

The Unnatural SON; 8-

A sad and deplorable Relation, of the unfortuna
End of

Henry Jackson.

At *Horsham* in *Suffex*, who having spent the Estate
his Father left him in Drunkenness and Whore-
ing, Murthered his own Mother, and Robb'd
the House.

Also how he was Apprehended, and his Confessi-
on at his Tryal: His Penitent Behaviour at the
place of Execution: His Prayer, and the Mini-
sters also: His Dying Words; and how he was
Hang'd in Chains at *Horsham* on *Friday* the 9th.
of *August* last, where the Ravens pick out his
Eyes; to the Wonder of several Spectators.

As also

A Sermon Preached on the same dismal Occasion,
by Mr. Alden Minister of the Parish, on this Text.

Proverbs 30. 17. *The Eye that mocketh his Father,
and despiseth to obey his Mother, the Ravens of the
Valley shall pick it out, and the Young Eagles shall
eat it.*

Re-Printed for John Crossby in the Year, 1701.

A sad and deplorable Relation, &c.

Near *Horsham* lived one *Mr. Jackson*, a Gentleman of some considerable Estate, who with his Wife lived very comfortably, being very Godly, Just and Honest People, When severall Years after their Marriage, they had a Son who they tenderly brought up, and were mighty for of; in his younger days, he was of a prompt Wit and took his Learning so well, that they, when he was about the Age of Sixteen, sent him to the University at *Cambridge*, where he profited much in Learning till the Death of his Father, when his Mothers over Fondness recall'd him home, where he got acquainted with Lewd Company, and grew very Extravagant, which was a very great Grief of Heart to her; but more when he came to Age, and got Possession of the Estate his Father left him, falling out into all manner of Debaucheries to such a Degree of Excess, that Swearing, Cursing, Drunkenness, and the Abominable Sin of Whoredom became familiar to him; wasting his Estate in Extravagancy and Riot; till at last came to a low Ebb; and what with Mortgaging, Wagering, and Gaming, all was out of his Hand and Necessity began to pinch him; tho' his dear Mother, to break off such Lewd Courses, that would bring him to Beggery and Want, as she said, and at last, without God's great Mercy, to an untimely End; praying him to take care of his Precious Soul and Body, entreating him to lay aside his Wretched and Lewd Courses, then as far as she was able, she would supply him.

(3)
But he only answered her with Scorns and Reproaches, saying he was now of Age, and knew what to do, without the Advice and Council of a silly doating old Woman; which made her hold her Hand from supplying his Extravagancies.

One Night late, he came knocking at the Door when she rising out of her Bed, to see who it was, he in a submissive manner, told her it was he the Prodigal return'd, who now had a true Sense of his Errors and Failings; and was heartily sorry for the Wicked Courses he had taken; but most of all for offending her, in despising her good Advice, and if now at last she would receive him, he would be a very obedient Son.

The good Woman believing all he said, came down overjoy'd to let him in, when this ungracious Wretch entering, shut the door, and knocked her down, and with his Knife pitiless and remorseless cut her Throat, and having Robbed the House departed: but the Murder being discovered, he was taken by Hue-and-cry, with some of the goods about him, and confessing the Murder and Robbery was sent to Goal.

Being brought to a Tryal, he wept bitterly, and said in open Court, I am verily guilty of the Murder of my dear aged Mother, and methinks I hear her Groans and Cries always sounding in my Ears; and so acknowledging the Fact, was found Guilty, and Sentenced to be first Hanged till dead, and then Ordered to be Hang'd in Chains, as a terrible Example to all disobedient and ungracious Wretches.

And so being turned to Jail, in Five days after he was brought to the place of Execution, where he wept bitterly, and said to the Spectators, Let all young Men and Women be warned by me, and take care you be not disobedient to your Parents nor abuse that knowledge and Learning God and their care has bestowed upon you, turning it to a bad and wicked end, as I have done to my utter confusion.

Then he thus Prayed.

His P R A Y E R

O Lord, Eternal, Everlasting, and Almighty I beseech thee, in the Bowels of thy tender Compassion, to have mercy upon me the vilest of Sinners, and in this my great Extremity, comfort my drooping Soul, pardon my disobedience, and deliver my Soul, from blood Guiltyness, wash it in the blood of my Redeemer, and in this my last Hour, suffer no pains of death to fall from thee but pardon all my Sins through the Merits & Mediation of Jesus Christ, my ever blessed Lord and Saviour, *Amen.*

Then the Minister Prayed with him in the following manner.

The Ministers P R A Y E R.

O Lord who art our Refuge in time of Trouble, we beseech thee to look down upon this thy Poor and unworthy Servant, Prostrating

his Soul and Body before thee; O write not bitter things against him, nor make him to Possess his former Iniquities, but make him to hear of Joy and Gladness, that the Bones which thou hast broken may rejoice and when he passes out of this World, receive him in thy Everlasting Arms, for the sake and Merits of Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

After this as he was turned off, he said Lord Jesus receive my Spirit. And being dead; he was cut down and hung up in Chains, as a sad warning to all disobedient Children.

But that which add the greater wonder to this Terrible and Dreadful Example of Divine Vengeance against a Disobedient Son. No sooner was the Sheriffs Men gone from the place and left his Body Hanging in Chains, but the very Ravens of the Field, and other Fowls of Prey, came in great Numbers, and not only Tore his Flesh from his Bones, but pickt out his very Eyes, to the great Wonder and Astonishment of several Spectators, who were Eye Witnesses thereof.

Thus we see the dismal effects and consequences that attend wilful and disobedient Wretches; for as soon as he began to forsake the good Counsel, and wholesome Advice of his Parents, the Devil allured him to all manner of Wickedness, and at last hardned his Heart to that Degree, as to stain his Barbourous hands in the Blood of his tender his Welfare equal with her own, therefore let this his Cruel and untimely Disaster be a Warning to all Disobedient and Bloody Minded Children whatsoever.

The Sunday following, Mr. Alden Minister of the
 Parish, preached his Farewell Sermon on this Text
 Prov. 30. 17. The Eye that mocketh the Face
 and despiseth to obey his Mother, the Ravens of
 Valley shall pick it out, & the young Eagle shall eat

THESE words of the Wise Man was directed
 to all Stubborn and Rebellious Children, who
 do not only refuse the good and wholesome Coun-
 sel of their loving and tender Parents, but make
 a publick mock and scorn of them for their care
 and tenderness; therefore Solomon thought it high-
 ly necessary, to set forth God's Divine Venge-
 ance in as plain and intelligible a manner as pos-
 sible, hereby intimating the Brute Savage, & Rave-
 nous Irrational Creatures would rise into Judge-
 ment against such Wicked and Notorious Villains,
 as should be so abominable inhumane as to slight
 and abuse their own natural Parents, those Birds
 of Prey for out-doing them in their Duties, having
 Nature only to assist them, and indeed all Crea-
 tures according to their kind pays some Homage
 as it were to their respective Dams, and shall Man
 the very flower of the Creation? so far degene-
 rate or despise his own flesh and blood, as this
 our cruel and inhuman neighbour eas done, nay!
 and which is still more black and abominable, Bar-
 barously Murdered that Body, which under God,
 gave him his Being; that is to say, his Loving
 and Tender Mother, and for no other reason, as
 could ever understand, but because she gave
 him good Counsel. Oh! the horrid and dismal
 Effect

act of Ingratitude and Disobedience; for God
 cannot Lie, has threatned sharp Vengeance
 the head of such unnatural and inhumane Vil-
 ny, *Exod. 21. 17. He that curseth his Father or*
other, let him Die the Death: That is, let him perish
 with horihle Vengeance on Earth, to be a Terror
 to others here, and let him Die Eternally and
 take of everlasting punishment hereafter, for
 that must cerryainly be the meaning of dieing
 the Death, part of which dismal Sentence has
 been the fate of our late unhappy Neighbour, and
 without God's unspeakable Mercy the whole will
 be his wretched Portion to all Eternity.

And this is further verified in the first Murder
 that ever was committed, *Gen. 4. 10.* Nay the
 guilt of this Sin is such, that it leaves a stain e-
 ven upon the Land where it is committed, *Deut.*
9 13. Thine Eye shall not pity him, but thou
 shalt put away the guilt of innocent Blood
 from *Israel* that if may go well with the
 Land. This Savageness and cruelty of mind is so un-
 becoming the Nature of a Man, that he is not allow-
 ed to use it even to his Beast: How intollerable
 is it then towards these, who are of the same
 Nature, and what is worse the same Flesh and
 Blood. Therefore if *Hell Fire* be the Portion of him
 that shall but call his Brother fool, what terrible
 of those burnings can we think proportionable to
 this so daring and abominable Tragedy: There-
 fore for the Lords sake, as you tender the Well-
 fare of your precious Soul, not only read, but a-
 void the sad and grievous Sin of Disobedience to

Parents, it being the inlet into all manner
 Villany, as this lamentable Example before us
 too notoriously manifested; we have seen in
 Gods long forbearance, he having a long time
 wallowed in Vice and wickedness, we have seen
 in him the wonderfull and severe Judgements
 of the Almighty in his deserved Death, and the
 marvellous Providence of Heaven, by the Fowls
 of the Air, in order to reclaim stubborn and disobedi-
 ent Children. the like instance, considering
 in all its strange and amazing circumstance has
 not been known in the memory of Man. To conclude
 let this example be our warnings, and let us by
 other misfortunes learn to beware otherwise Gods
 Divine Wrath and terrible Vengeance will certainly
 be our Portion here, as well as hereafter, if we
 wilfully and presumptuously involve our selves
 in such grievous and abominable Crimes, therefore
 let us make this improvement of this strange and
 remarkable Providence, *viz. To love one another*
Naturalist loved us, and to refrain all rashness and
 anger, which may unhappily be the occasion of
 us natural Violence and other inhuman Actions; that
 the will God endue us with such spiritual blessings
 that may entitle us Heirs to the Kingdom of Glory,
 which God of His infinite Mercy bring us all. *Amen*

FINIS.