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The true Effegies of
JONATHAN WILD . —

THE
TRUE and GENUINE
ACCOUNT
OF THE
LIFE and ACTIONS
Of the Late

JONATHAN WILD;

Not made up of *Fiction* and *Fable*,
but taken from his Own Mouth, and
collected from PAPERS of his
Own Writing.



L O N D O N;

Printed and Sold by JOHN APPLEBEE, in *Black-Fryers*; J. ISTD, at the *Golden-Ball* near *Chancery-Lane* in *Fleet-street*; and the Bookfellers of *London* and *Westminster*, 1725. (Price Six-Pence.)

The PREFACE.

Heads of the scribbling Authors, meerly to get a Penny, without regard to Truth of Fact, or even to Probability, or without making any Conscience of their imposing on the Credulous World.

NAY, so little Ground has there been for them, that except there was such a Man as Jonathan Wild, that he was born at Wolverhampton, liv'd in the Old-Bayley, was call'd a Thief-Catcher, and was Hang'd at Tyburn, there is not one Story printed of him that can be call'd Truth, or that is not mingled up with so much Falshood and Fable as to smother and drown that little Truth which is at the bottom of it.

The following Tract does not indeed make a Jest of his Story as they do, or present his History, which indeed is a Tragedy of itself, in a stile of Mockery and Redicule, but in a Method agreeable to the Fact. They that had rather have a Falshood to laugh at, than a true Account of Things to inform them, had best buy the Fiction, and leave the History to those who know how to distinguish Good from Evil.



INTRODUCTION.

THE Undertaker of this Work having easily foreseen that the Story of this eminent Criminal would be acceptable to the World, resolv'd sometime ago to publish it, but knowing at the same time it would be attempted over and over by our Hackney Grub-street Writers, upon the old Pick-pocket Principle of Publishing any Thing to get a Penny; they therefore took care not only to furnish themselves with authentick and full vouchers for the Truth of what they have to say, but also to have the Account of him be very Particular, and such as may answer their Title.

UPON the Assurance of their being thus provided, not only to give a true, but also a full and compleat Account of him, they took care to give the World an early and timely Notice that such a Work was preparing for the Press, in order to prevent Peoples being impos'd upon; and to that purpose they advertis'd this Work in several Publick Prints; and they are satisfy'd that as on one Hand, it has prepared the World to expect this Account, so it will fully answer their Expectation now it appears.

THEY have not satisfy'd themselves in their Enquiries, to take Things upon the Credit of Common Fame, which (generally speaking) is a Common Something; nor have they supplied, by
Invention,

Invention, the Particulars of what wanted such Helps. The Life of this unhappy Wretch is too full of Incidents, and that of an uncommon Nature, to stand in Need of any such Helps; and we are so far from wanting Matter to fill up this Tract, and make the Story out, that on the contrary, we are forc'd to abridge and contract some of the most considerable Passages of his Life, that we may bring it all into as narrow a Compass as we can.

THE Life of Jonathan Wild is a perfectly new Scene; as his Conduct has been Inimitable, so his Employment has been singular to him, and is like to be so, for as it began, so it is like to dye with him; no Man among the most daring of the Clan being, we believe, so hardy as to venture to take it up after him.

EVERY Step he took was Criminal, and the very Actions which he did with the greatest openness and an avowed profess'd Allowance, merited the Gallows even by the very Letter; but pray Note, when we say Allowance, we mean his own Allowance, for no other Power or Person could allow him in it.

IT is true, he had an inimitable Boldness in his Behaviour and by detecting some Criminals, he assumed a kind of Power to protect others, only the difference lay here, namely, that he did the first Publickly, and the last Privately; so that in a Word, he served the Publick in the first, and abused the Publick in the second, and was only deceived in this, that he thought his being Useful in the first, would protect him in being
Criminal

Criminal in the last; but here he was, we say Mistaken, and fell into a Snare which all his pretended Merit could not deliver him from.

TAKE him as a Man, only he had a kind of brutal Courage which fitted him to be an Instrument in attacking some of the most desperate of the several Gangs of Rogues he had to do with. But as this Courage also serv'd to make him Audacious in the other wicked Things he undertook, he was rather Bold than Couragious, and might be call'd Impudent, but we cannot say he was Brave, as appeared in a more particular manner in his stupid and confus'd Behaviour, during his lying in Newgate, and at his Execution, of which in its Place.

WE have the Advantage in this Account to come at the particular of his Story from unquestioned Authority, for as he was sensible wrong Accounts would be publish'd of him, he was not backward to give Materials from his own Mouth which no Body can contradict, and others fully conversant with him, having given the same Stories or Accounts of the same Facts, we have the Satisfaction to see them agree fully together, and thereby be assured of the Truth of both; for in such Cases there could be no Combination to deceive us.

NOT that it is possible to obtain a full Account of all the particular Villanies of Jonathan Wild, during a series of sixteen Years, in which he reign'd in all his Wickedness with such Success, as no Age can produce the like. 'Tis enough if we give you a general View of his Life, or a Scheme

Scheme of his Practice, illustrated by Examples; which Examples likewise might be farther set forth by more Examples and by Stories full of an infinite Variety, which if collected together, would make up a large Volume in Folio, and yet leave many of them unrelated.

IT is true, as we shall take Notice in its Place, that the World does not charge Jonathan with being himself actually a Highwayman or Robber; or that when any of the Gangs of Prancers (as they are call'd in the New-gate Cant) went out upon the Grand Design, he ever went with them, and we are assur'd he did not: He knew the Trade too well, to put his Life into such a Hazard; he knew how common a Bite it was among such People to save their own Lives at the Expence of their Companions; but he was too Cunning for that. And he had likewise a so much better Trade in Hand, by which he was sure to make a Prey both of the Persons Robb'd, and of the Rogues that robb'd them; that he would have been worse than Lunatick, if he had been drawn in to be a Party.

THE Part he acted in the Fact for which he suffer'd, was more than he ordinarily did, or than we ever find he ventur'd to do before, for here he was both Thief and Thief-Catcher too, which he did not usually venture. But a secret Infatuation was now upon him, and Heaven who had determin'd his Fate, no doubt left him to Expose himself more in this one Action, than he had done in many Years before, and by this he Fell.

IT is said, that if this had not fix'd him, there were other Facts charg'd which would effectually have done; so that we shall say nothing, because those others have not been try'd. 'Tis enough, Jonathan dy'd not in his own way of Thief-Catching, but by going out of his Road and taking a Share in the Robbery as he did after in the Reward: And here he was taken in his own Snare, for the very Thieves he employ'd, were the Witnesses that Hang'd him. But we say no more of that, till we come to the Story itself. We now proceed to the particular Account of his Life.

AND



A N

A C C O U N T

O F T H E

L I F E

A N D

Eminent A C T I O N S, &c.

JONATHAN WILD the wretched Subject of this History, was born at *Wolverhampton* in *Staffordshire*; and to do Justice to his Original his Parents, tho' mean, had the repute of Honest and Industrious People, his Father being a *Carpenter*, and his Mother sold *Herbs* and *Fruit* in the Market of *Wolverhampton*: They had three Sons, and two Daughters, the two Daughters are yet living and Married to honest Tradesmen in *Wolverhampton*, one to a *Comb-Maker*, and the other a *Buckle-Maker*, and whose Characters we do not hear are any way Blemish'd; but the Sons have all a different Fame.

THE Brothers I say were three in Number, *Jonathan*, *John* and *Andrew*: *John* was a publick Officer.

Officer in the Town where they Liv'd, being the Cryer of *Wolverhampton*; but stepping out of his Employment in the time of the late *Preston* Rebellion, and making himself popular by Heading and appearing among the Rable, for pulling down the Meeting-House at *Wolverhampton*; he was taking up for a Rioter, brought to *LONDON*, and put into Custody of a Messenger, where he continued sometime, till he was sent down again in Custody to *Stafford*, to be Try'd at the Assizes held there for the County: There he was Convicted, and receiv'd Sentence to be publickly Whipt, and afterwards to lye in Prison for a certain Time, which Sentence was accordingly Executed: But the same *John* being afterwards at Liberty, the time of his Imprisonment being expir'd, Dyed about four Years ago, as did also his Mother much about the same Time, that is to say, within a Month of One another.

THE younger Brother *Andrew* being by Trade a *Birmingham* Ware-man, or in particular a *Buckle-Maker*; left his own Country and came up to *London*, what Trade he has driven here we shall not meddle with, the Man being yet alive; and as we are not writing his Story, but that of his elder Brother, so we are not willing to enter into any thing that may be prejudicial to particular Persons on any Account whatever; 'tis enough to say, that we hear he is at this Time a Prisoner in the *Poultry-Compter* for Debt; so that it seems, all the three Brothers have had some Acquaintance with the inside of a Goal, tho' on different Accounts.

Jonathan as I have said, was the eldest Brother, he was born about the year 1683, being at the time of his Execution, about two and forty years of Age, of which something more than thirteen years has been spent in the most exquisite Villanies, of which we shall give some Account in this Work.

HIS Education was suitable to his Fathers Circumstances, being taught in the Free-School of *Wolverhampton*, to Read and Write, and then his Father put him Apprentice to a *Birmingham* Man, or as they call them there, a Hardware Man, and particularly a *Buckle maker*.

AUTHORS are not agreed in the Name of his Master, and as it is not Material, we also let it pass without any Notice, having serv'd his Time out, or as some say but part of it. He got into the Service of one Counsellor *Daniel* of *Staffordshire*, and came up with him to *London* as his Servant, this was about the year 1704. But whether he did not please his Master, or that he took ill Courses so early, we have not enquir'd; but that Counsellor dismissing him, he went home again to *Wolverhampton*, and very honestly work'd for some time at his Trade.

BUT his Thoughts, as he said, being above his Trade, tho' at that time he had had no Taste of the Life he afterwards led, yet he grew uneasie in the Country, was sick of his Work, and in short, after a few Years came away to *London*, to see if he could get into any Business there.

HERE he found but little Encouragement, and tho' he Work'd at his Trade, yet what he could get at his day Labour, but ill serv'd to maintain him, whose Temper even then, was not much given to Frugality, which with his being not inclin'd to sit very close to his Work neither, made him run out pretty much, till at length it was his Misfortune to be Arrested for Debt, and carried to *Wood-street Compter*.

HERE he suffer'd great hardship, having no Friends to help him out, or Money to maintain him within, so that he was on the Common-side, and far'd as other People in those Circumstances do fare, that is to say, very hard.

HOWEVER, after having lain a long time there, he at length having behaved himself well enough among the Prisoners, got so much Favour with the Keepers, that he got *the Liberty of the Gate*, as they call it.

HIS Business here was chiefly to attend in the Night, in Case any Prisoners were brought in for Disorders in the Street; to wait upon them, and guard them with the Officers to any Justice of the Peace, and so back again if they were Committed; and in this, he Discharg'd himself to Satisfaction, so that he was at length trusted to go of Errands, and the like Liberties to get a Penny.

AMONG the great variety of Night-walking Offenders which came into his Custody, at length there comes in one *Mary Milliner*, who after having been carried before a Justice, might be remanded to the *Compter* for the present; but being a Jade of some Fame, she soon found her way out again, for we do not find she was reckoned to be a Prisoner there at all.

WHETHER it was that she was frequently brought in there in her Night Rambles, and might receive some Favours from him on that Occasion, it being much in his way to favour such as she was, he being as a kind of Keeper set over them; or whether they Contracted a Friendship at first sight, or what other Incident brought it about I know not; but *Mr. Wild* not only became acquainted with her, but a more than common Intimacy soon grew between them; insomuch, that she began to teach him a great many New, and to him unknown Ways of getting Money, and brought him into her own Gang, whether of Thieves or Whores, or of both, is not much Material.

BY the Advantage of this new Correspondence *Mr. Wild* soon clear'd himself of his Imprisonment, the Debt for which he was thrust into the *Compter* being

being but small; and tho' he had a Wife at that time living at *Wolverhampton*, and had a Son by her, which Son is still living, as we shall hear presently. And tho' this new Favourite he had pitch'd upon, had also a Husband then living, a *Waterman* by his Profession; yet they pretended to be Married and liv'd together some time as Man and Wife, and this we are to call his second Wife, for he had six of them in all. This Mrs. *Milliner* as I am inform'd is still living, so that Mr. *Wild* has left several Widows behind him at his *Exit*, whether they go by his Name or not, that he himself could not inform us.

DURING his Intimacy with this Mrs. *Milliner*, and by her means he grew Acquainted with some other of the wicked ways of Living, which it seems she practis'd besides that of Whoring: And first it seems she carried him out with her upon the *TWANG*: This is One of the Cant Words for those who attend upon the Night-walking Ladies in their Progress, and who keep at a distance, that if the Lady they are employ'd by, happens to fall into any Broil, they may come in timely to her Assistance, and making a Noise and a Quarrel, if possible fall a Fighting, and so give her an Opportunity to walk off, which *Jonathan* often practis'd with good Success.

HE improv'd his time during his Acquaintance with this *Mary Milliner* to a very great Degree, for she brought him acquainted with several Gangs, or Societies of the Sharping and Thieving World, in so much, that in a little time he knew all their several Employments, and the several Parts they Acted, their Haunts and their Walks, how they perform'd, and how they manag'd their Effects when they had met with Success: And as he seem'd to set up for a Director to them, under the Government of that Dextrous Lady his first Instructor,

so

so he found ways to make himself as useful to them, as if he had gone Abroad with them, which however he always avoided: Nor, indeed, had he any occasion to run a Hazard himself, he finding himself as much a gainer in the Part he Acted, as if he had shar'd in the Adventure: So that, in a Word, He had the Profit without the Danger; and politically kept himself from the Last, on pretence of his encreasing the First, by his Art in managing for them.

THUS without being a Thief or a Receiver, he brought a Gain to himself, and his Business went on Prosperously.

HOW he and his Lady parted after this, is a Story, which has nothing Extraordinary in it; 'tis enough to say, that *Johnathan* became such a Proficient in his Business, that he stood no longer in need of her Instructions; and as she had a Trade of her own, which he began to be sick of assisting her in, they made no difficulty of seperating, with as little Ceremony as they came together.

THO' I do not find but that they kept a kind of remote Correspondence after they were seperated, as to Cohabitation; and the other Trade was carried on with mutual Assistance, as well as to mutual Advantage, for some time. And here it is very Remarkable, That tho' during this Intercourse of *Mr. Wild* among these loose People (as above) many of them dayly fell into the Hand of Justice, and some went off the Stage, the High Road, (as they call it) that is to say, by the Gallows; yet none of them had any thing to say to *Jonathan*, or to his She Friend, *Mrs. Milliner*: but these always did their Business so Clean, with such Subtilty, and so much to the Advantage of the Criminals, that it was of no Use to them to charge him or her with any Thing.

IN this dextrous way of Managing, it came frequently in his way, where any Thing of Value was Stolen, to make it worth more Money, both to himself and to the Thief that had Stolen it, by his private Ways; which at the same time the Criminal knew nothing of. The Case was thus.

IT is not to be doubted, that when a Robbery was committed, the Thieves sometimes run as much Hazard in securing what they had got, as they did in the getting of it, and often times much more; nay, they were very often discovered and detected in their Attempts, to turn what they had got into Money, or to sell and dispose of it, when they had escaped the Danger of the Fact it self, and come off Clean.

THERE was a Time indeed, when there were Brokers and Receivers, whose Business it was to take every Thing off of their Hands as soon as they had gotten it; and a young Shop-lifter or House-breaker had no sooner got a Booty, but he knew where to go and carry it in, as to a Warehouse or Repository; where he was sure to have Money for it, and that something near the Value of it too; and this was a great Encouragement to the Light-finger'd Gang: So that when it was a Misfortune of a Family or Person to lose any Goods, they were effectually lost, and seldom or never were they heard of any more.

BUT there being an Act pass'd in the Reign of the late King *William*, making it Felony to buy or receive any Stolen Goods, knowing them to be Stolen; and one or two bold People having suffered on that very Account; the Receiving Trade was spoil'd all at once. And when the poor Adventurer had, at the hazard of his Neck, gotten any Purchase, he must run all that Hazard over again to turn it into Money.

IT is true, after some time, the Temptation being strong, and the Profits great, there were Persons frequently found again that did help the Adventurers and took of their Goods; but then the Thief got so small a Share, that the Encouragement was very small; and had it continued so, the Thieving Trade might (for ought I know) have been in danger of being lost: For the Receivers running so extreme a Hazard, they got all the Profit; and the poor Lifter or House-breaker was glad to part with Things of the greatest Value for a Trifle.

BUT *Jonathan* and his Director, soon found out a Way to encourage the Trade again, and to make it worth while as they call'd it, and the first Method was this: When a Purchase was made, *Jonathan* enquir'd first where it was gotten, what House had been robb'd, or, who had lost the Goods; and having learn'd that, his next Business was to have the Goods deposited in proper Places, alway avoiding the receiving them himself, or bringing himself into any Jeopardy as to the Law.

THEN he found out proper Instruments to employ to go to the Persons, who had been robb'd, and tell them, that if they could describe what they had lost, they believ'd they could help them to them again, for that there was a parcel of stolen Goods stopt by an honest Broker, to whom they were offer'd to be sold, and if their Goods were among them they might have them again for a small matter of Expence.

THE People who had been robb'd, it may be suppos'd were always willing enough to hear of their Goods again, and very thankful to the Discoverer, and so readily gave an Account of the Things they had lost, with such proper Descriptions of them as were needful; The next Day they should be told; there was such or such Part of their
Goods

Goods stoppt among other Goods, which it was sup-
posed were stolen from other People, and so upon
Assurance given on both Sides to make no Enquiry
into the particular Circumstances of stopping the
Goods, and a Consideration to the Person who went
between, for helping the Loser to his Goods again,
the Things were restor'd, and the Person receiv'd
abundance of Thanks and Acknowledgments for
their Honesty and Kindness, and this part always
fell to *Jonathan*, or his Mistress *Milliner*, or per-
haps both, who always pretended they got nothing
for their Pains but the Satisfaction of having help'd
the People to recover their own again, which was
taken by a Company of Rogues; professing their
Sorrow that they had not had the good Luck at the
same time to detect the Rogues that took them, and
bring them to the Punishment they deserv'd.

ON the other hand, they acted as safe a Part
with the Thief also, for rating and reproving the
Rogue for his Villany, they would pretend to
bring them to an honest Restoring the Goods again,
taking a reasonable Consideration for their Honesty,
and so bring them to lodge them in such Place as
should be directed; and sometimes, as I have been told,
he has officiously caused the Thief, or Thieves, to be
taken with the Goods upon them, when he has not been
able to bring them to comply, and so has made him-
self both Thief and Chapman, as the Proverb says; get-
ting a Reward for the Discovery, and bringing the
poor Wretch to the Gallows too, and this only be-
cause he could not make his Market of him to his
Mind; but I must be so just to *Jonathan* too, as to
say he did not acknowledge this, so that this Part
was not had from his own Mouth, yet perhaps it
may not be the leis true, nor do I think it would be
very hard to prove the Fact.

AS to the other Part, he was never backward to
own that it was his early Practice, and boasted of
it

it as doing a piece of Service which none but himself could manage, and that he thereby assisted honest People in the recovery of their own; how far he acted honestly in the doing it, supposing he had no hand in the Robbery itself, I leave to the Casuists to determine; no Question, in their *Newgate* Divinity, they might think it a mighty honest way of getting Money, for as to the Encouragement it was to the Robbery itself, while the Thief knew before hand how to come off of the Guilt and get Money in his Pocket, that they gave their Thoughts no trouble about.

THIS Trade I found by his own Discourse he carry'd on a great while, and had he gone no farther, I question whether it had been in any Man's Power to have hurt him to the last; nay, or that even the Laws would have reach'd his Life, notwithstanding the late Act which seem'd to be calculated on purpose to put a stop to his Trade: But he knew no Bounds to his Gain, and therefore knew no Restraint of Laws, or at least considered of none, till he involved himself in a mass of Crimes, out of which it was impossible he should recover.

BUT to return to the first Part of this unjust Commerce, which, whatever Gloss he might put upon it, was no other than an encouraging Rogues to rob and plunder, and then demanding Money for them to bring back what they had stolen, out of which he secur'd always a Share for himself. This Practice of giving People notice of their Goods after they were robb'd becoming pretty Publick, and especially several People recovering their lost Goods upon the easie Conditions of giving a Gratuity to the Discoverer, being known, it introduced another weak foolish Practice as a Consequence, namely, that after this, when any Person was robb'd, they always publish'd the Particulars of their lost Goods, with the Promise of a Reward to those who should discover

discover them : It reasonable indeed to suppose that this might occasion a Discovery one way or other, either by the Thieves betraying one another, or else by directing the Buyers of Goods, who were honestly inclin'd, to stop such Goods if they came to be offered, and hence it was a usual Practice in such Advertisements to add, that if such Goods were offered to be sold or pawn'd, they were desir'd to stop both the Goods and the Persons, and give notice so and so, as directed.

BUT this was every Way an ineffectual Method, and indeed the latter part was particularly so, for, indeed it was neither more or less than giving a Caution to the Thief, not to venture to offer any thing he had gotten to Sale, for he should be sure to be stopt as well as the Goods and indeed it was strange, that the People who publish'd such Advertisements should not foresee the making such a Publication would be an effectual shutting the Door against the Discovery they design'd it for, and was therefore nothing but a throwing good Money after bad.

ON the other hand, neither was the Advertizing or Publishing their Loss any real Service, or of any use to the Loser, for that the only Person who could assist in the Recovery of the Goods, was quite out of the Question, having no need of the Information, but coming by his Intelligence another Way, *viz.* from the Thief himself; and that if there had been no such Information, I mean by publick Print, he would, as usual, have been sure to have sent an Account to the Loser, and have come to a Treaty with him another Way; for the Thief giving an Account to Mr. *Jonathan Wild* where the Robbery was committed, and whose Goods they were, the cunning Artist always made Application to the Loser first; and if it was asked, how they

come to know who the Goods were taken from? it was always answer'd, That it was meerly Providential; being, by meer Accident, at a Tavern, or at a Friend's House in the Neighbourhood, they heard that such a Gentleman had his House broken open, and such and such Goods Stolen, and the like.

THIS was so plausible a Story, and carryed so much an appearance of Truth with it, that it left Room for no Enquiry: But on the other hand, if the People, to whom the Discovery was made, were too Inquisitive, the Party sent, presently seem'd to take it ill, and reply'd, Sir, I come to serve you, If you think to make any Discovery by me, of the Thieves that robb'd you, I must tell you, that you are Mistaken: I converse with no such Cattle; I can give a very good Account of my self to you, or any Body else: I only come to tell you that some Goods being offer'd to Sale by a suspected Hand; the Person to whom they were offer'd, had the Honesty to stop them, and the Goodness to give you some Notice of it, that you may see whether your Goods are among them or not; if this is not enough to oblige you, I have done. If you have any thing to say to me, or think to talk to me about the Thief or Thieves that robb'd you, I have no more to say to you, but to let you know, my Name is so and so; and I live in such a Place, if you have any thing to say to me, I am to be found, Sir, at any Time. And thus they take their leave in a Huff. And this never fails to bring the Enquirer to a better Temper; and either immediately, or soon after, to treat them with more Civility.

AND indeed the offer itself appears so Good, and the appearance so above Board, that not a Magistrate, or Justice of Peace, could find the least Flaw in it: Only enquire where the Goods are which are stoppt,
in

in which Case, a Place and Person is named, and Goods produced when any one is sent to view them; but then the Party so Caviling at that offer, is sure to find none of his own Goods among them: And so being lost as it were in a Wood, he is perfectly amused, and has not one Word to say; for he neither sees his own Goods, nor knows that the other Goods are stolen, much less by who or from who: And thus by his being too Curious, or rather Impertinent, he loses his Goods entirely, and has no second Offer made him.

I T must be confess'd, *Jonathan* play'd a sure Game in all this; and therefore it is not to be wonder'd at that he went on for so many Years without any Disaster: Nay, he acquir'd a strange, and, indeed, unusual Reputation, for a mighty honest Man, till his Success hardened him to put on a Face of publick Service in it; and for that Purpose, to profess an open and bare Correspondence among the Gangs of Thieves; by which his House became an Office of Intelligence for Enquiries of that Kind; as if all Stolen Goods had been deposited with him, in order to be restor'd.

BUT even this good Character of his, as it did not last long, so neither did it come all at once; and some tell us (how true it is, I will not affirm) that he was oblig'd to give up every now and then one or two of his Clients to the Gallows, to support his rising Reputation: In which cases, he never fail'd to proclaim his own Credit in bringing Offenders to Justice, and in delivering his Country from such dangerous People.

SOME have gone so far as to tell us the very Particulars which recommended any of the Gangs to him for a Sacrifice, and to divide them into Classes: For Example, (1.) such as having committed the Secret of a Fact to him, yet would not submit

submit their Purchase to his Disposal; or (2.) would not accept reasonable Terms of Composition for restoring the Goods; or (3.) used any threatening Speeches against their Comrades: These he would immediately cause to be apprehended, he knowing both their Haunts, and where the Goods were deposited; and in such Cases, none so vigilant in the Discovery, or so eager in apprehending the Thief: And, generally speaking, he had his ways and means to bring in others of the Gang, to come in and Confess, that they might Impeach the Person so intended to be given up to Justice.

THIS, I say some have affirmed was his Practise, and assured me of the Truth of it; and that in these Cases, they add, That he managed with such Dexterity, that he always obtain'd publick Applause, as a mighty forward Man to detect the Villanies of those People, and bring Offenders to Justice.

HOW many he murdered in that manner, for as his End was only making a Sacrifice to his own Interest and Fame, I can call it no other: I say, how many they were, I cannot learn; but if it has been a Practise of so many Years standing, and so frequent in that Time, it cannot be doubted but the Number has been very considerable; nor does it a little contribute to the belief of the Thing, that the fraternity of Thieves in general were of late so exasperated against him; for tho' the Method was in it self wicked in him, yet it certainly brought a great many Criminals to just Condemnation, who would otherwise have liv'd to do much more Mischief than they did.

AND this occasion'd him doubtless to push on with the more Heat and Fury against those who stood in his way, and where he could exert his Power without fear of being Touch'd himself, as particularly

larly against the late *J. Sheppard, Blueskin*, and others, in the taking, re-taking, and prosecuting of whom, he was very *Officious*; while at the same time those audacious Criminals exclaim'd against him, as a Man who had the first great Encourager of their Villanies, or at least had been instrumental to draw them into the very Practice it self; in Revenge for which, the said *Blueskin* bid fair for giving *Jonathan* his *quietus* in the very Face of Justice. But his Fate was to dye with more Infamy than he would have gone off with, if he had been sent off at that Time.

BUT to return to the History it self, what ever was at the bottom of his Designs, 'tis evident, he had two very clear Pretences for what he did; and on these two Pretences, it was that he supported the Credit of all his monstrous doings, and which indeed no Man but himself could have shown his Face in; 1. The Publick Good, in taking and apprehending the most open and notorious Criminals; and, 2. The procuring and restoring the Goods again to the right Owners, which had been stolen from them either by Fraud or Violence.

IT was allowed, that neither of these could be done effectually, as *Jonathan* did them, but by an avowed Intimacy and Acquaintance among the Gangs and Societies of Thieves of every sort; and it was very hard to Imagine, that such an Intimacy could be maintain'd without being really a Party to their Management, and without a criminal Correspondence with them in the very Facts: And *Jonathan* was often told so, as well by those who believed him really guilty of such a criminal Correspondence, as those that did not.

BUT be that as it will, *Jonathan* himself always deny'd it, and insisted not only on his Innocence, but on his Merit: And that as he was indeed

deed acquainted with the wicked ways made use of by all the several Classes of Thieves, and by consequence with many of them Personally, he only made use of that Acquaintance, to perswade and prevail upon them, when good Rewards were offer'd for it, to restore the Goods to the People who had lost them, placing himself so only in the middle, between the Loser and the Robber; as to capitulate for the latter, that if the Goods were return'd, the Loser would keep Promise, and give a Reward without Enquiry into the Particulars, or Persons, which would otherways put an end to all Restorings or Returnings of Stolen Goods for ever after.

THIS Part he insisted on as not only very Honest but very Serviceable; always insisting that whatever he took on either side, was no otherwise than as a Solicitor takes his Fee, on Consideration from both Parties, for honestly putting an end to a Law-suit, and bringing the contending Parties to a friendly Accommodation; and had he gone no farther, I cannot say but he might be in the Right: But he acted in a more difficult Station, as placing himself in the middle, between the Law and the Offender, in a manner, commuting the Felony, and making a kind of Composition where the Fact was Punishable; which Punishment no Man had Power to anticipate, but the Hand above, which had Power also to remit the Penalty; namely, the supream Magistrate.

IT must be allow'd to *Jonathan's* Fame, That as he steer'd among Rocks and dangerous Shoals, so he was a bold Pilot; he ventur'd in, and always got out in a manner equally surprizing; no Man ever did the like before him, and I dare say, no Man will attempt to do the like after him: Two Things indeed favour'd him; (1.) The willingness the Government always shows to have Criminals Detected, and brought to Justice. And, (2.) The Willingness

ness of the People who had been Robb'd, and lost Things of considerable Value, to get their Goods again.

I: T H E willingness of the Government to bring Rogues to their Reward, as well to Punish the Persons, as to discourage the Crime; all just Governments discover a Disposition to bring Offenders to Justice: And on this Account, they not only receive and accept of Informations of the worst of Crimes, from the worst of Criminals, and take Knowledge of the Offence from the Offenders themselves, but encourage such Criminals to come in and confess the Offence, and Discover their Accomplices, Promising as well Pardon for the Crimes, as a Reward for the Discovery, even to those who are Guilty. Now this willingness of the Government to detect Thieves, seem'd to be a kind of Authority; for *Jonathan* in his vigorous pursuit of those who he thought fit to have Punished; tho' 'tis true, it was no Authority to him to draw poor Fellows first into the Crime, that he might afterwards obtain a Reward from the Government for Detecting and Apprehending them, and there indeed is the nice turn of *Jonathan's* Case, and which indeed has turn'd him off of the Stage at long run, as we shall see in its Place.

H E continued in the prosperous part of his Business about ten Year, without being so publickly taken notice of, or making himself so famous as he has been lately; and in this time it was not doubted but he got a large stock of Money, as well as of Credit; and had he contented himself with the same Cautious wary Way of Acting, which his first Instructor introduc'd him by, he might have grown Rich, and been safe too; but as he was of a pushing, enterprizing Nature, he could content himself with nothing but every thing he could get,

nor could he act moderately in any part of his Conduct.

IN this time of his Prosperity, he Married a third Wife, (his two former, *if they were Wives*, being still living) her Name was *Elizabeth Man*, who tho' she was a Woman of the Town, was yet a very sensible and agreeable Person; and her short History is this: He lov'd her above all the other Women he had taken for Wives, and liv'd publicly with her, which he did not with any of the rest; he had no Children by her, but she was as he himself Confess'd, a true Penitent for all her former Life, and made him an excellent Wife, she expiated her former bad Life by a formal full Confession and Penance, having on that Occasion been perswaded to turn *Roman Catholick*, and having receiv'd Absolution from her Confessor, liv'd a very sober Life for some Years, after which she Died, and was buried at *St. Pancrass in the Fields*; and *Jonathan* retain'd such an impression of the Sanctity and goodness of this Wife, that he never forgot it as long as he liv'd; and order'd himself to be Buried close to her when he Died, which his Friends took care to see perform'd, about Two of the Clock in the Morning.

HE had two Wives as they are call'd, besides this; and after her Death, who I understand, he did not live with, or not long at a Time, (*viz.*)

Sarah Parrin, alias *Gregstone*, who I understand is yet Living.

Judith Nun by whom he had a Daughter, who is now about ten Years of Age, and the Mother also still Living.

BESIDES those five, he Married his Sixth and last Wife about seven Year ago, and with whom he liv'd to the Time of his Execution; her Maiden Name was *Mary Brown*, but when he took her to Wife, her Name was *Mary Dean*, being the Widow
or

or Relict of *Skull Dean*, a Man of the Trade who was executed for House-breaking, that is to say, for Burglary, about the Year 1716, or 1717: Some have tax'd *Jonathan* with being Instrumental to the Execution of this *Dean*, her said first Husband, that he might have the Liberty to make Court to his Wife, but he deny'd it positively, and see no room for such a Reproach. I shall not reflect on his Memory, without good Evidence.

THE said *Skull Dean*, Mrs. *Wild's* first Husband, was a very dextrous Fellow in his Calling, and particularly expert in breaking into Houses: After he was condemn'd, he got out of the Prison, on pretence of going to the Necessary-house, and being gotten quite clear for a little while, he made his way as far as *Guiltspur-street*, towards *Smithfield*, but being pursued by the Keepers, and having his Fetters on, he could not go long undiscovered, so they over-took him, and carryed him back to Prison.

THIS Mrs. *Dean* is his present apparent Relict, she has had the mortification to have had two Husbands, and both Hang'd; and was so affected with the Disaster of this last, that as *Jonathan* himself declar'd a few Days before his Execution, she had twice attempted to destroy herself, after she had the Account of his receiving Sentence of Death.

HE had no Children by this *Sixth* Venture; but we are assur'd, she has been an extraordinary Wife to him on many Accounts, and particularly in the way of his Business, in which she could not be perfectly unacquainted, having had so extraordinary a Husband before; tho' we do not find that *Jonathan* himself wanted any Assistance, being by this Time perfect Master of his Trade.

IN the Time of this Wife, or on the Marrying her, he removed from his former Lodging, (a House in the *Little Old Baily*, where his said Wife had

liv'd before) and took a House in the *Great Old Baily*, and there he liv'd to the last; and in no mean Figure neither, for his Wife made a very good Appearance; and as to *Jonathan*, he carryed on a very flourishing Business, as the Town well knows.

HE was now Master of his Trade, Poor and Rich flock'd to him: If any Thing was Lost, (whether by Negligence in the Owner, or Vigilance and Dexterity in the Thief) away we went to *Jonathan Wild*. Nay, Advertisements were Publish'd, directing the Finder of almost every Thing, to bring it to *Jonathan Wild*, who was eminently impower'd to take it, and give the Reward.

HOW Infatuate were the People of this Nation all this while? Did they consider, that at the very time that they treated this Person with such a Confidence, as if he had been appointed to the Trade? He had, perhaps, the very Goods in his keeping, waiting the Advertisement for the Reward; and that, perhaps, they had been Stolen with that very Intention?

IT was not a little Difficult to give his Eminence his true Title; he was, indeed, call'd a Thief-Catcher, and on some extraordinary Occasions, he was so, as in the Case of *Sheppard*, *Blueskin*, and others: But this was no Explanation of his Business at all, for his Profits came in another way, not in catching the Thief, but more properly, in Catching (that is, Biting) the Persons robb'd: As for the Thief, it was not his Business to catch him, as long as he would be subjected to his Rules; that is to say, as often as he had committed any Robbery, to bring it to him, to be restor'd to the Owner.

IF the Correspondence he kept was large, If the Number of his Instruments was very great, his dexterity in Managing them, was indeed wonderful; And how cleverly he kept himself out
of

of the reach of the Act for receiving Stolen Goods, mentioned above, is hardly to be Imagin'd; and yet we find he was never charg'd Home 'till now; notwithstanding so many Fellons who he exasperated to the last Degree, and made Desperate, by falling upon them to their Destruction.

IT is true, the young Generation of Thieves, who as we may say liv'd under him, were always kept low and poor, and could not subsist but by the Bounty of their Governour; and when they had a Booty of any Bulk or Value, they knew not what to do with it, but to deposite it, and get some Money for the present Use, and then have a little more upon its being disposed the right way.

FOR the managing this Part, he had his particular Servants to take and receive, so that *Jonathan* receiv'd nothing, deliver'd nothing, nor could any thing be fasten'd on him to his hurt, I mean for receiving stolen Goods, and yet as things stood, almost all the stolen Goods were brought to him, and put into his Hands.

HE openly kept his Compting House, or Office, like a Man of Business, and had his Books to enter every thing in with the utmost Exactness and Regularity: When you first came to him to give him an Account of any thing Lost, it was hinted to you, That you must first deposite a Crown, this was his Retaining Fee; Then you were ask'd some needful Questions, that is to say needful, not for his Information, but for your Amusement; as where you liv'd, where the Goods were Lost, whether out of your House, or out of your Pocket, or whether on the Highway, and the like; and your Answers to them all were Minuted down, as if in order to make a proper Search and Inquiry; whereas perhaps the very Thing you came to enquire after, was in the very Room where you were, or not far off: After all this Grimace was at an end, you
were

were desir'd to call again, or send in a day or two, and then you should know whether he was able to do you any Service or no, and so you were dismiss'd.

A T your second coming, you had some Encouragement given you, that you would be serv'd, but perhaps the Terms were a little rais'd upon you, and you were told the Rogue that had it was Impudent, that he insisted it was worth so much, and he could sell it when he would for double the Money you offer'd; and that if you would not give him such a Sum, he would not treat with you; however, says *Jonathan*, if I can but come to the Speech of him, I'll make him be more reasonable.

THE next time he tells you, that all he can bring the Rogue to is, that — Guineas being paid to the *Porter* who shall bring the Goods, and a Promise upon Honour that nothing shall be said to him, but just take and give; the gold Watch, or the Snuff-Box, or whatever it is, shall be brought to you by such a time exactly; and thus upon mutual Assurances the Bargain is made for restoring the Goods.

B U T then it remains to be ask'd, what Mr. *Wild* expects for his Pains in managing this nice Part, who answers with an air of Greatness, he leaves it to you; that he gets nothing by what is to be given the *Porter*, that he is satisfyed in being able to serve Gentlemen in such a Manner, so that it is in your Breast to do what you think is handsome by Mr. *Wild*, who has taken a great deal of Pains in it to do you a Service.

I T must be confess'd that in all this, if there was no more than is mention'd, such a Part might be Acted on all Sides without any Guilt fasten'd any where but on the Thief: For Example, a House is Robb'd, or a Lady has lost her Gold Watch; *Jonathan* by his Intelligence among the Gang, finds out who has done it; that is to say, he is told 'tis
such

such a one ; 'tis no matter how he hears it, he is not bound to the Discovery upon a hear-say ; nor is he oblig'd to prosecute a Felony committed on he does not know who, by he knows not who, that's none of his Business.

HOWEVER, having a kind of Knowledge of the Person, he sends to him, to let him know, that if he is his own Friend, he will carry, that is, send the Watch, or the Cane, or the Snuff-box, so, and so, to such a Place ; and that if he does so, and the *Porter* receives ten Guineas, or more, or less, whatever it is that is offered, all will be well ; if not, he adds a Threatning, that he will be prosecuted with the utmost Severity.

UPON this, the Thief sends the Goods, has the Money, and never sees *Jonathan*, nor any Person else : What can *Jonathan* be charg'd with, in such an Affair as this ? I must confess I do not see it ; no, nor if the Thief sends him a present of four or five Guineas out of the Money, provided as he said it is without any Conditions made before-hand, or being present, at the Time 'tis done.

NOR, on the other hand, does the treating for delivering the Goods, as above, with a second or third Person give any Room to fix any Thing on *Jonathan* : So that, in short, he treats both with the Thief and with the Person robb'd, with the utmost safety and security. Indeed I do not see why he might not have carried on such a Commerce a this, with the greatest Ease, I do not say Honesty, in the World, if he had gone no farther ; for he took none of your Money for restoring your Goods neither did he restore you any Goods ; you gave him Money indeed for his Trouble in enquiring out the Thief, and for using his Interest by awing or perswading to get your stolen Goods sent you back, telling you what you must give to the
Porter

Porter that brings them, if you please, for he does not oblige you to give it.

BUT the Danger lay on the other side of the Question, namely, not being contented with what the Person robb'd, gave upon the Foot of a grate-grateful Acknowledgement, for Trouble; but impudently taking the Goods of the Thief, sending the *Porter* himself, taking the Money, and then capitulating with the Thief, for such a Part of the Reward; and then this Thief coming in against him as a Witness. This was the very Case in the Fact upon which *Jonathan* miscarried.

SO that in a Word, *Jonathan's* Avarice hang'd him. It is true, in the Case he was try'd for, it was Apparent that he set the Robbery, as they express it; that is, he directed the Persons to the Place, nay, went with them to show them the Shop, described the Woman and the Business; and after all, receiv'd the Goods, and gave them the Money for returning them, reserving it in his own Power to take what more he pleas'd for himself; and at last all this being testified by the Thieves themselves.

IT is not to be doubted, but *Jonathan*, to carry on this Commerce to such a Highth as he really had rais'd it, had a perfect Understanding with all the profess'd Thieves in the Town; at least the young Beginners, for these are a Class generally more out of his Power than others, and who are not so easily to be governed as the others are; and yet he finds ways to Influence them too in the way of their Practice. But the rest, I say, he had in his Reach manag'd them as he thought fit; nay, he generally knew, or perhaps appointed them the Quarter they should walk in; so that when ever any Person came to enquire for his Goods lost, he could make a tollerable Guess at the Thief, by the quarter

part of the Town you liv'd in, or where you were when you lost it.

I Remember I had occasion, in a Case of this Kind, to wait upon Mr. *Jonathan* with a Crown in my Hand, as above, and having made a Deposite, I was ask'd, as above, where the Thing was lost? At first he smil'd, and turning to one, I suppose of his Instruments, who can this be? says he, why all our People are gone down to *Sturbridge* Fair; the other answer'd, after some pause, I think I saw *Lynx*, in the Street, Yesterday: Did you, says he, then 'tis that Dog, I warrant you. Well, Sir, says he, I believe we can find out your Man; you shall know more of it, if you let me see you again a *Monday*, this was on the *Friday*: When the *Monday* came, truly I was told, they could not see the young Rogue, and they believ'd he was gone after the rest to the Fair, it being about the beginning of *September*.

AFTER the Fair, I came again and again, but was put off from time to time, and could not at last be serv'd in the Case, it being only a Silver-hilted Sword, which the Thief it seems had found means to turn into Money, and then there was no coming at it; the Time also having been laps'd by his Honour, having been gone to the Fair.

ANOTHER Person applying in another and more material Affair, was treated with Respect by Mr. *Wild*, and a Pot of Tea brought out in Form: (*N. B.* The Crown being first deposited as usual) The Case related to a Gold Watch, with Trinkets and some Diamonds about either the Watch, and the Lady offer'd very considerably, for the restoring it, as I remember, 30*l.* but no Advertisements had been publish'd. Mr. *Wild*, after the usual Enquiries of when it was lost? and where? And being told it was at St. *Ann's* Church, *Westminster*, pauses a while, and calls up a Servant, and asks aloud,

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where

where was *M---ll K---g* last *Sunday*? About *Westminster*, says the Man, but the Bi-h would not tell where. Was she Crank? says Mr. *Wild*. I don't know, says the Fellow. However, turning to the Lady, says he, Madam, I fancy I shall be able to serve you, and perhaps for less Money than your Ladyship speaks off, If it be *M---ll K---g*, that Woman, I have in my Thoughts, as I believe 'tis, for she is a dextrous Jade at the Work, I'll have her safe before Morning. The Lady full of Compassion returns, O Sir! don't take her up; I assure you I won't prosecute, I'll rather lose my Watch, than have any poor Wretch Hang'd for it.

Why? Madam, says Mr. *Wild*, We can't talk with her, but by Threatning: We must not make a Bargain with her, that would be to compound a Felony. If I can persuade her to come and bring your Watch, and ask your Pardon, will that satisfy you. Nay, says the Lady, I don't know whether that would be safe, neither: If she will send it me, I had rather; and I'll forgive her, without asking Pardon. Well, Madam, will you take it, and give the *Porter* that brings it 20 Guineas, if you please, but not to oblige you to it. Whatever you say, Mr. *Wild*, says the Lady.

Well, Madam, says Mr. *Wild*, if I may have the Honour to see your Ladyship again.

Lady. Will it not do if I send any Body?

Wild. Why, truly, no Madam: People that deal in these Things, do not care for Witnesses.

Lady. Well, well, that's true: I'll come my self. What Day would you have me come?

Wild. On *Thursday*, Madam.

Lady. Well, Mr. *Wild*, what must I do? What will satisfy you for your Trouble?

Wild. It is time enough, Madam, to speak of that when I am sure I can do you any Service.

These

These Creatures are very loose, and I can't tell you how it may be.

Well, Mr. *Wild*, I'll come furnish'd to pay my Respects to you.

Wild. Madam, Your most obedient Servant.
[*Waits on her to her Coach.*]

Accordingly, *Thursday* coming, the Lady appears. Mr. *Wild*, in his Callimancoe Night-gown, (*the same he was hang'd in*) receives her; and with a pleasant Look, tells her, he is very glad, to be able to say, that he believes he shall serve her. That it was the same Woman he suspected, and that the Jade had already pawn'd the Watch for some Money, but that it was but a little, and he was glad she had.

Lady. Why? Mr. *Wild*.

Wild. Because, Madam, if she had kept it all this while, it would have been ten to one but she had Broke something about it, or done it some Mischief.

Lady. That's true, indeed. Pray what has she Pawn'd it for?

Wild. Not much, Madam, she has got but seven Guineas upon it yet.

Lady. Well, Mr. *Wild*, what must be done?

Wild. Why, Madam, If the People, that have it, bring it safe and sound to your Ladyship, will you give me your Honour that you will ask no Questions, or stop the Person that comes with it?

Lady. I promise you, on my Word, I will not.

Wild. The Man that brings it may be a poor Innocent Fellow, that knows nothing of it.

Lady. Well, well, he shall have no Harm or Interruption from me.

Wild. Then I believe your Ladyship may hear something of it to Night.

Lady. And what must I give him?

Wild. I don't yet know, Madam, but I'll bring them

them as low as I can. Not above 20 Guineas, to be sure, Madam.

Lady. That is very kind, indeed. Well, Mr. *Wild*, then I'll make it up to you. [*So the Lady Pulls out her Purse in order to give him some Money.*]

Wild No, Madam, not a Farthing. Besides you have not got your Watch yet: Pray stay till you see whether the Jade will Perform; tho' I think, indeed, I am pretty sure of her.

Lady. Well, I'll take your Word, Mr. *Wild*. [*Offers him Money again.*]

Wild. By no Means, Madam; let me see if I can serve you.

Lady. Well, Mr. *Wild*, if it must be so, I must come again then.

Wild. It may be not. Will your Ladyship be pleas'd to stay about half an Hour.

Lady. Ay, with all my Heart.

In about half an Hour, *Jonathan* having been call'd hastily out, comes in again immediately. Madam, says he, if your Ladyship pleases to go into your Coach, and drive gently up *Street*, perhaps a Messenger may desire to speak with you as you go along.

Very well, Mr. *Wild*, I understand you.

Upon the Lady's going along *Street*, a *Ticket-Porter*, with his Hat in his Hand, shows himself by the Coach-side, and the Lady taking the Hint, stops her Coach, and lets down the Glass, and speaking to the Fellow, says, Would you speak with me Friend?

The Fellow says not a Word, but delivers into her Hand the Watch with all the Trinkets and Diamonds perfectly safe; and when she had look'd upon it a little, gives her a Note, wherein was written nothing but thus in Words at length,

Eighteen Guineas.

THE Lady immediately tells out the Money to the *Porter*, and he was going away: Hold! Honest Friend, says the Lady, there's somewhat for your self; and gives him half a Guinea, and so dismiss'd him.

A Day or two after she makes Mr. *Wild* a Visit, and presents him with 15 Guineas more: But with great Difficulty made him accept of it; telling her it was a great deal to much; that he would not take it by any means, but at last accepts it, with the Ceremony of saying, he would not take it on account of the Watch, but for having been at some Trouble in serving her Ladyship, in which she was pleas'd to Reward him much more than he deserv'd; when at the same time 'twas very likely had part of the 18 Guineas too from *M...ll K...g*, who he frighted out of the Watch with threatening to have her put into *Newgate* for stealing of it.

THIS may serve for a Sketch of *Practice*, as I call it; and to let the World see in what manner this Secret Service was carryed on; how the Thieving Trade was managed, how the People were gull'd out of their Money, and how a Crew of Hell-born Rogues and Whores, which is much the same, have been bred up to the Trade by their grand Patron and Master of Art, *Jonathan Wild*. It would be endless to give a particular of the many Tricks and Cheats of this Kind that he has manag'd, during a continued Life of Wickedness, for about 16 Years, among which it would be very Instructing, to give an account of the numbers of poor wretched Creatures, like himself; who he having first led them on in the Road of Crime for several Years, as long as they would be subservient to him, and put all their Purchase into his Hands, abandon'd as soon as they offer'd to set up for themselves, and leaving them to the mercy of the Government, made himself the Instrument of their Destruction,
and

and then pleaded the Merit of it to the Publick. But these require a long History, rather than a Pamphlet, and therefore I wholly omit them.

IT is time now to enter into a particular Account of the conclusion of this Life of Crime, it has been a kind of Comedy, or a Farce rather all a long, but it prov'd a Tragedy at last; and *Jonathan* being brought to Justice, has summ'd up his Account here in a most ignominious End, satisfied how in a manner not uncommon only, but such as History can not give one Instance of the like, except lately, that of a Murther at *St. Edmunds-Bury* in *Suffolk*.

THE Sum of the matter is this, *Jonathan* had long been so Notorious, and his Practice tho' not within the Compass of the Law, was yet in its Nature so Criminal in itself, and *above all*, was so dangerous in its Example, that the Publick began to be justly Alarm'd at it, and to consider of proper Measures for putting a stop to it, which purpose an Act of Parliament, (the only Remedy for growing Evils of this kind) was pass'd the last Session to make it Felony, to take or receive any Reward for the restoring of any stolen Goods, knowing them to be Stolen: The Clause in the said Act is as follows.

“ AND whereas there are several Persons who
 “ have secret Acquaintance with Felons, and who
 “ make it their Business to help Persons to their
 “ stol'n Goods, and by that means gain Money
 “ from them, which is divided between them and
 “ the Felons, whereby they greatly encourage such
 “ Offenders: Be it Enacted by the Authority a-
 “ fore said, That where ever any Person taketh
 “ Money or Reward, directly or indirectly, under
 “ pretence or upon Account of helping any Per-
 “ son or Persons to any stol'n Goods or Chattels,
 “ every such Person so taking Money or Reward as
 “ afore said

“ aforeſaid, (unleſs ſuch Perſon do apprehend, or
 “ cauſe to be apprehended, ſuch Felon who ſtole
 “ the ſame, and cauſe ſuch Felon to be brought to
 “ his Tryal for the ſame, and give Evidence againſt
 “ him) ſhall be Guilty of Felony, and ſuffer the
 “ Pains and Penalties of Felony, according to the
 “ Nature of the Felony committed in ſtealing ſuch
 “ Goods and Chattels, in the Manner and with
 “ ſuch Circumſtances as the ſame were ſtol’n.”

THIS ACT was ſo directly aim’d at *Jonathan’s* general Practice, that he could not be Ignorant enough not to ſee it ; but leaſt he ſhould, a certain Honourable Perſon, too juſt to favour him, and yet too human not to warn him of his Danger that he might avoid it ; gave him Notice that this very ACT was made againſt his unlawful Practice, and therefore in time warn’d him, in few, but ſignificant Words, to take heed to himſelf and avoid the Conſequences by leaving off the Trade of Thief-Catching, as it is unjuſtly call’d, that is, of compounding for the return of ſtol’n Goods.

BUT good Advice to *Jonathan Wild*, was like talking *Gospel* to a kettle Drum, bidding a Dragoon not Plunder, or talking of Compassion to a *Huffar* ; he that was hardned above the Baſeneſs of all cautionary Fear, ſcorn’d the Advice, and went on in his wicked Trade ; not warily and wiſely as he had formerly done, but in ſhort, with more Impudence and ſhameleſs Boldneſs than ever, for as if he deſpis’d Laws, and the Governours, and the provok’d Juſtice of the Nation : He now not only took Rewards for returning Goods ſtolen, but even directed the Stealing of them, and making himſelf a Party to the very Robberies themſelves ; acted a Part of the Thief, and the Receiver alſo ; and this in ſo many Caſes, that we are told if the Indictment had fail’d for which he was juſtly Condemn’d, there were ſeveral others ready to have been

been brought on, and the Witnesses ready to have been produc'd for Proof of the Facts.

B U T one Felony being fully prov'd was sufficient ; and upon a full Hearing he was Convicted in so evident a Manner, that he really had nothing to say in his own Behalf, not being able to deny the Fact ; his Council would have pleaded, that the Offence was not within the late Statute upon which he was Indicted ; but the Court answer'd them fully, and over ruled the Plea ; so that being allow'd to be within the Statute, and the Fact being fully proved by several Witnesses, he receiv'd Sentence of Death the 15th of *May* last.

T H E Circumstances of this Fact seem to be so agreeable to the whole tenor of *Jonathan's* former Practice, and so like other Parts of his Life, that we can not but observe the Paralel, and conclude the particular Accounts of other parts of his Life to be true likewise.

I T has been said of him, that if ever he was mov'd to promote any Man, or to help any Man to Business, which he often pretended to do in Compassion to their Poverty, that still he did it always in his own way, that is to say, endeavour'd to make Thieves of them, to bring them to be Hang'd, to keep them from Misery, and to make *Newgate* Birds of them, to keep them out of the *Compters* ; this he practis'd principally upon young Creatures, and little destitute Children, such as seem'd to be left to wander about in Want and Beggery ; and many a poor Boy he has pick'd up in the Street pretending Charity, and a willingness to do them good, which when it has come to the Issue, has been no more or less than to breed them up to Thieving, and ripen them for the *Devil*.

B U T which is still worse than all the rest, I have several Stories by me at this Time, which I have particular Reasons to believe are true, of
Children

Children thus strolling about the Streets in Misery and Poverty, whom he has taken in on pretence of providing for them, and employing them; and all has ended in this (*viz.*) making Rogues of them: *Horrid Wickedness!* his Charity has been to breed them up to be Thieves, and *still more Horrid!* several of these his own *forster Children*, he has himself caused afterwards to be apprehended and Hang'd for the very Crimes which he first taught them how to Commit.

I AM not indeed to make a jest of these things; there is something shocking and dismal in the very Relation, and therefore it is, that this Account of the Life of *Jonathan Wild*, which in its Nature, is all a Tragedy, is not related with an air of Banter and Ridicule as Others are; 'tis hoped it will not be the less acceptable to Men of Sense; it is a solemn and terrible thing to look back on a Life of such harden'd, abominable Practices; to see it carried on in defiance, either of God or Devil; and that with such Success too, passing for so many Years unpunish'd; and tho' there are some things in the long Series of his wicked Life, which may relish with the Levity of a drol-way of Writing; yet to see a Man turn'd into an incarnate Devil, his Life a Scene of inimitable Crimes; his very Society a Hell, and equally devouring both to Soul and Body; he that can read it without some Horror, must have very little of what we call Christianity about him.

TO see him take up an unthinking Youth in the Street cover'd with Dirt and Rags, and willing on any Terms to get out of his Misery; to see this superlative Wretch pretend Charity to the Child, and tell him he will provide for him, and thereby engage the Lad to him, as to a Gentleman that intends to do him good; and then instead of providing for him, lead him by the Hand to

F

Hell

Hell-gates, and after that, like a true Devil, thrust him in! First to tempt, and then accuse, which is the very nature of the Devil; first to make poor desolate vagabond Boys, Thieves, and then betray them to the Gallows! Who can think of such a thing without a just Abhorrence, who can think it to be any less than the worst sort of Murther; such was the Life, and such the Practice of this wretched Man, and in these very last Scenes of his Life, he grew so audacious, that it seem'd as if he was really ripening up a pace for his own Destruction.

IT is said of him in the Case of that harden'd Fellow *Blueskin*, that he should say, *Jonathan* first made him a Thief, and then abandoning him, left him to carry it on by himself; and it being necessary to his (*Jonathan's*) Fame to have always some Chase in his view, to build his own Merit upon, with the Government, he kept a Watch upon him, that he might at last bring him to the Gallows, for which the said *Blueskin* was very near giving him a pass into another World, by that desperate Attempt to cut his Throat in the face of a Court of Justice; which *Jonathan* tho' surpriz'd at then, has had leisure since to wish, had been effectually done at that time, and said so publickly in the *Press-Yard*, two days before his Tryal.

BUT to come then to the particular Fact for which he Suffer'd, the Story as it was related upon Oath at his Tryal, and the several Circumstances belonging to it stands thus,

Katherine Stetham deposed: That on the 22d, of *January*, between Three and Four in the Afternoon a Man and Woman came into her Shop, under Pretence of buying some Lace: They were said *she* so very difficult, that I had none below that would please them; and so, leaving my Daughter in the Shop, I stept up Stairs, and brought down another Box. We could not agree about the Price, and so they
went

went away together ; and in about half an Hour after I mis'd a Tin Box of Lace, that I valu'd at 50*l*. The same Night, and the next, I went to *Jonathan Wilde's* House ; but not meeting with him, I advertis'd the Lace that I had lost, with a Reward of 15 Guineas, and no Questions ask'd. But hearing nothing of it, I went to *Jonathan's* House again, and then met with him: He desir'd me to give him a Description of the Persons that I suspected, which I did as near as I could ; and then he told me that he'd make Enquiry, and bade me call again in two or three days. I did so ; and then he said, that he had heard something of my Lace, and expected to know more of the Matter in a little time. I came to him again on that day that he was apprehended, (I think 'twas the 15th of *February*.) I told him, that tho' I had advertis'd but 15 Guineas Reward, yet I'd give 20 or 25 rather than not have my Goods. *Don't be in such a Hurry,* says he, *I don't know but I may help you to it for less ; and if I can, I will. The Persons that have it, are gone out of Town, I shall set them to quarrelling about it, and then I shall get it the cheaper.* On the 10th of *March*, he sent me word, that if I would come to him in *Newgate*, and bring 10 Guineas in my Pocket, he could help me to the Lace. I went ; He desired me to call a *Porter* ; but I not knowing where to find one, he sent a Person who brought one that appeared to be a *Ticket-Porter*. The Prisoner gave me a Letter, which he said was sent him as a Direction where to go for the Lace ; but I could not read, and so I deliver'd it to the *Porter*. Then he desired me to give the *Porter* the 10 Guineas, or else (he said) the Persons that had the Lace would not deliver it. I gave the *Porter* the Money ; he went away, and in a little time return'd, and brought me a Box that was seal'd up, but not the same that was lost. I open'd it, and found all

my Lace but one Piece. Now, Mr. Wilde, (says I) What must you have for your Trouble? Not a Farthing, (says he) not a Farthing for me. I don't do these things for worldly Interest, but only for the Good of poor People that have met with Misfortunes. As for the Piece of Lace that is missing, I hope to get it for you e'er be long; and I don't know but that I may help you not only to your Money again, but to the Thief too; and if I can, much good may't do you. And as you're a good Woman and a Widow, and a Christian, I desire nothing of you but your Prayers, and for them I shall be thankful. I have a great many Enemies, and God knows what may be the Consequence of this Imprisonment.

THIS is a black Story indeed, and it was very remarkable, that the Fact was really committed, that is to say, the Felony was contracted, or that Part which the late Act in particular reach'd (*viz.*) the delivering the Goods, and taking the Money for discovering them; all this Part was acted I say after his being committed to *Newgate*.

IT was likewise very remarkable, that there was another Case much of the same Nature, which lay ready to have been brought to a Hearing if this had not interven'd, namely; of a Pocket-Book stolen from Mr. *Tidman*, a *Corn Chandler*, in *Giltspur street*, near *Newgate*, in which was a Bank Bill for 116*l.* in which the Witnesses were two Persons who had pleaded to their Pardons.

WE come now to his Behaviour after his Condemnation, and at the Place of Execution, at which last Place he indeed scarce said a Word to God or Man, being either doz'd with the liquid *Laudanum* which he had taken, or demented and confus'd by the horror of what was before him, and the reflection of what was within him.

NOR even before he took the Dose of *Laudanum* was he in any suitable manner sensible of his Con-
dition,

dition, or concern'd about it, very little sign appear'd of his having the least Hope concerning his future State; but as he liv'd harden'd, he seem'd to die stupid.

HE declin'd coming to the Chapel, either to the Sermon or Prayers, pleading his lameness by the Gout, but chiefly the Crowds and Disorders of the People discomposing or disordering him. In the condemn'd Hold, or Place where Malefactors are kept after their Sentence, they had Prayers as usual, and he seem'd to join with them in a kind of Form, but little or nothing of the Penitence of a Criminal, in view of Death, appear'd upon him.

HIS principal Enquiries seem'd to be about what kind of State was to be expected after Death, and how the invisible World was to be describ'd; but nothing of the most certain Judgment which is there to be expected, righteous and terrible, according to the Deeds done in the Body, or of a Saviour to whom to have recourse, as the Slayer in the old Law had to the City of Refuge, to save him from the avenger of Blood.

AS his Time shortn'd he seem'd more and more confus'd, and then began to entertain Discourses of the Lawfulness of dismissing ourselves out of the present Misery, after the Example of the antient *Romans*, which as he said was then esteem'd as an act of Bravery and Gallantry, and recorded to their Honour.

THIS kind of Discourse was indeed sufficient to have caus'd the Keepers to have had an Eye to him, so as to prevent any Violence he might offer to himself, and they did watch him as narrowly as they could; however he so far deceived them, as that the Day before his Execution he found means to have a small Bottle with liquid *Laudanum* convey'd to him unseen, of which he took so large a Quantity, that it was soon perceiv'd by the
Change

Change it made upon him, for he was so droufie that he could not hold up his Head, or keep open his Eyes, at the time of reading the Prayers.

UPON this two of his Fellow Prisoners endeavour'd to rouse him (not suspecting that he had taken enough to hurt him) and taking him by the Hands, they perswaded him to stand up, and walk a little about the Room, which he could not do without help because of his Gout.

THIS walking, tho' it did a little waken him, had several other Operations at the same time; for first it chang'd his Countenance, turning it to be exceeding pale, then it put him into a violent Sweat, which made them apprehend he would faint, upon which they offer'd to give him something to keep up his Spirits, but he refus'd it, telling them he was very sick; soon after which he vomited very violently, and this in all probability prolong'd his Life for the Execution; for by their stirring him, and making him vomit, he brought up the greatest Part of the *Laudanum* which he had taken, before it had been long enough in his Stomach to mix with the animal Spirits or Blood, which if it had done but one Hour more, he would certainly have taken his last sleep in the Prison.

BUT Nature having thus discharg'd itself of the load, he reviv'd again, and tho' still doz'd and insensible of what he said or did, yet he was able to walk about, speak, and act sufficiently for the Part that remain'd to him, namely, for the last scene of his Life at the Gallows.

ACCORDINGLY on *Monday* the 24th of *May*, he was convey'd in a Cart to *Tyburn*, and tho' it was apparent he was still under the Operation of the *Laudanum*, and that which was left in his Stomach had so far seiz'd upon his Spirits as to make him almost stupid, yet it began to go off, and

and Nature getting the Mastery of it, he began to be more sensible of what he was going about; but the Scene was then short, and he had little to do but to stand up in the Cart, and, the needful Apparatus being made, he turn'd off with the rest, which was done about 3 a-Clock in the Afternoon.

THE rudeness of the Mob to him, both at his first going into the Cart, and all the way from thence to the Place of Execution, is not to be express'd, and shews how notorious his Life had been, and what Impression his known Villanies had made on the Minds of the People; for, contrary to the general Behaviour of the Street in such Cases, instead of compassionate Expressions, and a general Cast of Pity, which ordinarily sits on the Countenances of the People, when they see the miserable Objects of Justice go to their Execution; here was nothing to be heard but Cursings and Execrations; abhorring the Crimes and the very Name of the Man, throwing Stones and Dirt at him all the way, and even at the Place of Execution; the other Malefactors being all ready to be turn'd off, but the Hangman giving him leave to take his own Time, and he continuing setting down in the Cart, the Mob impatient, and fearing a Reprieve, tho' they had no occasion for it, call'd furiously upon the Hangman to dispatch him, and at last threatened to tear him to pieces, if he did not tye him up immediately.

IN short there was a kind of an universal Rage against him, which nothing but his Death could satisfy or put an end to, and if a Reprieve had come, it would have, twas thought, been difficult for the Officers to have brought him back again without his receiving some Mischief, if not his Deaths Wound from the Rabble.

SO detestable had he made himself by his notorious Crimes, and to such a height were his wicked Practices come.

THUS ended the Tragedy, and thus was a Life of horrid and inimitable Wickedness finish'd at the Gallows, the very same Place where, according to some, above 120 miserable Creatures had been hang'd, whose Blood in great measure may be said to lye at his Door, either in their being first brought into the thieving Trade, or led on in it by his Encouragement and Assistance; and many of them at last betray'd and brought to Justice by his Means; upon which worst sort of Murther he valued himself, and would have had it pass'd for Merit, even with the Government itself.

F I N I S.

Speedily will be publish'd, (of which Notice will be given in the *Daily Post* and *Post-Boy*)

THE *Adventures and Proceedings of the famous Captain John Gow alias Smith, the Captain of the Pyrates, on Board the Ship Revenge, formerly call'd the George Galley, an English Ship fitted out in Holland, with an Account of all their Piracies, and the barbarous Murthers they committed, from their first putting out to Sea, till their being Stranded on the Island of Orkneys on the North of Scotland, where they were apprehended by Mr. Fea, a Gentleman of that Country; collected from the Account of the Pirates themselves, and from original Papers taken on Board the said Ship. N. B. No other genuine Account can be publish'd, the Originals being already secur'd. Printed and Sold by John Applebee in Black-Fryers.*



