woman who had lost the Things suspected me, by my coming there so often when all People who had any Business to depend upon, were oblig'd to mind it. The Woman was so much in the Right, that my Conscience told me I ought to be taken up for it, and that if I went there I certainly should, so I refrain'd going there for near three Quarters of a Year, but of that in its proper Place, I began now to grow more and more out of Repair every Day.

AND one Day going by the *Bookseller's* Shop at the Corner of St. *Clement's* Church-Yard, where I had sold one of the Prayer Books I stole out of St. *Dunstan's* Church ; I was laid hold on upon this Occasion, the Book I had sold him belong'd to one Mrs. *Sparling* in *Chancery-Lane*, and she had been to several *Booksellers* Shops enquiring for a Second-Hand Common-Prayer Book with Cuts, in hopes to meet with her own ; and coming to this Shop, he shewed her the very Book she wanted, Sir, says she, *this is my Book, where had you it* (just at that Instant I was coming by the Window, and meeting an old School-fellow, I stopt to talk with him) the Man replies, *by Fortune there stands the Man who sold it to me ;* says she, *he is a Thief, and has stole it,* whereupon the

the Man came to the Door, and said, he wanted to speak with me ; I went in boldly, tho' my Conscience told me that I had done something amiss, but I had forgot the Book ; says he, *did you not sell me this Book*, Yes, says I ; pray says she, *how came you by it ?* I said, I had it of somebody to sell, making what Lane excuses I could think of ; but they not being oblig'd to believe me, threatened me with a *Constable*, and a Goal was to be my Habitation immediately ; but however, she recollecting my Face, ask'd me if my Name was not *Powis*, to which I replying in the Affirmative, the good natur'd Woman shed Tears, saying, *I am sorry for you, and for your poor Father, to whom instead of being a Comfort, you are the Cause of all the Sorrow he endures ;* so telling the Man of the Shop who I was, he was so mov'd with Compassion of the Relation, that he let her have the Book, and let me go upon my Promise to bring him the Money he gave me for it, next Day ; but I not having it ready by the Time, have been ashamed to go near him since, which is the natural Temper of all Mankind, not to be ashamed of the Sin tho' never so heinous, but if they are oblig'd to make Reparation, or only even an ingenuous Acknowledgement of it, O ! 'tis such a Shame as forsooth no Man of Spirit can bear.

IN about a Week after I went to a *Pastry-Cook's* Shop in *Fleet-street*, next Door to Mr. *Pinchbeck's*, and bought a Penny Tart, and seeing them put the Money in the Drawer, in which to my thinking there was a good deal, the *Devil* gave me a Jog by the Elbow, and I took the Hint immediately, wherefore I knowing the House, I that
Night

Night climb'd up the Iron Sign which is fix'd in a Post at the *Hole-in-the-Wall*, and getting over two or three Balconies, I got into the one Pair of Stairs Window, and so proceeded into the Shop, but was disappointed, for there was not a Half-penny in the Drawer; but because I would not come in for nothing, I eat what I car'd for, and then loading myself with Macaroons, Heart-Cakes, &c. and 7 or 8 Quarterns of a Pound Pots of *Portugal* Snuff, and some Books, I came away very heavy for having been so disappointed.

AND in a Day or two I went to the Shop, and they were then talking of it, and the Woman of the House had a Person lodg'd with her, who pulled out a Gold repeating Watch, and said, *I suppose they came to seek for this, but 'tis not every Key will open the Lock of my Drawers*; I thought with myself I wou'd have a Trial if that were in her Drawers, whether the Locks wou'd keep me out; I knowing where the Drawers stood, so that Night I mounted up again my scaling Ladder, standing in the same Place where it did before, and opening the Window Shutter I heard a Treading of one without Shoes, and something Kick against a Basket or Hamper, which I remember'd stood in the Room; upon which I jump'd over the Balconies and slid down the Iron, with as much Agility as ever a Tumbler in *Bartholomew-Fair* cou'd down a Rope; but before I was well down I could see a Man in his Shirt, who called out very loudly, *Stop him, Stop him*, but the Night being very dark, and I being well dress'd in a dark colour'd Suit, and seeing no body near me in the

E

Street

Street I walk'd very soberly away, as knowing he could not see me, and so went off clear.

A N D being disappointed here I went into the Fields, and in a melancholy Mood I sat down under a Hay Rick, and after tir'd myself with reflecting upon my present Way of Life, I fell into a Kind of slumber ; and as I lay there, me-thought somebody said to me, *Run, Run, Fly for your Life, for you are pursued, if you are taken you will be hang'd* ; I started up thereupon, and the Terror of Mind which I was under at that Time, had such an Effect upon me, that great Drops of Sweat stood upon my Face ; but looking round me, and seeing no-body near me, I pleas'd myself very much to find it was but a Dream, and so lay down again to sleep, and dream'd that I was in the very Place where I was asleep, and that a Man came to me, and said, *Young Man you must go away from hence, for if I should suffer you to remain here, I should expect a Judgment to fall upon every thing I have, so go away, or I'll fetch a Constable who shall oblige you to go* ; upon that I awak'd, and got up, but finding it still dark, I went all round the Hay Rick to see if any Body was there, and was so strongly possess'd of the Image I had seen in my Sleep, that I call'd out twice or thrice, *Who's there ?* but no-body answering, I laid down again, but could not get any Sleep till Day-light, about which Time I slumber'd again, when me-thought my Father stood before me, and looked very fixedly upon me, said to me, *O! Son, will you never take warning till Justice over-takes you ? The Time will come when you will wish, but too late, that you had been*

been ruled by me; I started up under an inexpressible Horror of Mind, and wander'd away from that Place, I know not whither, till the *Sun* was about two Hours high, and then I went to the *Thames* with intent to wash, but being half undress'd, I was possess'd with a Belief that if I went into the Water I should be drown'd; so putting on my Clothes again, I came away fully resolving to get home again if it were possible to be reconciled to my Father; but as I was going along I met a young Man who owed me three Shillings and Six-pence, who ask'd me to drink with him, which I accepted, and went into the first Publick House we came to, where he paid me, and treated me with some Punch, in which I washed away all those good Thoughts I had entertained.

I have mentioned these Passages to shew the Strength of a Man's Conscience, called by some Melancholy, by others, Vapours, &c. When I parted from him, I went to a Friend's House, complaining that I was not very well, whercupon they ask'd me to lye down, which was what I wanted; for thro' want of rest and drinking the Punch fasting, I cou'd scarce hold up my Head I was so drowsy. I sleep'd there near five Hours without moving, and when I wak'd found myself very hungry, and tho' they press'd me to stay and Sup with them (for it was almost Night) I would not, but asking Pardon for being so troublesome, and saying, I fear'd I had over-sleep'd my Time, I took my Leave; and going to a Publick House I had some Stakes dress'd, and stay'd drinking there till Ten at Night, by which Time I was

well refresh'd, and pretty chearful; and having not above Eight-pence left, I resolv'd to re-visit the Office in *Chancery-Lane*, where I found the Hole open, but they had bar'd and padlock'd the Door which parted the two Rooms, so that I was forc'd to break thro' the Wall to get into the Fore-Room. When I got in, the first Thing I saw was a large Pair of Pistols, which I found to be loaded with a Brace of Balls each, and a few other Trifles, but no Money; the Pistols were in order to shoot me with, if I had come when any body was there, which there had been most of the Nights since I was there before.

IN about two Days after, my Father hearing I was suspected, lays wait for me, and soon found me, and threatned to carry me to those who were in pursuit after me; I deny'd the Matter, but he fearing I knew more of it than I said I did, told me that it was no ways proper for me to stay in *London*, but directed me to a *Smith* in *Cambridge*, who upon his Recommendation wou'd entertain me as a Journeyman; and upon my Promise to go he gave me Money to carry me down, and some good Books, and what Cloaths I had at Home, and having talked seriously with me, and advis'd me to remember my Duty to my Maker, (which he always did upon all Occasions) we parted. But instead of going where I promis'd, I went to a House whither I was invited by a *Player* to Dine with him; and after Dinner, we being about five in Number must have some Punch, upon which (being a private House) we made Punch, so long till I punch'd away all the Money I had; so that the next Day I sold the
Clothes

Clothes I had of my Father, and they being gone, I was as much put to my Shifts as ever.

AND one Morning I went to one Mr. Carter's Shop, who is a Baker in Chancery-Lane, and it being Sunday Morning they were not up at Work as they are in the Week Days; so I bent the Pin of the Window-Shutters, and took down a Shutter and got up, (there being some Space between the Shutters and the Sash) but the Sashes were fasten'd down with Pins, so that I could not get at them without breaking the Glass; and hearing somebody stir, I got out again, and endeavour'd to fix all Things as they were, that it not being perceived I might have the same Opportunity another time. But whilst I was doing this, one Thomas Russel, a Boy, who goes about blacking Shoes (but whose Father formerly kept a Sword-Cutler's Shop under the fix Clerks-Office) came down the Lane, and seeing one stood to observe, which I seeing, went away; but however, he told every body that he saw me endeavouring to break into Mr. Carter's Shop; and said further, that I had own'd to him that I had robbed the Office, which last was False, for I never spoke a Word to him about it. And when some time after that I was reconcil'd to my Father, (as you will understand by and by) and was at Home again, my Father to whom I deny'd all these things, called him into the Shop one Day, and confronted him with me, and he saying that I never own'd no such thing to him, my Father said, *then you are a vile Rogue to be-lie any Person behind their Back, for you told me before several People that he did*; whereupon I took

took Advantage of his prevaricating to perswade my Father that the other Story of *Carter's Shop* was like that, and the Boy was so confounded, that he did not contradict me; and several other People, who said they saw me that Morning (*which was false*) denying it to my Face. My Father took my Part very strenuously, verily believing that I was innocent and falsely traduced.

BUT to return to the Place from whence I have strayed, when my Father heard this Report confirmed by several, he could not but believe it, wherefore he said to my Brother, *if you see the Rascal, send him to me, I want to speak with him*; and meeting me the same Night, says he, *My Father wants to speak with you*: About what, says I; Why, says he, *about Carter's Shop*: Upon that I made Light of it, and my Father being over the Water at his Father-in-Laws, I went thither; but being conscious how much Reason he had to be angry with me for not following his Advice, I was ashamed to go in, but went into the Stable and lay there; and in the Morning I saw him at five o'Clock set out for *London*: So that being in no Condition to go any where for want of Money, I resolved to lie there all Day, expecting him to come again at Night. He hearing from my Brother that I pretended to come to him, and not having seen me, was still more angry; and when he came I was not willing to go in, but stood at the Door, and one Mr. *Vonbergen*, a German Harpsichord-Maker, came out, and knowing me, said to me: *So Maister Powis, have you seen your Father*: No Sir, says I, *but I heard that he wanted me*: Says he, *who tell you Dat*. I replied, *My Brother,*

Brother, vell den, says he, I shall go and hear vat your Fader says ; and so he went in and came out again presently, and told me, that my Father sent for me to bid me do something or other, and not stay there, for if I did I should be apprehended and sent to Goal for what I had attempted, and so advised me to go to the West-Indies with some Merchant as his Book-keeper : And so informed me how I must do to hire my self ; and I consented at once to do as he advis'd, being in a despairing Condition.

THEN he introduced me to my Father, and told him I had a Mind to go beyond Sea, as I express'd before, and that I only wanted his Consent to dispose of my self : Which he gave me in Writing, and away I went ; and looking, as he directed, upon every Post I came near : And there was *Taylor*, and *Burge*, and I know not how many more that wanted all sorts of Tradesmen, who were to have great Encouragement and Money advanced, and were to live like Petty Kings : For when you come to talk with any of these Fellows, they (knowing none but dissolute idle Persons who can't stay here any longer will come to them) tell you glorious Things of the Place where you are going, that 'tis a Land flowing with Milk and Honey ; where you are to have Plenty of all Things, and scarcely do any thing for it : Though I believe they who go generally find the Contrary. Well, I read the Bills, and perceiving that each of them call'd himself the only Agent, &c. I resolv'd to visit them all round, which I did, and *P——r S——som* was the Man I pitch'd upon, an illiterate Fellow who can neither write nor read, but he
told

told me the smoothest Tale : And therefore away he and I went, and three or four more such silly Whelps as my self, to the *Black Boy* upon *London-Bridge*, where we were bound, and each of us had a Shilling a Day allowed us till we went on Board : We continued three or four Days at the Sign of the *Wheatsheaf* in *Scalding-Alley*, by *Stock's-Market*, where he keeps his Office ; and then going to the *Slop-Shop*, Orders was given for Cloathing each of us : And having each a Bed, Rug, Pillow and Blanket, away we went on Ship Board, the *Watt's Galley* was her Name, Captain *Wallis* Commander, bound for *Philadelphia*. I continued on Board nigh a Month, during which Time, there came upwards of forty, dropping in, of all Conditions and Trades, and Sizes, like the Beasts into *Noah's Ark* : And whilst I was amongst them, I observ'd, that whilst we were in the River and could get away, they treated us like Slaves, and I thought with my self, *What will they do when they get us far from our own Home, where we know no Body, but must lie at their Mercy.* What increased my Aversion was this, I fell Sick, and being extreamly ill, I fancied a Vomit would do me good ; whereupon I desired the Mate to let me have one : He replied, *The Captain will be on Board in two or three Days, and then I'll speak to him.* And what was still worse, I was forced in the Height of a Fever to get up and draw my own Beer, or help my self to any Thing I wanted, for none of them would help me, which made me resolve to escape from them the first Opportunity which I was able to lay hold of : But I did not effect it till the very Morning on which we were
to

to fall down the River to *Gravesend*, for all the Sailors but three being gone to *London* to take their Leave of their Friends; I got to a Man's Chest which had no Lock to it, and took out a Pair of Plush Breeches, a blue Jacket, three Pair of Stockings, two Handkerchiefs, and a chequer'd Shirt; and from under a Hammock, a Pair of Shoes and Buckles, which I took to be Silver, but was mistaken; and one of the Servants who had been a *Bailiff's Follower*, and who was the best in Apparel of all of them, having a pretty natural Wig which he hung by the Side of his Cabbin at Nights, I took it down, and put it on my Head, and a Hat I took of some Bodies, but I knew not whose, and left them my old Cloaths by Way of Exchange; and getting up the Scuttle, which is over the Cook-Room, to escape the Watch who was walking upon the Quarter-Deck; I lay still until the Watch went down, I suppose to call the next Watch; and I took that Opportunity to get into a Frigate built Ship, which was empty next to us, and sliding down the Horser, I got into a Boat which belong'd to another Ship, in which they had left an Oar, and untying her, I push'd her off, and began to paddle at the Stern as I had seen them do: But before I was two Boats Length off the Ship, I could neither see Ship nor Shoar, nor any Thing else, there was such a thick Fog, and I could not tell which Way the Tide ran, for me thought when I had push'd the Boat off she turn'd about, so that I thought I was driving up towards the Bridge. I endeavoured to get her towards the Shoar, but was not able to see any thing by which I might be guided; so that after I had

F

tired

tired my self with padling in vain an Hour and a Half, finding that in spite of all my Endeavours the Stream carried me along with it, I laid my Oar into the Boat, and resolved to let it drive me where it would till it was a little lighter, and then I got a-shoar below *Woolwich*; and the Ship from whence I came, lay over-against *Red-House*, which is above *Deptford*: So tying the Boat where I landed, I came for *London* with all Speed.

BEING got about half a Mile on this Side of *Deptford*, I met two Fellows who seem'd to have a Mind to the Wig, and chaffer'd with me for it, and I ask'd half a Guinea for it, and would not abate any thing; at last they came up to my Price, but said, they had not Money enough about them, but if I would go back with them to *Deptford* to a Publick House there, they wou'd pay me the Money; I agreed to that directly, and went back with them to a House where they call'd for a Pot of Beer, and sitting down they sat Out-side, and says, *young Man we don't want the Wig, for it is not worth half the Money, but a Friend of ours was robbed, and according to the Description we take this to be his Wig, and you one of the Persons who robbed him; so one says to t'other, I'll stay here with him, and do you go and call (whispering) I will says he, and away he went, when he was gone, t'other says, young Man, you had betier own the Matter, and let us have the Wig to give the Man, and we'll make all things easy;* I smelt their Design, which was to chouse me out of the Wig, if I was Fool enough to let them, so I humour'd the Thing, finding they knew nothing of my last Night's Exploit, which I was at
first

first afraid they did ; says I, if I leave the Wig with you, will you let me go, *stay*, says he, *and hear what my Brother says*, who coming in just then, he wink'd at him, he taking the Hint, says, *Mr. — is not at Home, so I did not tell any body what I wanted with him* ; upon which the other put the Question to him, who turning to me, says, *have you got any Money?* I replying in the Negative, he says, *I would not willingly be the Means of any poor Man's being hang'd, give us the Wig and slip away*. I returned then short upon them, saying, *are not you a Couple of Rogues?* *I'll know whether you shall stop People in this Manner to rob and defraud them* ; and with that I took up the Pot, and knocking hard on the Table, I call'd out, *Landlord, does ever a Constable live hereabouts* ; he heard me knock and came to the Door, but did not hear what I said, and before I could repeat the Question, one of them said, *go fetch me a Quartern of Brandy*, and therewith one went out, the other saying to me, *you had better not make a Noise* ; the Landlord coming, I said, *I did not call you for this, I want no Brandy*, says he, which was with me, *I did call for it, here take the Reckoning*, giving him a Shilling, and whilst he was gone, he run out after the other as fast as he could, leaving me the Brandy and the Three-pence to do what I wou'd with ; when the Landlord came I took the 'Three-pence, and filling out half, I drank to the Landlord, and went about my Business. And coming to London I chang'd away my Jacket and Breeches for a Pair of Breeches, Jacket and Trowles, that were fit for me, and had some Money to boot ; and when

I had spent that, I sold my Wig and Hat, and got an old one to wear, and having spent that, I was forc'd again to betake me to my Shifts.

AND having been to *Fulham*, in my return I over-took a young Woman who had been a Milking and was carrying it Home, (as I came along I saw a *Mulberry-Tree*, and had gathered my Hat full) and asking her to eat some *Mulberries*, she thanked me, and said, *she lov'd them very well, but was afraid she should be seen by somebody who wou'd tell her Mistress, and desired me to go along and take no Notice of her*; upon which I went away before, and waiting till she came up (in a Nursery of Oaks which were pretty thick) I call'd her, and said, *if she wou'd come in there and rest herself, she should be welcome to eat as many as she pleas'd*; she looking round and seeing no-body near, she came in and sat down, and gave me some Milk, and I sat down by her, and we began to be very gracious; so that finding she was not ill natur'd, I proceeded to return her Civility after a Manner which she was as pleas'd with as I could be; and having diverted ourselves as long as I was able we parted. And I came to *London*, and went round the Bridge to my Grandfather's House at *Stockwell*, and getting in at the Window I took a Bottle of Brandy, some Lemons, two or three Silver Tea Spoons, some Heart-Cakes, and other Trifles, and a great Coat which my Father had borrowed; he being in the House that Night, but the old Man being very ill, had a Woman to sit up with him, who hearing the Noise which I made in getting out again, look'd out of the Window and saw me; whereupon she called

called my Father up, and told him that somebody was in the House, but I in the mean time made off, and before my Father came down I was got a pretty Way off; however, he over-took me just by the Water Side, and was going to bring me back to *Simpson* again, but I saying, *that I wou'd sooner be hang'd than go to him*, and telling him, *that it was because I had been so us'd when I was Sick*; and disguising the Prank I play'd in taking the Man's Cloaths, he took me Home once again, to my great Satisfaction; for notwithstanding I could not take the Liberties at Home which I could Abroad, yet I was easiest in my Mind.

I continued at home very tractable about nine Weeks; and my Brother and I at *Christmas* went to our Customers Houses to pay them the usual Compliments, and got above a Guinea, of which we had eleven Shillings remaining on *New-Year's-Eve*. My Father had order'd my Brother to keep the Money, and he wou'd divide it betwixt us; but being obliged to be very much out of Town, he took my Brother with him on *New-Year's-Eve*; and lest I should want any thing in the Shop before he came back, he ordered him to leave me the Money. I was vex'd that he who was six Years younger than me should be trusted before me; and two or three young Gentlemen *Attornies Clerks*, having appointed to end the old Year merrily, I consented, and we went to a House where we had Punch made and minc'd Pye; and in short, I continued there till the next Night, and till I had spent the eleven Shillings; and not caring to go home then, I went to an Acquaintance and lay all Night with him, and the next Day

Day I met with my Brother, and he ask'd me where was the Money, I reply'd, *spent ; what,* says he, *won't you come to work ?* I made little or no Answer to that, but went away, and idled away my Time at one Place or other, as long as I had any Money, and when I had none left, I began to return to my former Course, like the Dog to his Vomit.

AND getting into a Stable behind the *Academy* in *Chancery-Lane* one Night, I lay still all that Night and the next Day, till it was the Dusk of the Evening, and then getting into a Kind of a Hay Loft belonging to Mr. *Moor* of *Three-Arrow-Court*, which is contiguous, the Grammar-School, I got out of the Loft into the said School Window, where there was Linnen a Drying, of which I took several Shirts, a Handkerchief, some Books, &c. I went down again unseen ; and that lasted me some Days, but as I soon wanted a supply, I got into a little back Ware-house belonging to Mr. *Carter* a *Glazier* in *Bell-Yard*, I attempted to break thro' his Ware-house, into an Office belonging to Mr. *Purker* an *Attorney* in *Baily-Court* ; but having struck a Light, the Light was seen thro' the Cravice of the Door ; upon which several People came along with Mr. *Parker*, and seeing the Hole I had broke in the Boards, search'd for me, who was got in between the Rafter and the Tyles ; when the *Glazier's* Man brought a Ladder, and rearing it against the Place where I was, said, *let us see if they be not got in here,* which I hearing, endeavoured to break a Hole in the Tyling, and so get out of the Top ; but before I could effect it, he had got up and
saw

saw me ; upon which he cry'd out, *there's one getting out at the Tyles*, which startled me, and I missing my Hold, fell back, and lighting between the Rafters, beat a great Hole in the Ceiling, and had like to have tumbled thro', but recovering myself I got thro', and crawling along the Gutter, I drop'd into the *Carpenter's Yard*, and endeavour'd to find my Way out, but could not ; whilst I was doing this, every one was at their Windows with Candles looking for me : But a little *Taylor* who goes by the Name of *Chum*, got up after me, and being seen by one who stood at the Window ; he cry'd out, *there he is*, and threw a scrubbing Brush at him, which almost demolish'd this 9th Part of a Man ; however, the *Carpenter* saw me drop into his Yard, and came down and took me, and I was carried to the *Round-house* in *Strand-Lane* ; but the next Day sending for my Father, he paid the Damage and made up with them, and took me home once more.

I CONTINUED at home about three Months more, when the Devil fearing to loose me, resolv'd to bait his Snare handsomely, as follows : We work'd for one *Edward Williams*, Esq; a Gentleman of a great Estate in *Wales*, who having been married about nine Months, and his Lady being with Child, he brought her up to Town to be delivered ; but she died in Child-bed, which turned all their Joy into Mourning ; and all Things were got in Readiness to accompany her Corpse into *Wales* : And my Father was sent for to rectify all the Locks of the Trunks and Boxes, in order to lock up every Thing till they came to Town again. My Father sent me in his Stead, and charged me
that

that whatever there was to do, I should do effectually ; but going to put a new Lock upon a Box which was full of Linnen, I was forced to take out some of the Things to make Room, in doing whereof I came to a little round Box, which felt very heavy ; and just before I had done, the Maid deing called out of the Room, to speak with some Person, I open' the Box, and was perfectly surpriz'd at the Sight: There was a Gold Watch with a chased Case, and a Chain with Seals, &c. and a Christial Heart set in Gold, with a Knot of Diamonds upon the Top of it, a Girdle Buckle set round with nineteen Diamonds, four Stomacher Buckles of the same, a Pearl Necklace with a Diamond Locket, a Gold Hoop Ring set quite round with Sparks, a Gold Hoop set round with Garnets, an Emerald Ring, a plain Gold Ring, two ditto Mourning, and two with a Christial in the Middle, and a Spark on each Side, a pair of Ear-Rings, being three Pearl Studs, and a Drop like a Pear, set in Gold ; a Silver Snuff-box, and a Silver Stock-buckle, all being worth upwards of Two hundred Pound. I took them all out, and put the Box in amongst the Linnen again ; and laying every Thing smooth, I gave the Maid the Key, who trying it, said, *it was very well*, and locking it, put the Key amongst her Others: And having done all that was wanting, I came away and heard nothing of them for some Time. This being on a *Thursday*, and they were not mis'd till the *Monday* Se'nnight after. And had I staid with my Father I had not been suspected: But meeting a young Silver-smith, whose Name is *William R ——— son*, Brother to Mrs. *B ——— an* the Actress,

Atres, I imparted the Matter to him, and ask'd his Advice how I should dispose of them, offering him a Share for his Assistance, and by his Persuasion we beat every Thing to Pieces, and melting the Gold, we throw'd every Thing else (as I thought) into the *Thames*; but he was too old for me, for he kept all the real Diamonds; and so when he heard I was taken up for the Things, he went into the Country. Thus I serv'd him for the Cat's-Foot, and burn'd my Fingers to get the Chestnuts which he eat. When the Gold was melted, we went and had an Essay made of it, and receiv'd for it about eleven Guineas, of which I had about seven Pound, and he had the Rest: I laid out most of mine in Cloaths, so that when I was apprehended I was extreamly poor: But however, I was carried before Sir J. Gorton, and several other Justices who were met at Justice Rialton's in St. Margaret's Church-yard, and by Justice Cotton committed to the Gate-house first, and after to Newgate, and at the Sessions ensuing was found Guilty to the Value of 39 s. There I lay under Sentence of Transportation near six Months before my Father would come near me, or send me any Relief; but at last upon my Promises of becoming a new Man, and entirely leaving off all Company who were my former Acquaintance, and being intirely ruled by him, he at the Expence of much Time, Money, and many Friends, procured the Sentence to be revers'd, and I was burnt in the Hand; and then paying my Fees, he took me Home once more: And had I continued with him, I might have been as happily established, and in as much Credit as if no such Thing had ever hap-
pened

that whatever there was to do, I should do effectually ; but going to put a new Lock upon a Box which was full of Linnen, I was forced to take out some of the Things to make Room, in doing whereof I came to a little round Box, which felt very heavy ; and just before I had done, the Maid deing called out of the Room, to speak with some Person, I open' the Box, and was perfectly surpriz'd at the Sight: There was a Gold Watch with a chased Case, and a Chain with Seals, &c. and a Christial Heart set in Gold, with a Knot of Diamonds upon the Top of it, a Girdle Buckle set round with nineteen Diamonds, four Stomacher Buckles of the same, a Pearl Necklace with a Diamond Locket, a Gold Hoop Ring set quite round with Sparks, a Gold Hoop set round with Garnets, an Emerald Ring, a plain Gold Ring, two ditto Mourning, and two with a Christial in the Middle, and a Spark on each Side, a pair of Ear-Rings, being three Pearl Studs, and a Drop like a Pear, set in Gold ; a Silver Snuff-box, and a Silver Stock-buckle, all being worth upwards of Two hundred Pound. I took them all out, and put the Box in amongst the Linnen again ; and laying every Thing smooth, I gave the Maid the Key, who trying it, said, *it was very well*, and locking it, put the Key amongst her Others: And having done all that was wanting, I came away and heard nothing of them for some Time. This being on a *Thursday*, and they were not miss'd till the *Monday* Se'nnight after. And had I staid with my Father I had not been suspected: But meeting a young Silver-smith, whose Name is *William R ——— son*, Brother to Mrs. *B ——— an* the Actress,

Atres, I imparted the Matter to him, and ask'd his Advice how I should dispose of them, offering him a Share for his Assistance, and by his Persuasion we beat every Thing to Pieces, and melting the Gold, we throw'd every Thing else (as I thought) into the *Thames*; but he was too old for me, for he kept all the real Diamonds; and so when he heard I was taken up for the Things, he went into the Country. Thus I serv'd him for the Cat's-Foot, and burn'd my Fingers to get the Chestnuts which he eat. When the Gold was melted, we went and had an Essay made of it, and receiv'd for it about eleven Guineas, of which I had about seven Pound, and he had the Rest: I laid out most of mine in Cloaths, so that when I was apprehended I was extreamly poor: But however, I was carried before Sir J. Gonson, and several other Justices who were met at Justice Rialton's in St. Margaret's Church-yard, and by Justice Cotton committed to the Gate-house first, and after to Newgate, and at the Sessions ensuing was found Guilty to the Value of 39 s. There I lay under Sentence of Transportation near six Months before my Father would come near me, or send me any Relief; but at last upon my Promises of becoming a new Man, and entirely leaving off all Company who were my former Acquaintance, and being intirely ruled by him, he at the Expence of much Time, Money, and many Friends, procured the Sentence to be revers'd, and I was burnt in the Hand; and then paying my Fees, he took me Home once more: And had I continued with him, I might have boen as happily established, and in as much Credit as if no such Thing had ever hap-
pened

pened. But Home and I could never agree after we had once been asunder: Add to this, that my Father laid more Restraint upon me now than ever, and I could less endure it, tho' I subjected my self out of Gratitude as much as possible, yet it would sometimes appear whether I would or no.

I CONTINUED at Home seven Months, but on the *Sunday* before *Whitsunday*, my Father desired me to go to his Landlord to ask some Question: I went, but coming back again, I met an Acquaintance whom I had not seen for a great while, and we must drink together; so we went to the House of a third Person whom he had promised to pay a Visit to that Day, and we sat down, and a great Bowl of Punch was made, and we drank that, and another, and so long, till the Room went round with us, and we had not Reason enough left to know whether it was Night or Day when we went from thence, for we were both unwilling to go home: And being both of a Mind, we rambled about all that Night, and the next Day we went to the *Mulberry-Garden*, and there we went to Dancing, and thus we pass'd best Part of that Day; and in the same Manner we lived till the *Whitsun Holidays* were over: And as long as I could beg or borrow, (for I had not yet begun to steal) I lodged in *Hanging-Sword-Court*, in *Fleet-Street*. And one Day I was invited by a Person, for whom I had a great Respect, to take a Walk, which I would have left any Thing to do, but was at a Loss for Want of Money; but remembering that there was a Trunk in my Room where I had seen my Landlady put some Linnen:

I went home, and opening it with an old Nail which I found in the Chimney, I took out two Shirts of my Landlord's, and a Prayer-Book, which I pawn'd for 5 s. 6 d. and returned to my Company; passing that Evening with a great deal of Pleasure and Satisfaction, and about twelve that Night I return'd home with a light Heart, not dreaming they had miss'd the Linnen, my Design being to put it in its Place again at the Week's-End, for I had hired my self to a *Smith's Shop* in *Peter-street*, by *Clare-market*, to go to work the next Morning: But Fortune always played the Part of a Jilt by me in pretending to reach her Hand to assist me in mounting her Wheel; but if ever I offer'd to embrace her Profer, she surely kick'd me down and trampled upon me: Such was the present Misfortune. I was happy in the Company of one I loved one Night, and the next Morning stopt and charg'd by my Landlady and her Husband with robbing my Lodging: However I made that up easily, for I went with them to the Pawn-brokers, and they paid the Money for them and took them home with them; and I left my Hat and a Flute, and what other Things I had there, till I should come and repay them. But not knowing how I should get Money to do it, I ruminated on several Projects; but at last concluded to re-visit the *Coffee-House*, in *Chancery-Lane*, where I had been about two Years before; which I executed that Night by going down the Area, and finding the Kitchen Window open, I enter'd, and took away as many Things as I pawn'd for near thirty Shillings, and had done more Mischief, had I not been disturb'd by a Maid Servant who came down and oblig'd

oblig'd me to make my Exit the same Way I enter'd, and with much more Precipitation. However I got away without being stop'd, although I was seen by her and another Person, who was a Servant in the Neighbourhood of which in its Place. But however, as soon as People were up, I went and dispos'd of the Things, and went and paid my Landlady, and had my Things again.

AND now having no Lodgings, I us'd to go about like a Wolf seeking for Prey: And my Cloaths being in Pawn, I look'd just like (what I now to my unspeakable Sorrow am) a *Newgate-Bird*; having an old black Coat on, and a foul Shirt, and a fourler Heart.

THE last Money being all gone, I went one Night and revisited that unhappy Office in *Cancery-Lane*, of which I have spoken, but found nothing but two or three Books, and so came out again, and sold them for half a Crown; and that kept me that Day, and at Night I went into the Hole under the Stairs again as if I was resolv'd to run directly into the Mouth of Danger: For a Man who lodges above Stairs, coming in to go to Bed, about two in the Morning, saw me, and laid hold of me, and called Mr. Reynolds, the Master of the *Tavern*. They sent for my Father, who rising out of his Bed, came to them; and he promising I should be forth-coming in the Morning, they deliver'd me into his Keeping, and he took me home; and when we were at home, he ask'd me about the *Coffee-House*, saying, *the Maid and another had both described me just as I was, setting aside my Wig, which, they said, was either my own Hair, or a Wig made of my own Hair, and that it was black.* However

However I deny'd very stiffly that I knew any thing either of that or robbing the Office; and when Mr. *Reynolds* was up, my Father went to him, and brought him to our House, and he talk'd with me himself: Telling me that he was sorry I should be suspected of any such Thing after so great a Deliverance. But I deny'd my Knowledge of any Thing I was charg'd with, and persisting strongly in my Innocence, he said, *he hop'd it was as I said*: But however he would have me go away from hence, for the *Masters in Chancery* had order'd him to prosecute me, or they would leave his House, and have their Office somewhere else: But he said, *he would talk with them, and endeavour to persuade them I was innocent*: And desiring me to take Care of my Actions, he went away; and my Father after exhorting me to have my Creator in my Mind, and to go to work honestly for my Subsistence, without using any unlawful Means. I promising him I would, telling him, *that I had hired my self to a Smith's, as I have told before, but my Landlord detained me (for he had heard of that, and ask'd me about it.)* So taking my Leave, he bid me have a Care of my self: And I went away to Mr. *Harvey*, the *Smith*, in *Milford-Lane*, taking a Lodging just by, and agreeing to go to work with him the next Morning; but that Night my Father's Man came to my Lodging, and told me that I had no Business to stay there, for there was a Warrant out to apprehend me, by Order of the Masters, who were very angry with Mr. *Reynolds* for letting me go; and if I staid in Town I should be taken: Upon which I promised him I would

would go into the Country ; and we parted, and I shifted about for some Time.

BUT going one Night towards the *London-Spaw* to lie down under a Hay-rick, my usual Lodging when I had no Money, it being on a *Saturday* Night, the Watchmen of *Clerkenwell* scoured the Fields, and carried all they found to *New-Prison*, of which I was one. And the next Morning we were carried before a Justice, who discharged those that gave him any tolerable Account of themselves ; and I amongst the Rest : But for my Fees I lay till next *Saturday*, when a charitable Gentleman, whose Name is *D—ns*, a *Hosier* in the *Strand*, towards *Charing-Cross*, came and discharg'd me and several other Persons, who only lay for their Fees. And when I would have returned him Thanks, He bade me thank God, and take Care how I got into Trouble again ; saying, if God had not put it into his Mind to do such a charitable Act, he had not been able to do it of himself.

AWAY I went then, and being in great Distress, I went to a House, 'twas the Sign of the *World's-End* betwixt *Chelsea*, and the *Earl of Peterborough's-House*, in the Road to *Fulham*, and got into the Back-Kitchen through the Pantry, in the Night, from whence I took some Brás, to about the Value of seven or eight Shillings, and for which I had not above three Shillings and Sixpence ; but could not get into the other Part of the House.

AND that being gone, I went the next Night but one to a House in the same Road, but farther on : From whence I took two Dozen of Plates, some Linnen out of a Tub of Water, and about
seven

seven Dozen Penny Papers of Tobacco and came away, and these fetch'd little more than ten Shillings ; for the Linnen was full of Holes, and the Tobacco I took out of the Papers, and sold loose for a meer Trifle.

BUT the next Booty was better, for going into the Sign of the *Royal Sovereign* in *Whetston's-Park*, that End next *Queen's-street*, kept by Mr. *Wall*, I broke open his Till, and a Cupboard in the Bar, and got about fifteen Shillings and Sixpence in Half-pence, eighteen Shillings and Sixpence in Silver, and a Piece of Gold worth six Shillings and Three-pence, one Dozen and a half of Plates, a Bottle of Salts tip'd with Silver, a Hat, and some other Trifles; and having disposed of the Plates, &c. I had about two Pound seven Shillings. And that Day I redeemed my Clothes, telling my Acquaintance the Money was lent me by a Friend, who did, that in order that I should go down to my Grandfather, who liv'd in *Yorkshire*, shewing a Letter at the same time, as from him, but which I had written myself, which invited me down with great Professions of Kindness for me.



Loving Grandson, B——d,

‘YOURS I have received, and am glad to
 ‘I hear you are in good Health, as I am at
 ‘present, (God be prais’d for it.) But as for what
 ‘you say about coming down, I don’t mind it,
 ‘because your Father and you have both promised
 ‘that I should see you here, ever since I was at
 ‘Lon-

' *London*, when you liv'd in *Panton-street*, and you
 ' have not been as good as your Words ; yet I,
 ' and all your Relations will make much of you,
 ' for my Dear Daughter *M——*'s sake. Your
 ' Uncle *M——* is very ill, but we hope with
 ' God's Assistance he will do well again: But
 ' poor *Z——* has been dead ever since last
 ' *Christmas* ; I have sent you a Token by ——
 ' —— our Carrier, whom I have ordered to bring
 ' you down, if you are willing, and bear your
 ' Charges.'

Your

Loving Grandfather,

Till Death,

M—— K——.

I having writ it in an odd scrawling Hand, and
 counterfeited the Post Mark, no-body thought
 any other but that it came from ——, where
 I pretended ; so that this passed very well.

Now I had courted a young Woman of very
 great Merit for some time, upon honourable Terms,
 with whom I came acquainted after the following
 Manner.

I went one Evening to see a Youth with whom
 I was intimate ; and being his Birth-Day, his Mo-
 ther (as she was for some Years accustomed to do
 on that Day) gave an Entertainment ; and he had
 been to my Lodging to invite me to make one of
 the Guests ; but not being at home I heard no-
 thing

thing of it till I came there; whereupon I return^d ed home and shifted myself, and return'd, where was about Twelve or Fourteen Friends and Acquaintances; and after Supper there was a kind of Ball, which continued till about One in the Morning; and I standing up to Dance, chose her for my Partner, and we danc'd a *Minuet*, which she performed on her part with an exceeding Grace, and then returned to her Seat, and methought as she sat amongst the Rest of the Ladies, they serv'd only as a Foil to a Diamond, to make her Beauty more Conspicuous, which I having the Honour to conduct her home, I told her as much, adding, *that I should think it the luckiest Adventure which could have arrived to me, if she wou'd permit me to be her humble Servant, &c.* She with a Wit equal to her Beauty, answer'd, *That as she had given me the Trouble of coming so far out of my Way on her Account, she was very willing to contribute what lay in her Power to divert me, and that she was glad to see me in so jocular a Temper;* but adding, ironically, *That she could not afford to keep a Servant, neither could she tell how to manage one; especially such a One as I was, who was given so much to Flattery in so gross a Manner.* In such kind of Discourse we passed the Time, and were got to her Mother's before we were aware; and having unwillingly taken my Leave I went home, but could not sleep for the last Night's Adventure, being so deeply fix'd in my Heart, I got up early and wrote the following Letter.

H

Fairest

Fairest of your Sex,

‘PERMIT me to lay at your Feet, a Heart
 ‘ entirely devoted to your Beauty, and which
 ‘ is incapable of any other Passion than Love, un-
 ‘ less you by Cruelty cause Grief to usurp his
 ‘ Throne. But stay, I am going to dispose of
 ‘ what I have not ; my Heart fled from me last
 ‘ Night, and has taken Refuge in your Breast ;
 ‘ I do not envy it, but would participate with its
 ‘ Happiness, which is so infinite, as were I a King,
 ‘ I wou’d leave my Dignity to enjoy with you in
 ‘ a Cottage. O ! don’t frown upon me lest you
 ‘ thereby kill me, who only desires to live to con-
 ‘ vince you, how much he is your Adorer, and
 ‘ humble Slave.’

JOSEPH POWIS.

To this I had no answer, and going to my Friend, I ask’d his Advice how I should proceed, for I was but a Novice in an Affair of this Nature, and he knew not much more than I ; but he told me, *that I had best talk to her, for she did not mind nonsensical romantick Epistles, having as many sent by one or another, as wou’d fill a Sack almost, and he knew she wou’d not answer any ;* I was a little picqued at my Friend’s giving my Piece of amorous Rhetorick such a degrading Title, and left him abruptly, and went to her Mother’s, who being gone out, I had the Opportunity of near two Hours Conversation with her alone, and I obtained Leave to see her when Opportunity serv’d, and tell her my Passion, which she did disdain to hear,
 till

till I gain'd by Time and Importunity such Encouragement from her, so as bid me hope I was not indifferent to her ; and I pressing her for her Consent to make me compleatly Happy, she gave me to understand, after some Denials, that she had no Aversion to either me, or my Proposal ; but as I had shewed her the Letter, and told her I expected something considerable from his Promises, and Professions of Love and Kindness ; not only in this Letter but formerly. She wou'd have me go down and see what he would do for me, and at my return, if I continued in the same Mind, her Consent should not be wanting, even though it were the Day following my Arrival. I was at this Declaration in such an Extacy of Joy, that I had not Power to thank her, (inexpressible Pleasure and Satisfaction, being like a great Multitude of People striving to go thro' a narrow Passage, where all pressing to get forth at once, do so wedge each other, that even those who are next the Door can't get out.) However, recovering myself, I told her, *that she was unkind to make that Supposition, for it was impossible that ever I could change, tho' all the World were to join their Endeavours to make me prove False ; not the Glittering of Wealth could do it ; adding, that I wish'd I had a Crown for her Sake, I wou'd lay both that and myself at her Feet ;* then I appointed the Day when I would go, and mentioning that I should be uneasy when from her so great a Distance, lest some happy Rival should supplant me in her Affections ; she let me to understand, *that she preferred me to all her Pretenders, of which there were several.* I beg the Reader to excuse my dwelling

so long upon a Subject which is so delightful, that I cou'd indulge myself therein forever, were I not interrupted by reflecting that I have irrecoverably lost in her the Delight of my Soul, which affects me with so much Melancholy, that I am at present almost drowned in a Deluge of Tears, which hinder me for a while ——. But to proceed, having no Money left, I borrowed a Crown of a Friend, and in order to repay it again before I went my pretended Journey ; I got into a House in *Round-Court*, and getting open the Till, I found therein a half Guinea, and no more Money of any Sort ; but I took away a black Hood, a Silk Hat, a Woman's Cap, a Handkerchief, and some other Trifles, for which I had half a Crown. And going to see my Mistress and take my Leave of her ; this being the Day on which I was to set out, I paid the Crown, and breakfasted with her, and took my Leave and we parted ; they verily thinking I was gone to the Inn, and so on my Journey.

H E R E the Reader may perhaps ask, what was my Intention in pretending to go when I knew the Letter was not real ? To this I answer, that finding I had brought myself to this *Dilemma*, I resolved to be incognito till I had met with some Prize that was considerable, and then returning to say, *that my Grandfather had given me that* ; and thus I was deceiving Mankind, and endeavouring to deceive myself also ; which as it was all my own doing, I can blame no-body else for the Consequence so fatal to me.

W H E N I was gone, an unusual Melancholly seiz'd me, which I endeavour'd to shake off by getting into Company ; and at Night I went to see

see the *Beggar's Opera*, and the *Mock Doctor*: But when Capt. *Mackbeath* came fetter'd upon the Stage, I fell into a greater Melancholly than before, as if my Mind presag'd the Misfortune I was to be under, of being what he only personated, *i. e.* a Condemn'd Man.

BUT I went to an Inn that Night, and calling for half a Quartern of Brandy, I drank that, and desiring them to shew me a Bed, I found my self much better, next Morning, by the Assistance of Rest, but did not attempt any thing that Week; but the next *Monday* Night, or rather *Tuesday* Morning, it being about three o'Clock in the Morning, I got into the Shop of Mrs. *Price*, a Cook, at the Upper-End of *Flower-de-Luce-Court*, from whence I took a large Copper Dish, and a Brass one, several Pewter Dishes and Plates, five Silver Tea-Spoons, a sett of China, and a large Table Cloth, &c. which yielded me just a Guinea: For I being well dress'd, went to a *Silver-smith's*, and sold the Spoons for their intrinsic Value; but the other Things I sold to one who buys all sorts of stolen Goods: Which sort of People always get more than *Cent per Cent.* by every Thing which goes through their Hands; and who, amongst Thieves, are call'd *Fence's*, which I learned whilst a Prisoner in *Newgate*. For when I was at Liberty, though I was a Thief, I never kept any Thieves Company; but if ever any such, or whom I imagin'd to be so, came where I was at any Time, I always went directly away.

AND coming by *Newgate*, it came into my Head to call and see some of the Prisoners who remained there ever since my Enlargement, which
I

I did, and spent amongst them about seven Shillings in two Hours, and then came away ; little dreaming I should return thither in two Days against my Will. And meeting two young Women whom I knew, I ask'd them where they were going ; they replied, *to Hampstead Fair*, it being the First of *August*: Upon which we join'd Company, and went thither ; and in the Fair we met my Mistress's Companion and Confident, who being in my Interest, I easily won, with good Words and a plausible Excuse, to say nothing of her Adventure, or having seen me that Afternoon. I being suppos'd to be then at a great Distance ; and at the Fair I spent upwards of twelve Shillings and Six-pence more: For when I came home I had not Eighteen-pence left, and coming out of the Fair, she was taken from us by four Men, with whom I scuffled so long, till I could scarcely open my Mouth, or stand upright, for they knock'd me about like a Tennis Ball, so that I was at last forc'd to quit them ; and they put her into a Coach, and drove towards *London*, too fast for me to pursue ; So that I being likewise unwilling to leave the Company with whom I came out, I conducted them home, and then arriv'd at my Lodging about One in the Morning ; and betwixt the Blows I got, and weariness, and the Liquor together, I slept till near Noon ; and getting up, I came to a House, and sent for the Person whom I lost the last Night, being desirous to know how she got home: Word was brought that she was not at home, nor would be till towards Night ; whereupon I went away, about ten that Night, being the Second of *August*, I went to the Sign of the *Black-Raven* in *Fetter-Lane*,

Lane, and sent one for her : But she was not yet come home ; so I call'd for Tobacco, and drank two Pints of Beer, and as I sat, I saw the Landlord, *Joseph Brewer*, change two or three Guineas, and when he put his Hand into the Drawer, it sounded as if there was a large Quantity of Money therein, which I immediately coveted to become Master of ; and looking about, I saw the Key which fastened the Pin of the Cellar Door, which I took out so far, that upon turning the Pin it would fall out : And it being near twelve, I said, *she won't come to Night, let me have a Glass of Brandy* ; then paying my Reckoning, I went away, and about two that Morning I came up the Lane, and staid till the Watchman, who stood at *Brewer's* Window, went to cry the Hour ; and then turning the Pin, the Key dropt out, by which Means I got the Cellar Door open, and got into the House. As soon as I was in, I endeavour'd to get the Door open, in order to put the Bar up in its Place again ; but not being able to effect that, by Reason it was lock'd, and the Key was not there ; so that I was going to get out again, but the Watchman being so near that I could not without his perceiving me, which made me wait in Hopes that he would not see the Bar, but might pass it. But, to my great Surprize, I found he saw it ; for I heard him call, *Mr. Brewer, your Cellar Window is open* : He answered him again, *well, do you stay there till I come down, and see that no Body goes out* : Upon that I ran to the back Door, and opening that, I went into the Yard, and got over a Wall into Mrs. *Asbley's* Yard, and was going to proceed into the next Yard, which was a *Carpenter's*, but the Partition

Partition between the two Yards being only thin Boards, made a Noise in my mounting over, so that a Woman who lay backwards heard it, and put her Head out, which obliged me to retreat: By that Time *Brewer* was come into the Yard, and I crept under a kind of a Dresser in Mrs. *Ashley's* Yard, where I then was, and lay there for about half a Minute, when one came into the Yard, and looking round, cry'd, *here's no Body*; but spying one of my Feet, he cry'd, *Oh, here he is, here he is*: And in a Moment the Yard was full of People, who began to demolish my Fortrefs, the Dresser; and I putting my Head out, was going to speak, when I felt a Blow on my Head which laid me senseless, and they had repeated their Blows as I lay; for when I came to myself I had three Holes in my Head, in each whereof you might put the End of your Finger; coming a little to myself, I said, *for God's Sake don't Murder me, seeing I don't resist*; upon which one took hold of my Hands, and another took hold of my Collar, and were going to lift me up, when I felt something go thro' the Calf of my Leg, and turning my Head, I saw a rusty narrow Sword which was thrust into my Right Foot quite to the Bone, and just then they lifted me up, but I not able to stand, had like to have fell down again, if they had not supported me, and whilst I stood I saw the Sword which had done me the Injury, in the Hands of a Man called *Patrick*, who is a Servant to *Brewer*, and he thrust at me again as I stood, but I was aware of it, and turn'd myself a little, and bore the Sword away with my Hand, so that it did not enter, but only graz'd along,
of

of which there remains a Scar near six Inches long, and he made two more Thrusts which both went thro' my Coat-Sleeve, but did me no other Damage ; and then the People who were about me wou'd not let him do it any more, but carried me into a House, and I sat down and undid my Stocking, and holding the Calf of my Leg hard with my Hand, the Blood spun out as freely as it does when a Man is let Blood in the Arm ; and when I had let it bleed as long as I thought proper, I bound my Handkerchief round it, and they carried me to the *Compter*, where I lay with my Wounds all bleeding till about Ten a-Clock in the Forenoon, and then they fetch'd me before Sir *William Billers*, who committed me to *Newgate*, and then I had my Wounds drest as well as they could in that Place, and lay till Sessions, which was five Weeks from the Time of my coming first.

At the Sessions I was arraign'd and try'd, and several Things were produced in Court, *viz.* five Pick-Locks, two Spikes, a Quarter of a Pound of Wax Candle, a Pair of long Scissars, which I had about me when I was taken ; and lastly, the Pin of the Window, which one ———— a Fellow swore, he took it out of my Pocket ; but I verily believe he convey'd it there himself, in order to have it to swear against me, for I do not know how it came there, nor do I remember that I touch'd it after I laid it upon the Bench, just within the Window whereat I enter'd : However, I was Capitally convicted, notwithstanding I made the most artful Defence I was capable of ; for my Prosecutor informed the Court, that I was

cast for Transportation before, and it being not above a Year ago they had it fresh in Memory ; all I said for myself did not avail, and having no Witnesses to call, either for any Facts or my Reputation, it was so much the Worse, for my Father wou'd not own me, nor hear from me ; and if I write any Letters he wou'd not receive them, if they were received in his absence he order'd them to be burn'd ; this was on the first Day of Sessions that I was carried to the Cells.

WHERE being arrived I wrote the following Letter to ——— upon my being Cast.



Dear ———,

‘ AFTER a Trial which lasted betwixt two
 ‘ and three Hours, I was brought in Guilty,
 ‘ *Death*, and was put into the *Bail-Dock*, and in
 ‘ about three Hours brought to the Cells, where
 ‘ I now am, a sad Example of the Instability of
 ‘ Fortune ; for just as I was mounting towards the
 ‘ Top of her Wheel, and thought myself in all
 ‘ human Probability, just upon the Point of be-
 ‘ ing the happiest Man in the World ; she like an
 ‘ inconsistent Mistress, gave me a Kick with her
 ‘ Foot and down I fell, and I now lye under her
 ‘ Feet, not knowing whether I shall ever sur-
 ‘ mount this Stroke. It is not Death that troubles
 ‘ me, but the Injuries I have done you undesign-
 ‘ edly, in bringing the Censure of the World up-
 ‘ on you, who will reflect upon you on my Ac-
 ‘ count ; to remove which, I would be contented
 ‘ to

‘ to suffer the cruelest Death that could be inflict-
 ‘ ed upon him; who will with his last Breath con-
 ‘ tinue to profess himself,

Your

Unhappy humble Servant,

And sincere Admirer,

JOSEPH POWIS.



Mr. POWIS,

‘ I AM heartily sorry for your Misfortune, and
 ‘ I wish it were in my Power to do you any Service;
 ‘ I beg you wou’d not make yourself uneasy upon
 ‘ my account, but compose yourself, and prepare
 ‘ for the Worst that may happen, and don’t cast
 ‘ yourself down; you may overcome this Mis-
 ‘ fortune and regain what you have lost, and if I
 ‘ can assist you upon any account in going any
 ‘ where, you may depend upon me, who am ready
 ‘ upon all Occasions to prove myself,

Your

Faithful Friend, — — —.

AND the last Day being *Monday* the 11th of *September*, 1732, I was brought down to receive Sentence of Death, and being ask'd by the Judge, what I had to say, why Sentence should not pass upon me? I delivered the following Speech Extempore to the Honourable Court.

I AM descended of honest and reputable Parents, who gave me a liberal Education, and instilled in my Breast the Principles of Religion and Virtue, and always endeavoured to create in me, an Abhorrence of any thing that was base, or would bring an *Odium* either on myself, or Family.

NEITHER have I a natural or habitual Tendency to a vicious Course of Life. The former Misfortune in which I was involved, was caus'd by my Confidence of a false Friend, who left the Things which he had stolen in my Custody, and escaped the Misfortune which light upon me. In this for which I am now brought before your Lordship; neither my Will nor my Reason was concerned, I was hurried on to the Commission thereof by the Disguise of Liquor, and some strange Fatality against which, I should have been more guarded had I been sober; I would not be hereby thought to urge my Innocence: No, my Lord, I own I deserve Punishment, for laying myself open to such a Temptation; but humbly beg, my Lord, that Justice may be allay'd with Mercy, that my Punishment may be such, that I may live to make the World amends for any Faults I either have, or am suppos'd to have committed. My Lord,

' I am of an Occupation which enables me to
 ' support myself creditably, without having re-
 ' course to any mean or base Arts to the Detri-
 ' ment of Mankind ; wherefore, I most humbly
 ' intreat your Lordship and this honourable Court
 ' to take pity on my tender Years ; and to repre-
 ' sent my Case so favourably to his Majesty, that
 ' this terrible Sentence of Death, which I now
 ' am under may be chang'd to Banishment, tho'
 ' for Life: And I do sincerely Promise and assure
 ' your Lordship, that the rest of my Life shall
 ' be employed in returning God and your Lord-
 ' ship Thanks for the Mercy which is shewn to
 ' me. And now having said what I have to say,
 ' humbly submit myself to your Lordship's Mercy.

AFTER receiving Sentence the Court broke
 up, and we being remanded back to *Newgate*.
 The beautiful ----- plac'd herself close by the
 Door of the *Bail-Dock*, and as I came out, she
 caught hold of my Hand and burst into Tears,
 which caus'd such a violent Emotion in me, that
 unable either to vent or suppress my Grief, I was
 oblig'd without speaking to haste away ; and
 coming to the Cells after sitting a while, I recol-
 lected how abruptly I had left her, to excuse
 which, I wrote the following Letter.



My Dearest -----,

' THE kind Concern you express'd for one so
 ' unworthy of it, had so strong an Effect
 ' upon me, that my Grief grew too big ; and I
 ' not

' not able to vent it, was oblig'd to Leave you in
 ' that abrupt Manner ; for had I staid, I had sunk
 ' down in the Place, without being able to speak
 ' a Word ; but I came to my Cell, and after I had
 ' sat a little, a kind shower of Tears relieved my
 ' afflicted Heart, which was ready to break, and
 ' then I remember'd how I had left you ; which
 ' were inexcusable, were it not that my Misfor-
 ' tunes plead in my Behalf, which embolden'd me
 ' to intreat you wou'd pardon it ; in hopes where-
 ' of, I conclude myself,

Your

Afflicted,

Humble Servant.

J. POWIS.

AND at the same Time I wrote the following to another Person, to Mr. F———n.



Dear Friend,

' **Y**OU have doubtless heard my sad Misfor-
 ' tune of being condemn'd to die, which
 ' alas! I have too justly deserv'd ; but for which
 ' I am exceedingly sorry, and as I heartily repent,
 ' God who knows the Secrets of all Hearts, may
 ' per-

‘ perhaps incline his Majesty to spare my Life.
‘ If I die, I heartily wish I may warn by my
‘ Example, all young Men from committing those
‘ Follies, which have precipitated me into these
‘ Streights. I go every Day to Prayers in the
‘ Chappel, and we are lock’d up by Mr.
‘ *Austin*, who is said, by the common Report
‘ of the Prisoners, to be a very severe Man,
‘ which made me entertain Fears of being ill us’d
‘ by him ; but contrary to my Expectation, I
‘ find him to be a very charitable and good Man;
‘ and if he exercises any Severity, ’tis on Fellows
‘ turbulent and untractable Spirits, on whom good
‘ Usage wou’d be thrown away ; for to a quiet
‘ Person, he behaves with the utmost Humanity,
‘ as I by Experience have prov’d. I humbly beg
‘ you wou’d excuse my unfair Usage, in bringing
‘ you such a base and dishonest Friendship, in re-
‘ turn for yours, which I believe was sincere and
‘ honourable ; which if you will grant it, will
‘ much contribute to the Peace of,

Your sorrowful,

Unhappy Friend,

J. POWIS.

P. S. I should be glad to see you at Chappel the first Opportunity, having something to say which I don’t care to commit to Writing, lest it should fall into bad Hands.

N E X T

NEXT Morning be-times, I received this following.



Mr. POWIS,

‘ I AM inform’d that you shou’d get some Friend
 ‘ to deliver a Petition in your Behalf, which
 ‘ wou’d do you Service ; I desire you wou’d get
 ‘ some Advice about it, and let me know if I, or
 ‘ any of my Friends can do any thing about it ; if
 ‘ any thing lies in my Power, I shall by my En-
 ‘ deavours shew how much I Value your Life,
 ‘ and wou’d even to the Hazard of my own,
 ‘ prove that I really am,

Your

Sincere and

Loving Friend, — —.

To Mr. ———, on hearing that a Woman reported I was married to her.



Worthy Sir,

‘ I AM very credibly inform’d, that (since my
 ‘ Misfortune of being condemned) one *Eliza-*
 ‘ *beth Seymour*, alias *Lambeth*, alias something
 ‘ else, which I can’t at present recollect, who liv’d
 some-

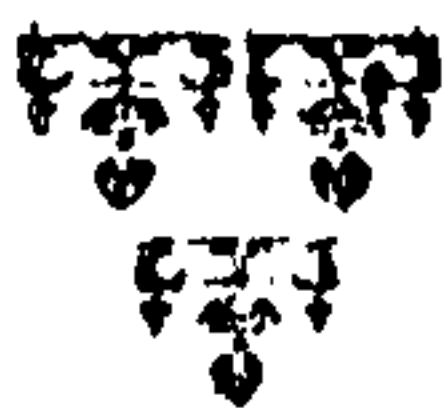
' somewhere in the Neighbourhood in which my
 ' Father lives, in St. *Dunstan's* Parish, (and is a
 ' notorious common Strumpet) has spread a Re-
 ' port that she is married to me. I thought it pro-
 ' per to endeavour to justify myself to you, hop-
 ' ing when you have read this, will defend me
 ' against a Report, which Hurts my Reputation
 ' more than it is already; and likewise reflects
 ' upon my Sense and Taste. I therefore declare,
 ' upon the Word of a Dying Man, and by all my
 ' Hopes of Mercy, at the Great Day of Judge-
 ' ment, that Report is False and Scandalous; not
 ' only actually, but also intentionally, for I never
 ' had one transitory Thought tending thereto; and
 ' had such a Thing been ever propos'd to me, I
 ' should have rejected it with scorn: And may I
 ' receive Mercy, or Condemnation, from the Tre-
 ' mendous Majesty of Heaven, according to the
 ' Truth or Falsehood of what I have wrote here
 ' to you; so desiring your Prayers, I remain for
 ' the short Time I expect to live,

Your

Sincere Friend,

And humble Servant,

J. POWIS.



To Mrs. N——y.

Madam,

‘ I WAS thinking this Morning after I came
 ‘ down from Chappel, upon my present Con-
 ‘ dition, and I compar’d myself to *Pharaoh’s* Offi-
 ‘ cers in the Prison: One of whom *J. E.* the
 ‘ Chief *Butler*, was restored to his Lord’s Favour,
 ‘ and the other who was the *Baker* was hang’d;
 ‘ and wishing that I might escape the Fate of the
 ‘ Latter, without desiring any other than the Mean
 ‘ betwixt both. I became so drousy that I was
 ‘ not able to keep my Eyes open, so I lay down
 ‘ to sleep, and dream’d that we were all led to
 ‘ some Place of Execution, which was near the
 ‘ Water-side; and as we went along, we came to a
 ‘ Place where his Majesty was Landing; being I
 ‘ thought, just arriv’d, and there were several
 ‘ Gentlemen and Ladies in his Retinue; methought
 ‘ I broke from those who were appointed to
 ‘ Guard me, and ran to the Place where his Ma-
 ‘ jesty stood, without Opposition, and Prostrating
 ‘ myself, humbly besought for Mercy, who look’d
 ‘ at me, and went on the other Side of an open
 ‘ Square, where they stood, and said nothing in
 ‘ Answer to my Request. But one of the Ladies
 ‘ said to another, who stood by her, *that I should*
 ‘ *have Addressed myself first to her*, which me-
 ‘ thought I over-heard; upon which I arose up,
 ‘ and turning myself towards her, was just going
 ‘ to intreat her to interceed with his Majesty in my
 ‘ Behalf; when one of the Waiters came and o-
 ‘ pen’d

pen'd the Door of my Cell which wak'd me. I
 send this to you because I have heard you very
 justly and reasonably defend the Significancy of
 such Warnings and Foreknowledges, which the
 Soul of Man is employ'd in, during its absence
 from the Body by Instances of this Kind, and
 it made the stronger Impression upon me, by
 Reason that the Lady had the Resemblance of
 the Charming ———, who would not stay for
 me to ask it, were it in her Power to do me such
 a Favour, as to contribute towards saving the
 Life of,

Your unfortunate

Humble Servant,

JOSEPH POWIS.

AFTER which reflecting seriously upon all my
 past Actions, and heartily wishing that I had some
 Part of my Life to live over again, of which I
 would make a much better Use than I have: And
 after revolving in my Mind, the many Misfortunes
 and Inconveniencies to which my own Folly and ill
 Conduct had expos'd me, I resolv'd to give the
 World an Account of my whole Life, in hopes it
 might prove Acceptable, and also Entertaining;
 and I believe 'tis an Original on this Account, that
 tho' many have been involved in the Guilt of a
 vicious Course of Life by keeping bad Company;
 yet but few before me were ever brought thereto,
 by keeping too good Company, of which the
 Cause being Ambition, is one of the many Sins for
 which

which I heartily ask God and the World Forgiveness, wishing that this may be like a Light on the Sea Shore to warn all young Men to shun those fatal Rocks, whereon I am shipwreck'd, and that I may be the last unhappy Person in this kind, is the earnest Desire of,

JOSEPH POWIS.

N. B. On Wednesday, the 1st of this Instant, will be published, by John Applebee Printer, the *Right and True Dying-Speech of the Malefactors*, giving an Account of all the Robberies; particularly Drew's, alias Johnson, William Shelton the Apothecary, Highwaymen, and Charles Patrick, alias Captain Cartouch, a Street-Robber.

F I N I S.

