

THE WITTY AND ENTERTAINING
EXPLOITS
OF
GEORGE BUCHANAN,
WHO WAS COMMONLY CALLED THE
KING'S FOOL,

THE WHOLE



MR. GEORGE BUCHANAN was a Scotsman born, and of mean parentage, made great progress in learning.—As for his understanding and ready wit, he exceeded all men then alive in that age, that ever proposed questions to him.—He was servant or teacher to King James VI. as his private counsellor, but publicly he acted as his fool.

It happened one day, that a young airy nobleman, went into the King's garden, to pull a flower for a young lady he fancied. George followed at a distance, and when the young man found the flower to his pleasure, he would not pull it himself, but to find it again without farther seeking, covered it with his hat, and went away for his sweetheart,—No sooner was he gone, but up goes George, lifts the hat, and pulls the flower, then eases himself on the spot, and covered it with his hat again, and away he goes.—In comes the young man, leading his sweetheart to pull the flower below the hat; but as soon as he lifted the hat, and seeing what was below, he looked like a fool: the lady flies in a passion, and off she goes, never to countenance him any more. The young man being fully vexed at this affront done to him by George, sent him a challenge to fight him, appointed a day and place where they were to meet being to fight on horseback, George gets an old stiff horse, and for harnessing covers him about with blown bladders, with a few little small stones in each, without either sword or spear, and away to the field he goes, where the duel was appointed; so when George saw his enemy coming against him, all in glittering armour armed with sword and spear, he rode up to his horse, (as is said) being all covered with bladders; the small stones in them made such a terrible noise, that the gentleman's fine gelding would not stand the battle, but ran away and threw his master on the ground, which caused all the spectators to laugh, and say, the gentleman was more fool than George. The gentleman being so enraged at the second affront, he would fight with George on foot; but his friends persuaded him that it would be no honour to him to fight and kill the king's fool, and far less to be killed by the fool; so they were advised both to agree. But the gentleman would try another ex-

plot with George, for to have is said he was the clearest man, to hold him a jumping-bout publicly the next day thereafter. With all my heart, says George, and we will end in and about where we began; they not knowing his meaning in this. The place and hour being set where they were to meet next morning, George in the night caused a deep pit to be made, and the earth of it carried away, afterwards filled it up with the dung of a privy, and covered it with a green turf, so that it might not be known by the other ground; so according to promise, both met in the morning, against the time appointed. Now George being the oldest man, and by them counted the greatest fool, the young man permitted him to jump first, which he according to order performed jumping within a foot of the place, where the ground was falsified, the young man seeing this, made his performance afterwards with great airs and all his might, so that he jumped a foot over George, up to his oxters among clean dung; whereat the whole multitude of spectators cried out with huzza and laughter. Now, says George, I told you we would end in and about where we began, and that is clean dirt.

On a time after this, the king and his court were going into the country, and they would have George to ride before them in the fool's dress, whereunto he seemed unwilling, yet it was the king's pleasure, so George was mounted on an old horse, a pair of old riven boots, with the heels hanging down a palmer coat, patched over with pictures all of divers kinds: George rode before them in this posture, which caused great laughter and diversion, until they came to an inn, where they alighted to dine, and in the time they were at dinner, George went into the stables, and with a knife cut all the horses chafes, not sore, but so as they might bleed. Now as soon as dinner was over, and they mounted on their horses again: George riding before them, as usual, in his palmer coat and boots, they began to make their game of him; then George turned about suddenly, and clapping his hands with loud laughter, they asked him what made him laugh so? Laugh, says George, how can I but laugh! when horses can't hold their peace: O my sovereign, says George, don't you see how the horses have rent all their chafes laughing at my old boots? then every man looking at his horses mouth, they were all in rage against George; the king caused him to be dismounted directly, and charged him never to let him see his face again on English ground. Now George

knowing that nothing could reconcile the king at this time, he came away to Scotland, and caused to make him a pair of large boots and to put a quantity of Scottish earth in each of them, and away he goes for England to see the king once more. He hearing the king and his court was to pass through a country village, George places himself up in an old window and sets up his bare arse to the king and his court, as they passed by. The king was greatly amazed to see an unusual honour done to him, was curious to know the performer; so he called unto him, asking him to come down, and finding it to be George, Sir, says the king, did not I charge you never to let me see our face again? True my sovereign, says George, for which I let you see my arse; nay, but says the king, you was never to come on English ground again; neither I do, says George, pulling off his boots before the king, saying, behold my sovereign, it is all Scots earth I stand upon. The king and his court being so diverted with this merry joke, George was again admitted into the king's favour.

After this, there arose a debate betwixt the king and his queen about votes in the parliament, as the king had two votes, and the queen would have one, and would needs be a parliamenter, or no peace without this preferment; this matter was committed to George by the king, so it was agreed with the parliament, that the queen should be admitted into the parliament for one day, and accordingly she came, and was received with all the honours and congratulations as were due and becoming her high station; but before any matter of consequence was brought to the board, George fixed himself hard to the queen's seat: all being silent, he rose up very quickly; and lifting up one of his legs, and then gave a great fart: which set the whole house a laughing; whereat the queen was greatly offended, crying, go, take the rouse and hang him; to which George answered, a fine parliamenter indeed, to hang a man for a sinless infirmity, and that's a fart. The queen being so enraged at this affront put upon her first proposal of parliament, went off in a passion and never would countenance them any more. But yet to be revenged on George, she would never give the king rest till he had delivered up George into her hands that he might be punished at her pleasure; which the king accordingly commanded to be done, knowing that George would rescue himself by some intrigue or other. No sooner was George delivered into her hands for to be at her disposal, but she and her maidens pro-

ounted his doom, which was as follows: As he had affronted the queen among so great an equipage, who ought to be honored in chief, and above all woman in that nation, that he should be stoned to death by the hands of women. Now his time being come that he should die, according to appointment he was taken into a park, where a great number of women were waiting with their aprons full of stones, to fall upon him and put him to death according to the queen's appointment:

HIS SPEECH TO HIS EXECUTIONERS.

Here's a female band with bags of stones,
 To kill a man for rumples groins,
 I'm clean of rapine, blood and thefts,
 Could I convert my farts to rifts;
 Since I the first for fasting die,
 Close the hole from whence they fly,
 To commit my crime I think you'll scarce,
 If once you do cork up your arse;
 And since that woman the stones do carry
 Men need not in the world tarry,
 Judge if such women be chaste complete,
 With forty stones between their feet!
 But since it's so, you may come on;
 The greatest whore throw the first stone.

When he had ended these words, that the greatest whore should throw the first stone, every one put it to another to cast the first stone, but knowing that they would attain the character of a whore for so doing, they all refused till the lying hour was past, and then he took a protest against them, and by such means saved his life.

After this he was admitted to the queen's favour and presence, attending the court as formerly. About this time the French king not knowing how to pick a quarrel with Great Britain, sent a letter to the king desiring it to be read before the parliament, and the writing was as follows: Will I come? Will I come? Will I come? This letter being read over before the king and his courtiers, they all concluded that the French king designed to invade England; therefore they wrote a letter, on purpose to send him again, upbraiding him with the breach of peace, and putting him in mind of the last treaty; this letter being read before the king and his nobles they all concluded that it should be sent as an answer;

George smiling and shaking his head, cried out,
Many men, many minds,
Who knows what he designs?

Then they asked George what he thought the French king meant by such a letter? to which he answered, I suppose he wants an Invitation to come over to dinner and then go back in a friendly manner, but you are going to charge him with a breach of peace, before he has given any signal of offence or war, his letter is yet dark and mystical, but give him an answer according to his question.

Now George being ordered to write the answer, it was
And ye come. And ye come. And ye come. This being sent to the French king, he admired it beyond expression, saying it was an answer more valiant and daring than he expected; so the enmity he intended was extinguished thereby and turned into love.

About this time it happened, that a malignant party in Scotland, sent up a great spokesman to the king and parliament for the seducing of the church: George hearing of his coming, went away and met him on the bridge, and the salutation that he gave him was the cutting off his head, and throwing it over the bridge; then ran to the king with all his might, falling down before him, pleading most earnestly for a pardon, for without it he was a dead man. The king most curiously asked him, what he had done now: To which he answered, he had only thrown the Scot's bishops hat over the bridge, which made the king laugh to hear him ask pardon for such a small fault; but he had no sooner got the pardon sealed by the king's hand than he said, indeed my sovereign, I threw his hat over the bridge, but his head was in it. Geordie, Geordie says the king, thou wilt never give over till thou be hanged.

After this a nobleman in England, agreed with the king, how to put a trick upon George, to try his manly courage, in sending him to a certain house for a bag of money. On his way home through St. James's Park, they caused a sturdy fellow to go and set the way upon him and take the money; he being armed with a sword and pistol, coming up briskly, and attacked George with these words, You must deliver up what money you have, or you are a dead man, To which George answered, Sir, I have money indeed, but 'tis not my own, and I am sorry to give it; nevertheless, since I am not armed as you are to exchange blows for it,

you shall have it; but pray do me the favour as to fire your pistol through the flap of my coat, that the owners may see I have been in danger of my life before I lost the money; which he accordingly performed. No sooner had he fired, then George whips out his hanger from below his cloak and with one stroke cut off his right hand wherein he held the sword, so that both his sword and hand fell to the ground; but George lifted his hand and carried it to the king. No sooner did he come before him, but they asked him saying, Well George did you meet any body to trouble you by the way? No, said he, but a fellow who was going to take the money from me; but I made him give his hand he would not do the like again. You did, says the fellow's master; Yes I did, says George, let the work bear witness, throwing down the fellow's hand on the table before them all.

Now this last exploit of George's caused many of the English to hate him, and among the rest a young nobleman fell a joking of George, in saying he would be as famous a champion for Scotland, as Sir William Wallace was. Ay, ay, says George, William Wallace was a brave man in his time. True indeed, says the other, but when he came to London, we did him all manner of justice, and for honour of the Scots, we have his effigy in the shite house till this very day. And do you know the reason of that says George. No, I don't, says he. Well, I'll tell you, says George, he was such a terror to the Englishmen when he was alive, that a sight of him yet makes them beshit themselves. The English took this answer as a great affront, and forthwith caused Wallace's picture to be taken out of that place.

There was a young English girl in love with a Scotsman and petitioned him several times to marry her, which he refused, and upon revenge, therefore, went to a justice and swore a rape against him, which is death by the law, George hearing of this, went into the prison where the young man was, and instructed him how to behave before the judge. So in the time of the trial, George came in, while the judge was crying to the man, but never a word could he get out of him to answer, to tell whether he was guilty or not. After the judge had given him over to be deaf and dumb, others fell a shouting in his ears, but never a word would he speak. Then the Judge perceiving George, called to him, saying George do you know what is the matter with this man? Yes I do very well. What is it? says the Judge. Why

says George the woman made such a noise and crying when he was ravishing her, it has put the poor man deaf I assure you. Is it so said the Judge. No, no, says the woman my Lord Judge, you may well believe me, I lay as a lamb, and never spake a word all the time. Very well confessed, says the Judge, and you have sworn a rape against him: go, take the whore to Newgate, and set the poor man about his business. And so it ended.

P A R T II.

GEORGE happened one night to be in company with a Bishop, and so they fell to an argument about religion, where in George got the better of him, and the Bishop himself found he was wrong: then one of the company addressed himself to George in these words: Thou Scot, said he, ought not to have left thine own country. For what? says George, because thou hast brought all the knowledge in it along with thee. No, no, says George, the shepherds in Scotland will argue with any Bishop in England, and exceed them mighty far in knowledge. The English clergy took this as a great affront, and several noblemen affirmed it to be as George had said. Wagers were laid thereon, and three of the English clergy were chosen and sent away to Scotland, to dispute with the shepherds, accompanied with several gentlemen who were to be as witnesses of what they heard pass between them. Now George knowing what way they were going, took another road and came into the Scots bounds before them, made up his acquaintance with a Shepherd at the border, whose pasture lay hard by the way side where the clergymen were to pass, and here George mounted himself in a shepherd's dress, and when he saw the clergyman coming, he conveyed his flock to the way side, where he fell a singing a Latin song; and so to begin the quarrel one of them asked him in Greek what countryman he was, to which he answered in Flemish, if you knew that you would be as wise as myself. The next asked him in Dutch, where was you educated? which he answered in Earle, herding my sheep between this and Lochaber; this they begged him to explain into English, which he accordingly did. Now said the one to the other, we need not go any further, What, says George are you butchers? I'll sell you a few sheep. To this they, made no answer; but went away

shamefully, swearing the Scots had gone through all the nations in the world to learn their language, & the devil had taught them it, for we have no share here but shame.

After George had ended the dispute with the English clergymen, he stript off his shepherds's dress and up through England with all the haste imaginable, so that he arrived at the place from whence they set out, three days before them, and went every day asking if they were come, that he might not be suspected. Now upon their arrival all they that were concerned in the matter, and many more, came crowding to know what was done.—No sooner had the three gentleman declared what had past between the clergymen and the shepherd whom they found on the border, but the Bishop, made answer, and think you, said he, that a shepherd could answer these questions? It has been the devil, for the Scots ministers themselves could not do it, they are but ignorant of such matter's a parcel of headless boys. Then George thought it was time to take speech in hand. Well, my Lord Bishops says he, you call them a parcel of ignorant headless boys: you have a great long beard yourself. If my Lord Bishop, and if the grace of God were measured by beards, you Bishops and the goats would have it all, and that will be quite averse from the Scriptures. What, says the Bishop, are you a Scot? Yes, says George, I am a Scot. Well, says the Bishop, and what is the difference between a Scot and a Sot? Nothing at present, says George, but the breadth of the table, (there being a table between the Bishop and George.) So the Bishop went off in a passion, while the whole multitude were like to split their jaws with laughter.

About this time there was an act of parliaments for the benefit of murderers, that any person who committed murder, if they forfeited five hundred marks, which went under the the name of Kin Boot, because so much of this fine went to the murdered person's, nearest relations, as the price of blood, and the murderer got a remit. Now George knowing this to be contrary to Moses's laws, was very much grieved to see so many pardons sealed with the king's hand for murder: almost one every week; it being so usual for the king to subscribe them that he did not read them, nor enquire what they were; for which cause George wrote a right to the crown, and sent it to the king to be subscribed which he actually did, and never looking what it was returned it to George: no sooner had he received it, but he,

goes to the king and told him it was not time for him now to sit there; whereat the king was greatly amazed and started up; then George in a great haste sets himself down in the king's chair, forthwith declared himself king, saying, You who was king, will be a fool, for I am now the wisest man. The king at this was greatly offended, until George shew'd him his seal and subscription, but from that day forth he knew what he subscribed.

The next pardon that came to be sealed to the king, was a gentleman that had killed two men before, and had got pardons for them by money. This being the third, the king seemed silent in looking over the petition. George standing by, asked the king what he was going to seal now? To which he answered, it is a remit for a man that has killed three men at sundry times; I have given him two remits before. O says George he has killed none but one man. And who killed the other two? says the king. You did, says George; for if you had given him justice when he killed the first, he had killed no more. When the king heard these words, he threw down the pen, and declared that such an act to save a murderer should be null ever after him.

One day after this, George having no money, he goes away, and gets a pick and spade, and then falls to digging at a corner of the king's palace, which the king perceiving from his window, calls what he was wanting there? Are you going to undermine my house, and make it fall? No, my sovereign, said he, but it is verily reported, that there is plenty of money about this house, and where it can be, says George, I cannot find, for it is not within the house to do me service, then surely it must be below it. O George, that is a crave after the new fashion; what money you want, I'll order it to you. Then my sovereign, I'll dig no more.

One day after this, George being in the country, he came to an inn where he alighted to refresh himself and his horse; the inn keeper charged him double price for every thing he called for: George never grumbled at this, but gave him all his demands, and away he goes on his journey: and where he quartered the night following, he was used after the same manner, if not worse. Now George came to the inn where he refreshed himself the day before; so when he alighted, the boy, asked him, Sir, what shall I give your horse? What you will boy, says George. No sooner had

he gone into his room, but the drawer asked him. What will you have to drink, sir? What you will, says George. The master of the inn came into his room before supper; asked him, What will you have for supper, sir? What you will, Landlord, says George. Now, after, supper being ended, and a hearty bowl to put all over, George went to bed, and got up pretty early in the morning, called for the boy to make ready his horse in all haste, for he designed to mount him, and go directly: so in a short time went into the stable where the boy was, calling for his horse, and mounted him with all the speed he could, giving the boy a piece of money, saying, Here my boy, this is for your taking care of my horse; I have paid for all I called for in the house; and off he goes. Now, about mid-day he alighted again at an inn to refresh himself and his horse, and there he chanced to be in company with his other landlord where he was the night before, and charged him with the double reckoning; so George addressed himself to him, after this manner: Sir, says George, I do believe I was in your house yesternight, O yes, sir, I mind of you very well; and where was you last night? Last night! says George, I was in one of the finest inns, and the civilest landlords ever I had in my life; they brought all things I stood in need of unto me without calling for it, and when I came off this morning, they charged me nothing, and I paid nothing but sixpence to the boy for dressing my horse. Blood and wounds! says the old fellow, then I'll go there this night. Aye, says George do; and mind this, when they ask you what you have for yourself and horse, answer nothing but what you will, sir. Now George smiled within himself to think how he got the one extortioner to take amends of the other. So the foretold inn keeper rode that night until many of the people of the inn were gone to bed before he came in. No sooner had he alighted from his horse, than the boy asked him, what shall I give to your horse, master? To which he answered, what you will boy. The boy hearing this, runs away, (leaving him and his horse to stand at the door) up stairs to his master's room, crying, master, master, what you will is come again. O the rogue, cries, he where is he? I'll cane him: I'll what you will him bye and bye, and to him he runs with his cane, licks him and kicks him, until he was scarce able to mount his horse and would give him no encouragement there, which caused him to ride the

length of a whole long cold winter night, after he had got his bones all beat and bruised : so the one pursued the other as a murderer, and his defence was, that he was a cheat and a scoffer of his house, until the truth was found out.

About this time, the French King sent and demanded from the King of England, three men of different qualities, the one was to be a mighty strong man, the other a very wise man, and the third a great fool, so that he might have none in all France to match them in their statoins. So accordingly there were two men chosen, the one a strong man, and the other a wise man, but George was to act as a fool ; nevertheless he was the teacher of the other two. And on their way to France George asked the strong man, What will you answer the French king if he asks you if you be a strong man ? I will say I am. Then, says George, he'll get a stronger man than you, who may kill you, and affront your country. What shall I say then, said the strong man ? Why says George, tell him you are strong enough untired. Then says George to the wise man, and what will you say to the king, when he asks you if you be a wise man ? I will tell him I am, and answer all the questions I know. Very well, says George, and what if he asks you what you do not know then you will affront your country, and be looked upon as a greater fool than me ! What shall I answer then ? said the wise man. Why says George to him, he is only a wise man who can take care of himself ; and I shall come in after you and take you off altogether. No sooner were they come to the king's palace, then the king sent for them to try them. The strong man being first called for, in he goes : then the king asked him, are you a strong man sic ? To which he answered, ' O king, I am strong enough untired.' Very good, said the king. After him entered the wise man ; to whom the king put the question, Sir, are you a wise man ? He is only a wise man that can take care of himself. — Very good, says the king ; with that George pushes up the door, and in he goes, with loud laughter, pisses directly in the king's face, which blinded both his eyes, and set the whole court in amaze. Now, now, says the king. it is true enough the wise man says, for if I had taken care of myself I needed not been pissed upon by the English fool. O ho, says George, fools always strive to make fools of others, but wise men make fools of themselves. The king imagined as much as he was made the greater fool, and charged

them forthwith to go home, for he wanted no more of England's strength, wisdom nor folly.

One night after this, a Highland drover chanced to have a drinking bout with an English captain of a ship, and at last, the English captain and he came to be very hearty over their cups, so they called in their servants to have a share of their liquor; the drover's servant looking like a wild man, going without breeches, stockings, or shoes, not so much as a bonnet on his head, with a long pole'd rung in his hand. The captain asked how long it was since he caught him: about two years since I hauled him out of the sea with a net and afterwards he ran into the mountains, where I chased him with a pack of hounds. The captain believed it was so, but says he, I have a servant the best swimmer in Europe. O but says the drover, my servant will swim him to death: No, says the captain, I will lay two hundred guineas on it. Then says the drover, I hold it for one, and stakes it directly; the day being appointed when trial was to be made. Now the drover, when he came to himself, thinking what a bargain he had made, did not know what to do, knowing very well his servant could swim none. He hearing of George being in town, who always was a good friend to a Scotsman, went unto him, and told him the whole story, and that he would be entirely broken, and never durst return home to his own country, for he was sure to lose. Now George called the drover and his servant aside; and instructed them how to bring him off with safety and gain too; so accordingly they met at the place appointed: The captain's servant stripped, directly and threw himself into the sea, taking a turn until the Highlandman was ready, for the drover took some time to put his servant in order, after he was stripped, his master took a plaid, and rolled his kebbuck of cheese, a big loaf and a bottle of gin in it, and this he bound on his shoulders, giving him a direction to tell his wife and children he was well? and to be sure he returned with an answer against that day, seven night. So he went into the sea then he looked back to his master, and cries out to him for his claymore. And what waits he now for, says he who was to swim along with him? He wants his sword, says his master. His sword, says the fellow, what is he to do with a sword? Why, says the master, if he meet a whale or monstrous beast, it is to defend his life; I know he will have to fight his way through the north seas, or he go to Lochsters

Then cries the other, I will swim none with him if he takes his sword. Ah, but says his master, you shall, or lose the wager, take you another sword with you. No, says the fellow, I never did swim with a sword, nor any man else that ever I saw or heard of; I know not but that wild-like man will kill me in the deep water, I would not for the whole world venture myself with him and a sword. The captain seeing his servant afraid to venture, or if he did, he was sure never again to see him alive, therefore he desired an agreement with the drover, who at first seemed unwilling, but the captain put it in his will: so the drover quit him for one hundred guineas: This he came to through George's advice.

P A R T - III.

AFTER this, George being in Cornwall about some business, when he chanced to run short of money, and not knowing what to do, not being acquainted with any in that country, and knowing his landlord to be loyal to the government, and a great favourite to the king his master, he takes a piece of brick and brays it into a small powder mixed with a little chalk, so that it might seem in colour like Arsenick, which is strong poison. 'Then tying it up in papers, writing on this direction, 'The strongest poison for the king,' and on the other paper 'The slowest poison for the queen.' Out he goes on purpose, and leaves the papers lying on the table where he knew they would be looking at them: The landlord perceived the direction: so in comes George in great haste and calls out, 'O landlord, did you see two small bundles I have lost, for I know not what I shall do, for it was my main business to take them to London.' 'O you murdering rogue!' cries the landlord, 'I will have you hanged for what you intend.' George at this time made off, and was going to fly forth, but the landlord called for assistance: so he was apprehended and made prisoner of state, and carried to London by a troop of horse, when the people there began to know him, and told who he was, his guard slept away shamefully and left him: so George thanked them for their good company and safe convoy,

There was a law made against wearing swords at balls and assemblies in the reign of King James the VI. because they were inconvenient on these occasions. But George to be

witty in the act, provided himself with a very long scabbard, and got himself introduced to a ball where the king and his court were present. George made several turns through the company, making his scabbard hit against their shins, and sometimes slip in below a lady's fardingal: and in short molested the company so much that he was taken notice of, and seized as a person who had incurred the penalty of the act aforesaid. But George excused himself, telling them, that the law was only against swords, and as he only wore a scabbard, was no ways liable. At seeing this, the king and his court were convinced that the law was imperfect, and that George had more wit than themselves.

George one day casing himself at the side of a hedge was espied by an English squire who began to mock him, asking him why he did not keckle like the hens? But George, whose wit was always ready, told him he was afraid to keckle, lest he would come and snatch up the egg. Which rebuff made the squire walked off as mute as a fish.

George was professor of the College of St. Andrews, and slip out one day in his gown and slippers, and went to his travels through Italy, and several other foreign countries, and after seven years returned with the same dress he went off in; and entering the College, took possession of his seat there, but the professor in his room quarrelled him for so doing. Says George it is a very odd thing that a man cannot take a walk in his slippers, but another will take up his seat. And so set the other professor about his business.

George was met one day by three bishops, who paid him the following compliments. Says the first, Good day, father Abraham; says the second, Good day, father Isaac; says the third, Good day, father Jacob, To whom he replied, 'I am neither father Abraham, father Isaac, nor father Jacob; but I am Saul the son of Kish sent out to seek my father's asses, and lo! I have found three of them.' Which answer convinced the bishops that they had mistaken their man.

A poor Scotsman dined one day at a publick house in London upon eggs, and not having money to pay, got credit till he would return, the man being lucky in trade, acquired vast riches, and after some years returned, and calling at the house where he was owing his dinner of eggs he had from him such a time, but the landlord now seeing him rich gave him a bill of some hundred pounds, telling as his reason for so extravagant a charge, that these eggs, had they been hatched, would have been chickens, and these laying more eggs, would

have been more chickens ; and so multiplyi g the eggs and their product, till such a time as their value should amount to the sum he charged. The man refusing to comply with this demand, was charged before a judge : but in the mean time made his affair known to George Buchanan, his countryman, who promised to appear in the hour of cause : which he accordingly did all in a sweat, with a great basket of boiled pease ; which appearance surpris'd the judge, who ask'd him what he meant by these boiled pease, says George I am going to sow them : When will they grow ? say the judge.—They will grow when foddren eggs grow chickens Which answer convinced the judge of the extravagance of the Englishman's demand, and the Scotsman was scolded upon paying tow penec halfpenny.

There was a bell at Dalkeith, which the Popish clergy made use of to extort confession from the ignorant people in the following manner. They told the person who they suspected guilty, it would ring at the toung of a guilty person, but if not guilty, it would not : by these means they generally frighted the ignorant into confession ; for if the bell would ring, the person was then to be condemned to death. But they managed the matter so, that the bell was never put to the trial, till George did as follows : He was taken up for saying 'That the Pope was fallible himself ; and could not pardon the sins of others.' George owned he said so, but would test the bell whether he was guilty or not. Then priests, though unwilling, were obliged to comply. George touched the bell, repeated as before, 'The Pope is fallible, and cannot pardon sin, moreover added,

The Pope and popish clergy are imposters, and thereupon he touched the bell, referring to it for truth ; but the bell not ringing, the priests were disgraced as imposters, and he was honourably acquitted and the bell was laid aside.

George desired a member of the college of St Andrew's to lend him a book ; the other told him, he could not possibly spare it out of his chamber, but if he pleased he might come and read there all the day long. Some time after, the gentleman sent to George to borrow his bellows ; but he sent him word, he could not possibly spare them out of his kitchen, but he might come there and blow all the day if he would.

A scholar at the grammar school of St Andrew's coming into the room where his master had laid down a basket of fine cherries for his own eating ; the waggish boy takes them up

and cries aloud, I publish the banns between these clerics and my mouth, if any know any just cause or impediment, why these should not be joined together, let them declare it. The master being in the next room, overheard all that was said, and coming into the school, he rebuked the boy who had eaten his cherries to be taken up, or as he called it, hors'd on another boy's back; but before he proceeded to the usual discipline, he cried out as loud as the delinquent had done, I publish the banns between the boys breeches and my twas, if any one know any just cause or impediment, why these two should not be goined together, let them declare it. - George passing by in the mean time, overheard this proclamation, I forbid the banns cried he. Why so! says the schoolmaster! Because the parties are not agreed replied he. Which answer so pleased the master, that the boy was set down without any punishment.

A young gentleman that wanted to be witty on the scriptures, eating some cheese full of mites one night at a tavern, Now, said he, I have done as much as Sampson, for I have slain my thousands and ten thousands. Yes, replied George, who happened to be in his company, and with the same weapon too the jaw bone of an ass, which answer set the whole company laughing to see the young gentleman beat with his own weapon

George being in company where three bishops were present at dinner; they knowing George to be a great scholar and comial awithal, they put upon him to say the grace, which he did as follows:

Here are three brethren of the coat,
 Who for thy blessing thank thee not,
 Curse them Lord and bless them not. Amen.

Fall on gentlemen, the cause is good. This grace made the bishops to look like fools to one another, while George laughed heartily at the confusion they were in.

A candlemaker having some candles stolen was telling it in company where George was present, who badg him be of cheer, for in a short time, says he, they will come to light.

George being sent to Paris about some business, went from thence to Versailles to see the French king's court, and being known there to several of the courtiers, who had been at the English court, one of them took occasion to tell the French King, that George was one of the wisest men in England, upon which the French king desired to see him, which he did; but George it seems was out of humour, or at least seeming so, spoke but very little to the purpose, so that the French king told the nobleman that recommended him

for such a wit, that he looked upon him as a very dull fellow : but the noble man assured the king whatever he thought of him, George was a very witty and ingenious man ; whereupon the king was resolved to make a further trial of him, and took him into the great gallery, where there was abundance of fine pictures, and among the rest, shewed him the picture of Christ on the cross, and asked him if he knew who that was ? but George made himself very ignorant, and answered No. Why says the king, I will tell you if you do not know. This is the picture of our Saviour on the cross, and that on the right hand is the Pope's and that on the left is my own. Whereupon George replied, I humbly thank your Majesty for the information, for though I have often heard that our Saviour was crucified between two thieves, yet I never knew who they were before.

A sharper who acquired vast riches by cheating, told George, that if such a thing as a good name was to be purchased, would freely give ten thousand pounds for one. Sir, said George, it would certainly be the worst money you ever laid out in your life. Why so, said the sharper ? Because answered he, you will lose it in less than a week.

One asked George why men always made suit to the women, and women never to the men ? Why, says he, because the women are always ready for the men, but the men are not always ready for the women.

George went into the mint one day when they were melting gold ? one of them asked George, if he would have his hat full of gold ? George readily accepted, but it burnt the bottom out of his hat, as they knew it would, and for that bout they fooled George ; however, George to be even with them bought a fine large hat and caused a plate of copper to be put betwixt the hat and the lining, and returned next day, they, jestingly, asked him if he would have another hat full of gold ? He said he would : They gave it red hot, and George now laughed at them in his turn, telling them that this new hat was a good one and stood fire better than the old one and so carried it off honestly ; being afterwards prosecuted for to return it, he excused himself telling the judge, that he took nothing but what was given him ; therefore he was honourably acquitted and the other heartily laughed at.

In the reign of King James the VI. George dining one day with the Lord Mayer, after two or three healths the minister was toasted. but when it came to George's turn to drink, he diverted it some time by telling a story to the person who sat

next him : the chief magistrate not seeing his toast round called out, what stinks the ministry at? At nothing, cries George, and so drank off his glass.

George being one day along with the king and his nobles a hunting, and being but very sorry mounted, when he was supping up his horse, observed the horse to have a trick of falling down on his knees, George immediately thought how he would make use of that very thing to divert his Majesty: therefore pretended that his horse would set hares; and knowing some hare seats rode that way to shew the company the truth of what he affirmed, but when he had found the hare by giving his horse a spur, he immediately clapped down: this he repeated several times, till he put the whole company in belief that what he had said was truth; and one of the noblemen being charmed with the performance of George's horse, would have George change with him, George seemed at first unwilling to part with his horse; but at last was prevailed upon to part with him for the nobleman's horse and a hundred guineas to boot. But afterwards riding thro' a river pretty deep, the nobleman spurring his new horse, he clapped down on his belly, which George seeing called out to the company to return with the dogs, for the nobleman's horse had certainly set a hare: which set the whole company a laughing. The poor nobleman was obliged to leave his horse in the water, and waddle thro' on foot, all wet to the shoulders.

A Scotsman being reduced to poverty, made his court to George to put him in a way: George told him he would providing he would do as he directed him. There was an old miser, an usurer and money changer hard by: George desired the poor fellow to pretend an errand to the miser and when he came to the table where the heaps of money lay, to thrust his hand among the gold, but lift none and run off. The poor fellow did, and was chased by the miser and his servants, who ran after him into the street, calling to stop, the thief. The poor fellow was stopped, as George had desired him to let them catch him. George appearing in the mob, went along with the poor fellow, who was carried before a judge where he was searched, and nothing being found upon him he was acquitted, and the miser fined in a large sum for accusing him. Afterwards George desired him to go to the same place and thrust in both his hands, and lift as much as he could and run off. This he did, but the miser told him he was not such a fool as to follow him, for he knew he only designed to play the fool to have him fined again. But by this means the poor fellow was enriched, and afterwards lived very happy.

ceding not, burnt his mouth, and at the same time letting go
a loud fart. It is well for you, say's George, that you made
your escape, for I should have burnt you alive had you staid.

A Young

ing'asked in company now he came to take it into his head to
enter in to the ministry of the church? Because said he the Lord
had need of me. That may he replied George, who was present
for I have often heard that the Lord had once need of an ass

After this George being sent with the British Ambassador
into Italy by the way of Paris, and as they were viewing the
beautiful statutes and large buildings of that spacious city: the
king and many of his nobles in company; as they were walk-
ing thro' the King's garden, among the images of the faints,
they came to the image of the Virgin Mary, who stood in a me-
lancholy posture with the bade in her arms, one of the noblemen
says to the British Ambassador don't you think that she look
as if she were angry? Oyes, says George, she's angry when
she sees Englishmen and Frenchmen in friendship and unity
one with another. No, no, says the French king, she loves
nothing better than the reconciliation of enemies, peace and
unity is her delight. Then George gets in below the statue,
and looks up: O says George, I know what is the matter now
for someboby has driven a nail in her arse, I see the head of
it sticking out, it would vex any living, be's a piece of wood.
At this the king was greatly enraged at George for saying so,
for calling her a piece of wood; and nothing would satisfy
the king unless George would fall down and worship the
Virgin Mary and crave pardon of her for the blasphemous re-
proches wherwith he had reproached her. Then George
cries out, O may it please your Majesty, to remit at this time.
I dare not look her in the face, she frowns on me with such
an angry countenance: this dutiful command of yours must
be delayed until I return from Italy, and then I shall fulfil
your demand in paying her all dutiful respects, and worship
unto her according to what she is. So here the Ambassador
stood bound for George, that he would perform this piece of
worship at his return, according to the king's pleasure.

Now during their stay in Italy, they chanced to be in a no-
bliman's house, where they kept but few servants, because of
a spirit that did haunt the house for the space of 200 years
before that time, so that no servant could work any kind of

labour in or about the house for it, except cooks, for what they vulgarly called a brownie, it did all itself and would suffer no fellow-labourer to work along with it.— On the next morning George got up pretty early and called for water to wash himself; then directly comes the brownie with a basin of water in one hand, and a clean cloth in the other. George perceiving him have such a pale ghosly countenance, not to be an earthly creature, said, Of what nation art thou? To which it answered in Galle or Earse! A countryman of yours, sir. The Ambassador smiled and joked George, telling him it was a devil, and how could it be a countryman of his? O says George, I'll shew you the contrary of that, for the devil dare not stay in our country. George having washed himself, it came to take away the basin of water, then says George, And how long is it since you left your own country? About 200 and 50 years ago, says it. Then certainly, says he, thou art a devil and not an earthly creature. To which it answered, I am what I am, and a Christian too. Then I am what I am, to conjure you says George; he taking a handful of water, and throwing it upon the old wrinkled face of it, repeating the form of the words of baptism in Earse, saying, If thou be a Christian thou art old enough to be baptised, No sooner had he done this, but it went off weeping and crying, O! let never a rogue put trust in his own countrymen after me. Now, says George, I told you the devil dare not stay in my country, nor yet look a Scotsman in the face in his own. What! says the Italian Lord, do you imagine that this is the devil's own country? It appears so, says George for he is the oldest residenter in it I know; but my Lord, said he, and if it please your Grace, I think the clergymen are very scant in this country when you have kept the devil so long for a chaplain. The nobleman to this gave no answer, but expressed his sorrow to be very great for the loss of his brownie.

Now the Ambassador having done his business in Italy they returned homeward, and on their way the Ambassador began to question George how he thought to escape Paris without committing idolatry. No, no, says George, I never did worship any image, and never shall, but I shall make them worship the worst that is in my guts. No sooner were they arrived in Paris, but George leaves the Ambassador, and goes directly to the Virgin Mary, jumped in over the railing to the holy ground, (as they termed it) whereon she stood, where few durst go but priests and friars; and there he loosed his breeches and made such a groning easing himself, that he was heard

at a distance by the priests and friars who were walking near by; and they perceiving this heinous abomination, run upon him like a pack of hounds, and carried him before the cardinals and father confessors, where he was allowed to speak for himself, which he did as follows:

“ May it please your most excellent worships to hear my reasons before you pronounce the sentence to be put in execution against me. It was my misfortune to be passing thro’ this city a few months ago with the British Ambassador on our way to Italy; and one day being walking in the King’s garden, in presence of the king and many of his Nobles, who can bear witnesses to the truth of the same; I being ignorant of your traditions and rites of religion, foolishly offended, reproaching the Virgin Mary to her face; and ever since she has plagued me with a boundness in my belly that I have avoided nought, but clean hach: so now on my return I went and implored her to open my fundament, and she has done so; I being overjoyed with the miraculous healing in getting a passage in her perience left it as a memorial of the miracle in that place.” When hearing this, they all with one consent lifted up their hands and blessed the Virgin Mary, for the wonderful miracle she had done, and ordered George to go about his business, and declare unto all what was done unto him by the holy Virgin for the confirmation of their religion. So all the devout Romans came to view his dung, and worship it in presence of many people; and also caused a holy day to be observed throughout the king’s dominions for the miraculous cure.

Now George being a long time absent from Britain, he thought it fit to go and visit the king and his court in disguise. He meeting with an old man driving two old horses loaded with coals to sell, George here made a bargain with the old man for the loan of his clothes, his horses and coal whip, and every thing to complete him as a real driver; so away he goes in his dress until he came before the king’s palace, where he began to cry with an audible voice, Buy coals, buy coals; better buy than borrow. Now the king being in company with his new chaplain who was a foundling, so that none knew his original, and had been fostered and educated out of charity by the king’s father, yet he was become as proud as Lucifer and as gentle in his own conceit as the king himself. Now the king knowing George’s voice though he was in a coalman’s dress, desired the chaplain to ask the coalman why he called so loud, making such a terrible noise. The chaplain open-

ed the window and with great airs called out unto him, You fir, what do you cry for? Why, said George, I cry for people to come and buy my coals and give me money for them: but what do you cry for? What, fir! says the young priest, I cry for you to hold your peace. Then, says George, come here then and cry for me, and go sell my coals, and I will hold my peace. Sell your coals! says the priest, do you know unto whom you speak? Yes, I do know, says George, but you do not. What are you? says the priest. I am a mortal and so are you, says George: What is your father's name, since you will not tell me your own? says the priest: You must go ask that at my mother, says George, for I am not sufficient, when she got me to know him: What, says the priest, do you not know your own father! I know my mother, and my mother did know my father, says George, and that is sufficient, and more than you can say perhaps. The priest, thinking he was coming too near, thought to put him off with a Scriptural question, by asking him, If he knew who was Melchizedek's father? Indeed, master priest, says George, Melchizedek's descent was not counted, neither is yours, then who can declare your generation? The priest at this answer would stand the argument no longer, but closed the window in great haste, while the king and all who knew the priest to be a foundling, were like to split their sides with laughing: so George went off with his coals and the priest became more humble than he was formerly, for he thought that every body knew what he was when the coalman knew so well.

One night after this an English 'squire who professed to be better versed in poetry than George, laid a wager with another gentleman five guineas against one that George could not meetre the first word he would say to him in the morning when newly awaked out of his sleep; so the gentleman went the night before and told George the story and bid him be on his guard for in the morning they would ceratinly come and that right early. At midnight if you will, says George. I'll order my servants to let you in. So the English 'squire sat up all night conferring with his friends whether he would put a high verse to him, or mean simple words, thinking that George would be sitting up all night meditating on an answer, so all agreed that mean and simple words would be the best, as he would not be thinking on them, and have no answer provided. Then away they came in the morning early, with several gentlemen in company to hear the diversion, George's servant opened the

door, according to his master's orders. The squire entered the room first, and awakened George out of his sleep, then said Rise up you madman, and put on your clothes.

To which George answered.

O thou hast lost thy wad man, for I am none of those.

The English squire confessed he was fairly beaten and could match him with no more. Then another gentleman would hold five guineas, that he would give him a word or line that he should not metre at the first answer, and to answer it directly as soon as he had done speaking: but George ordered him first to table; his money and then to proceed, which he did in all haste, and said as follows:

My belly rumbled and then I farted.

George gripping to the money answered,

A fool and his money is soon parted.

Then they all cried out he was fairly beat and what George had said was really true; but never would lay any more wagers concerning poetry.

After this George got a letter from a bishop telling him that he was coming to visit him, and take dinner with him in his lodgings; George sent an answer to him that he would wait upon his lordship on the day appointed; but well did George know it was not for any love he had unto him that he was coming to see him, but to spy fairlies therefore he thought he should give him something to talk about. So George sent his servant to a bookseller's shop to buy a dozen of small pamphlets about a halfpenny a piece such as A 'Groat's Worth of Wit for a penny.' 'The history of the King and the Cocker' and such pieces as these. Taking all his own books away, and putting the pamphlets in their place which is presented to the bishop, when he asked for the sight of his library. What, says the bishop, have you no more books but these? No more, says George, but my bible, just no more. O says the bishop I wonder how you can either speak plain or write a perfect sentence when you have no other books but these. O says George, do you think that I am a clergyman, to borrow other men's sermons to beautify my works? No, no, not I; all that I write or dite I meditate out of my brain. This check concerning borrowing put the bishop in a cold sweat, yet he concealed his passion. Then George called to his servant if dinner was ready yet, to which he answered. Come, master, come the pot is on the boil, get out the meal pock: then George came into the room where his servant was, and set the Bishop at the side of the fire, and sat down at the other himself; while his servant

made a great bowl full of milk brose and set them down between the bishop and George: then George desired the bishop to ask a blessing for what they were to receive. The bishop did not know what he meant by a blessing, it not being usual for the English to do so, asked at George what it was, but George took up a great ramhorn spoon, and stapped it into the bishop's hand saying, there it is my lord, What! says the bishop, call you that a blessing? we call that a spoon, O my lord, says George, is the best blessing you can ask, if it do not come empty.

Well, says the bishop, and how do you call this scalded meat? Why says George, we call it Scots brose. O, said the bishop, I cannot eat it. O said he the thing we cannot eat we sup my lord, since you are in a Scotsman's house, you must partake of a Scotsman's victuals. Then said the bishop, I always thought the Scots had lived well till now, I would not be a Scotsman for the world. O, says George, if a Scotsman lives but 20 years and gets but 19 years meat, he cannot be badly off. What, not badly off, and want a year's victuals? said the bishop, upon my word of honour, if I wanted one day's victuals, I'd be sure to die the next. O says George, we drink water when we cannot do better, and that puts us in remembrance of wealth, for a dish of contentment is good cheer.

Then said the bishop, I'll drink water too, if it be good for the memory. Ay do, said George, and you will remember me when you do so. Now after dinner the bishop took his leave of George, and desired him next day to come and dine with him.

PART V.

NEXT day, George, according to promise, went to the bishop's lodgings; but no sooner did the bishop see George, than he saluted him with these words:

Your servant, master wise man, and yet you have no books?

How can you have knowledge that no man instructs?

George answered,

Your servant, master bishop, your salutation's good;

Your knowledge is in your library, while others are in their hood.

Now after a sumptuous dinner, the bishop took George into his library, shewing him a great quantity of books which George praised very much, and among the rest was an old Hebrew Bible, which George taking up asked at the bishop, what book it was? the bishop looking at it very sincerely, said he could not tell. Why then do you keep a book that you do not know the name of it? It may be the book of black art. No, I don't think that, said the bishop, but can you tell

what it is? Yes, says George, it is the Bible, the best book for a bishop I know, if he had eyes to see the inside of it: So he desired George to read a piece of it? but when he did he could not understand it, he therefore desired him to explain which sentence he did as follows, Isa. ix. 16th For the leaders of the people caused them to err, and they that are led of them are destroyed." To which George added, this is the blind leading the blind. So taking his leave of the bishop, he parted with him, saying these words:

Good night, hail Mr bishop, of books you have great store, Yet cannot read the half of them, then what use are they for? Many of the clergymen in England desired greatly to be in company with George, because of his comical and witty expressions, so George happened one night to be called into a company, where there were two bishops, as also a priest, who wanted to be licensed by them. One of the bishops asked George, Why the people of Scotland did not love bishops? Because says George, they are like old beggars advanced to be rulers over barrow men, still instructing them in things they know not themselves, ordering them to carry stones to the builders, which they will not receive, and which they themselves had never power to move; the Scots having knowledge of this hate to see the bishops have great lordships for their ignorance, and the poor labourers have little or nothing for their toil. One of the bishops looking at George with an angry countenance, answered, saying. Thou Scot must be made a bishop yourself, and the bishops made priests, and that will serve well for your turn. No, no, said George, that will not do, for if I be made a bishop I'll have no broken bishops to serve as priests under me, for they are such bad masters they will become the worst of all servants. At this the two bishops left the room in a great passion, leaving George and the young priest only by themselves. Now, now, says George, this proves the bishops to be but hirelings, and not true shepherds, (pointing to the young priest) you see they have fled for their own safety, and left you a lamb before the mouth of me a fox, and who knows but I may worry you. Run, run, too, master sheep, says George, and if you have eyes, guide those two blind shepherds down stairs, and over ditches, but I am afraid you will all tumble in a ditch together, this raised such an indignation in the bishops breasts, that they desired no more of George's company and conversation.

One time after this, George being in the country, about twenty miles distant from London, and on his way homeward

there came after him a fine gilded coach, which George was informed belonged to the Bishop of Canterbury, and was going to London for his lordship. George addressed himself to the coachman for to have a passage with him in the coach to London: so he bargained with the coachman for two dollars, to carry him to the Bell Inn on London bridge; the one he gave him in hand and the other as soon as ever he would see him out of the coach door; so away the coachman drives for London in all haste, in which time George wrote the following Motto:

Here sits the Bishop of Canterbury
 Who at the schools disdain'd to tarry,
 Far better skill'd in games than preaching,
 And yet he lives by others teaching.

Blind leaders of the blind indeed,
 'Tis blind and lame who chariots need;
 Six brutes with eyes this brute doth carry,
 I mean the Bishop of Canterbury.

My feet being lame, I gave a dollar,
 To be drove in state like you a scholar:
 For which myself I do abhor.

Shame caus'd me make another door.

These lines being battered upon the inside of the coach, and when he came within a mile of London, took a knife and cut a great hole in the back side of the coach where he came out, and to make his promise good to the coachman that he was to give the other dollar as soon as ever he saw him come out of the coach door. The poor coachman drove on till he came to the foresaid inn where he alighted and opened the door to let his passenger out, but seeing the coach empty and a great hole in the back side of it, he cried out he believed he had the devil in his coach, and he had taken away the backside of it with him. The people of the inn came all flocking about to see what was done; and then seeing the lines in the inside of the coach which the bishop came and read himself, they all concluded it to be done by George but could make nothing of it, for the bishop said. To pursue him would only make it worse and no better.

George was invited one day by a great lawyer to come and see a fine building which he had lately built of fine free stones and marble. He desired George to guess what it was built with; George answers, Do you think that I do not know what it is built with? No you do not says the lawyer. Yes, I do, says George, it cannot stand long for malice and hatred is the mortar of it, and the stones are the heads of foolish people, polished over with the tongue of an ass.—O, sir?

don't you remember that an ass was made an advocate, and spoke against Balaam? The lawyer to this would give no answer, but took good night of George.

Three merchant pedlars (as they professed to be) came with a pack of goods to put a trick upon a widew woman who kept an inn on the highway side. After they had drunken very heartily, they desired the woman to lay up the pack securely, and charged her directly before witnesses to give it to none of them unless they came all together for it again. And about three weeks there after, two of them returned and desired the woman to give them the pack, telling her, that the other man was gone to such a fair with another pack, where they were all to meet, and they were fellow-travellers conjunct in trade, and how they had all a right to the pack alike; whereupon the poor simple woman, not dreading any further harm gave them the pack. So in a few days thereafter the other man comes and demands the pack. The honest woman told him plainly that the other two men had been there before and got it away. Then he began to demonstrate to the woman what great danger she was in, and forthwith raised a process against her by law, which cost the poor woman a vast of money to defend, as the plea continued more than two full years; and a great court one day being to sit upon the process to decide it, which would undoubtedly have been done in favour of the pursuer, the proof being so clear, and the woman not denying what the bargain was when she got the pack to keep. The poor woman being in grate straits, her purse being turned empty, and her attorney told her plainly as her money was gone, he could no longer defend her. The woman once more plucked up her heart and went to London to employ a new attorney to speak for her; but for want of gold she could get none to undertake it. George being in a house where he heard the poor widew making a mournful complaint to one of the attorneys who gave her no comfort or satisfaction, for when she told him she had no money to spend, or give in defence of it, the attorney went away and would hear no more of the woman's grievous complaint, which made George laugh very heartily, while the poor woman sat weeping like one distracted. Poor woman says George you need not think that man will speak a word for you or any one else, unless you had brought him a purse of gold to lose his tongue; but as I have got a scheme of the matter, you may go home and have patience till the time come, and then my life for yours poor woman, I will send you an attorney who will do your business for

nothing. He gave the poor woman more courage than any she had spoke with in London; for every one told her that all the attorneys in the world could not free her. So accordingly at the day appointed George dressed himself like an attorney, with his gown, and every thing as if he had been so.

The court being fenced, and the proofs read over the expence and value of the pack having amounted to about seven hundred pounds, was ordered to be put in a decret against the poor widow, which every one was bemoaning, but could give her no relief. Now George kept himself silent, hearing them all with great patience, and the very nick of time, he thought proper to address himself to the judges as follows?

“ My Lords, judges, and gentleman of this honourable court and company, I have come from London gratis, out of pure pity to speak a word or two in favour of this poor woman, who hath spent all her means in defence of a false accusation raised against her: and now when her money is gone, her speakers are dumb, and I see none to plead the cause of this poor widow. Now when sentence is upon the brink of being pronounced against her, I earnestly desire this court to mollify and drop the expences altogether: it is enough when the poor woman hath the pack to pay; for you all know the poor woman was no ways enriched by it, when the other two men got it away.” Then the pursuer’s attorney made an answer as follows:—“ Sir I would have thought you, who have come from London and professeth to be a doctor of law, should know better things; know you not that he who gains the plea, gains the expences as well as the sum, be what it will.” Yes it must and shall be so too, said the judges. Then said George, That is all I want: which set the whole court a laughing, thinking he was a fool, and become an adversary to the poor woman. Give over your sport, gentlemen, says George, I have not done yet.

“ My Lords judges, you’ll hear me in this: if the poor woman made a bargain with this merchant, and other two who was with him for to keep that pack safely, and deliver it to none of them till they were all three present, now let that man who is here at this time go and seek the other two, and they shall have the pack, for she has the pack safe enough, but she will keep by her first bargain. So I refer to you judges and gentleman, if this poor woman be not in the right.” This made the judges look one to another: and the whole court with one voice, declared the woman was in the right, and ordered the pursuer to go and seek his two companions. No,

no, says George, the poor woman must first have her expence, or surety for it. Then the judges caused the pursuer to be arrested at the bar; until the woman got satisfaction for all her trouble and expences. So George returned to London unknown but for an advocate, whose fame was spread over all England; which caused many who had law suits to search thro' London for him, but could not find him who had gained the widow's law plea.

George being one day in the country, and coming thro' a village, there came a great mastiff dog and gripped him by the leg until the blood followed his long teeth, George with one stroke of his cane came over his eyes until he fell down and died on the spot: 'Tis well for thee, says George, that I killed thee before thou was brought to justice, for thou had certainly been hanged for what thou hast done, and thy master severely fined for keeping thee. The owner of the dog hearing George say so, went off without speaking a word to George, for fear it had been so.

A country gentleman came one time and enquired at George what he thought was the reason he lost every law suit or plea he set his face to, tho' never so just a claim, the law went still against him? George asked him whom he employed? He told him he was one of the best and ablest attorneys in England. Yes, says George, I believe he may be so, but when you go to law again, if you have a mind to win it, when you give your own attorney one guinea, give your advelary two: for those attorneys are much after the nature of an ass, they won't speak right if you do not throw a multitude of angels before them, (meaning pieces of English money called angels, by name.) The gentleman returned in a few weeks thereafter and heartily thanked George for his good advice, for he was not afraid now but he could gain any plea he took in hand, whether it was just or not.

Two drunken fellows one day fell a beating one another in the streets of London, which caused a great crowd of people throng together to see what it was; a taylor being at work up in a high garret about three or four stories high, and he hearing a noise in the street looked over the window, but could not well see them, he began to stretch himself, making a long neck until he fell down out of the window, and alighted on an old man who was walking on the street. The poor taylor was more afraid than hurt, but the old man on whom he fell died directly. His son caused the taylor to be apprehended, and tried for the murder of his father. The jury could not bring it in as a wilful murder neither could they altogether acquit the taylor; the

jury gave it over to the judges, and the judges to the king. The king asked Georges advice in this hard matter. Why, says George, I'll give you my opinion in a minute; you must cause the taylor stand in the street in the place where the old gentleman was when he was killed by the taylor, and then let the old gentleman's son, the taylor's adversary, go up to the window from whence the taylor fell and jump down and kill the taylor as he did his father, for I can do no more in it: you see it was a great mercy for the taylor he had the old gentleman below him, or else he had been killed on the spot, and that it was the old gentleman's lot or misfortune to die there. The taylor's adversary hearing this sentence passed, he would not venture to jump over the window; so the taylor got clear off.

PART VI.

GEORGE being one night in company with some English nobleman in presence of the king, they began to demonstrate such a fine place as England was, both for beautiful buildings and fruitful fields. One gentleman said he knew a place in England, though they should crop the grass even with the ground at night, and lay down a crown on it before an hundred witnesses, and against to-morrow you would not know where to find it. This may seem very strange to some, says George, but it is no mystery to me, knowing there would be enough of them who saw the crown piece laid down, ready enough to come and take it up before to-morrow. But says George, I know a place in the west of Scotland, where if you tether a horse at night, against the next morning you will not see him. What a pox will take him away? says the Englishman. Only such people says George, as will take away your crown piece. O! says the Englishman, you know what I mean.

Then, says George, you talk much of towns you have in England. I know three towns in poor Scotland for properties you have none such. Pray, says the nobleman, what are these properties? Why, says George, I know one town where there are an hundred bone bridges in it; another town where there are fifty draw bridges in it; another town where tho' a man commits murder, treason, or owes never so much money, if he runs to that town, gets in below a stair, no law nor justice can harm him. The nobleman ordered immediately to stake an hundred pounds that there were no such towns in Europe, besides in Scotland. They desired George but to tell the names of these towns, for they would find them out, and know whether he was a liar or not; so he told their names, and they

men were sent to Scotland to see. The first was Duddingston, near Edinburgh: when they came there and asked for the bone bridges, the people shewed them steps almost between every door, of the skulls of sheepheads, which they used as stepping stones. The second was a little country village, between Stirling and Perth, called Auchterarder, where there is a large strand, and which runs through the middle of the town, and almost at every door, there is a stock or stone laid over the strand, where upon they passed to the opposite neighbours; and when a flood came they could lift these wooden bridges in case they should be taken away; and these they called their draw bridges. The third was a village near Cambusnethan, which they passed from the one end to the other, but there was not a stair in it all: so they returned to England, and told what kind of bone and draw bridges they were, and how that there was not a stair in all that place, therefore no man could run in below it.

Now George being old and highly advanced in years, finding his natural strength and state of health decaying he petitioned King James to let him return to Scotland to visit his friends and lands of his nativity; which he willingly granted, (not thinking that his design was never to return;) for George had a great desire to resign his soul and breath in that part of the world where he received them, and that his body and bones might be laid among his ancestors, which was counted a great honour in former times.

So accordingly George came to the parish of Buchanan, on the west of Scotland, whereby he visited all his friends and relations before his death, during which, the king sent several messages for him to return in all the haste he could; but he absolutely refused, telling him, that he would never see him again, which grieved the king very much to hear him express himself in that manner. After this the king sent him a letter, threatening him very sharply, if he did not appear in London in the space of ten days he should bring him to London whether he would or not. Unto which as an answer, George sent him a famous letter of admonition, both anent the government of his kingdom, and the well-being of his soul; which caused the king weep very bitterly, when he read it over, with the following verse:

My honour'd leige, and sovereign King,
 Of your boasting great I dread nothing!
 On your feud and favour I'll scarcely venture;
 Ere that day, I'll be where few kings enter.

END OF THE EXPLOITS.