

THE
Merry Life & Mad Exploits
OF
Capt. James Hynd,
THE
Great Robber of England.

WHO WAS
Drawn, Hang'd and Quarter'd,
At WORCESTER, 1652.



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MERRY LIFE AND MADE EXPLOITS
OF
CAPTAIN JAMES HYND.

CAPTAIN James Hynd, the subject of our ensuing discourse, was born at Chipping-Norton, in Oxfordshire. — His father having no more children but him, put him to school, intending to make him a scholar; but he minding his waggish pastimes more than his books, which his father perceived, bound him apprentice to a butcher: But he being of a roving disposition, soon grew weary of that also; and, in conclusion, run away from his master, and went to London; where he became acquainted with a company of roving and debauched companions, who, by their examples, made him as bad as themselves. — In short, as they seldom abounded with

money, so they scorned to be long in want; when their stock grew short, they set out in search of more. — At last this company was dissolved, by their chief being hanged; and Hynd escaped with only the loss of his horse: And then he set up for himself.

2. Hynd having lost his horse, when he made his escape, was resolved to get one, or follow his trade on foot. His master's misfortune grieved him much, yet he quickly cast it out of his mind: And, to colour his knavery, he puts himself in the habit of a shepherd, with a long pike-staff in his hand, and so travels towards Banbury; where, in his way, he espied a gentleman coming down a hill, leading his horse in his hand. — Hynd stood at the foot of the hill, whistling a psalm-tune. — When the gentleman came to the foot of the hill, where Hynd stood whistling, he ask'd him the time of the day? Hynd answered him very civilly; but as the gentleman was getting on his horse, Hynd hit him with his long pole such a stroke between the head and the shoulders, that he made him tumble on the ground. — Hynd immediately seized his money, cloak, horse and sword;

and left him his old coat, and his pike-staff to hit on the hoof, as he had done; giving him twenty shillings back to bear his charges. But, to this day, the gentleman loves not to hear a psalm-tune sung.

3. HYND having gotten a good sum of money at this time, spent the day very merrily; and then, towards night, he rode to an inn, which stood in a private road, where it seems some highwaymen haunted. After he had seen his horse carefully drest and fed, he came into the house, where were two handsome ladies by the fire: He ordered a good supper to be made ready, and invited the ladies to sup with him.— When supper was ready, he called for wine and made them merry.— They seemed very coy to him, but he, knowing their humours, pulled out a purse of gold, saying, “ Ladies, where are your hearts gone? Look ye what is here! — And after much mirth, to bed he went. — Soon after he was in bed, two men came to the Inn, who kept these whores, to whom they related all Hynd’s courtesy, and that he had a great abundance of gold. The gentlemen resolved to watch his departure in the morning, and follow him:

But Hynd awaking early, got up, and was mounted before the ladies and gentlemen were stirring. When the two gentlemen heard his horse prance, they looked out at the window, and seeing he had so good a horse, they were like to fall out who should have him. — I will have the horse, said the one, and you shall have his money. Nay, I'll have his horse, says the other. — Then they quickly made themselves ready, and rode after Hynd. — When they had overtaken him, they asked him which way he rode? He answered, Towards Cambridge. The told him, they would be glad of his company. — When they were come to a place where no people were nigh, one of the gentlemen began to sing, " Maids, where are your hearts now gone? — Look what is here." — Hynd seeing their intent, and knowing he was betray'd, immediately answer'd, Now, you rogues, you are both undone! Look you what here is! — And drawing forth his pistol, and firing at one of them, by chance shot his horse in the head, who presently fell down, with his master's leg under him. — The other seeing this, took himself to flight; but Mr. Hynd quickly overtook him, and made him de-

liver what money he had: And cutting his girths and bridle, gave him work enough to catch his horse again.—Hynd then rode to the other fellow, till lay as he fell, and alighting, pull'd his horse off his leg, helped him up, and gave him what money he had also, saying, What, is there but one master-thief in all England, and would you venture to rob him? Verily, were you not of my profession, neither of you should have lived; but seeing you ventured hard for it, thou deserveth something: So Hynd gave him his money back again, to buy him another horse, saying, Disgrace not yourselves with small sums, but aim at great ones; for the least will bring you to the gallows.—So Hynd shaking the poor thief by the hand, left him to his partner, to assist him in catching his horse, and bid him farewell.

4. AFTER Hynd had robb'd the two thieves of their money, he chanc'd to ride to Harfield, where lying at the George-Inn, being then the Post-house, he very merrily spent the evening with some gentlemen that was there.—In the morning early, Hynd calls for his horse to be gone, and took his

leave of the gentlemen, who were beginning to stir: And as he rode along Hartfield, an old ill-favoured woman asked alms of him; his horse presently staid, and would go no farther. Sir, said the old woman, I have something to say to you, and then ye shall be gone. Hynd not liking her countenance, pulled out Five Shillings and gave her, thinking she would but, like a gypsie, tell his fortune, saying, Good woman, I am in haste. Sir, said she, I have stay'd all this morning to speak with you, and would you have me to lose my labour? — Speak your mind, said he. —

Whereupon the old woman began thus: — Captain Hynd, you ride and go in many dangers: Now, by my poor skill, I have thought on a way to preserve you for the space of three years; but that time being past, you are no more than an ordinary man, and a mischance may fall on you as well as another: But if you be in England, come to me, and I will renew the virtue of this charm again. In saying of these words, she pulled out of her pocket a little box, almost like a Sundial, and gave it to Captain Hynd, and said unto him, When you are in any distress, open

this box; and that way you see the star turn, ride or go, you shall escape all dangers. — So she switch'd him with a white rod that was in her hand, and struck the horse on the buttock, and bade him farewell. — The horse presently leapt forward with such courage, that Hynd could not turn him to give her thanks; but guessing that it was her will it should be so, rode on his way.

5. A gentleman coming from York, intending for London, by accident met with Hynd, who soon made him deliver what he had. — Hynd gave him back 20 Shillings, for to bear his charges, till his own credit should be better settled. — So the gentleman rode on his journey to the next town, where he was well known by the Inn-keeper there. — Being alighted from his horse, he desir'd the host to get ready some supper, and went to his chamber. — In the meantime in comes Hynd, and asks if there were any gentlemen there for London? — The host answered, that there was one gentleman there alone, and he would be glad of good company. — So Hynd went up to the gentleman's chamber and saluted him. The gentleman said, Sir, sit down, and I

will tell you how I was robbed to-day : I durst have sworn that you was the man, but that I see your hair is short, and his was long.—Sir, said Hynd, would you know the horse? Yes, very well, said the gentleman.—To satisfy you, said Hynd, you shall see mine.—So Hynd went to the stable, took out his horse, and mounted him, and then asked the gentleman if that was the horse? He answered, I, I, that is the horse. Then, said Hynd, I cannot sup with you this night, if you my horse beiter than myself.—So bids him good-night.

6. HYNND being informed of a purchase, as he rode, espied some gentlemen drinking at an ale-house on horse-back, having sent their servants before : Hynd passed by them, but riding at a good rate, he quickly overtook the gentlemen's servants, who rode but easily.—Hynd, by their port-mantles, saw there was money in them, and desir'd them to deliver it, or they were all dead men.—They, not being used to fight, surrendered.—Hynd knowing that delays are dangerous, with his knife he cut open their port-mantles, and took out the money; and tying the bags together, laid them be-

fore him, and rode off with speed.—One of the servants rode and acquainted his master; who presently pursued Hynd.—But Hynd observing him coming up, and he meeting a Parson, said to him, Sir, that fellow you see coming up, intends to rob me of my money, you must stand to it now, for the safety of your own as well as mine:—Come, Sir, be of good cheer, one honest man will fear ten thieves; you shall have one of my pistols.—So he gave the parson the pistol ready cock'd and charg'd, and desired him to fire it at the first who came up to him, while I, says he, ride down to the next village, and raise the country people to our help.—The Parson having taken a cup too much at a wedding, was pot-valiant, and rode up to the gentlemen, and fired his pistol at them; but being too far off, did no execution. He rode nearer, and flung his pistol at one of them with such force, as almost knocked him off his horse. The gentleman seized on him, and took him prisoner.—The Parson then cried out, O spare my life! and you shall have all my money.—No, Sirra, said the gentleman, we will have you hang'd.—What, a Parson, and rob on the highway!—Then

they immediately carried him before the next Justice of the Peace, which was not far off.—When they were come before the Justice, they told him that they were robbed of two hundred pounes, and that the Parson was one of the robbers. — The Justice was greatly surpris'd, that such apparent testimony should come against the Parson of the parish. — The Parson by this time was come to himself, and desired the Justice to give him leave to speak for himself. — He being allowed to speak, said to the Justice, Sir, you have known me these twenty years, and no man can say I have wronged him of a penny, much less this which is laid to my charge. Sir, I shall tell you so much as I know of the business. As I was riding on my way home, I met a man who had two bags of money before him, who told me that thieves pursued him, and he desired my help, saying, That I need not fear, for one honest man would beat ten thieves:— So he gave me a pistol charged, cockt, and prim'd, and bade me fire at the first that came on, while he would go and raised the country men to assist us. So when these gentlemen came down the hill, I rode up to them, and fired the pistol at one of them;

When I had so done, I flung it at this gentleman's head, thinking they had been all thieves. Sir, this is all that I know of the matter. — Then the Justice laugh'd heartily to see the Parson of the parish apprehended for a highwayman; but the poor Parson was oblig'd to give promise to appear the next assize: Who, when he was brought before the bench, he was cleared. But he made a vow, never to fire a pistol again.

7. HYND overtook a gentleman, as he rode on the road. So they fell in discourse, and the gentleman said, he would give twenty pounds to see Hynd. — But, as they were riding, the gentleman fancy'd Hynd's horse. — Sir, said the gentleman, what money shall I give you to exchange horses with me? Forty pounds, Sir, said Hynd. — I will give you thirty pounds and this horse I ride on. But as they rode along, there was a ditch; Sir, said Hynd, leap over this ditch: I cannot, said the gentleman. Hynd desired the gentleman to alight: So he got on his own horse, and leapt over the ditch; and when he was on the other side, he said, Sir, you said you would give twenty pounds

to see Hynd, and now you have seen him; the other ten pounds was for riding my horse: Now I think you have seen enough of him, and so farewell.

8. A Parson riding from Coventry towards London, by petty thieves was robbed of his silver; but having 40 pounds of gold about him, resolved to go on his journey: And as he rode, Hynd overtook him, and asked the Parson which way he travelled? The Parson told him, that he intended for London: But, said he, I was almost prevented; for to-day I was robbed of five pounds of silver, and the knaves left me but five shillings in all to bear my charges. Sir, said Hynd, I was robbed of a little silver to-day; a man may as good let them have it quickly, as to dangerously resist: But I was cunning enough to hide my gold in my boots before-hand. — Nay, I believe, said the Parson, mine is as safe; for I have twilted it in the collar of my doublet. — Hynd was not a little glad when he heard where his gold lay; but being near their Inn, they supt together, and went to bed. — In the morning, the Parson called for Hynd up, and told he would be glad of

his company. — After breakfast, they rode together: Hynd asked the Parson, if he could guess what trade he was of? No, said the Parson. — Then, said Hynd, I am a cutter; for I must cut the collar of your doublet off, before I shall come at your money. — Having so done, he left the Parson forty pounds lighter than he found him.

9. Hynd riding through a little town in Warwickshire, saw a tumult in the street. So he rode up to them, to know the occasion. One told him, that an honest Inn-keeper was undone, if he did not get speedy relief. Hynd goes to the man, and told him, if he could give him security, he would pay the money for him. — The poor man being very much overjoyed at this unlook'd-for news, told him that he would make over all that he had for his security. — So Hynd got the old Usurer, who was pursuing him, and the two Bailiffs, into the house, and desired the bond; paid the Usurer all he demanded, giving the Bailiffs their fees, and cancelled the bond. — Hynd sent for an Attorney to make over the Inn-keeper's goods to himself: Which being done, they parted. — Hynd being not unmindful to enquire the

road that the Usurer was to go, went after him, and overtook him in a convenient place.—Friend, said he, I lent you twenty pounds a little ago, but I must needs have it again:—The Usurer said, You paid me so much on a bond—Sir, said Hynd, there is no time to dispute it now.—So Hynd took from the old Usurer the twenty pounds, and twenty more that he had got by usury, and rode back to the Inn-keeper, and gave him his bond again, and five pounds of money, telling him, that he had good luck, by lending to honest men. — The Usurer came afterwards to the Inn-keeper, thinking to get some money off him; but the Inn-keeper did beat him almost to death, saying, You rogue, I am engaged in all that I have, for the payment of the money, and if you be robbed, must I pay again? I will, I will, I will—So that was all the poor Usurer could get for his comfort.

10. AFTER a day or two, Hynd rode into Buckinghamshire, where he was acquainted with many of the gentlemen in that County: And passing away the time, till his opportunity served him, it was his chance to go near Chalk-hill:—Hynd espied

a little before him, a Captain and his servant, who were alighted to walk down the hill. — The Captain gave his horse to his man, and bade him stay at the side till he came down. — The Captain having occasion to untruss a point, sat under a small hedge; Hynd watching his opportunity, rode softly till he came near the Captain, and seeing him have good cloaths, he rode hastily up to him, and bid him deliver. — The Captain was amazed at Hynd's sudden approach, who held a pistol to his breast, desiring him to make no delay. — The Captain requested time to truss up, which Hynd granted; and then said, Your money, Sir! — The Captain seeing he could not save his purse by delays, deliver'd him 30 pieces of gold. Hynd said, Sir, I take this in part; I shall not be too mercenary on you at this time: Then he rode down the hill, where the Captain's man stay'd with his master's horse. — Hynd said, Sir, is that your master on the hill? He answer'd him, Yes, Sir. Then said Hynd, I seldom take any thing from the master, but I give the servant something: So giving him ten Shillings, Here is something for thee, said he, to drink my health; and tell thy master my name is Hynd.

II. HIND, travelling up and down the country, met with a lusty young fellow, whom he had formerly known; and, asking him some questions, among the rest he said, Jack, if thou wilt live with me, thou shalt have money at command, or any thing thou wantest. — Jack, knowing partly his trade, gave consent. — Hynd then presently bought a good horse for his man, and furnished him with clothes, sword, and a small pistol. — Being well fitted out, away they rode towards Nottingham: And, on their way, they chanc'd to come to an Inn, where a gentleman and his servant were just come before them. — Hynd rode to the stable-door, where the hostler was taking off the other gentleman's portmantle: The hostler said, This is but a little portmantle, but it is very heavy. — Hynd took good notice of it, and said to his man Jack, Enquire which way this gentleman travels to-morrow. — So Hynd went in; and when supper was ready, they went to supper together. — After the gentleman had supped, the servants fell to; and Hynd's man gives the gentleman's servant a pint of sack: And, after supper, Jack gives him some Spznish tobacco; and now they began to

be great acquaintance:—So they went both into the stable, to see their horses drest.— Jack asks the gentleman's servant, which way they rode in the morning? He told him, toward London: My master, says Jack, rides that way too, I think. — Now Jack having as much as he desired, went to see what his master wanted. — Hynd desired his man to get his slippers ready, and pulled off his boots; which being done, he takes leave of the gentleman, and goes to his bed-chamber, where Jack told him what road the gentleman was going next day. — In the morning Hynd set off first, but the gentleman stay'd breakfast, and then set off; and riding by a wood, where Hynd and his man lay in ambush for him, Hynd rode out to the gentleman, and with his cane flaps him o'er the pate, saying, Have I nothing to do but to wait upon you, Sir? Jack takes off the portmantle, saying, 'Tis very heavy, master. — Sir, said Hynd to the gentleman, you are ill-beloved in the country, that you cannot get gold for your silver. — Jack rode back to the gentleman's servant, and strikes him over the pate, saying, You rogue, must I spoil my horse, carrying your portmantle, must I, must I,

you rogue, you.—So Hynd and his servant looking one at another, almost amazed at this sudden accident, they made no delay till they were at a good distance from the gentleman and his servant.—After they had rode all the by-ways, that none might know how to follow them, and coming to a place where they knew themselves safe, they looked into the portmantle, where they found one hundred and fifty pounds ! Which was a good morning's work.

12. A Committee-man having occasion to travel to London, for to buy some commodities, hearing that there much robbery on that road, dress'd himself in an old gray coat, out at the elbows, and mounted on an old mare, with a pair of old boots, not worth threepence. Being thus meanly mounted, he set out very happy, thinking no highwayman would set on him. But money ill got, will be ill spent; for he chanced to meet with Hynd, who ask'd him what he was? He answered, That he was an old man going to get relief amongst his friends. So Hynd gave him a piece of gold, and bade him drink his health. The old miser thinking to please Hynd, coined out two or three great oaths presently, and said he would get drunk with drinking his health, at the first Inn he came to. Hynd parted with him, and the old miser coming to an

Inn, put up his mare, and called for a pint of sack. After the first glass was over, he began to say, that he had narrowly escaped the greatest danger that ever he was in: For, said he, I met with Hynd; and instead of robbing me, gave me a piece of gold, and bid me drink his health: But I will see him hang'd, ere I spend one penny for his sake. Hang him, rogue! he robs all honest men, only Cavaliers he lets go.—I'll put his gold among mine own.—I would have given ten pounds to have been rid of him, when first I met with him. So, after a short supper, going to bed, Hynd came to the Inn, using to ly there, as a traveller not known. The host told him in what fear an old Committee-man was to-day, who said, he had met with Hynd, who gave him money to drink his health; but he said, he would see him hang'd first, and called him a rogue a thousand times.—Hynd took supper, and went to bed; and let the old man travel first in the morning: and about an hour after, Hynd rode after him.—When he had overtaken him, he asked the old man if he drank his health? Yes, said he; I was never so drunk all my life, as I was last night; for I drank the King's health, the Queen's health, the Prince's, and your health, ten times over.—Hynd said to him, Friend, I have found you out in many lies; and now I will make you

call me rogue for something.—Then Hynd made him untye his greasy napsack, where he found fifty pieces of gold, and his own piece beside.—Now, the Committee-man, to chear up himself, resolves to borrow as much off the State before he went another journey.—Hynd said, the sooner you get it, the better for me, if I meet with you again.

13. HYND being well equipp'd, and mounted on his horse, went one evening into Hyde-park to see some sport; and riding up and down the Park, he espy'd a bag of money beside a gentleman in a coach, with whom Hynd used some discourse about the race that was to be run: But the race beginning, the gentleman caused his coach to stand still, that he might judge what horse ran best. Hynd's mind not being idle, rode to the coach, took the bag in his hand, and set off.—The gentleman presently missing his money, cried out, Stop him, stop him, I am robb'd.—Many rode after him, especially the Captain whom he robb'd at Chalk-hill, who pursued hard. Hynd riding by St. James's, said to the Soldiers, I have won the wager!—But by holding his bag fast, his cloak fell off; which he left for them that came next, he riding the by-way, so he left them; but, when he came to his companions, he said, he never earn'd a hundred pounds so dear in his life.

14. HYND, having committed many robberies, was constrained to leave England and go for Holland. — Now, being in a strange country, and not having so good opportunities to rob on the highway as he had in England, fell into want of money. So hearing of a rich mountebank that went about quaking, and who never went without store of money; his name was Henry van Velds: he was somewhat fortunate in cures, therefore greatly employed by all. — This mountebank coming to visit some of his patients in divers parts of the city, having received sums of money for particular cures, Hynd watching him, as he past through a by-street, he runs to him in haste, and salutes him, in a kindly manner, thus, — Sir, I heard much of your renown in cures of dangerous consequences, and seeing it is my happiness to meet with you, as I live not far from this place, if you please to go along with me to my house, I have a wife much troubled with the flux in her belly these fourteen days; and you, by your experience, may do her much good, if you please to give her a visit: I humbly request you to go along with me, and what reward you desire, I shall willingly give you. — This bell founding well in his ears, he goes with Hynd to his lodging, and by the way gives Hynd great comfort, saying, Sir, you may depend upon it, I shall use my utmost

skill to recover your wife from her disorder: So Hynd leads him from one street to another, till at last he got within his lodging; which was so contrived, that it stood at some distance from any other house.—Having locked the door upon themselves, he takes in the one hand a pistol, and in the other a great empty purse, and, looking furiously upon the mountebank, he said, Sir, here is my wife, (meaning his empty purse), she hath been a long time troubled with a flux in her belly, and you are the only man that can remedy it: You must therefore find out a remedy to cure this disease, or else I myself, by the help of this pistol, am resolved to remedy it.—The mountebank seeing himself thus cunningly and suddenly surprised, began to cry out, but was presently silenced by the sight of the pistol, and was fain, for fear, to let go his purse to cure Hynd's, which had the flux.—But, according to his wonted charity, seeing the man in this trembling condition, restored him some of the money again, promising to convoy him home to his lodging, and rode with his pistol cock'd, for fear of any out-cry; and in the midway left him to find out his lodging himself.

15. Hynd being very weary of staying long in a place, shipped himself for Scotland, where he landed, and presented his service

to the King at Stirling. — The King being informed who he was, had some discourse with him, and commended him to the Duke of Buckingham; then preferred him to ride in his troop, because his life-guard was full. He came into England with the same troop, was in the engagement at Warrington, came to Worcester-fight, and stayed till the King was fled. — Hynd being in the city, and seeing the gates full of flying persons, leapt over the wall on foot, and travelled through the country alone. — He lay three days under bushes and hedges, because of the soldiery; and afterwards he came to Sir John Pakington's woods, where he lay five days; and from thence he came on foot to London, and lodged five weeks very securely: But, on November 9, 1651, a discovery was made of Captain Hynd's frequenting one Deuy's, a barber, over against St. Dunstain's church, in Fleet-street, who went by the name of Brown. — From this information, the Mr. Speaker of the House of Commons got him apprehended. — He was examined concerning his late engagements with Charles Stewart, and where he had escaped. — Hynd deny'd having any knowledge of him, since the battle at Worcester. — But other crimes being brought against him, he was sentenced to be drawn, hang'd and quarter'd, on Friday Sep. 18, 1652, and suffered accordingly.

F I N I S.