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28.921.

**FOSTER'S
TRIAL**

OF

WILLIAM CORDER,

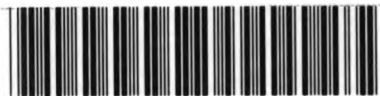
FOR THE

Murder of Maria Marten,

OF POLSTEAD, IN SUFFOLK.

Price 1s. 6d.

1828



600003865S

28

921.





WILLIAM CORBIER
As he appeared when in London
Engraved by G. Fowler. C. C. Lambeth Hall S'

S. H. 1828

AN
ACCURATE ACCOUNT
OF THE
TRIAL
OF
WILLIAM CORDER,

FOR THE
Murder of Maria Marten,
OF POLSTEAD, IN SUFFOLK,

Which took place at BURY SAINT EDMUNDS, on Thursday
and Friday, the 7th and 8th Aug. 1828,

BEFORE CHIEF BARON ALEXANDER,

With a Portrait of the Criminal.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED, 1 vol.

AN EXPLANATORY PREFACE,

AND

FIFTY-THREE OF THE LETTERS

Sent by various Ladies, in answer to Corder's Matrimonial
Advertisement, inserted in the Morning Herald and
Sunday Times of November last,

*Carefully copied from the Originals, in the possession of
the Publisher.*



London: 1828.

PUBLISHED BY GEORGE FOSTER,
68, Leadenhall Street,
AND SOLD BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

Price Eighteen Pence.

921.

THE JURY.



JOHN FYSON, Foreman.

JOHN BUSH, Mildenhall.

THOMAS FYSON, Barningham.

JOHN HUNT, Brandon.

JOHN INCE, Clare.

WILLIAM JENNINGS, Norton.

JOHN MULLINGER, Barningham.

THOMAS SHIP, Norton.

ROBERT STIFF, Norton.

JOHN PAGE, Norton.

GEORGE WISEMAN, Barningham.

WILLIAM WRIGHT, Barningham.

PREFACE.

THE Trial of **WILLIAM CORDER**, for the Murder of **MARIA MARTEN**, has excited a more than ordinary share of public pity for the unhappy sufferer, and of public abhorrence of the ruthless monster, who ended the life of one, whom he had contributed to delude and disgrace, by a murder that left not a moment for repentance, and of which in all its circumstances, it would be difficult to recollect a precedent, in the criminal annals of this country.

Interesting, however, as this shocking narrative has been to persons of all ranks, as so many accounts have been published, and read with avidity, the Publisher would not have added to the number the present authentic sketch,* if he had not by a singular accident become possessed of materials connected with one part of Corder's character, which may still appear of some importance to the public, as they relate to a matter, against which, but for the present disclosure, the public might never have been sufficiently guarded.

These materials, are the **LETTERS** addressed to **CORDER** in November last, when he advertised for a **WIFE** in the London Papers. They are far more numerous than persons of moral and reflecting minds

* Taken principally from the **TIMES** Newspaper, in which the law reports have long been considered as peculiarly accurate.

and who value the character of the fair sex, would be willing to believe upon any evidence, short of that which is now laid before them, namely, copies of above FIFTY LETTERS, the originals of which, with few exceptions, are signed by real names and places of residence, although the latter are for obvious reasons suppressed in this publication. The writers, therefore, who can have no difficulty in recognizing their compositions, and in blushing for their credulity, may indulge their feelings, without the additional punishment of having their names exposed to somewhat more than ridicule.

Advertisements from gentlemen wanting wives, have generally, perhaps always, been supposed to be the productions of persons who wished to try the force of credulity in the fair sex, and whether it was possible, that any females, except of the lowest order destitute of native modesty to protect, or of friends to advise, could so far forget what is owing to themselves, their characters, and the delicacy of the sex, as to offer themselves as wives, to men of whom they could have no knowledge, and who might, for aught they knew, commence in this way, a train of seduction, calculated to bring disgrace, if not ruin. It could never have been supposed, that so many young women, not deficient in what are termed accomplishments, should be so deficient of that maiden modesty, which is the common and most pleasing characteristic of their sex, as to divest themselves of prudence as well as shame; and, as there is reason to think, enter on the preliminaries of the most important action of their lives, without the precaution of consulting affectionate parents, or experienced friends. And surely, few could have imagined, that in answer to one application only of this sort, above a hundred letters should have been sent by as many young females, stating their fitness to supply the advertiser with a wife, suited to his pretended character and expectations. Yet ABOVE FIFTY of these letters are before the reader, furnished by means which are now to be explained.

In October last, Corder, then lodging at the Bull Inn, in Leadenhall Street, came to the PUBLISHER'S shop, and made some purchases of stationary, for which he paid punctually, and either took with him, or desired them to be sent to the Inn. His occasional visits in this way, brought on a slight acquaintance, during which, Corder appeared somewhat of a gentleman, always in good spirits, lively, jocular, and as one who seemed to have no other anxiety, than for the success of his advertisement. At length he requested the Publisher to suffer the answers to this matrimonial advertisement to be sent to his shop, as he knew no other person in town, of whom he could ask that favour. The Publisher, although with some reluctance, consented, and accordingly, the following advertisement appeared in the MORNING HERALD, of November 13th.

“**MATRIMONY.**—A Private Gentleman, aged 24, entirely independent, whose disposition is not to be exceeded, has lately lost the chief of his family by the hand of Providence, which has occasioned discord among the remainder, under circumstances most disagreeable to relate. To any female of respectability, who would study for domestic comfort, and willing to confide her future happiness in one every way qualified to render the marriage state desirable, as the advertiser is in affluence; the lady must have the power of some property, which may remain in her own possession.* Many very happy marriages have taken place through means similar to this now resorted to, and it is hoped no one will answer this through impertinent curiosity, but should this meet the eye of any agreeable lady, who feels desirous of meeting with a sociable, tender, kind, and sympathising companion, they will find this advertisement worthy of notice. Honour and secrecy may be relied on. As some little security against all applications,

* This notice of property is omitted in the advertisement as it appeared in the Sunday Times.

it is requested that letters may be addressed, (post paid) to A. Z. care of Mr. Foster, Stationer, No. 68, Leadenhall Street, which will meet with the most respectful attention."

The character Corder here gives of himself, combined to what is known to have passed before and since, will no doubt add to the surprise the public has felt from the whole of his shocking conduct.

The Publisher received above forty letters, which were delivered unopened to Corder, and with such success, that in one of these, he found the very lady whom he married in about a week, and whom he described to the Publisher, as possessed of every quality he could wish. From that time he called no more at the Publisher's, but he had inserted his advertisement in the SUNDAY TIMES of November 25, in consequence of which, the Publisher continued to receive the fifty-three letters now printed, besides some which, not being post paid, were returned to the Post Office. Nothing more was heard of the advertiser until April last, when the papers announced his being apprehended in the vicinity of London, with circumstances which plainly described the Publisher's old customer, and he then had no scruple in opening the letters now before the reader, none of which, Corder had ever enquired after or seen. Their number, their style, and their contents, will all appear matter of astonishment, but it is not true, that any ladies in carriages called at the Publisher's, although certainly, a few well-dressed ladies, on delivering their letters, did make enquiries as to the character of the writer of this advertisement, which the Publisher was unable to answer.

In the accounts which appeared in the newspaper in April, some history was given of the matrimonial advertisement, and its consequences, with tolerable accuracy, except as to the shop to which the answers were to be sent, or the name of the Publisher. But whence the authors of these first accounts derived their information as to the advertisement, and its

success in procuring a wife, must be left to the conjecture of the reader, who may by this time know, there were but two persons, himself, *and another*, who could possibly have known with certainty, that part of his history.

It is more important to remind the readers of the Trial, that this scheme of Corder's to obtain a wife, was set on foot nearly about the very time that he wrote two letters to his wretched victim's father, which were read in court, dated "Bull Inn, Leadenhall Street, Thursday, October 18th, and October 23rd, 1827." Let our readers peruse these two letters; in the former of which he says, "my stay in town will be very short, anxious to return to her who is *now my wife*, and with whom I shall now be the happiest of men," and compare them with the other atrocious circumstances which appeared upon his trial, and nothing more will be wanting to convince them, that the parallel, which some of the papers have instituted between him and Thurtell, is considerably in favour of the latter. It may also be inferred, from a comparison of the above dates, that if the smallest pains, which common prudence could suggest, had been taken to enquire into his character in the county where he resided, or near the place of his residence, an end would have been put at once to his matrimonial scheme, and his character would have been instantly disclosed to the friends of the poor deluded Maria Marten, whom he had been deceiving by the grossest falsehoods from the day of the murder. It is indeed an astonishing instance of that infatuation which Providence inflicts on murderers, that this man should have supposed that he could have gone on in making her friends believe that she was still alive, and his lawful wife. As to the misery that has resulted from the neglect of enquiring into his circumstances, friends, or residence, it may be safely left to any person of sense or feeling, who considers the above coincidences of time. All reflections on the subject are obvious and unnecessary.

The publication of these **LETTERS**, however, will not be wholly without its use, if it tends in any measure to remove the credit which a considerable portion of young women appear to have given to advertisements of a similar kind. The few confidential friends to whom the letters have been shown, have united in expressing their astonishment at such a departure from the delicacy of the sex, and from the caution so necessary to be observed, even when the parties are in some measure known to each other. But while they recommended the publication of the Letters, they likewise recommended the omission of names and address, which the Publisher had previously intended, from motives of pity and compassion.

It is only necessary to add, that such of the **WRITERS** of these Letters, as wish to recover the **ORIGINALS**, may have them returned on application to No. 68, Leadenhall Street, and giving the names or initials by which they may be known.

Aug. 13th, 1828.

TRIAL
OF
WILLIAM CORDER,
FOR THE MURDER OF
MARIA MARTEN.

Bury St. Edmund's, Thursday, August 7th, 1828.

THIS morning the trial of *William Corder* took place, and it is impossible to describe the state of confusion which prevailed from an early hour in the vicinity of the Court. Chief Baron *Alexander*. (who presided) had given peremptory orders that no person should be admitted until he had taken his seat on the bench: the consequences of which was, that the crowd, composed of a mixed group of barristers, magistrates, jurors, constables, and yeomen, continued to accumulate, so as absolutely to obstruct the the entrance of the Judge when he drove up, and created nearly one hour and a half of tumult and confusion before the Court was in a condition to obtain that degree of order which befitted the proceedings.

At twenty minutes before 10 o'clock the prisoner was put to the bar. He appeared to be about 30 years of age, of middle height, of a fair and healthy complexion, large mouth, turn-up nose, large eyes, which had a fixed and glazed aspect, and his features bore rather a smile than any other expression. He was dressed in a dark-coloured frock-coat, with velvet collar, black waistcoat, and blue trowsers.

The Clerk of the Peace read the indictment, which charged William Corder with having, on the 18th of May, 1827, murdered Maria Marten, by feloniously and wilfully shooting her with a pistol through the body, and likewise stabbing her with a dagger. The indictment consisted of ten counts. The following is an abstract:—

B

First Count.—The jurors of our Lord the King, upon their oath, present, that William Corder, late of the Parish of Polstead, &c. Suffolk, yeoman, on the 18th of May, &c. with force and arms, &c. in and upon one Maria Marten, in the fear of God, &c. then and there being, feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, did make an assault, and that the said William Corder, a certain pistol of 2s. value, then and there charged with gunpowder and one leaden bullet (which pistol he the said William Corder, in his right hand, then and there had held), then and there feloniously, wilfully, and of his malice aforethought, did discharge and shoot off at, against, and upon the said Maria Marten; and the said William Corder, with the leaden bullet aforesaid, out of the pistol aforesaid, by the said William Corder discharged and shot off, then and there feloniously, wilfully, &c. did strike, penetrate, and wound the said Maria Marten in and upon the left side of the face of her the said Maria Marten, &c. giving her the said Maria Marten one mortal wound, of the depth of four inches, and of the breadth of half an inch, of which said mortal wound she the said Maria Marten then and there instantly died; and so the jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths, &c. do say, that the said William Corder, her the said Maria Marten, did kill and murder.

Second Count.—That the said William Corder, on the 18th day of May, &c. upon the said Maria Marten, against the peace of God, &c. feloniously, and of his malice aforethought, did make an assault, and that the said William Corder, with a certain sharp instrument, to wit, a sword, of the value of one shilling (which he, the said William Corder, in his right hand, then and there held), her the said Maria Marten, in and upon the left side of the body of her the said Maria Marten, then and there feloniously, wilfully, &c. did strike, thrust, stab, and penetrate giving unto the said Maria Marten then and there with the sharp instrument aforesaid, in and upon the left side of the body of her the said Maria Marten, between the fifth and sixth ribs, one mortal wound, of the depth of six inches, and of the breadth of one inch, of which mortal wound she, the said Maria Marten, then and there instantly died; and so the jurors, &c. present, that the said William Corder, her the said Maria Marten did, by the means aforesaid, feloniously, and of his malice aforethought, did kill and murder, against the peace, &c.

Third Count.—Same as the last, except the wound is alleged to have been inflicted with a sword in the right side of the face of her the said Maria Marten, and that he inflicted a wound of the depth of four inches, and of the width of one inch, of which said mortal wound she died, &c.

Fourth Count.—Same as the last, except alleging that the mortal wound was given by means of a sword, on the right side of the neck of the said Maria Marten.

Fifth Count.—That the said William Corder, on the 18th of May, &c. in and upon the said Maria Marten, and wilfully, maliciously, &c. did make an assault, and that the said William Corder, a certain handkerchief of the value of 6d. about the neck of the said Maria Marten, then and there, wilfully, &c. did pull, fix, and fasten; and that the said William Corder, with the handkerchief aforesaid, so as aforesaid, willfully, feloniously, &c. pulled, fixed, and fastened about the neck of her the said Maria Martin, her the said Maria Marten then and there feloniously, &c. did choke, suffocate, and strangle, of which said, &c. she, the said Maria Marten, then and there instantly died, &c.

Sixth Count.—Alleges the offence to have been committed with a gun, of the value of 10s. then and there charged with gunpowder and shots, which the said William Corder fired off, &c. and the said shots so fired off by the said William Corder, in and upon the left side of the face of her the said Maria Marten inflicted one mortal wound of the depth of four inches, and the breadth of half an inch, of which said mortal wound she died, &c.

Seventh Count.—That the said William Corder, on the 18th of May, &c. her the said Maria Marten into a certain hole, dug and made in and under the floor of a certain barn, situate in the parish aforesaid, &c. of his malice, &c. did cast, throw, put, or push; and that the said William Corder over and upon the head, face, and body of the said Maria Marten, into the said hole so being cast, thrown, put, or pushed, as aforesaid, and in the same hole then lying and being, then and there, &c. of his malice, &c. with both his hands did cast, throw, and heap divers large quantities of earth, to wit, five bushels of earth of no value, and divers quantities of clay, to wit, five bushels of clay of no value, and divers large quantities of gravel, to wit, five bushels of gravel of no value

and that the said William Corder, with the said large quantities of earth, clay and gravel, over and upon the head, and face, and body of her the said Maria Marten, feloniously, wilfully, &c. did choke, suffocate, and smother; of which choking, suffocating, and smothering, by the said William Corder, in manner and form as aforesaid done and perpetrated, she the said Maria Marten then and there instantly died; and the jurors aforesaid, upon their oaths, do say that the said William Corder, by the means aforesaid, did her the said Maria Marten feloniously, &c. kill and murder.

Eighth Count.—Same as the the last, except it describes the hole to be of the depth of two feet, of the width of two feet, and of the length of six feet.

Ninth Count.—Charges the crime to have been committed both by stabbing the said Maria Marten with a sharp instrument in the side, and by fixing a handkerchief round her neck and strangling her.

Tenth Count.—Charges the murder to have been inflicted with a pistol, loaded with shots, fired against the side of her face; also with a certain sharp instrument (not describing it as a sword), by stabbing her on the left side of the body, between the fifth and sixth ribs; also, with a sword, value 1s. by stabbing the said Maria Marten, on the right side of the face, and upon the right side of the neck; also with a certain handkerchief, fixed round her neck, by the said William Corder, by which he choked and strangled the said Maria Marten; also, by casting and throwing her into a certain hole, of the depth of two feet, and width of two feet, and of the length of six feet, and by casting quantities of earth, gravel, and clay upon the said Maria Marten, &c.

The prisoner listened with the greatest attention, to the reading of the indictment, occasionally inclining his body forward, and turning his ear towards the court, and as the jury were sworn, he took a small eye-glass from his waistcoat pocket, and looked steadily at several of the gentlemen. He was also indicted upon the verdict of the Coroner's Inquest. When required in the usual form to plead, he replied in a firm voice to each indictment, "not guilty, my Lord."

A plan of the barn was put on the table of the court, and at a quarter-past 10 o'clock *Mr. Andrews* stated the case to the jury. After several preliminary observations

on the importance of the case, in which the learned counsel said he should carefully abstain from any remark which might tend to raise unnecessary prejudice against the prisoner, he proceeded to observe, that he felt it to be his duty to lay the facts of it briefly before the jury, in order that they might obtain a general view of it, and so be able, as the different circumstances were deposed to, to judge what was the importance and the bearing of each. The prisoner at the bar was the son of respectable parents, living at Polstead, in that county. His father had been dead for some time. Whilst living, he was a farmer, and held a farm of very considerable extent in the parish of Polstead. From the time of his father's death to the period of the transaction into which they were then assembled to enquire, his mother, first with the assistance of his elder brother, and afterwards with the assistance of the prisoner himself, was also a farmer. Maria Marten, the young woman with whose death the prisoner at the bar stood charged, was the daughter of parents in a humbler sphere of life, residing in the same parish. The prisoner at the bar and Maria Marten had, from living together in the same parish, been personally known to each other for some time, but were not intimately acquainted until a year before the 18th of May, 1827. At that period an intimacy of a very close nature took place between them, and an illegitimate child was the fruit of it. She was not delivered of this child at her father's house; but she returned to it about six weeks before the 18th of May, with an infant child, of which the prisoner owned himself to be the father. The child was always a weakly child, and died, as he believed, within a fortnight after the return of Maria Marten to her family. During this period of their acquaintance, Corder on more occasions than one was heard to say to her, that the parish thought of having her taken up for another bastard child of which she had been delivered; and after her delivery of a child to him, he was heard to make to her the same declaration. They were likewise heard quarrelling more than once, and especially regarding a £5. note, which was mentioned between them. On one occasion Maria Marten said to the prisoner at the bar, "if I go to gaol, you shall go too." It was right that he should also state to the jury, that during this period of their acquaintance, Corder said repeatedly that it was his intention to make her his wife.

On the Sunday before the 18th of May, which fell upon a Friday, Maria Marten, Corder having first been to her father's cottage, went to his mother's house. It was there agreed that they should go the next day to Ipswich to get married. They did not, however, go as they had agreed. They then arranged that they should go on the next Thursday; but that arrangement was not carried into effect. On Friday the 18th of May, about the middle of the day, Corder went to the house of Maria Marten's father. At that time she was up stairs with her mother. He desired her to make herself ready and go along with him. She said that she could not go then. He replied, "You have been disappointed several times, and you must go now." Other conversation, as he was informed, also passed between them on that occasion. It was agreed that she should put her clothes into a bag, and that Corder should take them to a place called the Red Barn, which was on a farm belonging to his mother. It was further agreed that, to escape observation, she should put on at her father's house a male dress; that she should change it at the barn for a female dress; and that she should go from thence to Ipswich to be married. He should prove to them, if he was rightly instructed, that she put into a large bag several articles of female dress, which it was not necessary for him to enumerate. She also put into it a small basket, and into that small basket, she put a smaller black velvet bag, commonly called a reticule. He would prove to them that after this arrangement Corder was absent from the house of Maria Marten's Mother about a quarter of an hour. When he returned, Maria Marten had put on her male attire, which consisted of a coat, waistcoat, and a pair of breeches. She had also on part of her own female dress, namely, a flannel petticoat and a pair of stays, into which she put a jean busk. She had, also, a comb in her hair, two earrings in her ears, and two smaller combs in her hair. The prisoner and Maria Marten left the house at the same time, going out, however, at different doors, but both taking the direction of the Red Barn. He ought also to state, that she had a green handkerchief tied about her neck. From that period, none of her friends have seen anything of her, nor have had any accounts respecting her, save those which had been given by the prisoner at the bar, and which would shortly be placed in evidence before

them. He ought to have stated, that before they went away, and whilst they were talking of the manner in which she was dressed, Corder said to her that Baalham, the constable, had shown him a letter by which he was authorised to take her up for having had a bastard child. That constable would be called before them, and he would tell them that he never had any such letter as the prisoner represented, and that he had never made to him any such communication as the prisoner alleged. It so happened, that on the day on which they left old Marten's cottage to go to the Red Barn, a younger brother to the deceased Maria Marten, who was working near the Red Barn, saw the prisoner pass at a short distance from him to his (Corder's) mother's house with a pick-axe upon his shoulder. He must now inform them that the next time, when the mother—or he should rather say the mother-in-law of Maria Marten saw the prisoner, was at his mother's house. Nothing material passed between them on that occasion. On the Sunday following he came to her house and said that he had not yet married her daughter, though he had taken her away for that purpose, for it was necessary that the licence should go up to London. He added, however, that he had left her daughter at Yarmouth, under the protection of one of his female relations. On a subsequent day in the same week she had another interview with the prisoner, and she then told him that her son had seen him on the Friday previously near the Red Barn with a pick-axe on his shoulder. He replied, "It could not be me that he saw; it must have been Acres, who was employed that day in stubbing trees near the barn." Acres would be called before them, and would tell them that he was not so employed at that time, nor at any time thereabouts. From this period to the discovery of the transaction, Corder saw the father and the mother of Maria Marten very frequently. Corder was absent from Polstead for some time; and on his return he gave accounts of Maria Marten's living with some friends of his at Yarmouth of the name of Roland. When they enquired about her health, he said that she was very well: and when asked why she did not write, he said, sometimes, that she was too busy, and, at other times, that she had a sore on the back of her hand, which gathered and disabled her from moving her fingers, and consequently from writing. In the interval between the 18th

of May and harvest time, Corder had several conversations with other individuals respecting Maria Marten; and to these persons he gave a different account of her from that which he had given to her father and mother. He told one person that she had gone by the steam-packet to France, and another person that she was living at no great distance from them. He had a very particular conversation on the subject, with a woman of the name of Stow, to the particulars of which she would be called to speak. He told her, that Maria Marten did not live at any great distance from them. In the course of conversation, she asked whether Maria Marten was likely to have any more children. He said, "No, she is not. Maria Marten will have no more children." Mrs. Stow immediately said, "Why not; she is still a very young woman." He replied, "No; believe me, she will have no more; she has had her number." Mrs. Stow then asked him, "Is she far from hence?" He answered, "No, she is not far from us: I can go to her whenever I like, and I know that when I am not with her, nobody else is." There was a trifling circumstance which was, perhaps, connected with the transaction of the 18th of May, and which he would briefly state to them. From this woman of the name of Stow, the prisoner, about that time, borrowed a spade. She could not tell the precise period at which he borrowed it; but there were circumstances which led her to believe that it was about the middle of May. She had been shortly before delivered of a child; and it was in the interval between her getting out of bed and being churched, that he borrowed the spade. They would hear her examined, and would draw their own inferences from her testimony. The learned counsel said that he had now come, in the course of his detail, to that part of the transaction which happened in September last. Corder was then engaged in directing the workmen to get in the harvest. For some time before the 18th of May the barn had been empty, except so far as the floor was covered with the old litter. When the Wheat was cut, Corder gave directions that the corn should be laid in the upper bay of the barn. He was present when the first and second load was taken in, and superintended the operation. The keys of the barn was always kept in his mother's house, and the barn was besides not easy of entrance, as it was surrounded by a sort of outhouses, and was only approached by a gate

that was seven feet high. After the corn had been got into the barn, Corder left Polstead. He was driven on that occasion to Colchester by a man of the name of Bright. To that person he gave a different account of Maria Marten from that which he had given to any other person, for he said that he had not seen her since the May preceding. Before he left Polstead on that occasion, he saw her father, and he told him that he (Corder) should have the pleasure of seeing his daughter soon. He likewise told him that he had bought a new suit of clothes, in which he intended to be married to her. About the 19th or the 20th of October, old Marten received a letter from the prisoner bearing the London postmark. In that letter the prisoner said that he had made Maria his wife. He likewise expressed his surprise that the old man had not answered the letter which Maria had sent him upon her marriage, informing him that when they were married Mr. Roland acted as a father, and Miss Roland as bride's-maid. He desired that the old man would answer his letter immediately, and told him to address his reply to him under certain initials, at some place in the city. The father answered the letter, and told him that no such letter as he described had ever been received. Corder then wrote back that he had made inquiry in the Post-office respecting the loss of it, that no traces of any such letter could be found in the books of the Post-office at London, and that he attributed the loss of it to its having had to cross the sea, Maria having been in the Isle of Wight at the time when it was written. In November last the prisoner met a gentleman of the name of Matthews in London, with whom he had correspondence, which he intended to place before them. Corder then said to that gentleman that he had not married Maria Marten because his family affairs were not quite settled; but he added that he was then living with her in the Isle of Wight. Some time further elapsed without the parents of Maria Marten hearing from her; and in consequence they became anxious and suspicious about her fate. Their suspicions increased every day, and at last assumed a definite shape. They were directed at last to the Red Barn. The father of Maria Marten became anxious to examine it. Accordingly, in the April of the present year, he went to the barn, and searched it. The Corn was then thrashed out, but the old litter still remained in it. They searched two or three

places in it, and at length in the upper bay, they found a place where the ground did not appear so firm and consistent as it was in other parts of the barn. In consequence the ground was opened, and within a foot and a half of the surface they found the body of a female. The body had on parts of a female dress: there were the remains of a jean pair of stays, of a shift, and of a flannel petticoat. Under the body was a handkerchief, and on the neck and around it was a green silk handkerchief. The body and clothes were inspected attentively by the father, the mother, and the sister of Maria Marten. They would describe to the jury the different marks which Maria had on her person. They would also tell them the natural marks that were found upon the body in the barn. Maria Marten had a large excrescence or wen about the middle of her neck;—so, too, had the female whose body was discovered in the barn. Maria Marten had lost two of her front teeth;—so had the female whose body was found in the barn. The features of the body were not altogether decomposed, and the jury would hear what the witnesses had to say on that point. They would describe to the jury the different parts of Maria Marten's dress, and particularly with respect to her stays and to her neck-handkerchief. Maria Marten, had when living, a pain in her side, and was labouring under asphixia. The surgeons who had examined the body discovered in the barn, would tell them that they found considerable signs of inflammation in one of the sides of that body. He ought here to inform the jury, that the body discovered in the barn remained in the ground until the surgeon had inspected it. The surgeon who inspected it would tell them that he found a pistol ball in the face,—a wound in the neck, and given by a sharp instrument,—a wound in the face given by a similar instrument, and a third wound of the same kind, between the fifth and sixth ribs, which had penetrated the heart. The first surgeon who examined the body, took the green silk handkerchief off the neck, and would inform them that it must have pressed so tight upon the neck as to have produced death by strangulation. In consequence of this discovery, suspicion immediately attached to the prisoner at the bar. Information of the murder was sent immediately to London. An intelligent police-officer was employed to apprehend the prisoner, and in consequence of his exertions the prisoner

was apprehended at a house in Ealing. The officer, on first seeing the prisoner, told him that he had come to apprehend him upon a very serious charge—indeed for nothing less than the murder of Maria Marten. He asked the prisoner if he knew such a woman. The prisoner said he did not. The officer then asked him this question, “Did you never know Maria Marten?” The prisoner replied, “No, never.” The prisoner then said, “You must be mistaken in the person you are come to apprehend.” The officer said, “No, I am not mistaken as to the person, your name is Corder, I believe.” The prisoner said it was. The officer then said again to him. “Did you never know Maria Marten?” and the prisoner again said, “Never.” The officer then said, “I have asked you the question twice, and I shall only ask you a third time, “Did you never know Maria Marten?” and a third time the reply was “Never.” The officer then apprehended him. At the time of apprehending the prisoner, the officer searched the house in which he was living, and in one of the rooms he found a small black velvet bag; there was something peculiar in the bag, for it was lined with old silk, and had a broad selvage round the rim. That bag Mrs. Marten, as he was instructed, would identify as the bag of Maria Marten. In that bag were found a brace of pistols. After the officer had returned to Polstead, and had seen the shape of the wounds inflicted by the sharp instrument, he recollected that he had seen in the house a sword belonging to the prisoner. He went to Ealing and procured it; that sword would be produced that day for their examination. It had been compared with the size of the wound in the stays, and in the body discovered in the barn; and they would hear what the witnesses said upon that point. He would prove that some days before the 18th of May the prisoner had gone to a cutler, and had given him orders to make the sword sharp. His instructions were obeyed. The sword was ground; the prisoner took it away; and he would prove that it was seen in his possession before he left Polstead. These were the main facts of the case which he had to submit to their consideration. The observations upon them would come more properly from the learned judge who had to try the cause, than from himself, and he should therefore abstain from entering into any analysis of them. There was, however, one observation which he thought he might

make—nay, which he felt himself bound in justice to the prisoner to make—to them. A case like the present always excited much curiosity and gave rise to many reports. Now such reports had no connexion whatever with the solemn investigation on which they were then empannelled to decide. He was therefore sure, that if they had heard such reports, they would discharge them from their minds, and would come to a decision on this subject upon the evidence alone. Their duty to the public, to the prisoner, and to themselves required that, in the solemn verdict which they would soon be called upon to give, they should be guided solely by the legitimate influence of the evidence tendered to their consideration. The facts which he was instructed to offer in evidence, sifted as they would be by an acute cross-examination, and commented on as they would be by the learned Judge, would, he trusted in God, lead them to a right decision. If in the exercise of their judgment they should be of opinion either that the prisoner was innocent of the charge laid against him in the indictment, or that he was not clearly and distinctly proved to be guilty of it, they would do their duty by acquitting him; but if they should be of opinion that the prisoner was the person who murdered Maria Marten, they could discharge their duty to God and to their country in no other way than by returning a verdict of guilt, without any regard to the consequences which might flow from it.

The first witness called was Ann Marten, the wife of Thomas Marten, who deposed, that she lived at Polstead, and her husband's daughter was Maria Marten. She had known the prisoner (who lived in their neighbourhood) for 17 years. He was acquainted with Maria intimately, and used to come frequently to their cottage for more than a twelvemonth before the 18th of May last year. Maria became pregnant in the course of that intercourse at Sudbury. It was about seven weeks before May, 1827, that she returned to her father's house, accompanied by an infant child, who died about a fortnight afterwards. Corder still continued to come to the house, and admitted he was the father of this infant. He used to converse often with Maria, and when the child was buried, he said, he had carried it to Sudbury for that purpose. She remembered his more than once talking about a 5*l.* note, and Maria used to say he had taken away her bread and her child's. Maria had had a child previously, which was kept by the

witness. Mr. Corder told Maria that the parish officers were going to take her up for having bastard children. Recollected the Sunday, before Friday the 18th of May. On that evening (Sunday), prisoner came to the cottage, where he stopped half an hour or three quarters, and then went out with Maria; they both saying they were going to Ipswich early on the Monday morning, after sleeping at his mother's house. She returned between three and four o'clock the same morning, and Corder came again on that day, and said they should go to Ipswich on the Wednesday night. They did not, however, go at that time, in consequence of Stoke fair, but fixed Thursday night for the journey, when again there was a disappointment, as he said his brother James was hourly expected to die. On the Friday (the day laid in the indictment), about 11 or 12 o'clock, Corder came, and went up stairs to witness and Maria. To the latter he said, "I am come, Maria—make haste—I am going." She replied, "How can I go at this time of the day, without any body seeing me? He said, "Never mind, we have been disappointed a good many times, and we will be disappointed no more. After they had this conversation, she asked him, "How am I to go?" He replied, "You can go to the Red Barn, and wait till I go to you there in the course of the evening." Maria said, "How am I to order my things?" He replied, he would take the things, carry them up to the barn, and come back to walk with her; adding, that none of his workmen were in the fields or at the barn, and he was sure the course was quite clear. Maria's things, consisting of a reticule, wicker basket, a velvet one, two pair of black silk stockings, a silk gown of the same colour, a cambric skirt, and other articles of dress, were put into a brown holland bag, which Corder carried away in his hand. She (Maria) then dressed herself in a brown coat, striped waistcoat, and blue trousers, wearing underneath her under female petticoat, white stays, green and red handkerchief, a silk one, and an Irish linen chemise, which the deceased had herself made. Witness had laced on the stays for Maria on that morning, and knew the marks upon it (which she described), as well as those on the shoes which she wore. He assigned as the reason for going on that day to Ipswich, that John Baalham the constable came to him on that morning to the stable, saying he had got a letter from Mr. Whitmore, of London, which enclosed a

warrant to take Maria and prosecute her, for her bastard children. Witness said, "Oh William, if you had but married Maria before this child was born, as I wished, all this would have been settled."—"Well," said he, "I am going to Ipswich to marry her to-morrow morning." Witness said, "William, what will you do if that can't be done?" He replied, "Don't make yourself uneasy, she shall be my lawful wife before I return, or I will get her a place till she can." Maria then went away about half-past twelve o'clock, Corder first desiring witness to look out to the garden, lest somebody should see them going off. They departed at different doors, Maria in man's dress, and with a hat of prisoner's. She wore a large comb in her hair, and a smaller one, having also earrings. They proceeded together in the direction of the Red Barn, and she saw neither of them again on that day, nor indeed ever saw Maria since. William Corder, when he went away with her, carried a gun in his hand, which he said was charged. Maria had besides a green cotton umbrella, with a bone crook handle, and a button. On the following Sunday morning at nine o'clock, witness next spoke to the prisoner at her own house. She said, "William, what have you done with Maria?" He answered, "I have left her at Ipswich, where I have got her a comfortable place, to go down with Miss Roland to the waterside." On asking him how she was to do for clothes, he said Miss Roland had plenty for her, and would not let him provide any for Maria. He also said he had got a licence, but it must go to London to be signed, and he could not be married under a month or six weeks. He further mentioned that he had changed a check for 20*l.*, and given her the money. On asking him where she dressed, he said she had put her things on in the barn, and that he afterwards put the male attire into the seat of the coach in which they travelled. Witness had a son named George, and she told Corder that George had mentioned he (prisoner) had not left the barn as soon as he promised. This he denied, saying he had left it within three quarters of an hour after he parted from her house. "No," said witness, "you did not, for George saw you later going down the adjoining field with a pick-axe." "No, no," replied he, "that was not me, but Tom Acres, who had been planting trees on the hill." She was in the habit of seeing Corder repeatedly up to the month of September,—sometimes two

or three times in the day, and he invariably said Maria was well, and living comfortably at Yarmouth with Miss Roland. He used to leave Polstead sometimes for a day or two, when he was in the habit of saying he had been with Maria, who continued very well, and that at Michaelmas he meant to take her home to his mother's farm. No letter had ever come from Maria, and when she often spoke to Corder about her not writing, he replied, she could not, because she had got a bad hand. When he left Polstead he came to take leave, saying he was going to the water side for his health, and would call at Yarmouth to take Maria with him, and be married immediately. She never saw him after till his arrest, nor had she seen the dead body; but all the articles of dress were shown to her (which the witness subsequently identified as those being worn by the deceased on the day she had last seen her). Maria had always a cough, had a wen on her neck, and had lost a tooth from the upper as well as from the lower jaw. Witness attended Corder's brother's funeral soon after the 18th of May, where she saw the prisoner with Maria's umbrella. After the funeral, she talked to him about the umbrella, which he denied to have been hers, though he said it was like it, but Deborah Franks's, and he was going to send it back to her. He on one occasion said, that Maria had lent him hers at Ipswich, where she had come over with Miss Roland, to save him from being dripping wet. He had shown the witness a gold ring, which was, he said, to be for Maria's wedding, and also a brace of pistols which he once brought to the house.

Cross-examined by *Mr. Brodrick*.—Witness was the mother of three children. Maria was her step-daughter, and had an own brother and sister. She was anxious for Maria's marriage to Corder, although Maria said nothing about it. She was gone two months at her last lying-in, and then returned in Corder's gig with the prisoner. The infant died in her arms, and Corder and Maria took it away to be buried: where she did not know, but was told at Sudbury. Maria used to dress a little fine, and her sister, as well as witness and her father, often quarrelled with her about it, which made her mostly very dull. There was no secret about their going to the barn. Corder used openly to snap the pistol close to the fire, and she next saw him bring ham for Maria. He used to give her money as the weekly allowance for the child; and Maria had a quarterly

stipend of 5*l.* from Mr. Matthews, by whom she had a child, and another by a third party. She had never heard from any body but witness, that Maria was exposed to danger by the constables, for having had these children; and this fear kept her within doors. When she went away on the 18th, she was crying and low spirited. Corder often came to the house with a gun. She had been examined before the coroner. Prisoner called repeatedly to see Maria, and said that as long as he had a shilling, she should have it. They seemed always to be very fond of each other. She repeated the manner in which Corder and Maria left the house together for the last time, as it was already given in her examination in chief.

(During the examination of this witness, the prisoner put on his spectacles, took out a red morocco pocket book, in which he commenced writing, and looked steadfastly at her. She appeared a decent-dressed country woman, but never returned the prisoner's glance, or took her eyes from the direction of the counsel who examined her. About two o'clock he ate and drank with much seeming appetite.)

Thomas Marten, the father of the deceased, deposed, that he lived at Polstead, and was a mole-catcher. Maria was, in May, 1827, about 26 years of age. The last day he saw her was on the 17th of May. He went out too early on the morning of the 18th to see her. He knew Corder to have been acquainted with her for a year and a half before that time. It was on the 19th of May he found out his daughter having gone away with him, and on the following Sunday he said he had taken Maria to Ipswich, but was obliged to go to London about the marriage licence. This witness then corroborated the evidence of the preceding witness, respecting Corder's declarations of the name and kind of place he had provided for his daughter, and his subsequent statements that he was in the habit of hearing from her, and she was quite well, except the sore hand; and also his assurance, on taking leave, that he was going to meet Maria and marry her at the water-side. The witness proceeded to state, he had afterwards received two letters, which he gave to a gentleman who had examined him, and had since searched the Red Barn at Polstead. It was on the 19th of last April. (Here the witness referred to the model of the barn in court, and pointed out and explained all its local bearings.) On lifting up the straw from the barn floor, he saw some great stones lying in the

middle of the bay, and an appearance of the earth having been disturbed. On that spot he poked down the handle of the rake, and turned something up which was black. On getting further assistance they discovered, a little under the ground, a small round sharp iron about a foot long, like a hay-spike, and then they came to the body, and near the head found the handkerchief tied round her neck apparently very tight. The body was lying down, though not stretched out. The legs were drawn up, and the head bent down into the earth. He quitted the barn for half an hour, and returned with another person to make a further examination. They let the body alone until the coroner and the surgeon came, when they cleared the earth entirely from the body, and raised it up from the floor. On examining it in the light, the mouth looked like Maria's, who had a wen on her neck, and been ailing for a year or two with a cough. Underneath the body was found a shawl, there were besides earrings, part of a stays, of a chemise, and two combs in the hair.

Cross-examined. A man named Pyrke accompanied witness in this examination of the barn, and discovery of the body. They put the rake several times into the ground before they found it. The body was not removed until the coroner came. After the inquest, the attorney for the prosecution examined the witnesses upon oath, in a public-house called the Cock. The prisoner, the jury, or a magistrate, were absent at this time.

Ann Marten (sister of the deceased) deposed, that she was at home on the 18th of May, when Maria went away with William Corder, the circumstances of which she described in nearly the same words as her mother had previously done, particularizing each article of her dress. Since that time she had frequently seen the prisoner, who always said Maria was living with Miss Roland, the sister of an old school-fellow of his, and that he was preparing to marry her. Witness had seen the dead body, when the coroner and jury were present. She saw it laid upon a door, and was positive it was her sister Maria's. She knew it by the things that were on it, also by her teeth, her mouth, and her features generally. (The witness here particularly identified the clothes as belonging to her deceased sister, as well as the ear-rings which were in the ears, and the combs, &c.)

Cross-examined.—Her sister left home on the 18th of

May, in very low spirits, but she never heard her say she was anxious to be married to William Corder. Witness and Maria sometimes quarrelled, and there used to be words between her and her step-mother.

George Marten (brother of the preceding witness), a boy about 11 or 12 years of age, deposed, after a few interrogatories to ascertain his competency to take an oath, which he answered satisfactorily, that he saw his sister on the the day she last left the house with Corder, who carried a gun in his hand, which he said was loaded, and therefore cautioned witness not to meddle with it. He never saw his sister after that day, but he saw Corder on the same day between three and four o'clock, come from the barn alone with a pick-axe, and proceed homewards through the fields. He was positive as to his person.

He was not cross-examined.

Phoebe Stow deposed that she lived at Polstead, and knew William Corder. Her house was about 30 rods from the Red Barn, to which it was the nearest cottage. She remembered Corder calling about one o'clock one day in May, last year, when he said "Mrs. Stow, has not your husband got an old spade to lend me?" She lent him one, and he only said a few words, saying he was in such a hurry, he could not then stop and talk to her. The spade was afterwards returned; but she could not say by whom. On a subsequent occasion Corder again called, when she asked him where was Maria Marten's child, he said it was dead and buried. He also said she would have no more children. Witness said why not, she is a young woman yet? He replied, "Never mind, Maria Marten will never have more children." "What do you go by?" added witness, "Oh," said he, "she has had several, but I be d—d if she shall have any more." Witness continued, "If you are married, why don't you live with her?" "Oh, no," was his reply, "for I can go to her any day in the year, just when I like." "Perhaps you are rather jealous," said I, "and when you are not with her, you think somebody else is." Oh no;" said he "when I am not with her, I am sure nobody else is."

Cross-examined.—Mr. Corder managed the farm for his mother, and her husband worked for him. She knew nothing of who brought the spade back, nor did she tell her husband of her having lent one. When she was first examined before the coroner's jury she did not tell all this.

She was also sworn and gave evidence before the attorney for the prosecution.

Rachel Buck deposed, that she knew William Corder, whom she saw about last August, when he came to her farm, and said Maria Marten would not be her mistress, as she had gone to France by the steam-packet.

William Marten (first cousin of the deceased) deposed, that he knew William Corder, with whom he had conversed about Maria Marten, in the harvest of last year. On asking him where she was, and if at Sudbury, he replied "No; but I can see her every day I please." He then gave witness a pint of harvest beer, and desired him not to speak about Maria, lest the people within should hear what was said.

Francis Stow deposed, that he was last year working at harvest under William Corder, who acted for his mother. Knew the Red Barn, where the first corn of that year was put. Witness assisted in placing it there: the first part was put immediately over where the body was found. He remembered Corder's coming to him in the fields, saying, "I will give you a pound-note to cut my throat." He was smiling at the time, and witness took it to be a joke.

William Downes deposed, that he had been for many years a labourer on Mrs. Corder's farm, which was managed by the prisoner, whom he assisted in filling the Red Barn last harvest in the right hand bay, by William Corder's orders.

Cross-examined.—Knew the prisoner for 17 or 18 years; he was a very good-natured young man to witness, and he never saw him out of temper. Within two years, a great number of his family had been cut off by death.

William Pyrke deposed, that he drove the prisoner on the 8th of September, to Colchester, and talked with him about the business of the farm. Maria Marten's name was mentioned, and he said he had not seen her since May, but spoke very highly of her. When Marten searched the barn, witness assisted him; he had a rake in his hand, and co-operated to clear away the earth, where they found the body doubled up, and lying on the right side.

Cross-examined.—Prisoner was ill when he drove him over to Colchester; he spoke highly to him of the poor girl, Maria Marten. He had the care of the barn after the body was found, but he never was examined before the coroner.

Mr. Brodrick.—It is very extraordinary that a witness so important as this should not have been examined before the Coroner, who, by the way, it ought to be mentioned, refused to allow the attendance of the prisoner during the inquest, so that the man is put to the bar for the first time to hear the evidence against him.

The Lord Chief Baron.—Is it not very unusual for the prisoner not to be admitted on such occasions?

Mr. Brodrick.—Very unusual, indeed, my Lord! and it is likewise very unusual for a coroner, who sat on such a cause afterwards as an attorney, to conduct the prosecution against the same prisoner. Most unusual, too, it is, that the coroner, while acting as such attorney, should himself, in a private room, without the prisoner's having any notice of it, examine the witnesses on oath, and collect their evidence, no magistrate being present.

The witness's cross-examination was resumed, when he said that the attorney for the prosecution had examined him on oath at the Cock. Witness further said, that William Corder was always a kind-hearted young man.

Mr. Brodrick.—Pray had you not got a person preaching about this murder in the very barn itself?

The Lord Chief Baron.—What! what d'ye mean by preaching? Is it a sermon?

Mr. Brodrick.—Yes, my Lord, and to a congregation of several thousand persons, specially brought together after regular notice in the parish, to hear this man described as the murderer of this unfortunate girl.

The Lord Chief Baron.—You don't mean a clergyman of the church of England?

Mr. Brodrick.—No, my Lord, I understand he was a Dissenter.

Witness, on being asked the name of this preacher, said that he believed it was Young.

Mr. Brodrick.—This was not all, my Lord; for in the very neighbourhood, and indeed in all parts of the county, there have been puppet-shows representing the same catastrophe.

Mr. Andrews rose to explain the conduct of the coroner.

Mr. Brodrick objected to his learned friend being heard, unless he produced the coroner as a witness. To that he could have no objection.

The Lord Chief Baron.—But I have; for the matter has nothing to do with this trial, and we've enough to do

without it. It's an imputation upon the coroner, perhaps, but we are not now trying his character.

Mr. Andrews then explained, that it had been arranged by the coroner, when *Mr. Humphries* first attended as the prisoner's solicitor, that though *Corder* was not to be present at the inquest, the depositions were afterwards to be read over to him, which was done. He believed that the practice was that the prisoner should be absent upon such occasions.

Mr. Prendergast said that the practice was directly contrary, and so were the words of *Lord Coke*.

Mr. W. Chaplin was next examined. He produced two letters which he received from *Thomas Marten*.

Whilst *Marten* was sent for to prove that those letters were the same which he received by post,

Mr. Brodrick asked him, whether he was not the church-warden of *Polstead*, and the prosecutor in this cause?

Witness replied, I am.

Mr. Brodrick.-- Did you hear the parson preach in the barn?

Witness.—No, certainly not; but I heard of the occurrence.

Mr. Brodrick.—And you never interfered to prevent it?

Witness.—I did not.

Mr. Brodrick.—Are there not exhibitions going round the neighbourhood, representing *Corder* as the murderer?

Witness.—I have heard so

Mr. Brodrick.—And you've not interfered to prevent them? Is there not a camera obscura near this very hall at this moment, exhibiting him as the murderer?

Witness.—There is a camera obscura, I believe, about the streets, but I don't know its nature.

The letters, after being identified by *Marten*, as *Corder's* hand-writing, and as those which he received, were then read.

“ London, Bull Inn, Leadenhall-street,
Thursday, October 18th.

“ *Thomas Marten*.—I am just arrived at London upon business respecting our family affairs, and am writing to you before I take the least refreshment, because I shall be in time for this night's post, as my stay in town will be very short, anxious to return again to her who is now my wife, and with whom I shall be one of the happiest of men.

I should had her with me, but it was her wish to stay at our lodgings at Newport, in the Isle of Wight, which she described to you in her letter; and we feel astonished that you have not yet answered it, thinking illness must have been the cause. In that she gave you a full description of our marriage, and that Mr. Roland was daddy, and Miss bride'smaid. Likewise told you they came with us as far as London, where we continued together very comfortable for 3 days, when we parted with the greatest regret. Maria and myself went on to the Isle of Wight, and they both returned home. I told Maria I should write to you directly I reached London, who is very anxious to hear from you, fearing some strange reason is the cause of your not writing. She requested that you would enclose Mr. Peter's letters in one of your own should he write to you, that we may know better how to act. She is now mine, and I should wish to study her comfort as well as my own. Let us know all respecting Mr. Peter, and if you can possibly write by return of post, and direct for W. M. C. at the above inn. Maria wished me to give her love to Nancy, and a kiss for her little boy, hoping every possible care is taken of him; and tell your wife to let Nancy have any of Maria's clothes she thinks proper, for she say she has got so many, they will only spoil, and make use of any she like herself. In her letter she said a great deal respecting little Henry, who she feel anxious to hear about, and will take him to herself as soon as we can get a farm whereby we can gain a livelihood, which I shall do the first I can meet with worth notice; for living without some business is very expensive. Still, provisions are very reasonable on the Isle of Wight, I think cheaper than any part of England. Thank God! we are both well, hoping this will find you all the same. We have both been a great deal on the water, and have had some good sea-sicknesses, which I consider have been very useful to us both. My cough I have lost entirely, which is a great consolation. In real truth I feel better than I ever did before in my life, only in this short time. Maria told you in her letter how ill I was for two days at Portsmouth, which is seven miles over the water to the Isle of Wight, making altogether 139 miles from Polstead. I would say more, but time will not permit. Therefore, Maria unites with me for your welfare; and may every blessing attend you. Mind you direct for W. M. C. at the Bull Inn, Leadenhull-street, London.

Write to-morrow if you can: if not, write soon enough for Saturday's post, that I may get it on Sunday morning, when I shall return to Maria directly I receive it. Enclose Mr. Peter's letters, and let us know whether he has acknowledged little Henry. You must try and read my scribble, but I fear you will never make it out.

I remain your well-wisher,
W. C."

"I think you had better burn all letters, after taking all directions, that nobody may form the least idea of our residence. Adieu."

For Thomas Marten, Polstead, near Stoke by Nayland, Suffolk. "With speed."

London, October, 23rd, 1827,

Thomas Marten,

"I received your letter this morning, which reached London yesterday, but letters are not delivered out here on a Sunday: that I discovered on making enquiry yesterday. However, I could not get through my business before this afternoon, and I am going to Portsmouth by this night's coach. I have been this day to the General Post Office, making inquiry about the letter Maria wrote you on the 30th of September, which you say never came to your hands. The clerk of the office traced the books back to the day it was wrote, and he said a letter, directed as I told him to you, never came through their office, which I think is very strange. However, I am determined to find out how it was lost, if possible, but I must think coming over the water to Portsmouth, which I will enquire about to-morrow, when I hope to find out the mystery. It is, I think, very odd that letters should be lost in this strange way. Was it not for the discovery of our residence, I would certainly indict the Post-office, but I cannot do that without making our appearance at a court-martial, which would be very unpleasant to us both. You wish for us to come to Polstead, which we should be very happy to do, but you are not aware of the danger. You may depend, if ever we fall into Mr. P—'s hands, the consequence would prove fatal; therefore, should he write to you, or should he come to Polstead, you must tell him you have not the least knowledge of us, but you think we are gone into some foreign part. I think, if you don't hear from him before long, you had better write and tell him

you cannot support the child without some assistance, for we are gone you know not where. If you tell him you hear from us, he will force you to say where we was, therefore I think it best not to acknowledge any thing at all. I enclose 11., and you shall hear from us again in a short time. This will not reach you before Wednesday morning, as I am too late for this night's post. You said your wife did not like to take any of Maria's clothes; she said in her last letter, that her old clothes was at their service, —I mean your wife and Nancy; but she shall write again as soon as possible. I must now bid you adieu. The coach will start in about ten minutes. I have been so much employed all this day, that I could not write before. Believe me to be your well-wisher for your future welfare,
W. M. C."

For Thomas Marten, Polstead, near Colchester.

"Post paid."

Peter Matthews, Esq.—I generally reside in London. I have relations in the neighbourhood of Polstead. I know the prisoner, and I knew Maria Marten. I had known Maria for some length of time before last year. I had last seen her, I believe, on the 31st of August, 1826. In July last year, I was at Polstead. I saw Corder there twice, and once again on the morning of my leaving Polstead. I had a conversation with him respecting a note I had lost. It was a 5l. Bank of England note. I put a variety of questions first of all respecting the note and a letter. He said he knew nothing of them. I told him it was a letter of the 3rd of January, 1827, in which I told him a 5l. note was enclosed. I have a letter I received from the prisoner in August. (Letter produced.) I believe this to be his hand-writing.

William Gardiner recalled. Letter shown to him. I believe this to be the prisoner's hand-writing. (Letter read)
August 1st, 1827.

"SIR,—After a long, restless, and wretched night of miserable reflections, I have at last endeavoured to collect my weary spirits in order to fulfil your request—" (When the letter had been read thus far, *Mr. Brodrick* interposed, and submitted that it did not relate to the subject-matter of this inquiry; to which the *Chief Baron* assented, and the letter was put by.)

Mr. Matthews recalled.—I received this letter from the prisoner. (Letter read.)

Sunday Afternoon, August 26th, 1827.

“Sir,—In reply to your generous letter which reached me yesterday, I beg to inform you that I was indeed innocent of Maria Marten’s residence at the time you requested me to forward the letter I took from Bramford, and will candidly confess, that Maria have been with a distant female relation of mine since the month of May. About five weeks ago they both went into Norfolk to visit some of my friends. On Friday week I received a letter from my kindred, who informed me that Maria was somewhat indisposed, and that they were then in a village called Horlingby, near Yarmouth. I received an answer by the next post, and enclosed your letter for Maria, which I found reached her perfectly safe, as I took the Yarmouth coach last Wednesday from Ipswich Lamb-fair and went to Herlingby, when I was sorry to hear that Maria’s indisposition was occasioned by a sore gathering on the back of her hand, which caused her great pain, and which prevented her from writing to you, as her fingers are at present, immovable. Knowing you would be anxious to hear from her, I particularly wished her to write the first moment she found herself able, which she promised very faithfully to do. I gave her a particular account of our dialogue at Polstead Hall, not forgetting the remarkable kindness I experienced from you, which I shall ever most gratefully acknowledge; and likewise return you my most grateful thanks for your kindness in respect to your enterprise on my account when in London.—I remain, Sir, your most obedient and very humble servant, W. CORDER.

P. S. I have already enclosed your letter for Maria in one of my own, which I shall post with this immediately, and beg leave to add, that I have fully determined to make Maria my bride directly I can settle our family affairs, which will be in about a month or six week’s time. Till that time Maria wishes to continue with my kindred. In concluding, if I can at any time render you any service whatsoever, I shall be most happy to oblige, as I am truly sensible of your generosity.

For Peter Matthews, Binfield, near Wokingham, Berkshire.

Mr. Matthews’s examination continued.—Was Maria Marten in any way concerned with the 5l. note?—(*Mr. Brodrick* interposed, and the *Chief Baron* though it was rather straining the case, and the subject was dropped.)—On the 31st of July, last year, the prisoner stated to me

that Maria Marten was living somewhere in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth. Her name was chiefly connected with the 5l. note. I left Polstead on the 9th of August last; Corder on that morning told me he had received a letter from me to Maria Marten. He said he could not tell how to forward it by post; he did not know what direction to put upon it. I told him I was afraid he was deceiving me, and I must insist upon his forwarding it. He replied he would endeavour to do so; but repeated that he could not tell exactly where she was: but he believed it was in the neighbourhood of Yarmouth. On the 19th of November following, I met him accidentally near Somerset-house. I asked if he had forwarded a letter of mine written to Maria Marten, and forwarded to him in one on the 2nd of September. He said he had. I told him I was surprised at not receiving any letter or any answer at all from the young woman. He told me either that he had written an answer to me, or that he thought he had written an answer. I said the only letter I had received from him was that of the 26th of August, (the letter just read). I asked the prisoner where Maria Marten was. He said he had left her in the Isle of Wight. I told him that her father had written to me once or twice respecting her, and that he was uneasy not knowing where she was. I inquired of him if he was married to her. He said, "No;" he had not yet settled his family affairs. He had before assigned that as a reason for not having married her. I can state positively that this was on the 19th of November last.

James Lea.—I am a police-officer of Lambeth-street. On the 22nd of last April I went to Grove-house, Ealing, about ten o'clock in the morning. As I entered, he came into the hall out of the parlour. I told him that I had a little business with him. Prisoner said walk into the drawing-room, and we went in. I then told him I was an officer from London, and was come to apprehend him on a very serious charge, and he must consider himself my prisoner. He replied, "Very well." I told him the charge was respecting a young woman of the name of Maria Marten, whom he had formerly kept company with. I said she had been missing for a length of time, and strong suspicions were attached to him. I continued, "I believe you know such a person? It was a young woman you kept company with in Suffolk." He said no; he did not know

such a person. I asked him, "Did you never know such a person?" He said no; I must have made a mistake; he was not the person I wanted. I said, "No; I have not made a mistake—your name is Corder;" and I am certain he was the person. I told him to recollect himself, I had asked him twice if he knew such a person, and I would ask him a third time. He still said no, he did not; he never knew such a person. I then proceeded to search his person, and took from his pocket a bunch of keys. I then took him to the Red Lion, at Brentford. On our way thither, I said the body of the young woman had been found in his Red Barn. He made no remark then. We proceeded some distance, and he asked me, "When was the young woman found?" I told him "On Saturday morning last." He made no further reply. I then left him at the Red Lion and returned to his house. When I entered Mrs. Corder showed me up stairs into a dressing-room. I opened two writing desks with two of the keys he had given to me.

Mr. Brodrick objected that the mere circumstance of the prisoner having given the witness a bunch of keys, which opened some drawers, did not warrant the reception of evidence as to any property found in the house.

Mr. Andrews replied he would obviate the difficulty.

Examination continued.—I had some conversation with the prisoner respecting some pistols I had found in the house. As we were coming to Bury goal, he said (to the best of my recollection) that he would make me a present of them.

(The pistols, in a black velvet bag, were then produced, but immediately put by.) I don't recollect that any thing had previously passed about the pistols. He told me he had bought them when he was 10 years of age, at Ipswich. This was when I was bringing him to Bury goal at Polstead. I had then been examined before the Coroner, and my depositions was reduced to writing. I took the prisoner to hear the depositions read over to him, and mine was amongst the number. I found in the dressing-room at the house at Ealing, a pair of pistols. They were hanging in a black bag on a nail.

Mr. Andrews again called for the production of the pistols.

Mr. Brodrick objected, that it did not appear that the pistols were the prisoner's, or found in his house; for *non*

constat that the house was the house of the prisoner, there being other persons.

By the *Judge*.—They were in my room all the time the prisoner was there.

The *Chief Baron*.—I think I should be straining the point very far, if I rejected this evidence.

[The pistols were then produced.]

Examination resumed.—On the 30th of April, I found a sword there, which I had previously taken from the nail on which it hung when I was formerly at the house.

Robert Offord.—I am a Cutler, residing at Hadleigh, in this county. Last year the prisoner called at my house : this was in the latter part of March, or beginning of April, 1827. He brought a small sword, and said, " Mr. Offord I have brought a small sword, which I wish to have ground as sharp as a carving knife, for the use of a carving knife." He wished to have it done, and he would call for it that night. He said he had got a cousin about marrying in about a fortnight. I think I should know it again.

Lea was then recalled, and produced the sword he found in the house in which he had taken the prisoner. It was in a trunk in the dressing-room.

Offord recalled.— Identified the sword as the one he had sharpened for Corder. (It was about two feet in length, crescent-shaped and perfectly bright.)

Offord's examination continued.—I ground it up quite sharp. It took a good deal of labour to sharpen it up bright. The prisoner took it home the same evening.

Cross examined.—I will not swear that this was not before Christmas, 1826. I don't keep a job-book, and speak only from recollection. I was working by candle-light; and so I do at Christmas-time.

Re-examined.—There are two or three stains which are now on the front and the side, which was not on it when I delivered it to the prisoner. There are two or three scratches on it. There is a spot or two on it at the back, and some elsewhere near the point. I can't say if they were on it when I gave it back to Corder.

George Gardner (looks at the sword).—I have seen one like this in Mrs. Corder's house.

Cross-examined.—There was an alarm that Mrs. Corder's house was about to be robbed, in the spring of 1827. I sat up all night, and this was in the house. There had been robbers in the place about the time, and the people armed for their protection.

John Baalham.—I am the constable of Polstead, I knew the prisoner and Maria Marten. I had never a warrant to apprehend her. I never told the prisoner that I had a warrant to apprehend her, or that I had had a letter from Mr. Whitmore to apprehend her. The clothes which were on the body were given to me at the inquest. I have had them ever since.

Cross-examined.—I had heard it reported in the place, that Maria Marten would be taken up for having bastard children. I have known prisoner all his life, and never knew him to out of temper.

Henry Harcourt.—I am a gun-maker at Sudbury, and know the prisoner. In February, 1827, he came and brought me a pair of pistols to be repaired. I don't know if these (those which Lea produced) be they. They were percussion pistols, and so are these. Percussion pistols have been invented about seven or eight years.

Cross-examined.—The prisoner and a young woman took them away. I did not know her. They called for them on the 5th of March.

Thomas Acres.—I lived some time at Polstead. I recollect Stoke Fair, in 1827. I know the Red Barn at Polstead, and the thistley lay there. I never went over the field with a pick-axe on my shoulder.

Cross-examined.—I don't know what I was doing at the time of Stoke fair. I don't know that I worked with a pick-axe at all that year. I wore a velveteen jacket and so did the prisoner.

John Lawton.—I am a Surgeon. I was present when the Coroner's jury went to view the body found in the Red Barn on the 20th of April. It had not been disturbed, except that the earth had been removed from the top of it. It lay in the hole in the barn in which it had been buried. It was in the right hand bay of the barn. It was, in parts, much decomposed, parts more than others. From my examination of the body, I should have said it had been in the ground nine or ten months, or more, had I known nothing of it. The stays, flannel petticoat, shift, a handkerchief round the neck, stockings and garters, and high shoes, with portions of a leghorn bonnet, trimmed with black, (Produces a silk handkerchief.) This was found underneath her hips. This is the handkerchief I took off the neck. (The rest of the articles he mentioned the witness produced; they were nearly indistinguishable as to material or form

of article.) There was part of the sleeve of a blue coat, and the body was in part of a sack. The right hand was on the right breast. She was quite crowded down close together. It was a female body, a full grown young woman. I examined the face; it was in a very bad state, but there was an appearance of blood about it, particularly on the right side of it. I found the green striped handkerchief round her neck. It was tied in the usual way, but drawn extremely tight, so as to form a complete groove round her neck. It was apparently done for the purpose, as if it had been pulled so by some person. It was sufficiently tight, that I should say it would have killed any one. It would have produced strangulation. The hand might pass between the interior and the exterior fold of the handkerchief. There was in the neck an appearance of a stab, about an inch and a half in length; it was perpendicular. It extended deep into the neck: I cannot say what parts particularly were injured by it, the body was so putrid. There was a wen on the neck, about the middle of the neck, in front. There was an appearance of an injury having been done to the right eye, and the right side of the face. It appeared as if something had passed into the eye, deep into the orbit, injuring the bone and the nose. I think it was done in two ways; by something passing in at the left cheek and then out at the right orbit; and there was a stab also. It appeared as if a ball had passed through the left cheek, removing the two last grinders. The brain was in such a state that it was impossible to make any thing out of it. I don't think a ball so passing through would, of itself, cause death; but with the strangulation, and the stab in the neck, would have been sufficient, with the ball, to produce death. The bone dividing the nostrils was quite broken, and driven quite out of its place, apparently by the ball which had passed through. I opened the chest but did not discover any myself. There was an adhesion of the lungs to the membrane which lines the ribs on the right side. This would, in life, cause inflammation; and she would have complained of cough, with pain in the side. I found the two small pieces of bone in the throat, which might have fallen through during the progress of decomposition. They were parts of the interior of the nose, as I should think. The left hand was separated from the body; it had the appearance of a skeleton hand, and would have been pro-

duced by decomposition. I should think that the injuries, without the handkerchief, would not have caused death, possibly they might from inflammation. I have since seen the heart and the ribs. I have myself a portion of the head. The ribs and the heart were brought by Mr. Nairn, a Surgeon, to my house. I then saw where something had penetrated between the 5th and the 6th ribs, and there was a stab in the heart which corresponded with the opening in the ribs. It appeared to have been done with a sharp instrument. That injury would have been sufficient alone to produce death. I found a corresponding mark on the shift; the opening in the shift corresponded in size with that of the ribs. I saw no mark on the stays, they were too much decomposed to have seen the opening on them if there had formerly been one. I have looked at the sword which has been produced, which appears to fit the wound through the ribs and the opening in the shift. It penetrated two or three inches; it passed down the wound to that extent. I found one part of the wound wide and the other narrow, so as to correspond with the sword. The ribs were in a very tolerable state of preservation. It appeared as if the wound in the heart had been made by an instrument like this sword. I fitted it also into a wound in the spheroidal sinus: it penetrated into it about an inch. I have examined the wound in the head with a bullet. (On inquiry it turned out that no bullet had been found in the barn; but the one spoken of was found in the black reticule containing the pistols.) The bullet fitted the hole. I think the ball was first fired before the stab. I saw some blood on the shift, the stays, the handkerchief round the neck, the lawn handkerchief, and the silk handkerchief, and apparently on the bonnet. I don't recollect any part of a shawl. I took off the garters: they were made of narrow white tape. In taking hold of one of the shoes, the foot came off. The lower and upper jaw had each a tooth out; but cannot say on which side the left jaw, the one on the right I think had been out a long time. I am able to distinguish between the cavity of a tooth extracted while living, and that of one falling out by decay. I have the head here. (Jaw produced.) This is the jaw; and there are now two teeth gone; the one on the left, I think has fallen out since death, the other has been out much longer.

Cross-examined.—I am thirty in October. I have practised for myself twelve months. I was six years with

Mudd, of Gedding. I have never seen a body dissected which had been buried nine or ten months. I did not perceive the stab in the ribs, or the pistol-bullet in the barn,—this was because I could not then clean the bones sufficiently to examine so minutely. There was flesh on the face but greatly decomposed. In a wound made during life, the edges gape open: one made after death gapes very little. I opened the chest and the abdomen, in the barn. When I opened the chest, I made, myself, one wound in the heart. I am positive this was not the wound I have spoken of. The one I made was in the right ventricle, upper part of it; the other was just at the apex of the heart, between the right and left ventricle. I saw no other injury than I have spoken of; none made by a spade. The weight of the body might have tightened the handkerchief round the neck in that way, if it had been raised up by the handkerchief after death. I took the shift from the body, but saw no mark in the shift at that time. I did not look for it till I had discovered the wound in the heart. The ribs, when brought to me, had the skin on. I should have made the observations I did with respect to the body, if it had been taken from a grave in the church-yard. My judgment is formed from my own observations, unmixed with what I have heard since. I can speak with certainty, that the ball came out at the eye, from the manner in which the bones are driven; the bones are very much shattered. At the barn I did not know with certainty whether this had been done by a pistol-bullet, or was the effect of decomposition.

Re-examined.—I have seen the dissection of dead bodies for fifteen years. I could distinguish between a wound inflicted on digging up the body, and one given many months before. I believe that none of the wounds that I saw were done at the digging up of the body. I did not very particularly examine the hips when the body was taken up. The groove round the neck, produced by the handkerchief, could not have been produced by the lifting up of the body, by the external fold of the handkerchief at the discovery of the body. It might have been produced by the lifting it up in that manner just as the person was dying. From the appearance this must have been occasioned at the period of the death of the person. After cleaning the bones, I could see the injury done to them better than I could before. I have no doubt it was done by a bullet at some time or other.

Mr. Andrews then proposed to call another medical witness, in order to corroborate the testimony of the preceding one.

The *Lord Chief Baron* asked the learned counsel, whether, after the fatigue which they had all undergone during the day, he would proceed any further that night. He should conceive that the witness whom the learned gentleman had called, would not be the only witness whom he would have occasion to call in support of his case.

Mr. Andrews replied, that he certainly had other medical witnesses to call in confirmation of his case, and not only medical witnesses, but such others as were necessary to identify the different articles found on the body discovered in the barn, as articles of dress belonging to *Maria Marten*.

The *Lord Chief Baron* said, that as that was the case, he thought the hour had now arrived at which it would be expedient to adjourn the court. It was quite evident the case could not finish that night. There were several witnesses, it appeared, to be examined on the part of the prosecution; and after that there was, if he was rightly informed, (but of that he knew nothing) a defence of considerable length, to be delivered by the prisoner. After that it would be his duty to charge the Jury; and, to say nothing of other inconveniences to public justice, he must observe, that, at the end of that time, he himself should scarcely be in a condition to make those remarks on the evidence which would naturally be expected from him. In a civil case he might perhaps have been inclined to have proceeded with the trial to night; but in a case of such solemn importance to the prisoner at the bar, and of such great importance to the public in general, he could not presume to enter upon an analysis of the evidence, when they must, all of them, be so extremely fatigued. Under these circumstances he thought that they must adjourn till to-morrow morning.

It was of course determined that this adjournment should take place. The Crier then proceeded to swear in the different officers of the High Sheriff, each of whom had to remain during the night in attendance upon a juror, to prevent all communication (except among themselves) on the subject of this trial, when one of the officers refused to wait all night upon any body. The crier immediately asked him whether he was not an hired officer of the High

Sheriff; and whether he was not acting under his authority. The man, not at the moment aware of the force of his answer, did not hesitate to reply in the affirmative; whereupon the Crier informed him he had no choice—he must take the oath, or else submit to such fine as the Court, when informed of his conduct, might think proper to impose on him. The officer instantly submitted, and was sworn.

The prisoner, who had, during an early part of the day, maintained an air of indifference to his awful situation, there being generally a smile on his features, although his eye had a heavy fixedness, occasionally convulsed, with a sudden movement, betraying, with a character not to be mistaken, the emotion under which he laboured during the delivery of particular passages in the evidence, seemed to have lost a considerable part of his confidence towards the close of the day. Much of this alteration may perhaps be attributable to the fatigue incident to his situation. The fact of the alteration was however too apparent to escape observation. His attention was intensely directed towards the Surgeon during the whole of his examination.

The adjournment took place at half-past six o'clock in the evening, and the termination of the trial may be expected about the same hour on Friday,

The anxiety of the crowd outside during the day, was almost unexampled. There were few ladies within the Court, the risk of the tremendous rush being perilous enough for the other sex, but the external stone basement of the windows, particularly that behind the judge, was filled by ladies, whose curiosity throughout the day was not damped by the heavy showers of a thunder-storm, which fell in rapid succession, and pattered upon their umbrellas with a sound which once or twice interrupted the business of the Court. Several of the windows were broken by the pressure of the throng.

Corder was carried to Court between the Governor of the prison and a single attendant, in a sort of tax-cart, out of which the prisoner jumped with great alacrity. There were some hisses from the crowd, but he was in a moment removed from their presence. It was remarked in the Court during the day, that he constantly used a small pen-knife, which he took from his waistcoat pocket, to mend his pencil while taking notes. His counsel are to have a final consultation to night upon the form of his defence.

SECOND DAY.

THE arrangements of this morning, for the admission of the public, were very well managed, and the active interposition of the Governor of the Prison (Mr. Orridge) had the best effect in keeping the officers of the High Sheriff in their proper places, and preserving the avenues of the court from the pressure of that vast assemblage which yesterday poured in when the doors were opened, with a force so tremendous as to risk the limbs of those who were not sufficiently athletic for active personal resistance. We understand that the Lord Chief Baron, who was himself carried off his legs in endeavouring to pass from his carriage to the door of the Shirehall, has disavowed having given any such directions as were imputed to him yesterday, and which necessarily led to a scene of confusion and uproar exceeding any thing hitherto observed in trials of this nature. At all events, every reasonable accommodation was this day afforded to the public; and the consequence was, a befitting regularity in conducting the proceedings of the Court, and the presence of a number of ladies, whose curiosity (yesterday disappointed) was this day gratified by hearing the close of the trial.

At a quarter before nine o'clock, Corder was put to the bar. He was dressed the same as yesterday. On inquiry, it is understood his age is not 30, but about 25. He rose early in the prison, and was, during the whole of the morning before he was brought to Court, engaged in introducing some alterations in his written defence, which were suggested to him late last night by his counsel. His manner was collected, his complexion fresh, and he looked around him at times with seeming cheerfulness. He was not, however, so entirely at ease as he appeared to be early on the previous day; his head was not so erect, and he repeatedly heaved deep sighs. Immediately on being put to the bar, he put on his spectacles, folded his arms, and displayed an oscillating and swinging motion of his body, while he leaned his back against the pillar of the dock. He hung down his head frequently during the examination of the witnesses.

During the re-examination of Mr. Lawton, the surgeon, this morning, who produced the skull of the deceased, which was handed from the counsel to the jury, and exhibited so as to be observable in its fractured condition to the whole court, the prisoner, who had just taken off his spectacles, replaced them, and beheld attentively this painful spectacle—he inclined his body forward so as to command a full view of the skull; but as if the effort to sustain this attitude, and evince this expression, had become too great for his nerves, he suddenly flung his back against the pillar, hastily drew off his spectacles, and evidently laboured under the strongest emotion. In a few minutes, however, he rallied, replaced his glasses, took out his pocket-book, and quickly wrote a memorandum to his leading council Mr. Brodrick, who at once wrote a reply, which the prisoner read with close attention, and on the signification of a movement from the learned council tore it into the smallest fragments. His solicitor, at the same time, went to the front of the dock, and had a long consultation with him.

At nine o'clock precisely, the LORD CHIEF BARON took his seat, and hoped the jury had been as comfortably situated last night as was practicable.

The jury replied in the affirmative, and after their names were called over, the examination of witnesses was resumed.

John Charles Nairn, examined by M. ANDREWS.—I have been a surgeon upwards of a year, and in the profession upwards of 12 years. On the 19th of last May, I attended with Mr. Chaplin at Polstead: Baalham, the constable, was present. He disinterred a body in my presence. I examined the cavities of the chest of the body so disinterred.

MR. BRODERIC wished the identity of the body to be proved before the witness was examined respecting it.

Baalham was then called. I am parish clerk of Polstead, and screwed down the body found in the Red Barn into the coffin. The same coffin was afterwards disinterred by witness, and contained the same body.

Cross-examined.—I was not present when the body was buried, but am sure it was the same body.

Mr. Nairn re-called.—I found the internal parts of the chest in perfect preservation; so much so, that the slightest injury penetrating into it might have been observed. The heart was lying divested of its developing membrane. I

discovered a large wound in the back part of the right ventricle. I could not tell if it appeared to be a recent wound. I formed an opinion on it on my first examination, but I subsequently examined it, and I then formed an opinion that it was a recent wound. I detached the heart from its connection with the blood-vessels. I next examined the external surface of the ribs, and in the space between the fifth and sixth ribs. I discovered a wound, about three-quarters of an inch broad. My opinion was, that it was a wound of long duration, and not a recent one. I again examined the heart when I returned home, and discovered a slight wound, about two inches from the apex, corresponding with the external wound between the ribs. It appeared to have been inflicted by some sharp instrument. (Lea, the officer, produced the sword.) This sword is the most likely instrument to have inflicted such a wound. Supposing this wound to have been inflicted upon a living body, it would, in my opinion, most certainly have produced death. I have since inspected the head of the disinterred body. I have applied this sword to the wound between the ribs, and it corresponds with the wound to the extent of two or three inches. There are on the sword some marks of discolouration, about the extent of two or three inches. I examined the wound in the heart, having this sword with me; it might certainly have been made by this sword. On examining the head, I traced the progress of a ball entering into the interior and back part of the upper left jaw, and proceeding to the internal angle of the right eye. From the size of the opening, I should conclude it to have been a small pistol ball. This wound might have caused death, but the person might have survived it. I also found a fissure opening into the sphenoidal sinus, corresponding with the vertebræ. It was an opening produced by some sharp-pointed instrument; any sharp-pointed instrument would have produced it. It extended about a quarter of an inch into the sphenoidal sinus. I am not aware of any other wound on the head. The wound in the sphenoidal sinus might have occasioned death. The sword corresponds with it.

Cross-examined by Mr. BRODRICK.—This was on the 19th of May, about a month after the finding of the body in the barn. The disinterment of the body, exposure to the air, and lying in the ground, in another month would not have caused, in such a body, much additional decom-

position. I found the heart divested of the pericardium. Looking merely at the heart, and knowing nothing of the circumstance I have heard since, I should say that the wound in the right ventricle of the heart was a recent one. I should have been of opinion, independent of any thing but the inspection of the heart itself, that one was a recent and the other a more ancient one, because the smaller wound of the two had gaping edges. From the nature of the wound, I should judge that it had not been inflicted when the pericardium was removed. The apex of the living heart touches the ribs. There are cartilages connecting the ribs with the sternum, and with each other. The bones of the head were not in a state of the least decomposition. The only parts which were out of their places were those where the wounds had been inflicted by the bullet. I first saw the head after the exhumation of the body. It was shown to me by Mr. Lawton, and I don't know of my own knowledge that it was the head of the body found in the barn. A knife would have inflicted the wound on the heart.

Re-examined.—The wound was broader at that part of ribs adjoining the sternum.

Mr. Lawton, the surgeon, recalled.—The head I showed to Mr. Nairn was that belonging to the body found in the Red Barn. I assisted in removing the body from its grave in the barn, and took off the head myself. I gave it to Baalham the same afternoon: a day or two afterwards he returned it. It was the same head as the one I took from the body.

Bralham re-called.—The head which Mr. Lawton delivered to me was the same which I returned to him.

Henry Robert Chaplin, examined by Mr. KELLY.—I have been practising as a surgeon for four years. I saw the disinterred body in company with Mr. Nairn. I found the chest in good preservation. There was a wound in the right ventricle, which was first discovered. That wound appeared to be a recently-inflicted wound. I afterwards found another wound on the heart, but whether of recent infliction or not, I cannot tell from its appearance. I found a transverse wound situate between the 5th and 6th ribs, which appeared to have been inflicted by a weapon which had a broad back and a sharp edge. I did not see the sword fitted with it. The wound in the heart appeared to be a continuation of that between the ribs. The wound in the heart might have been inflicted in stripping the per-

cardium from the heart; but if the wound be a continuation of that between the ribs, it could not have been inflicted in stripping the pericardium from the heart. This is deemed a mortal wound; but whether it would have produced death or not, I do not know. I inspected the head in the possession and presence of Mr. Lawton. A bullet appeared to have traversed it. I cannot say if it entered by the orbit or made its exit from it. It could not have been produced by decomposition. I should think it would not have been a mortal wound with certainty. There was also a thrust in the eye, which was inflicted by a sharp instrument with a broad back, and might have been the same which inflicted that on the heart.

Cross-examined.—The wound on the sphenoidal sinus might have been inflicted by a sharp-pointed instrument. It was about the eighth part of an inch. If the wound in the heart had been inflicted on a living subject, it would have occasioned a great effusion of blood, unless syncope instantly took place. From the shock given to the system, there might have been no effusion of blood. It is impossible to say whether the bullet made its entry in, or its exit from the eye.

Mr. Lawton, re-called, produced the head; and with the sword and the head explained to the jury the nature of the wound on the sphenoidal sinus, and the reasons for supposing it to have been inflicted by the sword. It appeared that the sword entered by the sphenoidal sinus, traversed the mouth at the back part of the nose, and made its exit by the right eye. The sword, being applied to the supposed course of the instrument, was found to agree with the conjectured progress of the sword causing the wound. Being applied to the other eye, it was found to be impracticable to trace any opening from thence into the sphenoidal sinus.

Mr. Lawton re-examined.—There is a tooth out on each side of the upper jaw, and one out of the lower jaw. One of the upper jaw teeth had apparently dropped out; the other, and the lower tooth must, from their cavities, have been out for a length of time.

Mr. Matthews recalled.--Maria Marten had an enlargement on the centre front, which had the appearance of a wen.

Mrs. Marten, the mother, recalled. (Looks on the articles of dress found on the body taken from the Red Barn.) These are Maria's combs. I saw her with them on her

head on the 18th of last May twelvemonths. These are the ear-rings she had in her ears at the same time: they are both of them hers. This is the handkerchief (a silk one) she had round her neck the same day: this, also (a green one) was one she had on at the same time; this was next, her throat, and the silk one over it. This is a piece of a Leghorn hat: she had on a Leghorn hat when I saw her last, trimmed with black riband like this, the edges of which are the same. These are the shoes she had on. This is the ashen busk in her stays. This is part of a pair of stays. This is the sleeve of a chemise, the make of which is the same as that she had on the 18th of May, 1827, when she went to the Red Barn. [This witness was so overpowered, either by her feelings, by the effluvia of rags, or the heat of the court, that she was with difficulty preserved from fainting by the restoratives given her at the close of her examination.]

Lea, the officer, produced the velvet bag.

THE CHIEF BARON.—I don't think it is sufficiently traced to come from any place proved to belong to the prisoner.

MR. ANDREWS.—The prisoner was apprehended in the house in which this sword was, and in which was a desk, which opened by a key he himself gave the officer; and in the same room was found this bag.

THE CHIEF BARON.—I think you had better not press it.

Anne Marten, the sister of Maria, recalled.—This green handkerchief is the same that my sister went away with. This silk handkerchief she also had on at the same time. These are the same shoes. This is part of the Leghorn bonnet, trimmed with black riband. This is a piece of the bonnet she had in the bag when she went out; she had a man's on her head. These are like the combs she had in her hair at the same time. She had on a pair of ear-rings; and these are such ones as my sister went away with in her ears.

MR. ANDREWS stated to the Court that there was found in the desk, opened with the key given by the prisoner to Lea, letters directed to Corder, and also a passport for France for Corder.

The CHIEF BARON thought it safer not to receive evidence of this, especially as, in a case of this nature, all doubtful points ought, from the importance of this trial to the prisoner, to be decided in his favour.

The prisoner here bowed his gratitude to his Lordship. Marten, the father, re-called.—The soil in the barn is a dryish, little gravelly, and stony soil.

Mrs Marten, recalled, proved that her daughter wore white narrow tape garters.

Mr. Matthews proved that Maria Marten was able to write very well.

This was the case on the part of the prosecution.

The prisoner being called on for his defence, advanced to the front of the bar, took out some papers, and read nearly as follows with a very tremulous voice :

“ I am informed that by the law of England, the counsel for a prisoner is not allowed to address the jury, though the counsel for the Crown is allowed that privilege. While I deplore, as much as any human being can, the fatal event which has caused this inquiry, let me entreat you to dismiss from your minds the publications of the public press, from the time of its first promulgation to this hour, let me entreat you, let me dissuade you, if I can, from being influenced by the horrid and disgusting details which have for months issued from the public press—a powerful engine for fixing the opinions of large classes of the community, but which is too often I fear, though unintentionally, the cause of affixing slander upon innocence. I have been described as a monster, who, while meditating becoming the husband of this girl to whom I was evincing an affectionate attachment, was actually premeditating and plotting the perpetration of this horrid crime. With such misrepresentations it was natural, perhaps, to expect that an unfavourable impression should have been created against me, and the more so when the accusation went beyond the present case, and was connected with other crimes well calculated to excite prejudice against me. It is natural you should come to this trial with feelings of prejudice, but as you expect peace and serenity of mind at home, I implore you to banish from your minds all the horrible accusations which have been promulgated, and give your verdict on the evidence alone. Consider, gentlemen, that the attorney for the prosecution is also the coroner before whom the inquest was taken; and his conduct, in refusing my being present at the inquest, is conduct which you cannot approve. Since my committal the coroner has been again at Polstead—has got up additional evidence. My solicitor pressed for a copy of the depo-

sitions, which were refused. In consequence of these unjust proceedings, I never heard one of the witnesses examined, and cannot therefore have come prepared as I ought to be. The coroner thus acting in his double capacity, was likely enough, when meditating to act as an attorney for the prosecution, to have entertained impressions inconsistent for the fit discharge of his inquisitorial inquiry; and again, as attorney for the prosecution, he was liable to be diverted from the fulfilment of his duties as coroner, so that I was in this respect on the threshold of enquiry, exposed to disadvantages from which I ought to have been saved. This, however, was not all: my solicitor remonstrated; he was not only refused copies of the depositions, but the attorney for the prosecution, without any notice to me, has visited Polstead, and taken examinations upon oath of the different witnesses, and come to this trial prepared with evidence taken behind my back, and pruned down to suit the exaggerations of this case. I therefore am brought to be tried for my life without any fair knowledge of the evidence against me. In consequence of this unjust proceeding on the part of the coroner, how can I controvert, as I might have done were I allowed to hear the witnesses, equivocal facts and highly coloured statements, of which I am for the first time informed when brought to trial for my life? Were witnesses to be privately examined, and their evidence clandestinely obtained? It has been well observed that truth is sometime stronger than fiction. Never was this assertion better exemplified than in this hapless instance. In a few short months I have been deprived of all my brothers, and my father recently before that period. I have heard the evidence, and am free to say that, unexplained, it may cause great suspicion, but you will allow me to explain it. Proceeding, my lord and gentlemen, to the real facts of this case, I admit that there is evidence calculated to excite suspicion, but these facts are capable of explanation; and convinced as I am of my entire innocence, I have to entreat you to listen to my true and simple detail of the real facts of the death of this unfortunate woman. I was myself so stupified and overwhelmed with the strange and disastrous circumstance, and on that account so unhappily driven to the necessity of immediate decision, that I acted with fear instead of judgment, and I did that which any innocent man might have done under such

unhappy circumstances. I concealed the appalling occurrence, and was, as is the misfortune of such errors, subsequently driven to sustain the first falsehoods by others, and to persevere in a system of delusion which furnished the facts concealed for a long time. At first I gave a false account of the death of the unfortunate Maria. I am now resolved to disclose the truth, regardless of the consequences. To conceal her pregnancy from my mother, I took lodgings at Sudbury: she was delivered of a male child, which died in a fortnight in the arms of Mrs. Marten, although the newspapers have so perverted that fact; and it was agreed between Mrs. Marten, Maria, and me, that the child should be buried in the fields. There was a pair of small pistols in the bed-room, Maria knew they were there. I had often showed them to her. Maria took them away from me. I had some reason to suspect she had some correspondence with a gentleman, by whom she had a child, in London. Though her conduct was not free from blemish, I at length yielded to her entreaties, and agreed to marry her, and it was arranged we should go to Ipswich, and procure a licence and marry. Whether I said there was a warrant out against her I know not. It has been proved that we had many words, and that she was crying when she left the house. Gentlemen, this was the origin of the fatal occurrence. I gently rebuked her; we reached the barn; while changing her dress she flew into a passion, upbraided me with not having so much regard for her as the gentleman before alluded to. Feeling myself in this manner so much insulted and irritated, when I was about to perform every kindness and reparation, I said 'Maria, if you go on in this way before marriage, what have I to expect after? I shall therefore stop when I can, I will return straight home, and you can do what you like, and act just as you think proper.' I said I would not marry her. In consequence of this I retired from her, when I immediately heard the report of a gun or pistol, and running back I found the unhappy girl weltering on the ground. Recovering from my stupor, I thought to have left the spot; but I endeavoured to raise her from the ground, but found her entirely lifeless. To my horror I discovered the pistol was one of my own she had privately taken from my bed-room. There she lay, killed by one of my own pistols, and I the only being by! My faculties were suspended. I knew not what to do. The instant

the mischief happened I thought to have made it public, but this would have added to the suspicion, and I then resolved to conceal her death. I then buried her in the best way I could. I tried to conceal the fact as well as I could, giving sometimes one reason for her absence, and sometimes another. It may be said, why not prove this by witnesses? Alas! how can I? How can I offer any direct proof how she possessed herself of my pistols, for I found the other in her reticule. That she obtained them cannot be doubted. All I can say as to the stabs is, that I never saw one; and I believe the only reason for the surgeons talking of them is, that a sword was found in my possession. I can only account for them by supposing that the spade penetrated her body when they searched for the body in the barn. This I know, that neither from me, nor from herself, did she get any stab of this description. I always treated her with kindness, and had intended to marry her. What motive, then, can be suggested for my taking her life? I could have easily gotten over the promise of marriage. Is it possible I could have intended her destruction in this manner? We went, in the middle of the day, to a place surrounded by cottages. Would this have been the case had I intended to have murdered her? Should I have myself furnished the strongest evidence that has been adduced against me? I might, were I a guilty man, have suppressed the time and place of her death, but my plain and unconcealed actions, because they were guiltless, supplied both. Had I intended to perpetrate so dreadful a crime, would I have kept about me some of the articles which were known to be Maria's? Had I sought her life, could I have acted in such a manner? Had I, I would have chosen another time and place. Look at my conduct since. Did I run away? No! I lived, months and months, with my mother. I left Polstead in consequence of my family afflictions. I went to the Isle of Wight. It is said that the passport was obtained to enable me to leave England at any time. No, it was to enable me to visit some friends of my wife's in Paris. Should I have kept her property, had I anything to fear from their detection? In December last, I advertised in *The Times* newspaper the sale of my house, and gave my name and address at full length. Did this look like concealment? You will consider any man innocent till his guilt is fully proved. It now rests with you to restore me

society, or to an ignominious death. To the former I feel I am entitled—against the latter I appeal to your justice and humanity. I have nothing more to add, but that I leave my life in your hands, aware that you will give me the humane benefit of the law in cases of doubt, and that your Lordship will take a compassionate view of the melancholy situation in which my misfortunes have placed me.”

The above was the substance of the prisoner's address. It was delivered, in many parts, in a feeble and tremulous tone of voice, and under considerable emotion. It is clear, from the pronunciation of particular words, that the prisoner is not a man of particular education. He trembled a good deal, but not more than a nervous man would in a moment of excitement. He read the address from a copy-book, and, whether from the composition not being his own, or his being near-sighted, he stammered over several words, and infringed the order of the sentences. He was heard with the utmost silence and attention by the Court and the jury, and he occasionally drew his eyes from the book and fixed them on the jury-box, as if to ascertain the impression he had made. Towards the close of his address his voice faltered, so as in particular passages to be nearly inaudible. His address, which was delivered between 11 and 12 o'clock, occupied the Court about twenty-five minutes.

Witnesses for the Defence.

William Goodwin.—I live in Plough-lane, Sudbury. The prisoner, in the spring of last year, came to take apartments at my house. Maria Marten afterwards came and lay in there. They were there between two and three months. She was delivered of a child there. The prisoner came once or twice a week to see her, as well after as before her confinement. When I saw them together, I know nothing to the contrary of his appearing fond of her. She went, before or after her confinement, to Mr. Harcourt's, the gun-smith, at Sudbury. I remember their leaving my place at nine o'clock in the evening in a one-horse chaise. This was on the 16th of April. They took the little child with them.

Cross-Examined.—I do not know Mr. Harcourt of Ipswich.

Mary Anne Goodwin, wife of the last witness —I knew

Maria Marten, who lodged with me in March, 1827; she was brought by the prisoner. She was confined there, and was there better than two months. The prisoner frequently came to visit her; he never missed coming once a week. He treated her always with kindness, and they appeared very much attached to each other. She was generally in very bad spirits. I heard her say she went for the pistols to the shop where they were.

Cross Examined.—She went for them alone to Mr. Harcourt's.

Thomas Hardy.—I was in the employ of Mrs. Corder last year. In February, last year, I saw the prisoner cleaning pistols. I saw Maria Marten on the 13th of May with the prisoner, walking across the yard towards the stable. There are two stair-cases in Mrs. Corder's house, and a person may go up to what was the prisoner's room by one of them, without Mrs. Corder's knowing any thing about it.

Cross-Examined.—It was at nine o'clock in the evening that I saw them going to the stable.

Lucy Baalham.—I lived with Mrs. Corder eleven months, till last Old Michaelmas-day. I have seen a pair of pistols in the prisoner's bed-room, sometimes in a box and sometimes out of it. The prisoner remained with his mother till about a fortnight before I left. He always appeared a very kind and good-natured young man.

Edward Liveing.—I am a surgeon of Nayland, near Polstead. I have attended him professionally. About this time last year I advised him to leave that part of the country and to go to a warm bathing-place, particularly mentioning Hastings and the south coast. He was then strongly threatened with consumption. Some time after that I understood he was gone.

Thirza Havers.—I have known the prisoner from his infancy. I have always found him to be a kind and humane man.

John Bugg.—I was the looker of Mrs. Corder's farm. He always bore the character of a mild and humane man.

John Pryke, (a schoolfellow of the prisoner), and *Mary Kersey*, who had known him from his infancy, gave him the same character.

By Mr. Kelly.—Are you related to the prisoner?—His cousin.

By Mr. Brodrick.—And has that circumstance made

you more intimately acquainted with him and his character than you would otherwise have been?—It has, sir.

John Boreham and John Bralham gave similar evidence.

At twenty minutes to twelve the *Lord Chief Baron* began to sum up the case. He informed the jury that the prisoner at the bar was indicted for the murder of *Maria Marten*, and that the law required that the mode in which she had come to her death should be particularly stated in the indictment. The present indictment therefore contained the charge against the prisoner in a great variety of ways. It stated, that the deceased had come to her death by means of the prisoner,—first, by a discharge of fire-arms,—then by wounds inflicted by a sharp instrument,—then by strangulation,—and last of all, by being buried alive in the ground. This was done in order to have the indictment supported by evidence in whatever way the evidence might turn out; and if the jury should be of opinion, that the prisoner at the bar had caused the death of *Maria Marten* by one, or two, or three of the modes mentioned in the indictment, then they would have sufficient evidence to support the purposes of this indictment, and the Crown would have a right to expect that they would find the prisoner guilty upon it. Before he entered upon the details of the case, he felt it to be his duty to advert to something which had been said by the prisoner as to the prejudices which had been raised against him both in this county and throughout the country generally. It was unfortunate, extremely unfortunate, whenever such prejudices were raised; for they placed the life of the prisoner more in jeopardy than the ordinary circumstances of the case against him. Sorry, indeed, was he to say, that, as society was constituted at present, they could not be avoided. Accounts of this transaction, it appeared, had also found their way into the newspapers. Those accounts only related to the charge at the commencement of the business: they contained an *ex parte* statement of it, without giving the prisoner an opportunity of urging any thing in his defence against it; and that was certainly a mischief, and an injury to him. The jury, however, had a more impartial task to perform: they had to decide this issue by hearing the evidence on both sides. whereas hitherto the public had heard only one side. “We have also been told,” said the venerable Judge, “that drawings and placards have been dispersed, not only in the neigh-

bourhood of this town, but also in the immediate neighbourhood of this very hall, tending to the manifest detriment of the prisoner at the bar. Such a practice is so indecorous and so unjust, that I can with difficulty bring myself to believe that any person, even in the very lowest class, will so far degrade himself as to think of deriving gain from the exhibition of this melancholy transaction. Another circumstance, to which the prisoner has alluded in his defence, and which I trust, for the sake of religion itself, is a mistake—another circumstance which I feel myself bound to notice, is the assertion that a minister of the Gospel, quitting the place where he usually performed divine worship, and erecting his pulpit near the very scene of this melancholy tragedy, had there endeavoured to inflame the passions and to excite the resentment of the populace against the prisoner, when he knew nothing of his having had any share in it except from rumour, thus inflaming them against a crime which was not then known to have been committed, and exciting their resentment against an individual who was not proved to have committed it. I cannot conceive any act more contrary to the spirit and the principles of that religion of which he professes himself a minister; and if we have been rightly informed of his conduct, the man who could commit such an act deserves the most severe reprobation. I do not know who the individual is who is stated to have misconducted himself so much. I hope we are all labouring under some mistake on this point, and that this outrage upon decency has not been committed. I mention it merely to request you to tear from your bosoms every impression which may have been made in them from such a source. I call upon you to dismiss from your consideration every impression of this case which you may have derived, either from seeing the statements in the newspapers, or the drawings and placards in the streets, or from hearing the sermon—if I may dignify it by that name—pronounced in the place where, and on the occasion when, this murder was discovered. It is for you to decide entirely upon the evidence which has been adduced before you, giving to the case for the prosecution that weight which public justice demands that it should receive at your hands, and to the case for the prisoner that weight which a due regard for his life and interests equally demands for you. That is my most earnest recommen-

dation to you, gentlemen of the jury; and I trust—indeed I am certain—that you will pay to it requisite attention. The course which has just been taken by the prisoner, who has been very ably advised, as we all know, renders it unnecessary for me to state much of the evidence which we have now been engaged two days in receiving. If the defence had taken a different turn from that it has taken, I should have thought it my duty to ask you, first of all, whether you were convinced that *Maria Marten* had been destroyed at all, either by the prisoner at the bar or by any one else; and then, whether you were convinced that the body discovered in the barn was her body or not. In that case, I should have pointed out to you how uncertain the identification of the body was from the state of decomposition in which it was found; and yet I should have stated to you that there were strong circumstances tending to prove its identity with *Maria Marten*,—as, for instance, the excrescence or wen on the neck, and the different articles of dress which had been spoken to as hers from their not having undergone so much decomposition as the human substance. All these remarks, however, are now rendered unnecessary—for the prisoner avows to us in his defence that the body discovered in the barn is the body of *Maria Marten*. I am therefore relieved from the necessity of addressing you upon that part of the case, as it is admitted to you by the prisoner himself, that the body, of which the discovery has given rise to this trial, is the body of *Maria Marten* for whose murder he is indicted. The prisoner admits that he buried her in the barn, and we are therefore relieved from one of the difficulties of this case. The next part of the evidence to which I shall call your attention is, that which regards the different accounts which the prisoner gave, after the disappearance of *Maria Marten*, of the various places at which she was living; for those accounts have some bearing upon his defence. I might, perhaps, be relieved from the necessity of alluding to that part of the evidence altogether; but the manner of the prisoner's avowal may, when closely considered, be of some avail in enabling us to discover the truth of his statement, that her death was occasioned by a voluntary act of suicide on her part. I shall not omit reading any of the evidence which has reference to this point, unless you, gentlemen, state to me that in your opinion it is unnecessary for me to read it." The learned

judge then proceeded to read the evidence of *Mrs. Marten*; when he came to that part of it in which *Mrs. Marten* swore that *Corder* said, "*Mrs. Marten*, the reason I go to Ipswich to-day is because *John Baalham*, the constable, came into the stable this morning and informed me that he had got a letter from *Mr. Whitmore*, of London, and that in that letter there was a warrant to have *Maria* taken up to be prosecuted for her bastard children." the learned Judge observed that this was very important evidence, as it bore directly upon the prisoner's defence; it showed that he was endeavouring to seduce her away from her home by holding out to her a terror which had no existence in reality. The jury would consider how far this was, or was not evidence to contradict the statement of the prisoner. It appeared also from the evidence of *Mrs. Marten*, that *Maria Marten* was very low spirited on setting out for the Red Barn, and had been so for some time previously. That circumstance ought by no means to be forgotten by the jury in considering this case. He likewise called their attention to the circumstance of *Mrs. Marten's* having deposed that *Corder* snapped his pistols, before he set out for the Red Barn, twice or thrice by the fire-side, in the presence of her whole family—a circumstance which proved that at that time the pistols were rather in the possession of the prisoner than of *Maria Marten*. The learned Judge then proceeded to read and comment upon the evidence of *Thomas Marten*, the father, and particularly on that part of it, in which the old man said, that in seeking for the body, he put in a spike about her hip, but that the smallest end of it was about the size of the end of his little finger, and that it grew broader as it went upwards. The learned Judge, after commenting on the evidence given by the other witnesses, till he came to that of *Lea*, the police-officer, said that he was glad to find from his testimony that the depositions were read over to the prisoner in his presence by the coroner after the inquest, and observed, that that was a point on which he would make a few remarks before he closed his address to them. He likewise observed, that it was very extraordinary, if the statement which the prisoner had that day made were true, that he had not said a syllable about it to *Lea* at the time when he was apprehended; but that he had repeatedly asserted, that he never knew any thing of any such person as

Maria Marten, though he was then formally informed that he was accused of having murdered her. The learned Judge again repeated that he was glad that the depositions had been read over to the prisoner by the coroner in the jury-room at Polstead after the inquest, as it took away the sting of the accusation which he had made against the coroner. On coming to the evidence of *Mr. Lawton*, the surgeon, he particularly called the attention of the jury to the evidence which that gentleman had given respecting the fracture of the skull of *Maria Marten* by a pistol ball, respecting the wounds in her neck, heart, and ribs, by a sharp instrument, and respecting the possibility of her having died by strangulation from the tightness of the handkerchief round her neck. They had heard it that day asserted, that this poor woman had committed suicide; but even according to the story which they had heard, it was very strange that immediately on being left alone she should use such various instruments to destroy herself; for it appeared, in the first place, that she must have fired a pistol at herself, and then, either before or after firing it, have given herself sundry stabs in different parts of her body. It would be the duty of the jury to consider what credit they would give to the statements made by the medical witnesses about the stabs in the neck and in the heart; and then, if they gave credit to them, to consider what inferences they ought to draw from them, as to the story which had that day been told to them by the prisoner at the bar. The jury had heard the defence, in which the prisoner admitted the body discovered in the barn to be the body of *Maria Marten*, and to have been buried by himself. He admitted that the representations which he had made to several persons of her being alive, after her disappearance from her father's cottage, were untrue; but he said that he had found it necessary to make them in consequence of the alarm which he necessarily felt from a catastrophe of the following nature:—He said that on the 18th of May he and *Maria* set out from old *Marten's* cottage for the Red Barn, in order to go to Ipswich to get married. That they quarrelled at that barn. That she used very violent language to him. That he told her that if she used such language to him before marriage, he could not expect to be happy with her after marriage. That he had told her that he would not marry her. That

he then left her. That hearing the report of a pistol in the barn, he returned to it, and that he then found her there mortally wounded. He likewise said, that being alarmed at the extraordinary catastrophe which he saw before him, he buried her, and in this manner he attempted to account for the representations which he afterwards made about her being alive. Now, it was upon the truth of his representations of to-day that they had to decide; and he would therefore give no opinion of his own upon the point. The learned Judge then read the evidence given on the part of the defence in support of the mild and humane temper of the prisoner. On closing the evidence as to character, he observed that he had only one remark to make upon it; and that was, that in opposition to direct evidence as to facts, it was of no avail; it was only when the balance of evidence was equal that it proved of service to the accused. He would not trouble them with many further observations upon this case, because he was sure that their own good sense, after the patient attention which they had paid to the evidence, would furnish them with all the observations that were necessary. A complaint, however, had been made with respect to the conduct of the coroner, which it was requisite for him to notice. He was of opinion, that when the depositions taken before the coroner were read over by the coroner to the prisoner after the inquest, the prisoner had received all the advantage to which he was entitled as a matter of right. The object of the coroner's inquest was not to charge any person with the murder, its object was to ascertain how the death had happened. The inquest was conducted by the crown as the guardian of the lives of all the subjects of the country, and, strictly speaking, a person accused had no right to be present at it. If a man were found guilty of murder on the coroner's inquest, it would be hard if he were not allowed to know the evidence on which he was declared to be so; but when that evidence was communicated to him, he had no right to complain. Now it appeared from the evidence of *Lea*, that in this particular case the depositions had been read over to the prisoner *Corder* by the coroner. The prisoner had, therefore, all the information necessary for him to shape his defence on this trial, so as to meet the evidence to be produced against him. It was, he believed, usual at coroner's

inquests to allow the parties likely to be implicated by them to be present, if they desired it; but not, he repeated, as a matter of right. The real question for their decision in this case was this,—“Are the representations made this day by the prisoner true or false?” If the jury should be of opinion that they were true, then the prisoner was entitled to an acquittal. His representation was, that the deceased had shot herself with his pistols, which she had got into her possession; and the evidence showed that they were on one occasion in her possession at Sudbury; but there was no evidence to show that she had continued in separate possession of the pistols, but much to show that she had not. The prisoner wished to have it supposed that she had carried these pistols in her pocket to the Red Barn. Now, the prisoner had seen the mother and sister of *Maria Marten*, in the witness-box and he might have cross-examined them upon that point. But no one question had been put to them to show that *Maria Marten* had those pistols previously to leaving her father's cottage. So far as they had any evidence at all respecting the pistols, they appeared to have been in the prisoner's possession, and not in hers—for he had been seen snapping them before the fire. What had struck him from the beginning of the defence to the end as the most extraordinary feature in it was, the manner in which this alleged suicide was committed. It often happened that these poor girls, when disappointed in their expectations, did lay rash hands on themselves; but then the mode of their death was in general very simple. In this case, if they were to credit the evidence of the surgeons, the wounds inflicted on the body of *Maria Marten* were of a double description. There were, first, the wounds in the eye, and in the cheek, inflicted by a ball; and then the wounds inflicted with a sharp instrument, that was broader on one side than the other, on the heart and ribs, and the wound inflicted with a similar instrument on the vertebræ of the neck behind the skull. It was extraordinary that instead of hanging herself upon a tree, as poor girls usually did in such circumstances, she should have used two different means to kill herself,—the one by shooting herself with a pistol, which was a very unusual weapon for a woman to kill herself with; and the other by stabbing herself with a sharp instrument. The jury must decide on the credibility of the medical

witnesses, who ventured to speak as to these two distinct causes of *Maria Marten's* death, independently of the third mode of death by strangulation, to which one of them had spoken; and then, if they decided that the wounds had been inflicted in the manner in which the surgeons described, they must decide how far it was possible that such multifarious wounds were inflicted by herself. These were the facts of the case as proved in evidence; and he trusted in God that they would lead them to a proper decision upon it. If they had any doubt upon it, they would give the prisoner the benefit of it; but if they were satisfied that his representations were false, and that the crime of murder on *Maria Marten* had been committed by him, then it would be their duty, serving their country manfully and discharging faithfully the solemn oath which they had sworn, to bring in a verdict of guilty against the prisoner, regardless of the consequences by which it might be followed.

The Foreman of the Jury then addressed the Court on behalf of his fellow jurors, and said that they wished to retire, as the case required some time to be spent in deliberation upon it.

The *Lord Chief Baron* immediately ordered a bailiff to be sworn to attend to them, and at twenty-five minutes to two the jury retired.

At ten minutes past two, they came back into court, and their Foreman returned a verdict of *Guilty* against the prisoner.

At this moment, and in the short interval which elapsed between the declaration of the verdict and the declaration of the sentence of the Court, a slight confusion arose before the bar where the prisoner was standing, relative to the possession of the pistols by which the murder was committed. *Lea*, the officer, claimed them as his property, in consequence of a promise which he had received from the prisoner when he first apprehended him; *Mr. Orridge* claimed them as the property of the Sheriff, in consequence of the verdict which had just been recorded against the prisoner. *Mr. Orridge* remained in possession of them, as the contest was stopped by the crier's proclaiming silence, as the *Lord Chief Baron* was going to pass sentence on the prisoner.

The prisoner was then asked in the usual form, whe-

ther he had to say any thing why he should not die according to law. On his saying nothing,

The *Lord Chief Baron* addressed him in the following terms:—"William Corder, it is now my painful duty to announce to you the near approach of the close of your mortal career. You have been accused of murder, which is almost the highest offence that can be found in the whole of the long catalogue of crime. You denied your guilt, and put yourself on your deliverance to the country. After a long, a patient, and an impartial trial, the country has decided against you, and most justly. You stand convicted of an aggravated breach of the great prohibition of the Almighty Creator of mankind, 'Thou shalt do no murder.' The law of this country, in concurrence with the law of all civilized countries, enforces this prohibition of God by exacting from the criminal who has violated it, the forfeiture of his own life. And as this offence indicates the highest degree of cruelty to its unfortunate victim, and as it is dangerous to the peace, the order, and the security of society, justice assumes upon it her severest aspect, and allows no emotion of pity to shield the criminal from the punishment awarded to it both by the laws of God and by the laws of man. I advise you not to flatter yourself with any hopes of mercy upon earth. You sent this unfortunate woman to her account without giving her any time for preparation. She had no time to turn her eyes to the Throne of Grace for mercy and forgiveness. She had no time given her to repent of her many transgressions. She had no time to throw herself upon her knees and to implore for pardon at the Eternal Throne. The same measure is not meted out to you; a small interval is allowed you for preparation. Use it well; for the scene of this world closes upon you; but another and, I hope, a better world is opening for you. Remember the lessons of religion which you received in the early years of your childhood: consider the effects that may be produced by a sincere repentance—listen to the advice of the ministers of your religion, who will, I trust, console and advise you how best to meet the sharp ordeal which you must presently undergo. Nothing remains for me now to do, but to pass upon you the awful sentence of the law. That sentence is, that you be taken back to the prison from which you came, and that you be taken thence, on

Monday next, to the place of execution, and there be hanged by the neck till you are dead, and that your body shall afterwards be dissected and anatomized, and the Lord God Almighty have mercy on your soul!"

The *Lord Chief Baron* who was evidently much affected, then retired from the Court.

DEMEANOUR OF THE PRISONER DURING THE SUMMING UP OF THE LEARNED JUDGE, AND THE SENTENCE.

To prevent breaking in too much upon the uniformity of our narrative, we have deemed it right to subjoin to the trial itself an account of his behaviour during the latter part of it.

The prisoner paid the most eager attention to the earlier part of the summing up, in which his Lordship stated the indictment, and the necessity the law has imposed, of proving, to the satisfaction of the jury, that the death of the person has been occasioned by one of the means laid in the indictment: but when the *Chief Baron* told the jury that if they were satisfied that the death arose from any one, two, or more of the wounds inflicted on the body, and that those wounds were inflicted by the prisoner, they should find him guilty, his countenance fell, and he was apparently for some time in a state of stupor. He repeatedly bowed during the time the judge besought the jury to forget all the rumours and reports they had heard, and not to allow themselves to be influenced by the atrocious fact, if true, of a clergyman having preached to 5,000 persons in the immediate neighbourhood of the scene, a sermon, in which the prisoner was treated as the murderer. The *Chief Baron's* observations respecting the probable motive of the prisoner in enticing the deceased from her mother's house under the false statement that the constable had a warrant against her for a bastard child, made the strongest impression on the prisoner, whose countenance underwent several changes during the time. At one period, during the statement of the extraordinary conversation of *Corder* with *Mrs. Stow*, as to the number of children *Maria* had, her having brought forth her fated number, and his observation that "she was where he could go any day or hour he pleased, and that when he was not present with

her nobody else was," the prisoner appeared almost in a fainting state, a transient paleness was visible in his countenance, his eyes rolled rapidly in their sockets, he heaved very deep sighs, and laid his head on the bar against which he had been previously leaning. In a few minutes, however, he recovered his self-possession, and resumed his former position, which was, leaning against the upright post, placing both hands on the spiked boarding before him, and fixing his eyes on the ground, raising them only when the judge made remarks on the evidence. The mention of the letters seemed to agitate him considerably, and he sighed heavily; but the feeling quickly passed away, and he seemed to be relieved greatly by the learned judge not reading them. He was also much agitated when the evidence of *Lea* was read as to his denying knowledge of such a person as *Maria Marten*; and the remarks of the *Chief Baron* that he did not at once, on being told that her body was found in his barn, acknowledge that he knew her and that she had destroyed herself, and been buried there, instead of denying any knowledge of her, caused a momentary faintness and swimming of his eyes. He again recovered himself, but almost immediately on the allusion to his getting the sword sharpened, he was near falling, but was upheld by the gaoler. He, however, from this time, evidently grew gradually weaker and less composed. During the reading the important evidence of the surgeons, he moved uneasily from side to side, seemingly unable to maintain his self-possession without continual change of position. He more than once drank some cold water, which was given to him by the gaoler. He evidently felt that the whole of his defence was overturned by the evidence of the surgeons of the various wounds found on the person of the deceased, and large drops of perspiration started from his forehead. The next remarkable change the prisoner underwent was, to a state of stupor, which continued for some length of time, his eyes remaining perfectly fixed and immovable, and his arms crossed. After remaining some time in this state, he again laid his left cheek on the post, and appeared to be fainting. Recovering from this syncope, he laid his head upon his hands, and seemed dreadfully agitated for some minutes; but from the beginning of the last surgeon's evidence to its conclusion, he scarcely continued a minute in any one

position, perpetually shifting from side to side, his head generally lying either very much on one side, or on his breast. From first to last, however, it was observed that he never shed a tear; but this may of course be attributed to his anxious attention to the investigation. One of the witnesses called by the prisoner, *Mrs. Havers*, a very pretty young woman, was frequently in tears during the detail of the evidence. He seemed to think the learned Judge would dwell at length upon his defence, and prepared himself, by a vigorous effort, to attend to the remarks he expected to hear on the subject. When, however, the Chief Baron passed over his story, by a bare statement of its principal points, and made not a single remark on it, but proceeded to read the evidence of his own witnesses, he relapsed into his former state of stupor and faintness, and so continued till the end of the charge. On the jury retiring to consider of his fate, he sat down on the bar in the dock, and leant his head against the beam on which he had previously rested his back. As each of the jurymen passed him, he cast upon them a piercing glance of the most intense interest. During the time of their absence, nothing could be more disconsolate and desponding than his appearance. On the jury returning into court, he once more resumed his standing position. On hearing the Foreman pronounce the fatal word "guilty," he raised his hand slowly to his forehead, pressed it for a moment, and then dropped it most dejectedly. His head immediately afterwards fell drooping upon his bosom. During the passing of the sentence his firmness still continued in some degree, but at the close of it, he would have sunk to the ground, had he not been prevented by the compassionate attention of the governor of the gaol. He then sobbed loudly and convulsively for some moments, and was almost carried out of court by *Mr. Orridge*, and one of his attendants. Indeed, it was evident to all that at this moment his faculties, both mental and bodily, were completely paralyzed. It was said that immediately after he quitted the dock, he fainted away; but we were given to understand that this was not the case. Shortly afterwards he was seen in the lock-up near to the court with his head buried in his hands, which rested on his knees, and labouring acutely under severe mental emotions. After the court was cleared, he was removed to the county gaol.

The culprit, on his removal from Court, made a great effort to rally, even after the palpable extinction of his self-possession at the breaking up of the Court—so much so, indeed, that even some of those about his person imagined his emotion had been assumed, for the purpose of exciting a sympathy from superficial observers, which even he, degraded as he was, must have known would be denied to him by every well-constituted mind. It is even said that some unfortunate females of his family had been so deluded by representations similar to the pitiful fiction of his defence, that they were even preparing for his return to that decent condition of society, which he had with such unparalleled atrocity disgraced and dishonoured by the flagrant violation of all those household duties which reflect a peculiar character upon the middle classes of society in this country. But the attempts to sustain this mere physical insensibility, evidently required a forced excitement—he jumbled himself into the cart on his return from the court to the prison, which is half a mile distant, more like a man who wanted to escape from the public gaze, than to invite its attention by any assumption of bravado. The crowd, who in their eagerness to catch a glimpse at every character, notorious for good or bad, oppose every obstacle which impedes the gratification of this curiosity, had broken the steps of the cart, in their efforts to get a close peep at the criminal, so that when he returned to the gaol, he had either to jump to the ground, or be assisted in his descent. He preferred the former, and alighted upon his legs on the threshold of the prison, with some appearance at least of renewed alacrity. He had returned however to the gaol in a different character from that in which he had left it. All the presumptions and reservations which the humane policy of our law sometimes throw around a prisoner whose life is at stake were removed, and he had yesterday evening to re-enter the wall of his prison, for the few hours which were counted to him in this world, as a person who was no longer to be mentioned among his species, and whose annihilation was doomed by the common injunction of every civilized community. This retributive change of circumstances removed him from a convenient apartment in the front of the prison, to a cell in the rear, and exchanged a dress of fashionable attire, for the common gaol apparel. The Governor of the prison (who is represented

to be a humane and considerate man) led him, first upon his return as a condemned criminal, into his private apartment, where he (probably fresh with the recollection of the suicide of a recent convict) plainly, but mildly, informed the prisoner, he must forthwith exchange the whole of his apparel, because his (the governor's) situation with reference to him, had now become one of great responsibility, and he had a serious duty to discharge, which he was however ready to perform with every attention to the rational wants of a prisoner in his awful situation. Corder immediately changed his clothes for those which were supplied to him from the prison stock, having previously given to his solicitor from his pocket his written defence, and some other papers. His penknife the governor took charge of, and a gentleman present remarked to Corder, that the evidence against him was too conclusive to be parried by any external appearances of evasion, and that it was due to his family and society to deliver his mind of the facts. To this provident suggestion the criminal gave no reply, and the only desire he expressed was to be allowed the society of his wife, who has been for a short time in lodgings in the town. The governor repeated to him that he should have every consolation which his situation and the rules of the prison permitted; but that henceforth he could see nobody except in his presence or that of one of his officers, and that his own clothes should be at his disposal in exchange for those which he was at present under the necessity of substituting for them, on the day when he was to be brought out to die. At four o'clock Corder received some dinner from the governor's table, and a clergyman was sent for to afford him the solace (should he prove susceptible of it) of spiritual consolation.

His mother and sister were said to be in the immediate neighbourhood of the town, anxious to wait the result of the trial, and his wife was, as we have already said, on the spot, under the expectation, as it was publicly said, of his deliverance, to which, in pity for the feelings of others, it is no longer seasonable more particularly to allude.

When some allusion was made to the impropriety of allowing him to retain his pen-knife, (which, however, the Governor took from him yesterday), he said there was no danger to be apprehended in that respect, for he had no desire to add one sin to another. This was the only ten-

dency towards any thing like confession which the prisoner disclosed yesterday evening. Two inmates of the prison, who are represented as being of serious and prudent characters, are to remain in Corder's cell until the time of his execution. A passage is preparing through the wall immediately adjoining the cell to the open paddock behind the gaol, where execution will be done upon the prisoner at twelve o'clock on Monday.

It is a singular feature in the origin of this inquiry, that *Mrs. Marten*, the step-mother of the deceased, persisted before the Grand Jury, in the story of the dream which had two or three times haunted her, that *Maria's* body would be found buried in *Corder's* barn. The natural solution of this impression on the mind of the poor woman, may be traced to her anxiety about her daughter's mysterious and unaccountable disappearance, coupled with the conduct of the prisoner himself, which, preying upon the mind of a person in her situation, was calculated to inspire such apprehensions as are sometimes (beneficially in this instance) evoked through the medium of dreams of this kind. The counsel at neither side alluded to the evidence of this singular operation of mind of the poor woman, not wishing to encourage what are commonly considered superstitious allusions, in a case too pregnant with strong facts and circumstances to admit of any doubt in arriving at a just and safe conclusion.

CONDUCT SINCE CONFINEMENT.

Bury St Edmund's, Sunday, 12 o'clock.

What passed between Mr. Orridge, the governor of the gaol, and Corder, on his removal from the court after he received his sentence, has already been stated. After that conversation, the wretched culprit was confined in a cell on the south side of the prison, where, in order to prevent any attempt at self-destruction, two men are in constant attendance on him, both by day and night. Corder is rather loquacious than otherwise. Mr. Orridge remained with him up to 10 o'clock on Friday night, and during that time he canvassed the credibility of the witnesses that appeared against him. In allusion to the evidence generally, he said that it was extremely incorrect, and he particularly spoke of the testimony given by the deceased's brother, who had so unequivocally sworn that he had seen him crossing

from the Red Barn to his mother's house with a pickaxe on his shoulder. This, he said, was impossible, for he could not see him. Mr. Orridge observed, that he could not be confident of this, for it might so happen that a person could see him, though he, Corder, might be unable to perceive the observer. Corder said that that certainly was true, and no longer denied having had the pickaxe. Mr. Orridge asked him how he came to be in the barn? and he replied that he could not tell. In reference to the sword or dirk, Mr. Orridge inquired whether he had ever been in the navy? and he replied that he never had, or at all intended to make the sea his profession; the sword he had procured for another purpose. Mr. Orridge asked him what could have induced him to tell Maria Marten that there was a warrant against her for bastardy, when he induced her to change her clothing, and accompany him to the Red Barn? To this question he made no reply, but hung down his head, and seemed buried in thought. He a second time reverted to the trial, and said that the evidence was incorrect in many particulars, and as an instance of it mentioned, that there was no occasion to inflict the wounds or stabs spoken of on Maria, for that she had expired almost instantaneously. Mr. Orridge remarked, that it was now useless to talk on the subject; it would perhaps only tend to the agitation of his mind, and could not be remedied, and he (Mr. Orridge) recommended him to give his entire attention to the Rev. Chaplain, who no doubt would impart to him such advice as might induce him to disclose that which was a weighty burden on his conscience, and be to his advantage in his translation from this world to another. Mr. Orridge then bade him farewell, and departed for the night. Shortly after leaving him Corder stripped himself quite leisurely, went into bed, and fell asleep by eleven o'clock. He slept soundly until four, when he was awoke by one of his attendants stirring the fire. Afterwards he again closed his eyes, and remained in profound repose until six o'clock, when he was visited by the Rev. Mr. Stocking, the chaplain of the gaol. This gentleman remained with him until eight o'clock. In speaking on the subject of a confession, he asked one of his attendants in what way it could constitute to the salvation of his soul by telling the follies of his life to the world, or what other effect it would have than casting an additional disgrace on his family. The attendant replied that there was no necessity for his entering into a long detail or history of his life, and that all that could be required was an acknowledgment that justice had been done to him. To this he made no reply. Among his several conversations, the following singular one is said to have passed between him and one of his attendants. It occurred on Friday evening.

Attendant.—Pray, Mr. Corder, is it true that it was by an advertisement you were first introduced to Mrs. Corder?

Corder.—Indeed it was.

Attendant.—Had you many answers to it?

Corder.—I had 45. Some from ladies in their carriages.

Attendant.—Well, that surprises me.

Corder.—Surprise you, so it may, as it did myself; but I missed of a good thing.

Attendant.—How is that?

Corder.—Why, then, I will tell you. One of the answers which I received, required that I should be at a certain church on an appointed day, dressed in a particular way, and I should meet a lady, also dressed in a particular way, and both understanding what we came about, no further introduction was necessary.

Attendant.—But how could you know her: there might be another lady dressed in the same way?

Corder.—Oh! to guard against a mistake, she desired that I should wear a black handkerchief round my neck, and have my left arm in a sling; and in case I should not observe her, she would discover, and introduce herself.

Attendant.—And did you meet her?

Corder.—No, I did not; I went, but not in time, as the service was over when I got there.

Attendant.—Then when you did not meet her, how do you know that she was respectable?

Corder.—Because, the pew-opener told me that such a lady was inquiring for a gentlemen of my description; and she came in an elegant carriage, and was a young woman of fortune. (Sighing heavily.)

Attendant.—Then you never saw her afterwards?

Corder.—No, never; but I found out where she lived and who she was, and would have had an interview with her were it not that I became acquainted with Mrs. Corder, from whom I was not a day absent until we were married.

Attendant.—Was that long after your acquaintance?

Corder.—About a week.

Corder's spirits are variable; at one time he seems to forget his calamitous situation, and at another, when perchance he casts his eye upon his altered dress, he starts with horror, is overwhelmed with anguish, and abandons himself to despair. He attended divine service yesterday morning in the chapel attached to the gaol, to which, after all the other prisoners had taken their seats, he was led in by Mr. Orridge, and accompanied by his attendants. He walked with an infirm step, and was, as on the preceding week, placed in the felons' pew. His appearance was very different from that when we last saw him. He then wore a confident, bold, and unintimidated aspect; but now his expression and demeanour were completely changed. His

tears flowed in torrents, he sank feebly upon the seat, and covering his face with his left hand he sobbed convulsively. He did not himself join audibly in the service, but continued absorbed in grief. He brought in with him a neatly bound prayer-book, but of this he made no use, and only held it firmly grasped in his hand.

Saturday night, 10 o'clock.

In conformity with the promise of yesterday evening, Mr. Orridge, in the afternoon of this day, introduced Mrs. Corder to her wretched husband. She arrived at the prison at ten minutes to two o'clock, and was accompanied by a Mrs. Atherton, an old Schoolfellow, who has humanely, since her coming here, lent her the support of her society. Mrs. Atherton remained in the governor's office while Mrs. Corder, leaning on his arm, proceeded to her heart-rending interview. She brought with her a religious work (the *Companion to the Altar*), and earnestly besought the attention of the culprit to its contents, previous to his partaking of the sacred communion. On entering the cell, she threw herself hurriedly into his arms, and sobbing hysterically, said, "Well, dearest William, this trial is terminated in a manner quite different to that we all most sanguinely expected." Corder was much affected at her visit, and expressed to her, while the tears rolled down his cheeks, his gratitude for her attachment to him, and her undeviating affection through good report and evil report, and even to the ignominious close of his wretched life. For some minutes after her coming in he was altogether deprived of utterance, but shortly recovering himself, he mentioned his extreme anxiety for her future welfare, and manifested the utmost solicitude lest the sneers and contumely of the world should visit his transgressions upon her. She entreated him to dismiss all reflections on her personal condition, not to disturb his mind, or distract his attention from the solemn and consolatory duties of religion; that matters of higher import than any which related to her should be at once attended to; "and," said she, "dear William, there is a good and merciful God, who will protect me: to him I look up, and from him in this calamitous hour I derive my support." She implored him to disregard all worldly affairs, and to consider and calmly reflect upon the heavy account he would be so soon called upon to deliver to the Almighty. The interview lasted until half-past two o'clock, and is, as we have learned, likely to arouse Corder's dormant feelings, and lead to his repentance. Mr. Orridge was present while it continued, and at its close intimated to the prisoner and his unhappy partner, that they would again be permitted to see each other at 11 o'clock this (Sunday) morning; but that this they must consider as their final meeting in this life. Mrs. Corder and Mrs. Atherton walked both to and

from the gaol: the former had a care-worn, melancholy, and dejected countenance; but yet, considering the severity of her afflictions, preserved a greater portion of self-possession than could naturally have been expected. She was dressed in a brown levantine silk pelisse, a straw bonnet with a black veil, which was drawn down so closely over her face that it almost concealed it, and across her shoulders was thrown a blue English Cachmere shawl, with a coloured border. Mts. Atherton's dress was equally plain, and though she did not see the culprit, while waiting in the governor's room she wept most bitterly.

After Mrs. Corder had taken leave of her husband, and had, in company with Mr. Orridge, joined her friend, Mrs. Atherton, she anxiously inquired of Mr. Orridge whether he thought an application to the throne for mercy was likely to be available, or that she could obtain even a short respite to the execution? Mr. Orridge replied, that in a matter of so serious a nature, he hoped she would excuse him from offering any opinion or advice. She had better consult her friends and legal advisers, and pursue that course their and her own good judgment deemed the most eligible.

Sunday Morning.

On calling at the goal to-day, says our correspondent, I was informed that Corder, though much dejected at his approaching fate, slept soundly during the greater part of last night. About eight o'clock in the evening, his mental exhaustion overcame his physical strength, and he dropped into a calm and undisturbed sleep, which lasted till three o'clock this morning. I have been given to understand, that though he now appears greatly dismayed at the approaching close of his mortal career, he never, from the first, expected any other termination to this trial. On hearing that his friends, some of whom are very opulent and respectable persons, were willing to make large pecuniary sacrifices to ensure him the benefit of all the assistance which could be derived from the talent and ingenuity of the most able and experienced advocates at the bar, he wrote a letter to them returning them thanks for their kindness, but at the same time declaring, that the evidence which had been taken at the inquest, would appear to all persons who were unacquainted with the real nature of the transaction, so strong against him, that it would answer no useful purpose to expend their money in his behalf. He also stated, that he had made up his mind to meet with courage and fortitude the fatal destiny which had befallen many other individuals who were as innocent as himself. It appears from the event, that he has miscalculated his own strength of nerve: for, from all the accounts that I have been able collect, it is quite clear that the elasticity of his spirits is entirely destroyed, and that he labours under the most poignant distress of mind.

It has been stated to me from several quarters, that the defence to which he resorted, was, even in the desperate circumstances of his case, one of the most injudicious that could possibly have been attempted. After admitting the identity of the body discovered in the barn with that of Maria Marten, the only point of difficulty was removed from the decision of the jury. An acute analysis of the evidence might perhaps have enabled an ingenious man to suggest doubts as to the identity of the body, arising out of the state of decomposition; at which, not only the body, but also the articles of dress found upon it, had arrived. But this line of defence was probably abandoned on account of the difficulty which the prisoner would have experienced in explaining the letters which he had written relative to the existence of Maria Marten after her disappearance from Polstead. Still, to support the indictment, it would have been necessary to show, that the body found was the body of Maria Marten; and however much appearances might on other points have been against him, it would have been impossible for any jury to have recorded a verdict of guilty against him until they were convinced of the identity of the body with that of the person alledged to be murdered. We understand that a difference of opinion arose between Mr. Charnock and Mr. Humphries respecting the line of defence which Corder was to take. Mr. Humphries was originally engaged as Solicitor for the prisoner, and Mr. Charnock subsequently. Mr. Charnock advised one line of defence, Mr. Humphries another; and, as Mr. Charnock has some connexion with the family of the prisoner, Mr. Humphries gave up his opinion, on the ground, that if his line of defence failed, the relations of Corder might attribute the failure to his obstinate adherence to his own view of the case.

Since his conviction, various questions have been put to Corder on different parts of the evidence. Mr. Orridge asked him how he got over that part of the evidence in which it was sworn that he had informed Maria Marten that Baalham, the constable, had told him that Mr. Whitmore had got a warrant to have her apprehended on account of her bastard children, when it appeared from Baalham's testimony that he had made no such statement. To this question he gave no answer, but hung back, cast a sharp and expressive look on the questioner, and assumed, as he does upon all questions which displease him, an aspect of considerable ferocity. He was asked by one of his attendants how he could muster nerve enough to stay alone with the corpse in the barn, whilst he was digging a grave for it; and his answer to this question appears very material; for it was given in the shape of another question, and was to this effect:—"How d'ye know that such was the case?" On another occasion, he was asked to confess the justice of his sen-

tence; and his reply was curious. "The sermons," said he "which have been put into my hands since I came into this place, have convinced me that all confession which it is necessary for me to make, is a confession to my God of the transgressions of my life: confession to man can be of no good to my soul; I do not like it, and I will not make, as it savours strongly of Popedom. To another person he said, "Why should I disgrace my family by confessing all the follies and transgressions of my youth; they are, indeed, manifold; the confession would hurt their feelings, and would do me no good." It is, however, expected by those who are best acquainted with him, that though he has not yet made, he still will make a confession of his guilt before his execution, if not in detail, at least shortly in point of fact.

In the hurry of sending off the report of the trial, I forgot to mention that when Lea, the police-officer, was under examination, Corder stamped violently on the floor of the dock, and expressed considerable indignation at the testimony which he was giving. Mr. Orridge, on returning from the court with the prisoner, asked him what part of Lea's evidence had so strongly excited his feelings. Corder replied that Lea had sworn falsely in saying that he had made him a present of the two pistols, which he (Lea) had found in the reticule in his (Corder's) house. Mr. Orridge said, that perhaps, in the hurry and agitation of his feelings, he had unconsciously made such a promise. Corder replied, that it was possible he might have done so; but he did not think it probable. He has repeated this declaration since his conviction, and pledges the faith of a dying man to its correctness.

You will have heard from another quarter, of the feeling manner in which Mrs. Corder received the distressing intelligence of her husband's conviction, and of the kindness with which she endeavoured to arm him against his fate. I have just heard of another anecdote, which places in a strong light the propriety of her moral principles. On the first interview that she had with her husband after his conviction, Mr. Orridge felt himself compelled, in consequence of a new clause inserted in Lord Lansdowne's act, to inform her that he must be present during the whole time of its continuance, lest she should furnish her husband with some means by which he might effect his own destruction. Mrs. Corder said, "if it please God to take him to himself before the time appointed for his execution, I should be most happy; but I would not interfere between his God and him for any consideration. I would let him meet his fate with submission, rather than afford him any means by which he might anticipate it." The meeting between them is described as having been of the most tender and affecting nature. I

have not been able to learn whether it is intended that he should have an interview with his mother before the execution of his sentence, nor have I been able to learn how she and his sister received the tidings of his conviction. But it is easy to guess.

The fate of his aged and widowed mother is indeed deplorable, and entitles her to the sympathy of every humane and benevolent bosom. She has within a very short period been bereft, by the ordinary course of nature, of three sons; the only son whom she has left is now to be wrenched from her by the exterminating grasp of public justice. Can any one have a greater right to refuse to be comforted?

It may be perhaps as well to mention here, that the warrant for Corder's execution differs slightly from the form in which all former warrants for the execution of murderers were drawn up. The alteration is made in consequence of a clause in Lord Lansdowne's late act for malicious injury to the person. The old form of warrant merely ordered the body to be given to surgeons to be anatomised and dissected; the present form appoints the hospital at which such dissection shall take place. In this instance, the body is given to the hospital at this town, and after the execution to-morrow, is to be exposed to the inspection of the public at the Shire-hall.

Half past 11 o'clock, Sunday morning.

I have just returned from hearing the condemned sermon, which was delivered in the chapel attached to the goal, by the chaplain, the Rev. W. Stocking. By the kindness of the Governor, Mr. Orridge, I was admitted into the goal at half past eight o'clock. Shortly after nine, the chapel was opened. Besides the inmates of the goal, there were about 20 persons present. After the debtors confined in the county goal had taken their seats, the different felons, who have been tried at the late assizes, were admitted to theirs. The latter were dressed in a coat and trousers of gray frieze, striped at intervals with two bars of black, enclosing a broader stripe of yellow, which is the costume of this prison. After the chaplain had taken his station in the pulpit, Corder was led into the barred cell reserved for culprits under sentence of death, by Mr. Orridge and one of his attendants. He wept bitterly as he came along the passage; but buried his face in his handkerchief, as if anxious to withdraw himself from the gaze of the curious. His step was any thing but firm; and he had evidently lost, beyond the power of recall, a great part of that self command which he exhibited at the commencement of the trial. As soon as he was locked in the pew appointed for him, he heaved a deep sigh, sat himself down on one of the benches, and leant against the side of the pew: he then raised his foot on the bench before him, rested his elbow on his knee, and his face, which he covered with a white hand-

kerchief, on his hand, and remained in that position during the greater part of the service. The Rev. gentleman then read an excellent occasional prayer for persons in Corder's deplorable situation; he appeared much moved by it, and betrayed great agitation, when the Rev. Gentleman bid his congregation reflect, that but for the mediating blood of Christ, they might have been shut up in hell instead of in that prison. In that part of the service of the day in which the clergyman prays that the rest of our lives may be pure and holy, Corder's emotion was excessive, owing perhaps to its exciting the painful reflection that the rest of his life was already numbered. The psalms which were selected for the occasion, were the 51st and the 130th. In that part of the 51st psalm in which the inspired writer implores God to deliver him from blood-guiltiness, Corder sighed deeply, and showed, by the uplifted motion of his hands, that he joined cordially in the prayer. At the commencement of the Litany he sighed deeply, and evidently joined in heart, though not in word, with the supplication to the Trinity to have mercy upon all miserable sinners. At the close of the Litany, the clergyman introduced a prayer for Corder which affected him so much that he cried audibly. To the sermon he paid considerable attention. It was taken from the 41st verse of the 23rd chapter of St. Luke, and was in these words:—"And we indeed justly, for we receive the due reward of our deeds, but this man hath not done amiss."

The close of the sermon was the close of the service for the day. Corder was led out by Mr. Orridge in almost a fainting condition. As soon as he reached his cell he staggered to his bed, on which he flung himself, sobbing convulsively for many minutes.

CONFESSION AND EXECUTION OF CORDER.

Bury St. Edmund's, Monday Morning.

ON leaving her husband's cell, Mrs. Corder was completely overcome by the violence of her feelings. She fainted away several times, and was with difficulty recovered by the restoratives administered to her by Mr. Orridge, who sincerely commiserated her sufferings. She was not able to walk to the gig which was waiting to convey her to her lodgings, but was carried into it by her friend Mrs. Atherton, and one of the prison attendants. Corder, on her quitting him, said that the bitterness of death was now over, and has been heard to express a wish that there was a less interval to the time of his execution. He likewise says that he found in Mrs. Corder one of the most tender, faithful, and affectionate of wives.

In the course of yesterday evening Mr. Orridge addressed a paper to the prisoner, impressing upon him the duty of making a confession of his guilt, of which he said few people now.

entertained doubt. The unfortunate prisoner said that he did not see any reason why he should make it. Mr. Orridge then reminded him, that in his defence he had imputed to Maria Marten the commission of suicide, and if he left the world without contradicting that statement, he would be tainting her memory with the imputation of a dreadful crime. I understand that this argument appeared to make a deep impression on his mind, especially as it was strengthened by reference to the first duty of man "to do unto another as he would wish others to do unto him." The Rev. Mr. Sheen, the chaplain to the High Sheriff, who saw him about half-past five o'clock, had previously addressed him also upon the same topics, and the consequence of these solicitations was, that in the course of the night he made a confession, of which I am hereafter to have authentic particulars. I shall therefore say nothing upon the subject at present.

At half-past one o'clock last night Mr. Orridge left Corder, and soon afterwards he fell asleep, and slept to all appearance calmly till six o'clock this morning. He says, however, that his sleep was not sound, but disturbed by dreams. He acquired considerable firmness in the course of yesterday, in consequence of the spiritual consolation afforded to him, first of all by his wife, and next by the chaplain of the gaol, the Rev. Mr. Stocking, and the Rev. Mr. Sheen. I understand that several methodist preachers applied to be admitted to him, but was refused admission, in consequence of his having addressed a letter to the magistrates, requesting that they would not allow any such fanatics to come near him.

This morning, at half-past nine o'clock, Corder was, by his own request, taken into the prison chapel to attend for the last time divine service. I was present at the performance of it. He entered the chapel with a firm step, and took his seat in the condemned pew, as he did yesterday. He had, however, laid aside his prison dress, and had on the same clothes which he wore in court during the trial. His appearance was much more composed than I should have expected after the overwhelming sorrow and dismay by which he appeared overcome yesterday. This, perhaps, may be attributable to the ghostly consolation which was administered to him by Mr. Stocking, at an early hour this morning. He did not hide his countenance as he did yesterday in his handkerchief, nor did he shed a single tear. He exhibited a befitting and not unmanly sense of the awful situation in which he was placed. On sitting down he betrayed his inward feelings by a tremulous motion of his foot for some time, and then rested his head on his hand, supporting his elbow upon his knee. A part of the burial

service was again introduced into the service of the day, and during several parts of it he showed by his motions that he joined in it from his inmost soul. When the gracious invitation of God for all that were heavy laden to come to him and rest upon his mercy was read, he opened his hand slowly, pressed it to his head, and heaved a deep sigh. He likewise exhibited some emotion at an occasional prayer which was introduced into the service, in which the text of Scripture was introduced that says, "Whoso confesseth his sins and forsaketh them shall have mercy." He joined with great fervour in a prayer which called upon God to spare him in the agonies of death, which he was presently to endure, and to extend to him that mercy which he had not extended to his departed sister. The latter allusion affected him deeply, for he raised up his left hand, gave a convulsive shudder, and struck it with some violence on his knee. During the rest of the service, which was nearly the same as yesterday, he did not betray any extraordinary emotion. At the close of it his pew was opened; on leaving it he made a few steps by himself, and then tottered and seemed as if about to fall. One of the prison attendants then gave him his arm, and led him back to his cell. At eleven o'clock the chaplain was admitted into his cell, and administered to him the sacrament. The remaining particulars of the wretched man's conduct will be found stated with great minuteness in the statement which Mr. Orridge has drawn up, and which is as follows:—

MR. ORRIDGE'S STATEMENT.

Upon William Corder's returning from the Shire-hall, after he had received sentence, I took him into my office, and explained to him that I had a melancholy and painful duty to perform with respect to him, and that a part of that duty was to have him immediately stripped of his clothes, and have the prison clothes put on him. This was accordingly done. I then told him, I thought the sooner he could forget all earthly matters the better, and therefore if he had any request to make, I begged he would recollect himself and do it immediately, and that I would instantly tell him if his wishes, whatever they might be, could or would be complied with. After some consideration, he said it would be a great consolation to him if his wife could be permitted to spend the remainder of his time with him. This, I told him, was impossible, but that she would be allowed two interviews with him; he was then removed to another room. The Chaplain (Mr. Stocking) attended him in the evening; after the chaplain was gone, I continued with him till half-past ten o'clock. I hinted to him that his defence,

though perhaps ingenious, could not be believed, and that surely he would feel an inward satisfaction in confessing the truth. He then declared his defence was true, and that he had nothing to confess; indeed, he said the confession of his faults would only tend to disgrace his family more, and could be of no use to his soul, and upon any other question put to him respecting the murder during that evening he preserved a sullen silence.

In the course of the evening he mentioned the particulars of his marriage; he stated that he left home the latter end of September, that he went to Portsmouth, the Isle of Wight, and Southampton; that he returned to London in about two months, and then advertised for a wife; that he had forty-five applications to the advertisement, and that one of them was from a lady who wrote to him to say that she should go to church in a certain dress, and sit in a particular place; and requesting him to go to church with his left arm in a black sling, a black handkerchief round his neck, and place himself in such a position that they might see each other, and then judge if a personal interview would be desirable. He said he accordingly went to the church, but by some means he had mistaken the hour of Divine service, so that he never saw that lady. He said that after he saw his present wife he never left her till they were married, that from the time of his advertising to his marriage was about a week. I observed to him that he was a most fortunate man, under those circumstances, to have met with a woman who had been so kind to him during the whole of his confinement. I then left him.

My two servants told me the next morning that he fell asleep about eleven o'clock, and slept till after four o'clock; that he did not talk to them. During Saturday, the chaplain (Mr. Stocking) was several times with him. At other times I now and then hinted the necessity of confession. In the course of that day he said "that confession to God was all that was necessary, and that confession to man was what he called Popedom or Popery, and he would never do it." It was hinted to him, some time in the day, that he must have had great nerve to dig the hole during the time the body lay in his sight. His reply was, "Nobody knows that the body lay in the barn and in sight whilst I dug the hole;" and would then say no more on the subject, but exclaimed, "O God! Nobody will dig my grave."

His wife saw him in my presence for near an hour. He expressed much anxiety about her future welfare: she entreated him to forget her, and employ his few hours yet remaining in prayer for his salvation and eternal welfare. I went to his room on Saturday evening, about eight o'clock, with an inten-

tion of sitting an hour or two with him, but he had gone to bed, and was asleep, and my men told me the next morning that he slept until near three o'clock.

On Sunday morning Mr. Stocking was with him early, and endeavoured to lead his mind to the necessity of confession: he attended chapel and was very much affected; about half-past twelve his wife and her last interview; they were both very much affected. In the course of the interview he exclaimed, "Well might Mr. Orridge say, that I was a most fortunate man to meet with such a woman as you are!"

He then explained to her that he had told me the way in which they had come together, and that he had forty-five applications to his advertisement: he entreated if ever she married again, to be sure not to answer any similar advertisement, as woeful experience must have convinced her how dangerous a step it was. The parting scene was most affecting, the poor woman remained in a state of stupor for some time. Corder was much affected throughout the day, Mr. Stocking had several interviews with him, and in the evening the sheriff's chaplain, the Reverend Mr. Sheen, attended him, for which attention he expressed himself as feeling very grateful. About nine o'clock Mr. Orridge sent him a paper with extracts from the scripture, and from Archbishop Tillotson's works in favour of confession, and earnestly entreating him to confess the murder.

I begged he would read it attentively, and that I would come to him soon; I went to his room a little before ten, and remained in earnest conversation with him till half-past eleven; I told him that during the thirty years I have held my situation, I had the satisfaction of assuring him, that no man who had been executed during that time, had ever dared to take the sacrament in sullen silence about his crime, or without confession; that I well knew, from his letters that I had seen, and from other circumstances, that the line of defence he had adopted, was not the dictates of his own mind, at least for a long time after his commitment; and that I was sure that he would not and dare not take the sacrament, and remain silent, or deny being the guilty cause of the death of poor Maria Marten. He then exclaimed, "Oh, Sir, I wish I had made a confitent of you before; I have often wished to have done it, but you know, Sir, it was no use employing a legal adviser, and then not follow his advice." I told him, that up to the time of his conviction it was proper, but that being over, all earthly considerations must cease. He then exclaimed, "I am a guilty man!" I then went for a pen and ink, and began to

ask him the particulars of the offence, which I told him the public had supposed him to be guilty of. He said, "Oh, spare me, I can only mention to you the particulars of how Maria came by her death; with this the public must be satisfied; I cannot say more." I then wrote the following confession nearly in his own words. I read it to him attentively, and he signed it with a firm hand. I left him about half-past one o'clock, and my men tell me he lay very still, and appeared to sleep through the night.

On Saturday, he told a respectable individuals whom I had asked to sit and read to him, that he was guilty of the forgery upon Messrs. Alexander's bank, and that he had been assured the money was paid: there are some parts in the foregoing statement which he also mentioned to the same individual. He also expressed much horror at the thoughts of being dissected and anatomized. He also stated, after he had signed the confession, that he felt great respect for the girl, but that he had no intention to marry her at that time.

(Signed) JOHN ORRIDGE.

CONFESSION.

"Bury Goal, Aug. 10, 1828. Condemned Cell, Sunday Eve. half-past 11.

"I acknowledge being guilty of the death of poor Maria Marten, by shooting her with a pistol. The particulars are as follows:—When we left her father's house, we began quarrelling about the burial of the child, she apprehending that the place wherein it was deposited would be found out. The quarrel continued for about three-quarters of an hour upon this and about other subjects. A scuffle ensued, and during the scuffle, and at the time I think that she had hold of me, I took the pistol from the side-pocket of my velveten jacket, and fired. She fell, and died in an instant. I never saw even a struggle. I was overwhelmed with agitation and dismay—the body fell near the front doors on the floor of the barn. A vast quantity of blood issued from the wound, and ran on to the floor and through the crevices. Having determined to bury the body in the barn (about two hours after she was dead), I went and borrowed the spade of Mrs. Stowé; but before I went there, I dragged the body from the barn into the chaff-house, and locked up the barn. I returned again to the barn and began to dig the hole; but the spade being a bad one, and the earth firm and hard, I was obliged to go home for a pick-axe and a better spade, with which I dug the

hole, and then buried the body. I think I dragged the body by the handkerchief that was tied round her neck—it was dark when I finished covering up the body. I went the next day, and washed the blood from off the barn-floor. I declare to Almighty God, I had no sharp instrument about me, and that no other wound but the one made by the pistol was inflicted by me. I have been guilty of great idleness, and at times led a dissolute life, but I hope through the mercy of God to be forgiven.

“W. CORDER.”

Witness to the signing by the said William Corder,

JOHN ORRIDGE.

Sunday evening, half-past 12 o'clock,

Condemned Cell, 11 o'clock, Monday
morning, August 11, 1828.

The above confession was read over carefully to the prisoner in our presence, who stated most solemnly it was true,—that he had nothing to add to or retract from it.

W. STOCKING, Chaplain.

T. R. HOLMES, Under-Sheriff.

In answer to a question from the under-sheriff, he said, “that he thought the ball had entered the right eye.” He said this in corroboration of his previous statement, that he had no sharp instrument with him in the barn at the time he committed the murder. The under-sheriff stated that Dr. Probart was with him at the time when the prisoner made this last confession.

He is quite convinced the ball entered the right eye.

[Mr. Orridge informed me, that there were several points in Corder's statement on which he wished to have further explanation, but that in his peculiar circumstances he could not press it, especially as Corder said to him on more than one occasion, “Spare me upon that point—I have confessed all that is sufficient for public justice.”]

THE EXECUTION.

FROM an early hour this morning, the population of the surrounding districts came pouring into Bury; and the whole of the labouring classes in this town struck work for the day, in order that they might have an opportunity of witnessing the execution of this wretched criminal, which was appointed to take place at twelve o'clock at noon. As early as nine o'clock in the morning, upwards of 1,000 persons were assembled

around the scaffold, in the paddock, on the south side of the gaol, and their numbers kept increasing till twelve o'clock, when they amounted to at least 7000 persons. Nothing could be more decent and orderly than their conduct.

At 10 minutes before 12 o'clock Corder was brought from his own cell, which was on the second story of the prison, to a cell on the basement story. He was there pinioned by the executioner who officiates at the Old Bailey, and who was specially retained for this event. He appeared resigned to his fate, though he sighed heavily at intervals. After his arms were fastened, he would have fallen to the ground, had it not been for the support afforded to him by one of the constables. He recovered after a moment from the transient faintness which had overcome him, and kept ejaculating in an under tone, "May God forgive me! Lord receive my soul!" The executioner was then going to put the cap upon the prisoner's face, when Mr. Orridge interfered, and said that the time was not yet come. He was then led by his own desire around the different wards of the prison, and shook hands with the different prisoners, who were assembled at the doors entering into them. As a proof that he was at that time perfectly conscious of what he was doing, he singled out a prisoner of the name of Nunn, shook hands with him as well as his bandaged situation would allow, and said to him, "Nunn, God Almighty bless you." In another ward he called the same blessing on two prisoners of the names, as we are informed, of Sampson.

After he had gone round the entrance to the different wards of the prison, which are ranged round the governor's house, which is built upon an octagonal base, he proceeded to the entrance of the debtor's yard, where he bade farewell to three individuals who came to the gate to shake hands with him. After he had performed this duty, which Mr. Orridge was of opinion might prove beneficial to the juvenile offenders in the prison, the procession to the scaffold was formed in the usual manner by the Under-Sheriff and his attendants. The Rev. W. Stocking, for whose attention the prisoner expressed himself most grateful, led the way, reading the commencement of the burial service, "I am the resurrection and the life, whosoever believeth in me shall not die, but have everlasting life." In a few minutes afterwards the procession reached the doorway which opened to the scaffold, and Corder was placed upon the floor which, when withdrawn, was to plunge him into eternity. After he was placed under the fatal beam, Mr. Orridge approached him, and asked whether he wished to address the multitude. He gave some indistinct answer, which I did not

hear, and Mr. Orridge immediately said to the crowd, in a loud voice, "He acknowledges the justice of his sentence, and dies in peace with all mankind." The executioner then drew the cap over his face. The officer who supported him says that he afterwards added, when quite unable to stand, "I deserve my fate; I have offended my God. May he have mercy on my soul!" Within a minute afterwards, the deadly bolt was withdrawn, and he was cut off from the number of the living.

The body, after hanging the usual time, was cut down and conveyed in a cart to the Shire-Hall. It was placed on the table in the *Nisi Prius* Court, and after the crucial incision had been performed, and the outward integuments removed, was exposed to the gaze of the public. It was to be removed to the hospital to-morrow morning to be dissected and anatomized according to the sentence.

Mrs. Corder (the mother of the deceased) has been so overcome by the disgrace which the misconduct of her son has brought upon her, that she has for some time been unable to leave her bed. Neither she nor her daughter held the slightest communication with Corder after his condemnation. His wife is, I understand, in Bury, seriously indisposed. Corder wrote a letter to her this morning, shortly before the execution, of which I have just been favoured with a copy:—

"My life's loved companion,—I am now a going to the fatal scaffold, and I have a lively hope of obtaining mercy and pardon for my numerous offences. May Heaven bless and protect you through this transitory vale of misery, and which, when we meet again, may it be in the regions of everlasting bliss. Adieu, my love, for ever adieu: in less than two hours I hope to be in Heaven—My last prayer is, that God will endue you with patience, fortitude, and resignation to his will. Rest assured his wise Providence work all things together for good. The awful sentence which has been past upon me, and which I am now summoned to answer, I confess is very just, and I die in peace with all mankind, truly grateful for the kindnesses I have received from Mr. Orridge, and the religious instruction and consolation from the Rev. Mr. Stocking, who has promised to take my last words to you."

The above was written with pencil in a blank leaf at the end of a volume of *Blair's Sermons*, which appears to have been a gift of Mrs. Corder to her husband, from the following words on another leaf at the beginning of the book:—

"Mary Corder to her husband W. Corder, a birth-day present, June 22, 1828." Corder attained his 24th year on the above day.

LETTERS
SENT BY VARIOUS LADIES,
IN ANSWER TO
CORDER'S MATRIMONIAL ADVERTISEMENT.

SIR,

THE perusal of your advertisement in the Sunday Times awakened a feeling of sympathy, as I also have been the subject of the chastening hand of Providence.

I do not reply for myself, but having the pleasure of knowing a young and amiable female, in her twenty-third year, and who is highly accomplished, it occurred to me, that she might prove a companion suited to ameliorate your present sorrows, and enliven your future prospects. You request real names and address, forgive me, Sir, if under the existing circumstances I withhold both, as I think it would be an infringement of the female delicacy, to avow them in the present stage of our correspondence. If you will favor me with an interview on Waterloo Bridge, *between* the hours of *three* and *four* on the afternoon of Wednesday next, I shall be able to communicate every particular to you: that you recognise me, it is necessary to say, that I shall wear a black silk dress, red shawl, and grey muff, claret-coloured bonnet, and black veil; our conversation *must* commence by your presenting me with this note. Believe me when I add, that I am perfectly serious, and have no other motive in addressing you than promoting the happiness of two young persons.

I am, Sir,
Your's very obediently,

Monday Evening,
8 o'clock.

27th, 1828.

ON taking up the paper this morning, your advertisement was the first thing that met my eye, and in seeing the word "Matrimony" I laughing said, a gentleman wants a wife, but I suppose he is still in greater want of money, otherwise he wishes to make himself warm this cold weather by laughing at the credulity of the female sex, yet surely no man of understanding can derive pleasure by making fools of those, who are *by nature weak*, and entitled to protection and pity,

rather than ridicule. Having said all I had to say, I fetched a deep sigh, conscious *I suppose of my own defects*, and again looked at the paper without intending to do it. I read your advertisement through, and was not a little surprised on finishing it; for although there may not be one word of truth, yet certainly it wears the semblance of sincerity. If really your situation is what you have represented it to be, allow me, although a stranger, sincerely to sympathise with you; though young I have suffered much by unhappy differences in my own family, therefore can feel for others who endure the like misery.

I repeat, if your tale is true, upon my word I pity you: if it is a fiction, I hope my sex may be revenged by your being obliged, at some future period, to pass *a month, one month*, in a *house of discord*. But if this statement is indeed sincere, I hope ere long you may be enabled to regain peace and undisturbed tranquility, that you may soon find a lady whose disposition may accord with what yours is said to be; for myself I want not a home, I have every necessary and comfort, though not the superfluities of life, and am far from thinking that happiness is only the attendant on riches. I am content, and strive to make others happy, the great can do no more, and I with pleasure look forward to the day which I hope will introduce me to one who may possess some of those amiable qualities which the advertisement says belong to you. Do not hold up to ridicule those foibles which are constitutional in my sex, remember perfection is unattainable, rather pity than condemn, and in return I will wish you, whoever you may be, all the happiness you can wish yourself.

And I remain, &c.

Nov. 30th, 1827.

SIR,

IF you will take the trouble to walk on the South side of Northampton Square, between the hours of Twelve and One on Monday next, with a white pocket handkerchief in your hand, I shall be there, and may perhaps have an interview with you; if my affection is engaged your happiness will be the constant study of

Dec. 1st, 1827.

SIR,

IN perusing the Times Paper of Nov. 25th, I observed your advertisement for a partner in the marriage life, where you say any *female of respectability* who would study

for domestic comforts, and willing to confide in you, led me to suppose that fortune was not your object, which induced me to make the application, though I must say *prudence* whispers it is contrary to the rules of decorum, and I believe this is the first time I have ever deviated from her precepts. I am a female of respectability, my father has been a very *respectable* tradesman, and a man of good fortune, but Providence has now placed me in a more *humble situation*; I have had a good plain education but no accomplishments. If I have been too presumptuous in addressing one who styles himself an independent gentleman and a man of honour, I trust *this may be buried in oblivion*, but should it be thought worthy an answer, it will much oblige

Your humble Servant,

P. S. Probably you might like a description of the writer of these lines; she is of rather short stature, slight made, not handsome, dark complexion, dark hair and eyes, and one who has not wrote out of *impertinent* curiosity, but for particular reasons dare not sign her name in this, but if she have occasion to write a second, you may rely upon it being signed, should this be answered.

Direct for — Post Office.

To be left till called for.

SIR,

HAVING seen your advertisement in the Sunday Times Newspaper, I beg leave to reply to it, not from an impertinent curiosity, but from a wish that what I state may meet with your approbation. I am the daughter of a respectable tradesman, he is the only one of the family in business; I have a step-mother, and there is a second family, therefore to prevent any disagreement amongst us, I have left my father's house, and am at this time earning my own living in one of the first establishments in ——— (not as a milliner or dress maker). My friends are kind enough to say that I possess a good temper, lively disposition, and as to appearance passable, not any preteusion to beauty; with regard to property, all I ever expect to be mistress of will be a small income, left me by my mother, it is sufficient to keep me independent when I shall have the misfortune to lose my father, which I hope may be many years ere that event happens. My age is the same as your own, twenty-four; your being in affluent circumstances would not induce me to become your wife, unless I found your disposition and mine could agree, and that in every sense of the word I could love, honour, and obey, with pleasure and gratitude.

I think I have said all that prudence will allow ; I must add, I think it rather unfair for you to expect a respectable female would like to give her real name and address in the first letter she writes ; for although your advertisement reads very fair, there may be *some little trick on your side*, but I am in earnest, and you may depend upon the greatest secrecy. Should what I have said meet your approbation, direct to me, post paid.

Monday Evening,
Nov. 26th, 1827.

SIR,

BY accident I saw your advertisement in the Sunday Times, its seeming honour and sincerity induced me to answer it. I feel I am guilty of an impropriety in doing so without the knowledge of my friends, but a disposition like the one you seem to possess, will pardon the indiscretion when you know the situation I am placed in. My father has received an offer from one whose disposition is in every respect the opposite of my own, I cannot accept it only by sacrificing every feeling of delicacy and affection, therefore I have taken the only means that presented of preventing the sacrifice of my own happiness, or the wishes of my friends, your disposition seems one that would ensure the happiness of those who would intrust it to your care.

My friends and family connexions are respectable, my disposition is naturally candid and affectionate, and would make it the study of my life to add to the happiness of my friends. I am very young, not yet nineteen, perhaps that would be an objection. I have not as you wished signed my name, but if your intentions are honourable, and you wish to hear further particulars, a letter addressed A. B. to be left at the Office till called for, will meet with every attention from

Your obedient Servant,

Nov. 27, 1827.

Nov. 26th, 1827.

SIR,

SEEING your advertisement again renewed, I feel inclined to take one step towards introducing you to my sister, one of the most amiable and excellent of human beings. As a preparatory step I shall be happy in the honour of seeing you on Wednesday or Thursday morning next, at my office in

Your's very respectfully,

SIR,

ON taking up the newspaper of yesterday, and seeing the word *Matrimony*, induced me carefully to peruse the advertisement, and from the very affable and condescending manner in which you expressed yourself, appears to convince me that you mean to act honourable, and which has induced me to possess myself of sufficient courage, which requires a female to have to address a gentleman on so delicate and important a subject. My personal attractions I shall leave you to decide upon; my age is twenty-four, and I hope I am endowed with all those endearing qualities which is so essential to render a married life happy, assuring you that a private interview with you is most anxiously wished for, and the place I purpose meeting you to-morrow at twelve o'clock; I shall be walking towards ———, distinguished by wearing a black gown, with a scarlet shawl, and black bonnet, white handkerchief in my hand: if not convenient to-morrow will be there the same hour Wednesday.

I remain,
Your most obedient Servant,

Sunday Evening.

SIR,

IN reading the *Sunday Times* I find your advertisement for a wife, and in answer to it, I beg to say, should you mean what you therein state, I shall expect to hear from you.

Your's respectfully,

— Kent.

OBSERVING your advertisement in the *Morning Herald*, I beg leave to state, if your intentions are serious and honourable, I shall be happy of a personal interview with you at ———, which is my house and address.

I am an orphan, twenty-two years of age, have been genteelly brought up and educated, understand the domestic concerns of a house, and qualified to make any person happy and comfortable: if this should meet your approbation and wishes, you will favour me by calling to-morrow, Nov. 30th, between the hours of *four* and *five*, be punctual, because all the other *hours* of the day I am engaged in business; you shall then know all particulars concerning myself and family.

Thursday Morning,
Nov. 29th, 1827.

SIR,

YOUR advertisement in the Sunday Times for this day was pointed out to me, and being a young person of respectable connexions, but without property or a home, I have not the opportunity of obtaining a suitable companion, and these circumstances will, I trust, offer an excuse for my making this application. I am at present, and have been for some time, a teacher in a respectable school at _____ and it is with the sanction of the lady I am now with, that I address you, and she will, if you think proper to notice my letter, give you any requisite information respecting me, but is unwilling that I should give you her address, as her establishment is so well known, unless you think proper to reply to this. My age is two and twenty, trusting to your honour and secrecy.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant

Address, Post-office.

SIR,

IN answer to an advertisement in the Sunday Times, expressing your desire of being introduced to a female of domestic habits, and a disposition to ensure happiness in the marriage state, I beg leave to state, I am of a retired and domestic character, having been always under the care of an amiable and prudent mother; I have a tolerable person, perhaps some beauty, nineteen years of age, good tempered, and of an affectionate disposition. I have resided in London about three years, my family is very respectable, but owing to some change in circumstances, my circle of acquaintance is very limited, therefore I have but little chance of forming an establishment; this has induced me to enter into a detail of my own qualifications, a thing which is repugnant to my feelings.

I feel rather averse to giving my address upon a first communication, if you answer this application, and are serious in the professions you make, I shall not withhold it.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant,

Direct for

November 25th 1827.

WHEN a female breaks through the rules of etiquette justly prescribed for her sex, as a boundary which she must not pass without sacrificing some portion of that delicacy

which ought to be her chief characteristic, it must be for some very urgent reason, such as *romantic* love, or a circumstance like the present, and in answering your advertisement, I feel that I am in some degree transgressing the law alluded to, and yet the novelty and sentiments of the advertisement itself, so entirely different from the language generally made use of (and which alone induced me to answer it) almost assure me that no improper advantage will be taken of the confidence I place in the honour of the writer; however as you request that no person will write from motives of curiosity, I trust that no feeling of that nature actuated you in giving me this opportunity, but enough of preface.

I need not describe my person, as should an interview take place you can judge for yourself, and for mental accomplishments, I am as much indebted to nature and good society, as to education; but from my retired habits and present sphere of life, I flatter myself I should be as well calculated to make a domestic man happy and to enjoy the social charms of domestic life, as if I had received the first *boarding school* education, and mixed largely in the world of fashion. My prospects in life were once brilliant, but when misfortune with her gloomy train of attendants surrounded my family, the scene changed; but I have still some expectations, although from the tenor of your advertisement I presume fortune is but a secondary consideration; a companion only is wanted who would sympathize in all your joys or griefs, one who would return kindness with kindness, love for love, and as I perfectly know my own heart as far as regards those qualities, I do not flatter myself when I say that such a companion would I prove, and where confidence was shown, the fullest would be returned: pardon the warmth of my expressions, nor think me forward in offering them as I am no giddy girl, nor am I a romantic *old maid*, but a warm hearted affectionate girl, whose age qualifies her to pass between the two characters, being just turned twenty-one. Excuse my saying more on so delicate a subject; my family are of the highest respectability. References of course will be given and required, waiting your answer.

I remain, Sir,
Your's, very sincerely and respectfully,

SIR,

AS I was perusing yesterday's Times, I inadvertently cast my eye on your advertisement, which I am induced

to answer, not from a motive of curiosity, but for this reason, that from the general tenor of its contents, it so much resembles my own fate, that I cannot help thinking that our dispositions would in some measure be congenial to each other, and I am very sure that time must glide on much more agreeably when passed in the society of a tender and affectionate companion. To convince you that I am of a respectable family, I will give you a few particulars, which I hope and trust will be kept secret. My father was a ——— I was left an orphan under the guardianship of ———, who placed me at a school to be educated for a governess, consequently, I have moved in society, perhaps not inferior to the rank you hold, but by a deviation from rectitude, which was occasioned by the too easily listening to the flattery of one, whose vows I foolishly believed to be true, I am entirely deserted by my family, and banished from society; nevertheless, I flatter myself, that I do not altogether merit such a fate, for I do assure you, that no one could have acted more prudently than I have done since the unfortunate circumstance happened, which has very much destroyed my peace of mind, but I still hope to see better days; I am two and twenty years of age, but have not the least pretension to beauty, quite the contrary; I have a sweet little girl, who is my greatest comfort, she is sixteen months old, and is beginning to prattle very prettily; I have no fortune whatever, but am supporting myself by needle work at present, until I can meet with something more to my advantage. I mention these facts, that you may not be led into any error, for I should be extremely sorry to act with any duplicity towards any one, and I leave you to consider how far your generosity will extend to appreciate my wrongs, and excuse my past misconduct, I trust that upon acquaintance you would find that I possess qualities which may in some measure overbalance, or at least mitigate those errors which were committed through an affection which I supposed to be mutual, and at the same time honourable, but alas have found it quite the reverse. I can only add, that should you wish an interview, I am ready at any time to see you, either at my own abode, which you will find very respectable, or at any place you may appoint, appropriate with the circumstance, and should I finally prove the female of your choice, you may rest assured, that nothing should be wanted on my part towards the augmentation of your happiness, and to render your house comfortable.

I am, Sir,
Your humble Servant,

Mrs.

K

Dec. 3rd, 1827.

SIR,

ON perusing my paper for Nov. 25th, I observed an advertisement, the object of which appeared to be the obtaining a valuable partner. Now I am not generally disposed to view advertisements of this description in a very favourable light, but on calmly observing this I felt a sort of sympathy, which could only have been imparted by the Disposer of all events. No doubt, ere this, you will naturally conclude that I am about to introduce myself, but this I assure you is not the case; it is an object more worthy your attention, an object who I will not hesitate to say would render that man happy above all others on whom she may bestow her heart, as well as hand. A more sincere friend I have never met with, and many a pang would it cost me to part with her, but it grieves my very soul to see one so delicate, and possessing so much sensibility, alone in the world. I have a brother, of whom I believe Heaven could witness there is not on earth, at least in my opinion, one more calculated for a partner, his person is elegant and prospects bright, and he idolizes her; repeatedly has he addressed her on the subject, but as unfortunately been repulsed. She has often told me she esteemed him for his worth, and were it possible I could love him with that degree of warmth of which I know I am capable of loving, I would bestow on him my heart and hand, but unfortunately for his happiness I cannot love him, for I never will deceive that man who is to be my partner for life. I will marry that man, and him only, whom I could prefer to every other; that man without whom the world will become a barren waste. She has had to my knowledge several offers of good settlements, but she has told me when I have spoken to her on the subject, she could not account for it, but she had never yet seen that object whom she should feel justified in exchanging her present situation with, and added, O ——— I have a heart possessing too much sensibility to entrust it to the care of any man I have yet seen, recollect my happiness has once been sacrificed to parental authority. Perhaps you will be a little surprised when I tell you this paragon of perfection is a widow of twenty-three years of age, she lives alone, with a female servant, and has the ——— business conducted for her by an assistant since her husband's decease, which has been about three years. He was a very handsome man, universally respected, he adored her, she was the faithful and domestic wife; he has observed to me, although he felt convinced he had only obtained her hand, her value was above all price; he was ill above twelve months, during

which time I had, in common with many others, an opportunity of witnessing her unexampled kindness to him; although at that time only twenty she had the discretion of sixty, and were you only one week in her company you must adore her, if you possess a heart capable of loving one who has, in my estimation, everything calculated to make the marriage state a perfect paradise; her disposition is beyond everything excellent, she has property, but to what amount I am not aware. If you have any connexions with the — of — you may know the unimpeached character of the family, as they have been well known to them from their earliest infancy. If you are still disengaged, and disposed to pay an early attention to this, you will find, should you succeed, that although a stranger to you has proved your best friend, as it regards the hand-writing, although you must plainly perceive it is an assumed one, should you ever have an opportunity to shew it, for I should fear her recognizing it; I would not for the wealth of the Indies incur her displeasure. Probably you will say the distance is too far, but what is distance to obtain an article so valuable. If you feel disposed to address her on the subject, direct Mrs. —

Your's respectfully,

IF the intention of the advertiser be truly such as stated in the advertisement, a young lady, without fortune, but of the highest respectability, as to friends and connexions, would, from peculiar family arrangements, be induced to accept the honourable proposals of any gentleman of good moral character, but previous to any further communication on her part, must request a line from the advertizer (should he feel favourably inclined) with real name and address.

SIR,

IN reply to your advertisement in the Sunday Times, Nov. 25th instant, I must confess on perusing I felt rather interested in your behalf, at the same time I am surprised a gentleman possessing so many good qualities, in addition to youth and fortune, should be under the necessity of adopting a mode so public, but there is some apology to be made after the reason you give. I am a young person without parents, possessing a small income, would of course have no objection to form an alliance with a gentleman of respectability, gifted with those desirable qualifications. With respect to myself, I have been well educated in the usual mode of polite education, music, &c. and seen a great deal of domestic life, that, I flatter

myself, having arrived at the age of twenty five years, I am competent to fulfil the duties of a married life. I say nothing of my personal appearance, as I propose ocular demonstration. You must excuse my giving my real name and address, as I feel rather reluctant at the first to comply with your request. If you wish for an interview you may direct to ———

I am, Sir,

Your's respectfully.

Dec. 14th, 1827.

SIR,

IN re-perusing your letter, it has since struck me you might perhaps have expected an answer, although it does not fully express it in your letter. Having so little knowledge of the person now addressed, I judge you will think with me it must be a person void of feeling *that could say Y E S* under such circumstances, though *we might be happy* hereafter without being better acquainted. So much promised, I think you will attach no blame to me, that part of your letter where it states to give up all the *gaieties* of this world, and live in solitude, I do not exactly comprehend; as to the *gaieties* I have never been accustomed to them, but confess I like the society of a few select friends, and cannot entirely give them up. If this meets your approbation regarding solitude, you are at liberty to treat further on the subject. Answer this, direct as before.

Your's, &c.

Dec. 30th, 1827.

SIR,

HAVING been obliged to be out a great deal the last two or three days, I was fearful your answer (if conveyed in the same manner the other two were) might have fallen into other hands, as there are more persons living in the house. At the receipt of your last I thought it was high time to lay the whole proceedings (from beginning to end) before my brother, who was *exceedingly angry* I had done such a thing, but consented, as things had gone so far, to meet you any day you might appoint, between the hours of four and six. I sincerely trust my not answering your letter before has not been the means of anything serious happening, as I should have been extremely sorry to have occasioned such proceedings,

should have answered it before, but imagined I had said all I could, with prudence, in the other.

Your's, &c.

Signed by the same person as the last letter.

A young lady, (having yesterday perused an advertisement in the paper, inserted A. Z.) whose opinion coincides with his respecting the many happy marriages which have taken place through that medium, and who flatters herself upon further acquaintance, that she will not be found deficient in those amiable qualities, so essentially requisite to render the marriage state happy.

Further particulars may be obtained from ——— respecting the lady and her place of residence.

Nov. 30th, 1827.

SIR,

YOUR advertisement in the Times paper of yesterday has met my observation, and though I feel some repugnance in answering it, yet circumstances I trust will justify the measure. I must now inform you that I have been genteelly educated, that my connexions are very respectable, I have a widowed mother and only one surviving brother. Misfortunes of a painful and pecuniary nature have induced me to reside for the last three years with a lady, with whom I am treated as a daughter. My education, though genteel, has been quite of a domesticated nature, and I flatter myself that my disposition will not be found unamiable to any one with whom I might be disposed to form a permanent connexion. My friends are kind enough to consider my person pleasing, and my age does not exceed your own; you will, however, excuse my giving my name and address, as my ignorance the of party with whom I am corresponding leads to a similar feeling on my own part, and until I am acquainted with your name and residence, you must excuse my withholding my own. Should you be inclined to give them, address to ———

Nov. 26th, 1827.

Nov. 26th, 1827.

SIR,

HAVING perused your advertisement in the Sunday Times, I feel myself every way qualified to answer it. Myself and friends being very respectable, being brought up

in a domesticated and economical line of life. I have no property, nor have I any expectations whatever. My age is twenty-six.

Should this short epistle of myself meet your approbation, please to direct

P. S. I shall observe the strictest secrecy and attention.

SIR,

AS I am at present resident at ——— your advertisement did not meet my notice until this morning. Feelingly alive to the general received opinion of the impropriety of answering advertisements, I will for once swerve and reply to your's. You must at present excuse my giving you my address, as this letter is unknown to any one, and should we eventually become acquainted, I should not ever wish it known even to my own family the way the acquaintance was formed. My family and connexions are of the highest respectability and character, mine would bear the most rigid scrutiny. In person I am considered a pretty little figure. Hair nut-brown, blue eyes, not generally considered plain, my age nearly 25. My married friends have often told me I am calculated to make an amiable man truly happy, and without vanity I think I am, as I am cheerful, domestic, of good education and disposition, and have always mixed in good society; in a letter like this egotism must be pardoned.

Should you consider this deserving of consideration, as I trust you are a man of honour, and would not sport with the feelings of a young person of respectability; if you are serious on this subject, any farther communications you may require I will readily give; if you will direct a letter to me as under, I will call there Thursday and Saturday mornings. May I request your name, and if your residence is generally in London or in the country.

Tuesday, Nov. 27th.

Nov. 26th, 1827.

SIR,

YOUR advertisement, which appeared in the Sunday Times, I feel inclined to answer. If you really are inclined to marry, and all is true which you state, I think I am the person, my age is twenty-two, and am happy to say possess a most amiable disposition, can play the piano-forte and sing tolerably well, also other accomplishments which I think not worthy of statement. I have always been brought up domes-

ticated, and am quite able to manage, let my situation be what it may; my wish is to settle in life, provided I meet with one who I think deserves such a wife as I shall make. If your intentions are honourable, you will not blame me for requesting your name and address. First, I am sure if you do want a wife that you will not lose a good one because she does not give it. If you send me your's and a few more particulars, then I shall know how better to proceed. I am a young lady, now living in the town of ——— with my mother, and in a most respectable manner, are known and respected by all in it, therefore must say I should not like to expose myself and family to ridicule, should your advertisement be only for a joke, consequently it would, therefore I must request you to direct to ——— Write by return of post if possible, I shall send my servant for the letter, therefore pay the post if you please.

P. S. I have no fortune till the death of my mother.

SIR,

I WAS rather surprised on perusing the Sunday Times, to see an advertisement from a gentleman, whose age is the same as my own; 'tis strange that a person who possesses a fortune, as well as youth, &c. should have recourse to so novel a mode in order to obtain a wife; nevertheless, however odd or romantic it may appear, I agree with you there are many happy marriages accrue from the plan you have adopted.

I flatter myself I have a reasonable good disposition, with natural domestic habits, which we all know is a great essential in a connubial life.

As to personal attractions, I must decline giving a description, as a personal interview will suffice. I must quote your own words (honour and secrecy relied on); notwithstanding I feel under the necessity, in this case, of noncomplying with your request, furnishing you at present with my address, &c., but as a substitute, I propose an interview, whenever it is convenient to have a walk. I should think Finsbury Square, or any other place in the vicinity of St. Paul's, which I leave to your option. An answer will oblige, directed to

Left at the Post Office.

I am, Sir,
Your's, &c.

P. S. I shall expect to hear from you by return of post, if possible.

SIR,

IN answer to your advertisement in the Sunday Times, I take upon myself to say, that according to your statement, you will find me in every respect a desirable companion to make a wedded life comfortable, particularly as far as concerns domestic affairs, being a ——— daughter of respectability, and at present comfortably situated, but being aware at a future period the loss of a father will greatly alter my many comforts in a home, which makes me induced to say thus far. Should I be fortunate ever to meet with an agreeable and affectionate partner, I cannot say but I should certainly avail myself of the opportunity. I also would give you to understand I shall have no fortune till after my father's decease. It appears you are not a fortune-hunter: I trust the person who is destined to be my companion for life, will never have cause to regret. Should the advertiser feel disposed to answer this letter, by directing to

P. S. Or by inserting a few lines in the Sunday Times will meet the eye of

Dec. 1st, 1827.

A YOUNG lady who is desirous of settling in a respectable situation of life, has seen A. Z's advertisement, but previous to giving her name, would be glad to hear from him, stating whether he is still entirely disengaged, as the advertisement has been out some days.

The lady thinks it rather unreasonable on the part of A. Z. to expect the "real name and address," at the same time withholding his own, as he must be aware that considerations of delicacy have, or ought to have, more weight with the female than the male part of the creation. The advertiser may feel assured that this letter is not written from impertinent motives, as the writer is really desirous of giving up the state of "single blessedness;" she is under his own age, possesses some accomplishments; has moved in a genteel sphere of life, with an irreproachable reputation, and is generally considered of an amiable disposition. Having been thus explicit, the lady thinks herself entitled to ask some further particulars of A. Z., who may (if he thinks proper to continue this correspondence) address a letter to L. G.

SIR,

THE young lady who addresses you having seen your advertisement in the Times of last Sunday, and consider-

ing under all circumstances that a further acquaintance may not prove unfavourable, is desirous of augmenting it; but under the impression that some imposition may have been practised, must decline at present giving her name, except by initials; suffice it to say, that she is entirely uninfluenced, and at her own disposal, and her respectability will be better known than described. If A. Z. should consider this epistle worth attending to, and will address (post paid) to _____, he may depend on further communication from

His most respectfully,

Nov. 28th.

SIR,

HAVING seen an advertisement in the Times paper, wherein you wish for a respectable female of domestic habits for a partner for life, myself being disengaged, and of domestic habits, and having nothing but youth to recommend me, I take this opportunity to offer myself, if you think it worthy of your notice, a line addressed to _____ will be attended to

A YOUNG lady, aged nineteen, most respectably connected, and considered truly amiable by all who know her, would have no objection to form a matrimonial alliance, should she meet with a gentleman (possessing the qualifications of A. Z.) on whom she could place her affections, until the lady has some assurance of the honour of A. Z's intentions, she cannot think of subscribing her real name and address, but should he deem this worthy of notice, a letter directed to _____ Post Office, _____, will be attended to.

Nov. 26th, 1827.

SIR,

AS the marriage state may very properly be termed a lottery, I have at a hazard answered your advertisement in the Times paper of yesterday: to enter into particulars now would, I should conceive, be highly unnecessary, otherwise than I am respectably situated, with a mother; my prospects like many others in this life have been greatly blighted, through the loss of a parent, but every satisfaction would be given in regard to connexions, should this bring forward an interview. To describe my person would be a vanity in myself, which I

have never been taught to foster. Depending on your honour as a gentleman, I have inserted my real address.

Miss _____

SIR,

I BEG to answer your advertisement of last Sunday, but *really think it nothing but a frolic*; I know a charming young woman of *no property*, her friends *highly respectable*, nineteen years of age, exceedingly agreeable person, has had the charge of her parents house these three years, and brought up by a truly amiable and virtuous mother. I can with great truth say, the young lady is not aware of my answering your advertisement. If you think proper you may address a line to Mrs. _____. I hope you will act honourably with regard to the name, as the writer is a married woman. A friend will put this in the twopenny post.

Your obedient Servant.

The young lady has never been attached to any one, nor has she ever left her friends.

SIR,

HAVING read your advertisement in the paper of to-day, I have taken the liberty of answering it, for if you possess the good *qualities* you therein name, I certainly think you will make a *delightful* partner, consequently I shall expect to see or hear from you on Wednesday next, the 28th instant.

Your's respectfully.

Nov. 25, 1827.

Monday night.

SIR,

I READ your advertisement on Sunday last, and have taken the first opportunity of answering it; if you are not in too much haste in settling your affairs, I should like to hold a correspondence with you, until we know each other better, if convenient to you, for there is more disgrace attached to me in answering any thing in the newspaper, and more danger of my family becoming acquainted of my so doing, and if this does not meet your approbation, please to destroy this, and let nothing of it pass your lips; and if to the contrary, it must be by letter for a short time, until I can break it out to them. Please to write whether or no, and tell me how far you disap-

prove, for there is room in us all to improve. I shall be looking out for a letter at the latter end of the week, and hope that I shall meet no disappointment. Please direct your letter for _____, Post-office; to be left till called for (unpaid).

Good night in haste.—*entre nous.*

A YOUNG lady aged eighteen years, who flatters herself that her accomplishments, temper, and disposition are calculated to be conducive to the happiness of such a person as A. Z. describes himself, confiding in his *honour* and *secrecy*, wishes to have an interview. A few lines stating whether four o'clock to-morrow will be convenient to A. Z. for that purpose, will oblige.

Monday morning.

A YOUNG lady of respectability who carefully perused A. Z's. advertisement in the Sunday Times, feels confident she could meet the wishes of the advertiser, but does not feel authorized in stating real name and address, unless the gentleman will first favour her with his, as a sense of propriety, and not curiosity dictates the request; secrecy may be relied on, an answer directed to E. A _____, shall meet with every consideration, and a speedy acknowledgment.

26th November, 1827.

SIR,

HAVING seen an advertisement in the Sunday Times, respecting an application for a female of respectability, I flatter myself I am competent to answer your expectations. As I am candid and honourable on my part, shall expect the same with secrecy on yours. If you think well, I should like to have an answer with your real name and address, previous to an interview, I rely on your honour, and subscribe myself

Your well-wisher.

November 25, 1827.

SIR,

IN answer to your advertisement of yesterday, I beg to inform you, that I am quite of your opinion, that many happy marriages have ensued by the same means resorted to by you. It is my earnest wish to meet with an agreeable companion, such as you represent yourself, and such I think

to be essential to those in the married state, therefore, if you have not made your choice ere this, from the many answers which no doubt you have had, I shall be happy to hear further from you.

SIR,

ON perusing your advertisement in the Sunday Times, it immediately struck me that a merry-hearted, as well as an agreeable companion might be necessary to your happiness in a wife, particularly as your spirits appear to be in a state of depression; if so, you may possibly find in your humble servant the identical little companion, formed to constitute your felicity.

November 26, 1827.

IF the gentleman who inserted an advertisement in the Sunday Times headed Matrimony, will call at ——— and ask to see Miss ——— between the hours of twelve and three, to-day, he may have an interview, when every other particular will be most candidly stated, should the advertiser look for accomplishments or beauty, an interview will be unnecessary.

Monday morning.

SIR,

TRUSTING to the honour and secrecy mentioned in your insertion of yesterday, I take the liberty of stating in reply, my willingness to enter into the matrimonial engagement you propose, provided, on a personal interview, we should be mutually satisfied with each other. I am now in my nineteenth year, and possessed of some personal attractions, together with a mild and domestic disposition, beyond this it might probably be deemed unbecoming to enter into further detail at the moment; I shall therefore conclude by assuring you of the respectability of my family and connexions, stating, at the same time, that as I have thought proper to answer your advertisement, without their knowledge, I shall feel obliged, in the event of your considering it worth notice, by your addressing your communications to myself.

I am respectfully, Sir,

Your obedient humble Servant.

P. S.—I again repeat, that I put the fullest confidence in your honour and secrecy.

22d December, 1827.

SIR,

PERUSING your advertisement in the Sunday Times, for a partner, I have taken the liberty of addressing you. I must agree with you, that it is a strange way of forming a matrimonial connexion, however, from what you mention, I think there is a prospect of happiness; I should have no objection of forming a connexion of the kind, after a further explanation, first, the respectability of your family, and connexions, to what church you belong, &c. I am about twenty-three years of age, and I have the vanity to think that my person would please most men, and my disposition without a fault. I have however no fortune, but my family and connexions are very respectable. I have very near connexions, high in the employ of the ——— Company, in short, I could easily give you satisfactory references; my education has been liberal, and I flatter myself I am able to conduct myself in any company. You may before this reaches you be engaged, I shall therefore say nothing more on the subject, without I hear from you in reply; if I am to be favoured with an answer, I beg it may be without delay.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant.

SIR

IN reply to your advertisement in the Sunday Times, I take the liberty of informing you I am of a respectable family, my papa having seen a reverse of fortune, has occasioned my mamma to enter into a boarding house at ——— which, if it meets your approbation, will thank you to call to-morrow evening between four and five o'clock, as it will be the most likely time of seeing me. This being unknown to my parents, you had better come as if for boarding. I have a sister at home with me, who is twenty-one, my age is twenty-two. I must beg to excuse this bad writing, as it is done in fear.

SIR,

SEEING your advertisement of the 25th instant, and wishing to know if you really are serious in your intentions. I have taken the liberty of addressing you on the subject; as you did not mention any thing concerning property, will candidly inform you, I am not in possession of any at present, but in expectation of some at a future period, you

merely said you wished for a domestic partner, as such I intrude on your notice, trusting to time to discover what good qualities I possess; I hope you will not attribute this to vanity on my side, as I assure you I am actuated by a far better motive, but at the same time, I must confess, I have not sufficient confidence to give you my address, so for the present, you must excuse me. If you answer this, please to direct _____ to be left at the Post-office till called for.

Monday morning, 12 o'clock.

SIR,

HAVING read your advertisement of the 25th, I cannot but acknowledge myself desirous of forming a connexion with a person possessing your qualifications. As I cannot presume I am all you could wish, (yet feeling a particular interest in you) I beg you will appoint an interview, which will enable you to judge more competently than any thing I could advance. Address

Should you not notice this, accept my sincere wish that you may meet with one deserving you.

P. S. As the above is my real name and address, I fully rely on your honour.

Sunday Evening.

Nov. 26th, 1827.

SIR,

I HAVE taken the earliest opportunity of addressing you with these few lines. According to your advertisement, as you being the age that will suit me, twenty-four, and I am eighteen, so I think that Providence as ordained that you and me should come together, for I am not very pleantury situated myself, and it appears that you are not. I am a very cheerful disposition, and should study every thing for your comfort and happiness. If it will suit you the most convenient time to see me will be at eleven o'clock in the morning, and at three in the afternoon. If I do not see you in a day or two I shall think that you are suited.

Till then Adieu.

HAVING taken up the Sunday Times, I see Matrimony at the head of the paper; should the advertiser be sincere and honourable, he will meet with a lady of respectability (but not of fortune), one of very domestic habits, having

been brought up by a dear and tender parent. Should the gentleman approve of this epistle, the lady will in her next note give her real name and address, and by giving her a line, post paid, to ——— she will return an answer as soon as possible.

THE advertisement of a private gentleman, aged twenty-four, in the Sunday Times paper, happened to meet the eye of a young lady, just twenty-one, of the greatest respectability. The advertisement rather struck her, and should the gentleman be really in earnest he must advertise once again in the same paper, when he will hear further particulars. But the extreme modesty of the lady will not allow her to put either name or address; the lady is at present in the country, will shortly be in town.

N. B. The lady is not very handsome.

SIR,

HAVING read an advertisement in the Sunday Times, headed Matrimony, and having duly considered every particular connected with it, I am induced to answer the application, not as an idle person, but as one who feels somewhat qualified to render the marriage state desirable. No mention having been made with respect to personal attractions, or pecuniary circumstances, I shall decline saying any thing concerning them, as the former depends entirely on taste, the other will be explained either on an interview or a second correspondence. It is to be hoped that the gentleman's intentions are of an honourable nature, as advertisements have been put in papers similar to the one in question, merely to sport with the feelings of the female sex.

Should you think this worthy of attention, a letter addressed ——— will meet

Sir, your's, &c.

Wednesday Morning,
Nov. 28th.

28th Nov. 1827.

SIR,

HAVING accidentally taken up the Sunday Times of the 25th inst. I was much struck with the nature of your advertisement, which certainly appears to me rather extraordinary; however, as I have no reason to doubt you are not what you represent yourself to be, I have no hesitation in reply of saying, I am one who possesses every qualification calculated

to render the object of my choice happy. You will excuse, Sir, my not being explicit, but at present I consider it quite unnecessary.

Should you think these few lines worthy your notice, I shall expect you will favour me with real name and address, as well as any particular you may conceive likely to establish confidence.

I am, Sir,

Address — Post Office.

Your obedient Servant,

SIR,

HAVING read your advertisement in the Sunday Times, I feel induced to answer it, being desirous of engaging myself to you. I suppose we must be candid in such cases. I am a third daughter of a clergyman of the Church of England, who has eight children, therefore you may imagine that I can have no fortune; my age is twenty-one. I can give the most unexceptionable reference to character, &c. I shall not be more explicit at present. Direct to

Sunday, Nov. 25th.

SIR,

IN answer to your advertisement, I take the liberty of thus addressing you, stating, that I am a young widow lady, with no family, and quite competent to make the marriage state happy. Should this meet your approbation, letters to be left, post paid, at

SIR,

AS I am not in the habit of trumpeting forth my own praises, I can say little on the subject of merits, or personal charms; but if I may give any credit to the opinions of friends, I am possessed of those requisites so essentially necessary to constitute the happiness of married state; you however, I trust, if serious, may have an opportunity, if you think proper, to judge for yourself. If you have not made your choice, I shall be happy to hear from you immediately.

_____ has seen the advertisement inserted by A. Z. in the Sunday Times of the 25th; she is a widow, and as that may be an objection, she writes to ascertain that point before she gives her name and address, or enters into particulars. If A. Z. has any communication to make, it must be done through the Twopenny Post Office, at Craig's Court, Charing Cross.

Nov. 26th, 1827.

Flummer and Brewin, Printers, Love Lane, Eastcheap.

