



~~ABS 1.80.100~~
ABS 1.83.2070-8

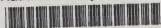
Mrs Dickson
The cockles
Haddington

This Book belongs to

Mrs Dickson
Cockles
Haddington

21

National Library of Scotland



B000079071

THE
MURDER
 OF
JOHN ELLIOT,
 OR

THE BLOODY TRAGEDY OF ESKDALEMUIR.

The Murderer was tried at Dumfries on the 30th of April, 1821,
 and, after an interesting trial, condemned and executed
 on the 6th of June following; and afterwards
 anatomized, according to his sentence.

WITH
SOME ACCOUNT OF HIS EXECUTION.

ALSO
 SEVERAL ANECDOTES,
 FOUNDED UPON FACTS,
 WITH POEMS AND HYMNS.

THIRD EDITION.

PRINTED FOR THOMAS ELLIOT,
 OF HENSHAW, NORTHUMBERLAND,
 BY B. SCOTT, CARLISLE.
 (PRICE, ONE SHILLING.)

1825.

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

1871

THE
MURDER OF JOHN ELLIOT.

JOHN ELLIOT was born at Towhouse, in the parish of Haltwhistle, Northumberland, on the 4th day of June, 1802. He was but weakly from his infancy; and at the age of four or five years, he had the measles, which had an effect on his delicate frame. Ever after he had a severe cough, and was troubled with phlegm, which continued,—but was always severest after getting cold. From his weakness of body he was never likely to be able to work for his living. After he had arrived at his teens, he frequently left home secretly: this he did repeatedly, and often returned home in a very bad

state. He went one time to his aunt's, where he was very well used, but still shewed a disposition for travelling: he left them three different times. We were always afraid he would fall in with bad company, which is too often the case with those who are simple and weak in their intellects; but, thank God, there never was any complaint made against him in that respect. Before leaving home the last time that he went off secretly, he talked much of being a pedlar, and that he would like well to travel with goods. However, he set off with I believe only four shillings in his pocket. About four months after I received a letter from a merchant at Kelso, saying that there was a lad, who called himself John Elliot, my son, came to his shop, and laid out seven-pence, that he had then traded with him eleven weeks, that he could then lay out twenty shillings, and that he was coming to see his father when he was worth five pounds. It

rejoiced me much to hear such an account. I wrote to the merchant, (who I have never seen as yet, but I found myself much obliged to him,) desiring him to give him all the encouragement that he could in a fair way. Not long after this he came home, saying, he had got a box now; he had come from Kelso by way of Langholm. When at home he went to Hexham, and returned again before he went to Scotland for the last time. Molly (as he still called his mother, and to whom he told more than ever he did to me) was putting his things in the box straight and in better order, and advising him never to travel with any person, but to keep travelling by himself, saying, "Thy father always travelled by himself." He said there were many wanted him to travel with them: to which I answered and said, "Thou wilt do best to travel alone,—there is none that would want thee to travel with them to do thee any good." At the same

time he handed me two red leather purses, saying, "Father, I bought them of Mr. John Dobson, of Langholm." Looking at them, I asked him what they cost, and he told me; I then examined the marks, and took particular notice of them; they were marked thus:—"m"—maker's mark; "U. F."—the first cost; "6d."—the selling price.

As I had been a licensed hawker myself, I examined them particularly; the private mark was my private mark when I was a hawker for Mr. Rowland Cooper of Carlisle, and Mr. Dobson was foreman a part of the time. They taught me their marks, so that I had a knowledge of them, and I took particular notice of these purses.

He said he intended to go to Scotland, and stay there all winter; he could live cheaper and sell more, as the people in Scotland were far kinder. He liked them better than he did the people in

England; and he would travel there in the winter, and return home in the ensuing summer. He was much elated with his box and its contents. He set off for Scotland by way of Carlisle, and from thence to Canoby, where he met with James Gordon, at the house of Mr. Lamb, farmer, of Wood-head, on Saturday, the 11th of Nov. 1821. He, as I suppose, persuaded John Elliot, my son, that he would take him to all the gentlemen's houses in Scotland, when they would soon get rich by travelling together: thus he deceived him by seeming kindness. The master of the first house they called at, when they were thus going together, told me, that James Gordon was telling my son that he would soon make a man of him. This was on Monday morning; they got to Mr. Graham's, of Coat, that evening. On leaving Coat, he told him they would get a good dinner next day at the Honourable Captain Napier's, of Thirlstane. He went

to Captain Napier's himself, carrying my son's box with him, after murdering and robbing him of his box, his own lawful property, and sold to the servant, or to some other person, two purses.

As soon as I was informed of the murder, I set off for Scotland, and went to the house of Mr. Glendining, where I was informed of the two purses that had been sold at the Hon. Capt. Napier's. The next day I left Upper Cassock, and went to the Hon. Capt. Napier's, where I met with two purses, which I knew to have been my son's property.

When at the Hon. Capt. Napier's, he informed me he had got a letter from his Fiscal, stating that he had got a letter from the Fiscal of Lanark, and that he (the Fiscal of Lanark) had caused a man to be put in custody that answered to the description of the murderer. The following is an exact copy of the letter sent to the Honourable Captain Napier, of Thirlstane :—

" Sir,

" Referring to the lad by Richardson, I have now to inform you, that last night I had a letter from the Procurator Fiscal of Lanark, informing me that he had caused a man, who calls himself John Macdonald, a travelling merchant, to be put in custody, he answering the description of the murderer. By the same post I sent the letter to the Superintendent of the Police, Edinburgh, and answered the Lanark letter, informing I had done so; I also wrote to the Police Fiscal, Dumfries, informing him of the circumstance.

" The last communication I had from the Edinburgh Police, was from two constables at Langholm, on their return from Edinburgh, when he was not apprehended; and as they had not heard of him about Edinburgh, the Superintendent was thinking he had directed his course for Greenock, by way of Glasgow, &c.

" I have the honour to be, Sir,

" Your most obedient servant,

" GEORGE RODGERS."

" *Selkirk, Dec. 8, 1850.*"

The following is the substance of a letter sent to Mr. Short, Procurator Fiscal of the Justice of Peace Court, Dumfries:—

“HONOURED SIR,

“Having been in Scotland, and at the house of Mr. Glendining, Upper Cassock, (from the information I have received, I have no doubt it was my son that was found murdered,) I was informed the murderer, the day after he and my son were at Mr. Glendining’s, was at the Honourable Capt. Napier’s, of Thirlstane, carrying my son’s box; and being further informed, that when he was there, he sold two red leather purses—I, knowing my son had two, went to see them. Being desirous to gain all the information possible when there, I desired to see the Captain: I was introduced into his presence, and I told him that I was the father of the boy found murdered on Eskdalemuir. “I am sorry for you,” was the reply, “but I can do nothing for you, as it did not happen in my county.” “Sir, that is not what brought me here; I am informed that the man was travelling here with my son’s box, and being further informed that he sold two leather purses to your servant, I wish to see them.” Captain Napier rang the bell, and a young woman appeared; when he asked, “Did you get a red leather purse from the man?” The answer was—“Yes, my Lord, I did.” “Was there any more got?” “Yes,” naming another servant who got one. He ordered her to tell the other servant to bring them to him; they were—and after I had examined them, I desired the favour of paper,

pen, and ink, to take the marks ; but he took them himself, and gave them to me.

“ He had told me that his Fiscal had sent him a letter, stating that a man answering the description of the murderer had been taken into custody and confined in Lanark gaol. I have been in expectation of hearing from Scotland ever since, but have not as yet. Sir, I desire you will let me know whether he is the man or not.

“ As my son had told me he had bought the purses of Mr. John C. Dobson, of Langholm, I went to Mr. Dobson, and shewed him the marks, and asked him if he sold them to my son ? He said he recollected he did. I asked him if he would declare upon oath that he did ? He said he would : and he further added, and said, that he would declare upon oath, that he never sold two of them to any person but John Elliot, my son. Which is still more evident ; I do declare, that these two purses my son shewed me in my own house, and said he bought them from Mr. Dobson.—Sir, I will be much obliged to you for an answer to the above.

“ Your much obliged servant,

“ THOMAS ELLIOT.

“ P. S.—The purses were returned to the servants with a charge that they would be called for.

“ *Direct to Thomas Elliot, Henshaw, to the care of William Atkinson, Towhouse, Northumberland.*”

The following is the answer I received :—

Sir,

“Mr. Short, Procurator Fiscal of the Justice of Peace Court, has handed me your letter that I might answer it as Procurator Fiscal of the Sheriff Court, under which crimes of that magnitude fall to be investigated. I waited till now that I might be enabled to say whether the person apprehended at Nairn was the real companion of your son immediately before the murder, and he really is the very man ; and by this time he is on his way from Sheriff to Sheriff, a prisoner, for this place. I shall write immediately to Captain Napier that these witnesses may come at the same time as those of Eskdalemuir. I am sorry for what your feelings must be on such an occasion as this.

“ I remain your's, &c.

“ PROVOST THOMPSON.

“ *Dumfries.*”

The person apprehended (as stated in Mr. Rodger's letter) was not the murderer : he was liberated by Mr. Graham, of Coat, after being nineteen days confined.

*Thomas Elliot's Declaration, at Brampton, before
Mr. Thompson, Procurator Fiscal, Dumfries.*

After many questions, the following were asked :—

Ques. What sort of a box was it your son carried ?

—*Answ.* Sir, it was such a box as I never saw for a hawker—I mean with respect to its make : it was more square, and deeper than any that I ever saw : it was indifferently made, and of indifferent wood.

Q. What sort of a strap had it?—*A.* I believe a buff one.

Q. What colour was the box?—*A.* Of a dark reddish colour.

Q. What length was the box?—*A.* Sir, I do not know : as I never did take the dimensions of the box.

Q. But, what length was it?—*A.* I suppose eighteen or twenty inches.

Q. What breadth was it?—*A.* I suppose it to be three inches narrower than the length.

Q. What depth was it?—*A.* I suppose seven inches.

Q. Would you know the box if you saw it?—*A.* Yes, Sir.

(The box was then produced on the table.)

Q. Is that any thing like your son's box?—*A.* It is just it, Sir.

Q. Then you will swear that it was your son's box?—*A.* No, Sir.

Q. You know it to be your son's box, you certainly will swear to it?—*A.* No, Sir, I will not swear to it.

Q. Surprising! you will not swear to it, and knowing it to be your son's box: you certainly will swear to it?—A. No, Sir: an oath is a very serious thing, and one box may be like another; and I believe I would not take a false oath if it was to save my own life: if I did, I would lose my soul.

Q. Well, then, what is the reason you will not swear to it?—A. Because there is no particular mark to swear by.

Q. Then you will not swear to it?—A. No, Sir, I will not swear to it.

Q. Then what sort of purses was these your son carried?—A. They were red leather purses.

*(The marks were then produced.)**

Q. Now you say in your letter to Mr. Short, that Captain Napier gave you these marks: are they from what Captain Napier gave to you?—A. No, Sir, they are not from what the Honourable Captain Napier gave to me (I would have taken the marks myself, but he took them himself, and gave them to me,) I knew them: my son shewed me the purses in my own house, saying he bought them of Mr. Dobson, Langholm. I asked what he paid for them, and he told. I examined them. I was a licensed hawker myself for Mr. Rowland Cooper, Carlisle. He taught me the use of a private mark, the same as was on the purses. Mr. Dobson was some time foreman for Mr. Cooper: so that I had a perfect knowledge of the first cost by the private mark.

*Maker's mark, (m.); first cost, (U. F.); selling price, 6d.

Q. Would you know the purses if you saw them?

—A. Yes, Sir.

(One of the purses produced on the table, and examined.)

Q. Is that any thing like one of them, do you think? —A. It is just one of them.

Q. Then you will swear to the purse?—A. Yes, Sir, I will swear positively that the two purses which I saw at Captain Napier's, in the possession of his servants, were the two purses my son shewed me in my own house.

Very well, that will do—that will do.

Q. Will you see the clogs?—A. No, Sir, I do not want to see them.

THE TRIAL.

DUMFRIES, *April 30, 1821.*

The Circuit Court of Justiciary was opened this day by the Right Honourable the Lord Justice Clerk and Lord Gillies. After the customary forms were gone through, the Court proceeded to the trial of Charles Ervin, accused of forgery. A short trial: sentence seven year's transportation.

JAMES GORDON, alias M'Donald, alias O'Donald, was next brought to the bar, accused of murder and robbery. The indictment stated that "Upon the 14th day of November, 1820, or upon one or other day of that month, the said James Gordon, alias M'Donald, alias O'Donald, did, upon the farm of Upper Cassock, in the parish of Eskdalemuir, and county of Dumfries, and at a part of the said farm about two miles, or thereabouts, distant from the farm-house of Upper

Cassock, and one mile or thereabouts, distant from the Marsh, betwixt the counties of Dumfries and Selkirk, attack and assault a person of the name of John Elliot, who was then travelling in company with him, the said James Gordon, alias M'Donald, alias O'Donald; and did give him many severe blows upon the head, with a pair of clogs, or wooden shoes, or some instrument to the prosecutor unknown, whereby his skull was fractured, and he was otherwise mortally wounded, in consequence of which he did immediately, or soon after, die. Likewise the said James Gordon, alias M'Donald, alias O'Donald, did then and there forcibly and feloniously take from the said John Elliot, and did rob him of, a small sum of money, fifteen small prints or pictures, or thereby, two red leather purses, or thereby, a Belfast Almanack, a pocket comb, three watch keys, or thereby, a snuff box, a trump, or Jew's harp, together with a hawker or pedlar's

box or pack, containing a variety of articles of hardware and jewelry, of stationery and haberdashery goods, and other sorts of merchandise, all the property, or in the lawful possession, of the said John Elliot."

The indictment having been read, the pannel pleaded *Not Guilty*, when the following proof was adduced :—

PROVOST THOMPSON identified the declarations of the pannel, and stated that when the pannel was examined, he was desired to look at the clogs, but he refused to touch them, and though repeatedly requested to take them into his hands to say if he had seen them before, he drew back from them, as if afraid to touch them, and declined even looking at them.

WM. BALLY, Esq. Sheriff Substitute, also identified the declaration of the pannel, and confirmed the statement of his refusing to touch the clogs.

WM. GLENDINING, son of Archibald Glendining, tenant of Upper Cassock, in the parish of Eskdalemuir. Witness takes care of his father's stock. Recollects having, on the 26th of November last, (a Sunday) about three o'clock in the afternoon, when on the hill, he found the body of a boy at a place on

his father's farm, called Stillbush Edge, about two miles from his father's house; the body was lying flat upon its back, with the left hand over the breast, and the other lying stretched out. It was flat ground, and no stones about it. Witness did not examine the body, but went within two or three yards of it. He then went home, and told his friends; they took a cart, witness accompanying them, and went to the place, where they found the body, in the same state he had described: the body was without hat or shoes. They lifted it into the cart, and took it home. On examining it, they found a great many cuts on the back part of the head, and one above the right eye. Saw nothing near the body when first discovered. Witness went to the spot next day in company with Robert Anderson, a neighbouring hind, when they found a pair of clogs, hooped round the edges, within fourteen yards of the place. There was a calker on the heel of one; left them lying. [The clogs were here produced in court, and identified by witness.] Witness observed the ground where the head had been lying. Saw no blood on the clogs. It had been wet weather before the 26th, (the body had laid 12 days from the time the murder was committed till the Sunday it was found.) Witness knows his father went for the clogs one day after that. There is a foot track to Ettrick-head about three quarters of a mile east of the place where the body was lying, but none in that particular

direction. There is also a shepherd's house about the same distance from the place where the body was found, which was about a mile from the Selkirk Marsh.

Cross examined.—The fog was dyed with the blood which had run into the ground.

JAMES GLENDINING recollected his brother William mention, on Sunday the 26th of Nov., that he had found a dead body. They yoked a horse and cart. [Witness here corroborated the statement of his brother respecting the state and position in which the body was lying.] Did not observe any wounds, as it was then about dark. Was present afterwards when the body was examined: the wounds were principally on the back of the head, and one on the right eyebrow, and another on the chin. The body was that of a young lad, who had on a pair of heel-pieces to wear with clogs; had nothing on his head; his coat and vest were of dark bottle-green cord, and jane trowsers of a lightish colour. Recollects two persons coming to his father's house on the day before the Langholm hiring-day (the 14th of November), about three o'clock in the afternoon. They were a man and a boy: the man had hare skins carrying, and witness had seen him twice before; took little notice of his dress, nor whether he had clogs on; one of them had a small box. Witness observed the marks of a pair of hooped clogs after they had gone away. Saw a pair of hooped clogs afterwards brought

from the hill, which were hooped in the same way. The body was buried on the Monday following, in Eskdalemuir church-yard, with the clothes on in which it was found; witness's father was at the funeral. His sister Janet was in the house when the two persons were there, and his father came in. (The witness here identified the pannel as the man then at his father's.) Does not recollect the colour of the box.

By the Jury.—The body appeared stiff, and the grass had changed its colour below where it was laying. Did not know the boy. The body was laid on its back in the cart; the wound on the head could not have, in his opinion, been made by the jolting of the cart, as there was a wisp of straw laid under the head.

By the Court.—The road to his father's house is rough, but not stony.

ARCHIBALD GLENDINING recollects his son William telling him on Sunday, 26th November, of his having seen a dead body lying. Went with his two sons, and brought the body home in a cart; it was getting dark. On coming home he discovered, by the light of a candle, several wounds on the head, one on the under part of the face, on the chin, and another above the right eye; also a number of wounds on the back part of the head, "which was a' a wound thegither." His own family were present at the examination. His daughter Janet said that he was the boy who

had given her the pictures.—Doctor Graham was present, and examined the body, which was buried next day at Eskdalemuir church-yard, in the cloathes in which it was found; the jacket and waistcoat were of corduroy, and jane trowsers, of nearly the same colour; there was nothing on the head; had on heel-pieces. Was present a few days after when the body was raised. Doctor Graham and Little were also there. A considerable time afterwards the grave was again re-opened, and he saw the same body in the grave. The sister of the boy was present.—Remembers a man and a boy coming to his house on the 14th of November last, between two and three o'clock in the afternoon; saw them sitting in the kitchen eating some dinner. The man was below the middle size. [The witness here identified the pannel as the man.] Witness was convinced that the body of the boy found was the same boy who had been at his house with pannel on the 14th of Nov. last. Was told on the Monday after the boy was found by his son William, that he (William) had seen a pair of clogs near the spot; witness went with his wife and Doctor Graham on the Wednesday following, and found the clogs. [Witness here identified the clogs.] There was a wisp of straw put under the body, when it was laid in the cart; it was not possible for the wounds to have been inflicted by the motion of the cart. The pockets of the boy contained nothing except a piece of pease-

meal bannock. Witness sent information of the circumstance to Captain Napier, of Thirlstane, next day, and also to Dumfries, with a description of the man.

By the Jury.—Did not observe whether or not the man had on clogs.

JANET GLENDINING recollects the dead body of a boy being brought to her father's house on a Sunday night, in November last. Witness saw a man and the same boy at her father's house on the 14th of the same month, being the day after the hiring at Langholm. Was in the kitchen when they came in; the boy had a box carrying of a reddish colour, with a leather strap, and the man had a bag and two hares' skins: they sat down near the kitchen fire. Witness got a picture from them: the boy took a key out of his pocket, opened the box, and gave the picture to the man to hand to witness. [Witness here identified the picture on the table as the one given to her.] Knew the body to be that of the boy; the pannel is very like the man. Does not recollect whether the man or boy had on clogs. [A box was shewn witness, which she declared was very like the one the boy had.] Witness saw some pictures in the box when the boy opened it.—This witness was only 11 years of age.

DAVID GRAHAM is a surgeon at Burncleugh. Recollects being sent for to Mr. Glendining's to see the dead body of a boy; went between five and six o'clock. Did not at first observe any thing, except a wound on

the chin and on the left temple; but on further examination he discovered a number of wounds on the back part of the head—the severest was on the parietal bone: also observed a semi-circular wound upon the top of the head. A few days after, he again examined it, by order of the sheriff, along with Mr. Little, Surgeon, Langholm. When the body was raised, Mr. Little and he made a report. On Wednesday, went with Mr. and Mrs. Glendining to the place where the boy was found, when she got a pair of clogs, about 12 or 15 yards distant. It appeared to witness that the boy must have been dead previous to his being found; the hands were quite bleached, as if they had been exposed to wet for some time; there seemed to have been blood where the body was said to have been lying. Saw something on the clogs—cannot say whether it was blood or rust; did not see any blood where the clogs lay.

By the Jury.—Applied the clogs to the semi-circular wound, and answered exactly; it was the iron round the front end of the clog that corresponded with the wound, and appeared as if it had been struck downwards, the perpetrator holding the clog by the back or hind part of it.

PETER LITTLE, surgeon, was called to view a body which had been buried in Eskdalemuir church-yard, along with the preceding witness. He also applied the clogs to one of the wounds of a semi-circular form.

The following is the substance of the report of the surgeons (who inspected the body of the unfortunate youth,) alluded to in Mr. Graham's evidence.—

REPORT OF THE SURGEONS.

The surgeons having opened the head by removing the skull, upon which twelve wounds were discovered externally; found the skull fractured in two places, viz. the right and left parietal bones; that the *arteria media cerebrea*, or some branches thereof, were ruptured; and that an effusion of blood had taken place in consequence thereof: they were of an opinion that the fractures, with the effusion of blood, must have necessarily produced death;—and that ten of the wounds were so severe, that the concussion of the brain must have been so considerable as to have produced death independent of the fractures or effusion. Upon the whole they were of opinion, that the death of the young man was occasioned by the injuries received, and that no assistance, though it had been obtained immediately after the wounds were inflicted, could have been effectual to save the life of the sufferer. They were also of an opinion, that the wounds had been inflicted by some instrument not very sharp edged—and one wound in particular, on the forehead, appeared of a semi-circular form; and the whole wounds appeared to them to be such as might have been inflicted by a clog, or wooden-soled shoe, shod round with iron.

CHARLES DIXON, grave-digger of Eskdalemuir church-yard, recollects of the body of a boy being brought from Upper Cassock by Mr. Glendining, and interred on Monday; the body had been found on Mr. Glendining's farm. On the Saturday following the body was raised in the presence of Messrs. Graham and Little. It was again raised about the latter end of March, and exhibited to some of the witnesses. The body was buried with the clothes on.

ELIZABETH ELLIOT was the next who came forward. She had a brother named John Elliot. Saw him in November last; had not seen him for two or three years before. He called at her house at Carlisle on the Wednesday before the Martinmas hiring day, and left it on Friday the 10th of November last. He said he was going to Kelso, and intended to be in Canoby. He had a red box, with a lifter in the inside of it. [Witness identified the box as her brother's property.] Her husband papered the inside of the box, and having spilled some paste, witness wiped it off, and discovered a crack or rent in it, which she now observed to be there still the same as when she first observed it. (This witness had mentioned this before she saw the box in the Court.) Her brother had a Highland bonnet on, with red tape in it, and a red tuft on the top; he wore clogs, with hoops round the fore part, and a hoop round one of the heels, and he also wore heel-pieces. [The clogs were here produced in Court, and the witness identified them as

those her brother wore.] When at her house her brother had two red leather purses, two watch chains, four snuff boxes (with black bottoms and coloured tops), some Jew's trumps, with combs, needles, and pictures—these he took with him to Scotland. Her brother had rather a cast with his eyes towards the nose. Witness tied a cord to the key of her brother's pack box, and her husband has still some of the same cord. Her brother was a little weak in his intellect, and had been very delicate from his infancy; he was 18 or 19 years of age, but looked much younger from his infirm state of health. Witness was at Eskdalemuir church-yard about a month ago, and saw a dead body in the grave, which she knew to be her brother's, and he was in the same dress in which he left her house at Carlisle when he went for Scotland by way of Canoby, but without bonnet or clogs; the handkerchief was the same, which he always tied in one knot, and it was the same way; saw the same heel-pieces that he had on in her house. Her brother had told her that he had bought the two purses from Mr. Dobson, of Langholm. [Being shewn one of them, witness said it was the same in appearance with those her brother had, and said the key she now saw was similar to her brother's, but not the same cord; she was then shewn some pictures, which she declared were the same as those her brother had when at her house.]

BENJAMIN LITTLE is brother-in-law to John Elliot, who was in his house from the Wednesday to the Friday before Carlisle Martinmas hiring day. [Witness had a key which fitted his brother's box, and it does so still; witness here identified his brother's box.] John Elliot had pictures, pamphlets, looking glasses, and leather purses, which he said he purchased from Mr. Dobson, of Langholm; he wore a corduroy jacket and vest and jane trowsers, a Highland bonnet, and clogs very heavily ironed. Witness put some blue paper into the box. Saw his brother-in-law's body in Eskdalemuir church-yard.

THOMAS THIRLWALL, clogger and shoe-maker at Woodhead, parish of Haltwhistle, and county of Northumberland, England, knew John Elliot, and made him a pair of clogs last year; knows them from a calker on the heel. He also mended his box, and put in a broad-headed nail, which he now sees, [the box being shewn to him.]

ROBERT JOHNSTONE, bookseller, Carlisle, remembers a boy coming to his shop, near the end of last year, to purchase articles; he carried a box; he remembers the one now shewn him. The picture given by the boy to Janet Glendining, Upper Cassock, he recognized as being similar to some he had in his shop, and which he gave in the precognition, to shew that those he had sold were of the same description as those sold by the man in Selkirkshire, except one of London Bridge, of which he had no duplicate,

though he had prints of that kind, too, about that time.

JOHN CRUDAS DOBSON, bookseller, Langholm, knew John Elliot, who went about with a small red box, similar to the one now shewn him. He called at witness's shop last summer, and bought two purses ; the purse now produced has his private mark ; never sold above one of these purses to any person except to Elliot. [John C. Dobson was conveyed to one of the witness's rooms cleared for that purpose, and not permitted to correspond with any person, until called to identify the other purse which was sold to the Hon. Captain Napier's servant.]

THOMAS LAMB, farmer, Woodhead, parish of Canoby, recollects a man and a boy coming to his house, on Saturday evening the 11th of Nov., after dark, asking for lodgings. The man was little in stature—pannel is the man ; the boy, who was apparently about 16 years of age, and seemed rather silly, said he came from near Hexham ; he had a small red box, similar to the one now on the table ; thinks he had on clogs. They both said they met only at his house. They stayed there all Sunday, and went away together about nine o'clock on Monday morning.

MARGARET BELL, servant to the preceding witness, recollects a man and a boy coming to her master's house on Saturday the 11th of November, after dark. The pannel is the man. The boy had on a fustian

jacket and vest, and was carrying a red box, the same as the one on the table ; the man had hare skins and a small bag. They stayed till Monday morning, when they went towards Langholm. The boy had on clogs.

[After leaving the farm house, they passed some labourers, one of whom said to John Elliot, "Thou had better not go with that man." But he answered, and said, "We will travel together ; for he will take me to gentlemen's houses, and we will get rich." The simple are too often led astray by false and pretended friendship. But his hopes were soon blasted.—He had recourse to the same artifice when they left Coat—he told the boy what a good dinner they would get when they got to Thirlstane, at the Hon. Capt. Napier's. Thus is the unwary traveller deceived by deception.]

PETER O'HAIR, labourer, Langholm, recollects a man (the pannel) passing through Langholm on Monday 13th Nov. with a boy, between 10 and 11 in the forenoon. The boy wore a Highland bonnet, and his coat and vest were the colour of corduroy, and his trowsers nearly the same. The boy had a box carrying, very like the one on the table. Had known pannel for some time, and never saw him carrying a pack.

SAMUEL WOLVES, Sheriff's officer, Langholm, remembers seeing a man and a boy passing through Langholm on Monday, 12th Nov.; the boy had a

~~pack~~—the same as that on the table. The pannel is the man he saw.

WM. GRAHAM, farmer at Coat, parish of Eskdalemuir. Coat is about 12 miles from Langholm, up the Esk. Recollects a man and a boy coming to his house on Monday the 13th Nov. about seven o'clock in the evening: the man was carrying two hare skins, the boy had a small red box with a strap; he had fustian clothes, a Highland bonnet, and a pair of clogs on. Recollects the man saying, that if they were at Thirlstane they would get a good dinner. They went away next morning. Witness identified the pannel, whom he knew by his speech before he saw him in Nairn gaol. Upper Cassock is about six miles from Coat.

JAMES MURRAY travels the country with a pack; lodged at Mr. Graham's house at Coat on Monday the 13th Nov. last. Recollects a man and a boy coming to Mr. Graham's house that night: the boy was apparently 16 or 17 years of age: witness was present when the body of a boy was taken out of a grave in Eskdalemuir church-yard, on the 2nd of December, and has no doubt it was the very boy that was at Coat with the pannel.

MARGARET GRAHAM, of Coat, recollects a man and a boy coming to her husband's house at Coat to sell articles; the boy had a box similar to the one now on the table. The pannel was the man. The

boy offered to sell combs and songs, and other such articles.

JANE CARRUTHERS saw a man and a boy at Burncleugh, parish of Eskdalemuir, on Tuesday, the 14th Nov. Burncleugh lies between Coat and Upper Cassock, and is about two miles from the latter place. The man had on a dark coat and a pair of clogs; the boy had a red box, like the one on the table.

JEAN ARMSTRONG (from Burncleugh) was sent from home with a horse and cart on Tuesday, 14th Nov., and on her return she saw a man and a boy going past the smithy; the man had on clogs, which appeared to witness rather queer, being hooped round the front, but were different in the heels, the one having a calker, and the other hooped round; the boy had on a corduroy jacket, and wore a bonnet, and had shoes on his feet.

ADAM SCOTT, tenant of Overkirkhope, about four miles from Upper Cassock, on the line of road between that place and Thirlstane. Saw a man carrying a box of a reddish colour, and of the same size as the one on the table. He was in witness's house, and had hare skins in his hand. This was on Tuesday, the 14th of November last, about five o'clock in the afternoon: there was no boy with him.

THOMAS SCOTT recollects a man coming to Overkirkhope, on Tuesday, the 14th Nov. carrying a reddish-coloured box and two hare skins: pannel was the man. Witness observed to him, that he had got

a box now, and he said "Oh, aye." Witness had seen him before when he had no box, and that was the cause of his remark.

DAVID ARMSTRONG, farmer at Cosserhill, parish of Ettrick, recollects a man coming to his house on the 14th November last, about six o'clock: the pannel is the man. Witness saw him between eight and nine, when at family worship in the kitchen: he went away at daylight next morning. Witness noticed a stutter in his speech, and a mark on his right eye, and he thought him a little agitated. He remarked to his wife and mother, when going into the parlour, that the man had a particular look. Cosserhill is about two miles from Overkirkhope, in the direction of Ettrick-house and Thirlstane. After family worship, his mother remarked to the man that he had not joined in singing psalms, when he answered he could not—he was not book-learned. Did not observe whether he had on clogs.

ELIZABETH RICHARDSON lives at Cosserhill, and recollects a man coming to the house on the 14th of November, a little before six o'clock: pannel is the man. He was barefooted when he came in, and had shoes in his hand. He opened a red box which he was carrying, and sold her about seven pictures, which she gave to the Sheriff, and they are part of the fourteen now shewn her. The box on the table is very like the one he carried. Witness paid three

half-pence, or two pence, for the pictures. She also saw some little snuff boxes, like one of those now shewn her.

JOHN SWORD resided at Ettrick-house. Recollects a man coming to Ramsay-cleugh on the 15th day of November, at eight o'clock in the morning. Ramsay-cleugh is about two miles from Cosserhill, and a mile from Thirlstane. The pannel is the man; he was carrying a red box, and a basket with a handle; he had also some hare skins—but he did not offer to sell any thing.

AGNES BRYCE, servant at Thirlstane, remembers a man coming to Thirlstane, (pannel is the man); he had a little red box, which she saw opened, but did not see what was in it. Witness got a red leather purse from one James Williamson, which he bought from pannel in her presence; the purse now shewn her is the same.

HELEN DAGLEISH lives at Thirlstane; saw pannel at Thirlstane, about nine o'clock in the morning of the 15th of Nov. last. He had a reddish coloured box; she saw it opened; it contained a Jew's trump, some snuff boxes, and red leather purses. James Williamson bought two of the purses, one of which he gave to witness, and the other to Agnes Bryce. She gave the purse afterwards to the Sheriff, and now identified it. Witness also bought some thread and stay lace, for which she paid a halfpenny, though the common price is one penny. There were also some

pamphlets in the box. Pannel sung a song when there.

JOHN C. DOBSON was again examined, and identified the purse mentioned by the last witness as one of the two he sold to John Elliot.

By the Jury.—Never sold a purse of that description to the pannel that he recollects.

By the Court.—The boy had a reddish box with him when witness sold him the purses, into which he put them.

MICHAEL ANDERSON, shepherd at East Buccleugh, Selkirkshire, recollects a man coming, on the 15th of Nov., to his house: he was a little man, pock-pitted, and wanted one eye, may be; had a bottle-green coat, may be; and was carrying a box like the one on the table, may be. Witness bought an Almanack from him for two pence, for which he charged four pence. The man stuttered in his speech.

MARY GREAVE, from West Buccleugh, remembers a man coming to her father's house on the 15th of Nov., about the middle of the day, carrying a red wooden box: pannel is the man.

THOMAS ANDERSON, remembers observing, near East Buccleugh, some papers, about the middle of the day: there were newspapers and some blue paper. He went to the same place next day, and found a box in the burn, between East Buccleugh and Bellendean; the box was red and a little broken, and is that now on the table; it was open when he found

it, and there was nothing in it. The box might be about ten yards distant from the papers. [The witness identified the Newcastle Courant as one of the papers he found.]

MARY BURNET, from Bellendean, parish of Roberton, Selkirkshire. Bellendean is about three miles from Burncleugh. Recollects a man coming to her house on the 15th of Nov. last, about two o'clock, with a harn poke, containing snuff boxes, knives, watch keys, needles, ballads, histories, and Jew's trumps. He had no box. Knows William Helm, who bought a watch key from the man: pannel is the person. The snuff boxes were the same as those on the table.

WILLIAM HELM saw the pannel at Bellendean on the 15th of November carrying a harn poke, with knives, watch keys, needles, pins, and snuff boxes like the two on the table. Witness bought a knife and two watch keys, for which he asked eighteen pence, but he bought the knife and a key for ten pence, and the other key for one penny. [Witness identified both the keys.]

JOHN THORNBURN works on the roads in Peeblesshire. Recollects seeing a man coming along the road, singing and making a noise: witness heard him before he saw him. He had on a green coloured coat and a pair of light corded breeches; was pock-pitted, blind of an eye, and was carrying hare skins in the one hand and a bundle in the other. Witness

remarked, that he was the merriest man he had seen that day; to which he answered, that it was of no use to be sad. Shortly after, having seen an advertisement, witness told a police officer of Peebles what he had seen. [Witness identified the pannel as the man.]

JOHN HIGGINS, labourer, Peebles, remembers seeing the pannel on the Friday after old Martinmas, near Peebles, carrying hare skins under one arm, and a bundle in the other. He opened the bundle to witness, who saw a snuff box, trump, comb, and watch key. Witness said to him, "What sort of a packman are you, carrying your goods in a handkerchief?" His answer was, that he had been in England at the harvest, and had come in by way of Sheffield, where he had purchased the goods. Is sure that pannel is the man.

The Court door was then opened, for the remainder of the witnesses were at liberty to advance into the Court. The number of the witnesses who had given their declarations to the Procurator Fiscal of the Sheriff Court was seventy-two.

The declaration of the pannel at Nairn (where he was apprehended) was then read:—

DECLARATION AT NAIRN.

22nd of December, 1820.

"Left Ireland in May; and after working at seve-

ral places, came to Dumfries-shire; wrought with Mr. Church, Hitchel, and left Dumfries-shire about a month ago. Was not employed any way since leaving Dumfries-shire; having begged his way. Did not learn of a lad of 16 years of age being murdered before leaving Dumfries-shire; that he was not in company with any such lad near Upper Cassock, in Eskdalemuir, nor at any period since he came into Scotland—having laid it down as a rule never to associate when on the public road with any person whatever; and so stoutly had he adhered to this rule since he came into Scotland, that he believes he had not walked four inches of the road in company with male or female.”

DECLARATION AT DUMFRIES.

“His previous declaration is correct, excepting that it is five years since he left Ireland, and that it is three years since he was employed by Mr. Church, Hitchel. For the last two or three harvests he has been employed by Mr. J. Walker, Park-lane, near Doncaster. Was there last harvest, and in a week or two afterwards left it, and went to Edinburgh, by Newcastle and Berwick, and from thence to Nairn, and was not in Dumfries-shire last harvest.”

On being interrogated, however, whether he was not on the borders of Dumfries-shire, declares he came through Langholm, from thence to Coat, possessed by Mr. Graham; but does not know whether

these places are in Dumfries-shire or not. "And with these exceptions, the said declaration by him at Nairn is correct. He was in company with a bit laddie, who had a bit pack, or box, having met him on the road; the boy was with him at Coat, where they slept together. Can't say what day of the week it was; they breakfasted together at Coat next morning, and he knows nothing more about the boy. He went up the country among the farm-houses himself, and has nothing more to say."

Question.—"Where did he get his dinner that day?"—Answer.—"Has nothing more to say."

"Did he call at Mr. Laidlaw's, Nether Cassock, or Mr. Glendining's, Upper Cassock?"—"Has nothing more to say."

"Where did he sleep the night after leaving Coat?"—"Does not know, as his memory is not good."

"Did he sleep at Mr. Anderson's, Cosserhill?"—"He has nothing more to say. He now wears the same dress he had on at Coat, and has worn it ever since."

"Did he sell two pictures to two young women where he slept, the night after leaving Coat?"—"Does not mind of it, and has nothing more to say."

"Was he at the Hon. Capt. Napier's, Thirlstane, the evening after leaving Coat; and was he when there, and when at Cosserhill, carrying a pack-box and some hare skins?"—"Has nothing more to say. His object in going to Nairn was to see the Duke of

Gordon, who was good to the poor. Did not sell purses at Thirlstane."

"Did he sell a looking-glass at West Buccleugh, and an almanack at East Buccleugh, after leaving Coat?"—"Has nothing more to say. He wore the same shoes the day he left Coat which he now has on, and had not any time that day a pair of clogs on his feet. Does not know whether the boy wore clogs or shoes."

After these declarations had been read, the Advocate for the prisoner rose, and said—"My Lord and Gentlemen of the Jury, I have done what I can to draw a cover over the crime with which the prisoner stands charged; but it cannot be done. I therefore give it up to you. I have nothing more to say in his defence."

The Judge then, in a solemn manner, went through the evidence, declaring that there was never a more correct set of witnesses before him. They were like the links of a chain, they exactly corresponded one with another. The purses had been clearly proven by Mr. Dobson, (and likewise by the father, Thomas Elliot, in England.) Mr. Dobson had sworn that he never sold two of these purses to any person but the unfortunate John Elliot; yet it might be suggested in favour of the prisoner, that Mrs. Dobson might sell two of the same description unknown to Mr. Dobson. After several other observations from the learned Judge, the Jury deliberated a short time

upon their verdict, and returned (unanimously) that they found the pannel—GUILTY.

The Court then proceeded to pass upon the prisoner the sentence of the law in an impressive manner. He exhorted him to prepare for a future state ; to have recourse to the consolations of religion, whatever were his opinions—for there was no mercy for him here—his case was without the limits of mercy. The sentence of the law is (concluded the learned Judge), that you, John Gordon, on the 6th of June next, be taken to the place of execution, and there be hanged by the neck, by a person appointed for that purpose, there to remain until you are dead, and your body afterwards to be given to surgeon M——, for dissection, and the Lord have mercy on your soul.

While the Judge addressed him, he was quite outrageous, frequently exclaiming “ I have not got fair law ! ” “ I have not got justice ! ” “ I am not guilty ! ” These exclamations he repeatedly uttered during the trial ; he likewise said, that he did not care for the other world, or what became of his body after death. And when taken from the bar, he continued his former exclamations, and imprecated curses on the Judge and the whole court.

THE
TRAGEDY OF ESKDALEMUIR.

John Elliot was at Towhouse born,
A slender, simple boy,
Of tender mind and weakly frame,
Unfit for hard employ :

Which made him from his home to range,
And leave his native town ;
Some trifling wares got in a box,
And travell'd up and down.

He travell'd oft through Northumberland,
To earn a bit of bread ;
And to enlarge his little stock
He always took good heed.

His wares were of the Sheffield make,
Of metals steel and brass ;
And ballads, too, attention drew
Of many lad and lass.

He travell'd oft through Eskdalemuir,
 Likewise along the Tweed,
 Among the lonely towering hills,
 Where fleecy flocks do feed.

He was esteemed an honest lad—
 Gain'd friends most every where ;
 And to enlarge his little pack,
 They oft did buy his ware.

But can the innocence of the lamb
 Protect it from the fox ?
 Few could have thought a boy like him
 Would be murder'd for his box.

Alas ! a bloody tiger heart,
 Lodg'd in a human frame,
 Three days the wretch him follow'd close,
 His confidence to gain.

If you'll but cross the muir, said he,
 Your friend you will me find ;
 I'll bring you to a plenteous place,
 And people very kind.

Thus he deceived the simple boy,—
 Of him he dread no ill ;
 And with his cunning, hellish wiles,
 Entic'd him to the hill.

There, like a voracious, savage beast,
 Deceived the harmless boy ;
 He had no weapon in his hand,
 The wretch for to annoy.

With iron'd clogs the beast him slew,
 On Upper Cassock fell,
 And for a very trifling sum,
 Did risk his soul in hell.

The wooden box he carried off,
 When he the owner slew ;
 It rifled was found in a brook—
 A strict enquiry drew.

For to escape the civil law,
 He to the North did fly ;
 But there could not elude the glance
 Of God's all seeing eye.

God's justice did him overtake,
 And make the means succeed,
 That he to justice might be brought,
 To answer for the deed.

Though he denied before the Judge,
 Yet was condemned to die ;
 And he the Saviour did renounce—
 To him would not apply.

But there even youth, and those of age,
 The truth they did assert,
 That murdered was the pedlar boy—
 Which touch'd their feeling hearts.

It rank'd may be 'mongst blackest deeds
 Since ever Adam fell ;
 An unprovoked, cruel deed,
 Just bordering upon hell.

In the church-yard of Eskdalemuir,
 Poor Elliot's dust does lie ;
 The cruel deed is there rehears'd
 To all that do pass by.

The friendly folk of Eskdalemuir,
 A tombstone did prepare ;
 For to defray the cost thereof,
 They jointly bore a share.

The lower class shewed as much zeal
 As those who wealth possess'd ;
 The latter claims the praise, by what
 Is on the stone express'd.

Halt, passenger, as you go by,
 Do but this tombstone read,
 And think how soon you may, like him,
 Be number'd with the dead.

Where shall the murderer hide himself,
That God him shall not see ;
Not in the darkest caves of earth,
Nor uttermost parts of the sea.

Although on earth he may escape,
Death soon will hold him fast :
Who by faith has never fled to Christ,
Must into hell be cast.

*Statement of the money collected among the Inhabitants
of Eskdalemuir and its neighbourhood, to erect a
Tombstone at the Grave of John Elliot, pedlar:—*

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Total of Subscriptions				4	10	6
Paid to T. Palmer for collecting	0	10	0			
Paid to William Scott, mason, for the tombstone & carriage, as by his acknowledgment	1	18	0			
Paid to Wm. Henderson, Lang- holm, for lettering it, as by his acknowledgment	1	19	6			
	<hr/>			4	7	6
Lying in my hands to pay for } painting }				0	3	0
N. B.—Wm. Scott has painted } it, so that when he is paid the }				0	3	0
There will remain				0	0	0

A true statement,

WM. BROWN.

Eskdalemuir Manse, 7th August, 1824.

Copy of the Inscription on John Elliot's Tombstone.

“ In Memory of JOHN ELLIOT, Pedlar, a young man of nineteen years of age, who came from the neighbourhood of Hexham, in Northumberland, and travelling in company with a man of the name of James Gordon, said to have come from Mayo, was barbarously murdered by him, at Steel-bush-edge, on the farm of Upper Cassock, on the 14th of Nov., 1820.

“ After the greatest exertions on the part of Sir Thomas Kirkpatrick, of Closeburn, Baronet, Sheriff-Depute of the county, the Honourable Captain William Napier, of Thirlstane, and many others, the above-named James Gordon was apprehended at Nairn, and brought to Dumfries; where, after an interesting trial, he was condemned, and executed on the 6th day of June, 1821.

“ The inhabitants of Eskdalemuir, in order to convey to future ages their abhorrence of a crime which was attended with peculiar aggravations, and their veneration for those laws which pursue with equal solicitude the murderer of a poor friendless stranger as of a peer of the realm, have erected this stone, 1st September, 1821.”

OBSERVATIONS.

After the first notice was sent by Mr. Glendining to the Police of Dumfries, advertisements and hand-bills were sent and circulated in all parts of Scotland, to give information of the murder, with suitable rewards to any person that should apprehend the murderer and bring him to Dumfries, or lodge him in any of his Majesty's gaols. In order to this constables and police-officers were sent in every direction: one police-officer said, when in the Hon. Capt. Napier's, that the Captain told him that he would give him fifty pounds out of his own pocket if he apprehended the offender. Besides, other two gentlemen said they would give him ten pounds each if he succeeded. But he had not the fortune to fall in with him. Every person, both of the higher and lower class of society, was anxious that the offender might be brought to public justice; and every means were used in order that he might be secured as soon as possible. But there were circumstances occurred which were much in his favour for making his escape to a great distance. The body had laid twelve days before it was found: another circumstance was—a man was apprehended and committed to Lanark gaol (as stated in Mr. Rodger's letter to the Hon. Capt. Napier's, Thirlstane), where he was confined nineteen days, till he was

liberated by the evidence of William Graham, of Coat. This was the cause of still greater exertions, as the murderer was yet at liberty, and not apprehended.

At Nairn a gentleman was reading one of the advertisements, when Gordon (so called) came up to him begging: the gentleman, looking at him, and seeing that he answered the description of the murderer, got him secured and committed to Nairn gaol, when it was immediately communicated to the Police of Dumfries, who immediately sent William Graham to Nairn to certify whether he was the man. When he arrived at Nairn, he was received with great cordiality, and treat with the utmost civility and respect, after giving information for what purpose he was come. He was soon introduced to the gaol, and to the prisoner's apartment, when one of the gentlemen went forward and addressed the prisoner thus: "You must rise and put on your clothes (it being late in the evening, and he being in bed)—We think no person thinks it worth while to look after you—We must let you have your liberty." Wm. Graham then went forward, when the gentleman asked the prisoner if he knew that man, pointing to Wm. Graham. After seeing him present, he (the prisoner) would speak no more. Wm. Graham was then asked if he knew him to be the man? To which he answered—"Positively he is"—for he says he knew him by his voice, before he saw him.

NAIRN, a small sea-port of Nairnshire, exporting fish, corn, and yarn. It is seated at the entrance of the Frith of Murray, 10 miles E. of Inverness, and 104 N. of Edinburgh. The river Nairn separates the county of Murray from Inverness, crosses Nairnshire, and runs into the Frith of Murray, near Nairn.

After the various means used, and much more than has been here related, God was pleased to bless them with success: so we may add and say—"Verily there is a God that judgeth in the earth," who sooner or later will bring every work into judgment, with all the secret works of darkness.

Official accounts being sent to Dumfries, Mr. Thompson, Provost, Procurator Fiscal of the Sheriff Court, under which crimes of that magnitude fall to be investigated, wrote the same day to me that the person was apprehended at Nairn who was in company with my son, John Elliot, immediately before the murder, and on his way from Nairn a prisoner for Dumfries. It is said that he sung through many of the towns between Nairn and Dumfries—he was so hardened in iniquity, Oh! what is man without the grace of God?—a very devil in wickedness. When shall the exceeding wickedness of the wicked come to an end? This is what every person disposed to apply to the throne of grace ought to pray for—that God would arise and maintain his own cause, and pour out his Spirit on all flesh, which he has promised shall be the case, and which will surely come to pass.

This is what most of our chief divines believed and prayed for—for many of the Scotch worthies had great revelations of these things; and many inform us that it will be the case that the Lord will pour out the healthful Spirit of his grace on all flesh, when righteousness shall cover the face of the whole earth, and men shall learn war no more—then the shedding of blood shall come to an end.

There is every reason to give Scotland great praise for the exertions used by her inhabitants in every respect. No labour or cost was ever considered: and no doubt it will be communicated to ages yet to come—their forefather's veneration for the laws of their country, and their abhorrence of the crimes of murder and robbery. Every reader that I have conversed with, who has read the first edition of this book, unites with me in opinion.

The prosecution was attended with great expense to the people of Scotland, and to them only, as the witnesses were very numerous. I believe there were seventy-two all in the witnesses' room at once. In the morning that the trial took place, many were not called upon to give evidence. William Graham, of Coat, when sent to Lanark, received £10; and when sent to Nairn, received £20;—this he told me himself. He had a personal knowledge of the prisoner, as he lodged at his house three different times.

The same means were used as if he had been the son of the Hon. Capt. Napier, or of any other peer or

gentleman's son of the realm—though only a poor stranger, and the son of a poor man. I feel my heart filled with gratitude to the people of Eskdalemuir, to the Rev. Doctor Brown, their worthy minister, to the people of Langholm, and to the people of Scotland in general, which I hope I shall retain through life, or as long as I retain my knowledge. I often purposed taking a journey, when a licensed hawker, into Scotland, as I used to have some respect for that country—of which I am a descendant, though a native of Northumberland. I never was across the Border till this circumstance happened. Indeed, the people of Eskdalemuir and Langholm were uncommonly kind, liberal, and respectful—which I shall never forget.

There did not appear any symptoms of penitence about the prisoner, after receiving sentence, but continued in an abandoned impenitent state to the very last. The ministers in Scotland are very dutiful in visiting criminals under sentence of death, to pray with and for them, to use every means so as the consolation of religion may be obtained; as nothing can be so comfortable to any person as to have consolation in life, or at the hour of death, with God, who searcheth the heart, and knows the secrets thereof, and has promised to pardon the true penitent—to such he is precious. Remember the thief on the cross. What a contrast between the impenitent and the penitent! While the one blasphemously said—"If thou be the Christ, save thyself and us," and the

other, touched with grace, reproved him and cried out or prayed—"Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom:" he had an immediate answer to his prayer—"This day shalt thou be with me in paradise. He that humbles himself shall be exalted."

The word of God says "Whosoever sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." What is more shocking to the human feelings than wilful murder! Thus our gracious Redeemer, Jesus Christ, reproved Peter when he smote off the High Priest's servant's ear, when he ordered him to put up his sword, and he healed the ear of the High Priest's servant.

At the place of execution great numbers of people attended, and several ministers of the church of Scotland, to pray with and give wholesome advice to the prisoner. All their friendly admonition had no effect—he would not permit them to exhort him, or pray for his eternal welfare (though now brought from the place of his confinement to the place of execution, according to the sentence of the law.) He told them that he renounced them all—he would have nothing to do with any of them—over many cooks about a pot spoiled the broth. About the time he was turned off, there was a loud clap of thunder, attended with lightning, which was very awful.

After having hung twenty minutes past the limited time, he was taken down, and his body given to the doctors, according to his sentence, to be anato-

mized. The doctors used some means that put the nerves in motion, when the body performed several strange manœuvres. This may be deemed incredible by many readers of this little narrative, but it can be proved to be true by several that were present on the occasion.

End of the Murder.

ANECDOTES.

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD ASSERTED.

Stroud, Jan. 24th, 1805.

The following anecdote was given by a respectable Quaker: it is quite original, and well authenticated. I hope it will tend to impress deeply on the mind of every serious reader, that although sentence against men's evil works is not always speedily executed, doubtless there is a God that judgeth all our actions, and who will sooner or later bring us to judgment.

SAMUEL WOOLMER.

During the persecution of the Protestants by the Roman Catholics, in the seventeenth century, some

children were playing on the banks of the river Suir, near Goldon, in the county of Tipperary, when a man came up to them, knowing them to be born of Protestant parents, and with a pike threw most of them into the river, where they were instantly drowned. One of the children, a girl about twelve years of age, ran off, and effected her escape to Clonmell, thirteen miles distant.

At Waterford a ship lay bound for America, taking servants and passengers. An agent of the Captain's was at Clonmell, who, finding the child unprovided for, took her as an indentured servant, with many others in equal indigence. The Captain sold her time to a planter, a single young man, in America; the rectitude of the girl's conduct, her amiable disposition, and comeliness of person, so attracted her master's attention, that after her time was expired he proposed to marry her, which proposal she at length acceded to. They lived together in much happiness for several years, during which time she brought him six children; she then declined in health and spirits, and a deep melancholy overspread her mind, so as greatly to distress her husband; he observed, particularly when she thought him asleep, that she sighed deeply, as if something very weighty lay upon her spirits. After much entreaty and affectionate attention, she related to him what she saw when she was a child in Ireland, and said that scarce a day or night had passed for the last twelve months,

but she had felt a pressure on her mind, and had as it were heard a voice saying, "Thou must go to Ireland, and bring the murderer of the children to justice;"—this at times she believed to be a divine intimation, yet, on reasoning about it, she thought the effecting of it to be impossible, and consequently that the apprehension of its being required by God must be a delusion. Thus, being tossed to and fro in her mind, uncertain how to determine, and her agitation was such, that it was apprehended her dissolution was near at hand, her husband strongly encouraged her to fulfil what he had no doubt was a divine injunction: and as the Governor's brother was Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, he thought it a suitable season. He waited upon the Governor, who obliged him with letters of recommendation to his brother and to such gentlemen as would assist her to bring this man to justice—whose name she did not know, but whose person was indelibly stamped upon her memory. Her kind husband prepared every accommodation for her voyage, encouraging her by his sympathizing tenderness, so that in a few weeks she recovered her former health and spirits, and embarked with suitable attendants on board a vessel for Dublin.

On her arrival, she waited upon the Viceroy at the Castle, and delivered her letters: he entered warmly into the matter, as worthy of public concern; yet he thought great secrecy and prudence requisite to effect the desired purpose. The Viceroy, as a wise

man, sent for the Judges just then appointed for the Munster circuit, and shewed them the letters she had brought from his brother, and requested that they would interest themselves in this business. The Judges treated her with great respect, and assured her of their vigorous assistance to bring the murderer to justice. But as she did not know the man's name, nor where he now dwelt, if living, they saw much difficulty in the matter. However she was desired not to communicate with any one but the Viceroy and themselves ; and as the assizes for the county of Tipperary were very numerously attended, they would take care that she should be placed in a convenient part of the Court-house every day at Clonmell, that, if he should be there, she might have an opportunity of seeing him. The day after her arrival there, and during the first of their sitting, she was placed, by the direction of the Judges to the Sheriff, in a commodious place. With anxious solicitude she watched for the person ; at length a jury was returned to try a cause ; on their names being called over to be sworn, she saw a man come forward whom she instantly knew to be the person she came to prosecute, and then heard his name called. At a suitable time she informed the Judges that the man was in Court, and gave them his name. The Judges instantly adjourned the Court, and sent the Sheriff to the juryman to meet them immediately at their lodgings, where they soon arrived. On sitting down

one of the Judges said, "Madam, be pleased to relate to this gentleman what you related to us and the Lord Lieutenant, last week, in Dublin Castle."

The lady, looking the juryman full in the face, said, "My Lords, when I was a girl I saw that man now before you throw seven little children into the river Suir," and proceeded with the particulars.—While she was speaking he grew pale, and trembled exceedingly; but when she came to that part of her relation respecting feeling a depression of mind for more than a year, which she believed to be from God's requiring her to come to Ireland, and endeavour to bring him to justice for these murders, he was quite overcome, and confessed his guilt, and the truth of all she asserted. On this the Grand Jury was sent for, and a bill of indictment found against him. Next day he was tried, found guilty, and executed in Clonmell.

She speedily returned to her husband and children, lived many years after in great happiness with them, fully restored to her health and serenity of mind.

This man had read his recantation from the Church of Rome, had professed himself a Protestant, and thus became qualified to be a juryman.

THE PROVIDENCE OF GOD ASSERTED.

A remarkable instance of divine guidance and protection.

The same respectable, pious Quaker who wrote the remarkable anecdote concerning the murder of the Protestant children in Ireland, has likewise communicated the following. He says that this also is well authenticated; that although the dates when the circumstance happened were not attended to, it is ascertained to be true, and occurred about the middle of the last century.

SAMUEL WOOLMER.

On the borders of Scotland, James Dickinson and Jane Fearon were travelling on religious service with a person who attended as a guide to a town, which they proposed to reach that night; but the weather being very inclement, and Jane Fearon much fatigued, they were desirous of accommodation short of the distance they at first intended to travel that day. Their guide assured them that no such inn would present itself, but they being weary, and coming to a decent-looking house, James rode up to it, and inquiring if they could be accommodated, they were

told they could. This determined them to alight, contrary to the wish of their guide, who, with a heavy heart, took leave of them saying, he could not be of further service to them. He had remonstrated strongly against them calling there at all, before they went up to the house, but did not choose to speak in the hearing of the family. They were introduced into a small room with a fire in it, which opened into the common room where the family dwelt. There was every appearance of tolerable accommodation; the horses were taken care of, and their wet things put to dry. A posset was made, and a cold meat pie set for supper; but on their first sitting down they became very uneasy, which however (each not knowing how the other felt) they kept to themselves; until at last Jane said her apprehensions were so great, and her opinion of the family so bad, that she verily believed the pie to be made of human flesh, which however James Dickinson did not think was the case as he had caten of the pie, and thought it good. As they sat Jane observed three ill-looking fellows come in, and in a low voice tell the landlady that they had good horses; she answered, "Aye, and good bags, too." James's uneasiness increasing, his mind became closely engaged in seeking for the cause, and for counsel how to act. Under this exercise, he was induced to believe, if they kept close to divine intimation they should be preserved, and a way made for their escape. On this he inquired about

their lodgings, saying they had something to write, and should want candles; and they proposed retiring soon. They were shewn into a chamber on the side of a yard, with two beds in it, but no bolt to the door. Observing a form, they tried it by setting one end to the door—it would just wedge in between it and the foot of one of the beds. Being thus secured Jane sat down, and manifested her distress, wringing her hands, and saying she believed in that house they would loose their lives. James sat down by her, desiring her to be still—told her he had been under similar apprehensions after they had entered the house, but after deep exercise, and seeking for divine direction, his mind had always been favoured with that which never deceived him, and he believed if they carefully minded its pointings, they would be directed how to escape. On this they sat in perfect silence some considerable time, attentively waiting for light how to act. At length James told her the time for them to fly for their lives was now come, and observing a door opposite to that which they came in at, which led to a pair of stone stairs on the outside of the house, next the road, they believed that was the way for them to escape, they pulled off their shoes, and softly opened the door, when they perceived by a light through a chink, between the first stone and the house, a woman sharpening a large knife! They went softly down the steps, and forward on to the road, until they were out of hearing.

They then walked as fast as possible. When they were distant about half a mile from the house, under a very heavy rain, they discovered a hovel, where they tried to rest themselves, but found by the painful impressions renewed on their minds, that this was not safe; then, notwithstanding excessive weariness, Jane being ready to sink almost through discouragements, James urged the necessity of exertion, under the firm hope of being preserved. They proceeded till they came unto the side of a stream, the course of which they followed to a bridge, over which they attempted to pass, but was restrained when upon it. James said that was not their way, so they returned and went down the course of the water, which, as they proceeded, widened greatly. James stopped at the distance of half a mile from the bridge, and told his companion that they must cross at that place, which exceedingly alarmed her. Having given way to so much discouragement that she could not lay hold of any hope that she should not totally sink under her present situation, she told James she apprehended, if they went into the water, they should be drowned; but he endeavoured to cheer her, reminding her of the evidence he had been blessed with, that they should be preserved if they kept their faith, having their eye upon divine direction, which he believed had led them thus far; and that their way was through the water at that place, and they would also get safe over; whereupon with the hold of his

arm, she ventured, and they got safe over to the other side.

Walking on, they came to a sand bank, and here sitting down, James said, "I am not easy, we must go further." Upon which Jane Fearon said, "Well, I must go by thy faith; I know not what to do." Then going a little way further they found another sand bank, wherein was a cavity—here they sat down; after they had continued some time, James said, "I am now easy, and believe we are perfectly safe, feeling in my heart a song of thanks and praise." Jane replied, "I am so far from that, that I cannot say, the Lord have mercy upon me." When they had been there about half an hour, they heard a noise of some people on the opposite side of the river; upon which James Dickinson, finding Jane alarmed, and fearing they should be discovered, softly said to her, "Our lives depend upon our silence." Attentively hearkening, they heard them frequently say, "Seek them, Keeper! seek them, Keeper!" and believed they were the men they had seen in the house accompanied with a dog. The dog, refusing to go over the bridge, had followed the scent of their feet along the river side to the place where they had crossed, where stopping, the people repeatedly cried, "Seek them, Keeper! seek them, Keeper!" This they not only heard, but saw the people with a lanthorn; they also heard one of them say, "There they have crossed the river," and the reply of another, "That's

impossible, unless the devil has carried them over, for the river is brimful." After wearying themselves a considerable time in their search, they went away, and were seen no more.—When day-light appeared, they saw a man on a hill at some distance, looking about him in every direction. They continued quiet in their retreat until some time after sun-rise, when taking a view of their situation, they discovered that under the first sand bank they might have been seen from the other side of the river, whereas the place they remained in was shaded from view—an advantage they had been ignorant of. How to recover their horses and saddle-bags, &c. excited some consideration: James Dickinson proposed that they should return for them; which was done, after he had kindly replied to his companion's suggestions of fear, that he believed horses and bags would be ready for them, and that no questions would be asked, nor would they see an individual of the people they had seen the preceding evening. Still Jane was afraid, till encouraged by James Dickinson, who told her that she might safely venture being convinced by what never deceived him.

They returned to the house, found their horses standing in the stable, saddled, the bags upon them, their clothes dried and ready to put on, and they saw no person but an old woman, sitting in a corner by the fire-side, whom they did not remember to have seen the night before. They asked her what they

had to pay, discharged it, and proceeded on their journey.

Some time after, James Dickinson, travelling the same way on religious service, passed by the place where the house had stood, found it pulled down and totally destroyed, and on inquiring what was the cause of the house being thus in ruins, he was told, that a short time after he and Jane were there, some travellers, who were observed to go there to lodge, were missing, and the house having been long under a bad name, the people were suspected of murdering many that went there, the neighbours rose with a general consent, and beset the house; they took up the people and on searching the premises, found the bodies of the above who were missing, with many others, in different states of decay, who had evidently been murdered, with some parts of their bodies wanting; much clothing was likewise found, supposed to have belonged to the murdered. The people were tried, five were executed, and the house razed to the ground.

42

HYMNS.

HYMN I.

THE MESSIAH.

THE Son of Man they did betray,
He was condemn'd and led away :
Think, O my soul, upon that day,
Look on Mount Calvary ;
Behold him lamb-like led along,
Surrounded by a wicked throng,
Accused by each lying tongue—
And thus the Lamb of God was hung,
Upon the shameful tree.

'Twas thus the glorious sufferer stood,
With hands and feet nail'd to the wood,
From every wound a stream of blood
Came pouring down amain :

His bitter groans all nature shook,
 And at his voice the rocks were broke,
 The sleeping saints their graves forsook,
 While hardened sinners 'round him mock'd,
 And sported with his pain.

Thus hung between the earth and skies,
 Behold him trembling as he dies ;
 Oh ! sinners, hear those mournful cries,
 Behold his torturing pains !
 The morning sun withdrew his light,
 Blush'd and confounded at the sight,
 When Heaven's Eternal Infinite
 Was in the greatness of his might—
 When Christ the Lord was slain.

Ye men and angels, hear the Son,
 He cries for help, but there is none ;
 He treads the wine-press all alone,
 His garments stain'd with blood ;
 In lamentations hear him cry,
 " Eli, lama sabacthani :"
 Then closed in death those languid eyes,
 But soon he'll mount the upper skies,
 The conquering Son of God.

See, Jews and Romans in a band,
 The Lord of Life they thus do brand,
 Saying if thou came to save the land,
 Now try thyself to free ;

A soldier pierc'd him when he died,
 And healing streams flow'd from his side—
 And thus my Lord was crucified:
 Stern justice now is satisfied,
 Sinners, for you and me.

Behold him mount a throne of state—
 He fills the mediatorial seat—
 While millions, bowing at his feet,
 In loud hosannas tell
 How he endured unequall'd pains,
 And laid the monster, Death, in chains:
 All heavens, pour forth your highest strains,
 While music fills bright Salem's plains,
 He's conquer'd death and hell.

'Tis done—the precious ransom's paid;
 The great atonement now is made:
 Sinners, on him your guilt was laid—
 For you he spilt his blood;
 For you his tender soul did move,
 For you he left his courts above,
 That you the length and breadth might prove,
 The depth and height of perfect love,
 In Christ your smiling God.

All glory be to God on high,
 Who reigns enthron'd above the sky,
 Who sent his Son to bleed and die—
 Glory to him be given;

In heaven above his praises sound,
 The dead's alive—the lost is found ;
 I hope to sing eternal rounds,
 In flaming love which knows no bounds,
 When carried up to heaven.

HYMN II.

DESCRIPTION OF DEATH.

THEE we adore, Eternal Name,
 And humbly own to thee
 How feeble is our mortal frame—
 What dying worms we be.

Our wasting lives grow shorter still,
 As days and months increase ;
 And every beating pulse we tell
 Leaves but the number less.

The year rolls round, and steals away
 The breath that first it gave ;
 Whate'er we do, where'er we be,
 We're travelling to the grave.

Dangers stand thick through all the ground,
 To push us to the tomb ;
 And fierce diseases wait around,
 To hurry mortals home.

Great God, on what a slender thread
Hang everlasting things ;
The Eternal state of all the dead
Upon life's feeble strings.

Infinite joy, or endless woe,
Depend on every breath ;
And yet how unconcerned we go
Upon the brink of death.

Waken, O Lord, our drowsy sense,
To walk this dangerous road,
And if our souls be hurried hence,
May they be found with God.

FINIS.

well as the outer sides of the walls. The view from the eminence on which the Castle stands is perhaps the finest thing of the kind in Scotland,—the broad river sweeping round the base, the lofty banks clothed with nearly every variety of tree, on the one hand serving as the frame to an extensive view of the open country beyond, and on the other terminating in a graceful bend of the course of the stream,—all conspire to excite emotions of delight in even the most prosaic observers. Few of our feudal strongholds have more frequently changed masters than this ancient fortress. Since the time of Edward I. it has been successively the property of at least ten different families. The residence of the present owner, Lord Douglas, stands near the old castle, on a beautiful lawn, adorned with some of the finest trees in the country; and on the opposite side of the river, very picturesquely placed on the brink of a perpendicular rock, are the ruins of Blantyre Priory. By the courtesy of the noble proprietor, the grounds are thrown open to the public on Tuesdays and Fridays.

The Holytown, Coatbridge, Garnkirk, and Steps Road Stations,

Succeed each other within a distance of 13 miles. The district is chiefly occupied by iron-works, coal-mines, brick-works, &c.; the former, particularly Calder and Carnbroe, on opposite sides of the line, sending forth torrents of flame, and at night illumining the country for miles round. There is little else calling for special notice, except the very lofty viaduct over the Calder valley, a quarter of a mile long and 120 feet high, and a short but intensely dark tunnel between Holytown and Coatbridge. The latter place bears the usual marks of prosperity in possessing among other fine buildings a handsome church built in the Gothic, and an Academy in the Italian style. The Germiston embankment, distant one mile from Glasgow, is three quarters of a mile long, thirty feet broad on the top, and nearly forty-five feet in height.

The Glasgow Terminus.

The permanent Station-houses at this end of the line are not yet erected. The present stopping-place is at the St. Rollox Station, the well-known terminus of the Garnkirk line, at the Town-head; but the line is now in course of being extended to Buchanan Street, where a much more central terminus will be obtained; and so soon as the necessary Acts of Parliament can be procured, the General Station in Dunlop Street will also be proceeded with, which will afford ample accommodation for the numerous passengers who will make use of the Caledonian Railway and its extensive ramifications.

THE CITY OF GLASGOW.

GLASGOW, although not the capital, is yet, in a commercial point of view, and in amount of population, the *first* city in Scotland. It now covers, including its various suburbs, a space of nearly 700 acres, and has a very large and rapidly increasing population, amounting in 1841 to 257,592. This great prosperity has been owing chiefly to its vast and extending trade in manufactured cottons, arising from its facilities of water intercourse with all parts of the world, and to its position in the centre of extensive fields of mineral produce of all kinds.

Although the *city of commerce* has neither the romantic situation, the high tone of aristocratic elegance, nor the architectural grandeur of Edinburgh, yet is it not devoid of elegant and spacious streets, public buildings, and institutions of great merit and of imposing appearance, besides many other objects of interest. Pursuing the usual route from the terminus to the town, we soon reach the Royal Infirmary, and close beside it stands the venerable and majestic Cathedral, now upwards of 700 years old, and surrounded by the graves of many generations. Opposite is the Barony Church, and between them the "Bridge of Sighs" over the Molendinar burn, leading to the Necropolis, or new bury-