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By Alexander Cruden.

THE
HISTORY
OF
RICHARD POTTER,

A Sailor, and Prisoner in *Newgate*,
Who was tried at the *Old-Bailey* in *July 1763*,
and received sentence of Death for attempt-
ing, at the instigation of another Sailor,
to receive *Thirty-five Shillings* of Prize-
money due to a third Sailor.

Containing an Account of his being Convinced of Sin
and Converted in the *Cells* of *NEWGATE*, and of
his exemplary Behaviour, praying night and
day, during his present confinement.

Humbly dedicated to the Right Honourable the EARL OF
HALIFAX, who obtained a Reprieve for him from
HIS MAJESTY, on a true representation of his case made
to his Lordship by a STRANGER, who, since *August 24*,
has visited this hopeful Youth daily in *Newgate*, and
instructed him from time to time in the Principles of the
CHRISTIAN RELIGION.

With an earnest and affectionate Address to all MAGISTRATES,
particularly the Judges of ENGLAND, the Lord Mayor, Aldermen
and Sheriffs of LONDON, to exert their power and influence for
suppressing Idleness and Vice, and encouraging Industry and true
Piety: To which is added an earnest Expostulation with Book-
sellers, Printers, and others, on their profanation of the LORD'S-
DAY.

And a modest Attempt to shew the necessity and expediency of our gracious
KING GEORGE THE THIRD's acting the part of an HEZEKIAH
in reforming his People.

2.

PSALM xxxvii. 5.

Commit thy way to JEROVAN; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.

L O N D O N :

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T O

THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
GEORGE MONTAGU DUNK,
EARL of HALIFAX,

Principal Secretary of State to His Majesty
KING GEORGE THE THIRD.

My LORD,

WITH the greatest humility, and most affectionate regard, I beg leave to present the History of RICHARD POTTER to your Lordship, who was most graciously pleased to hearken to my earnest supplications, and to lay his case before His MAJESTY, and obtain his reprieve the very day before he was to have been executed.

I thought I had a good cause and a good conscience, and that gave me courage to apply to your Lordship very earnestly. RICHARD POTTER was then unknown to and even unseen by me; but I thought his case deserved great compassion, and I could not be easy without making application to save his life; which is the third time of its remarkable preservation, once when he fell over-board and providentially saved himself by swimming, and another time when he was struck down to the ground by a violent unprovoked blow from a ship-mate, as appears in the following HISTORY. His behaviour in *Newgate* is greatly approved of: he is beloved by every body for his peaceable and agreeable temper; and ever since I knew him, and several weeks before, he has been very serious and pious.

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One great design of this publication is, to make it appear to His MAJESTY'S subjects, that your Lordship did a good action in saving this young man's life, and also to pave the way for obtaining His MAJESTY'S FREE AND FULL PARDON: If I am so happy as to succeed herein, he is to be sent to an Academy to be taught writing and accompts, and particularly *Navigation*, that he may serve His MAJESTY in the *Royal-Navy*, and be qualified for something better than a common sailor.

Your Lordship has laid me under great obligations, for I was well informed that you acted chearfully and with good inclination in saving this prisoner; therefore I beg leave to implore, with most ardent desire, your farther assistance and compassion to this hopeful Youth.

Your Lordship, by giving a favourable ear to this my affectionate supplication, will make the sound of the EARL of *HALIFAX*'s name more and more delightful and agreeable not only to me but to all good people, and lay me under fresh and great obligations to continue to offer up my prayers to heaven, that GOD may bless you with all prosperity and happiness in this world, particularly with grace and peace from GOD through JESUS CHRIST, as a preparation for eternal blessedness in the world to come. *Amen.*

I am, with great gratitude and sincere respect,

My LORD,

Your most obedient and most humble Servant,

From the *Flating-Mill*,
over-against the Ship,
in *Ivy-lane*, October 20,
1763.

ALEXANDER CRUDEN.



T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F
RICHARD POTTER,
A Sailor, and Prisoner in *Newgate, &c.*

RICHARD POTTER was born at *Newport* in the Isle of *Wight* in or about the year 1743. He was descended of honest parents; his father's name was WILLIAM POTTER, and his mother's maiden name MARY LOVE: He was a sworn Corn-meter and Coal-meter, and he put RICHARD his son to school when a little one; but for some years before he went to sea he worked in the store-houses of Corn with his father. When RICHARD was about eleven years old he went to sea aboard the *Little Jenny*, a passing vessel from *Newport* to *Portsmouth*, and went in various vessels afterwards to *Guernsey* and *Jersey* and other places.

RICHARD was also a sailor aboard the *Africa* man of war. He, in *December* 1762, went aboard a brigantine at *Bristol* bound for *Guinea*, but the ship springing a leak and putting into *Milford-haven*, the boatswain and the crew left her. Afterwards he travelled by land to *Bristol* and went to a lodging he formerly had upon the key. After this he went aboard the *Ruby* a ship at *Bristol*, bound for the *West-Indies*, and was to have had *Forty-five Shillings* a month; but the Captain wanted him to sign articles for less than the note the merchants gave him, which he refused to do: and the Cap-
tain

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tain afterwards injuriously sent a press-gang aboard, and he was pressed and carried aboard a king's tender, and had a note for *Forty-five Shillings*, being money advanced to pay his landlady six days after the ship should sail.

RICHARD went to *Cork* in that tender, and afterwards to *Kinsale* and was put aboard the *St Janeiro* a new *Spanish* man of war taken at the *Havannah*, and was cast away in her near *Ramsgate* in *March 1763*. His clothes were lost in the *St Janeiro*, and he afterwards came for the first time to *London*; and on account of that ship received at the Pay-Office in *Broadstreet Three Pounds Fourteen Shillings and Sixpence*: and alio *One Pound Two Shillings and Sixpence* from *Mr Albert Innes* at *Mr Dixon's* office near *Tower-hill* on account of the same ship. He bought some clothes with that money; but was afterwards robbed by a sailor who knocked him down with a stick in *Rosemary-lane*, one night a little after ten o'clock, when he was going home to his lodging, and took out of his pocket two guineas and three shillings, and a large pair of silver buckles out of his shoes: the blow was so severe that the mark of it will always remain near the crown of his head. The robber left him lying on the ground, and when he got up he found that his money and buckles were gone: he went home and told the people at his lodging that he had been robbed. Poor POTTER was obliged to sell his clothes in order to pay for his lodging, and afterwards he went to work on the river in unloading sugar-ships, or work of that kind. He told me that, if he had not been robbed of his money, he intended to have gone home to his mother in the isle of *Wight*.

RICHARD is a tall young man, of an agreeable countenance, and near six feet high; he has been nine years at sea, and it is not doubted but that he is a good sailor; and I hope after proper education, which is designed to be given him, he will be fit for any station at sea. In *Newgate* he is greatly beloved, for he is of an agreeable peaceable temper, and a very sensible young man. He is kind to the prisoners, and is so good-natured as to do the office of a barber upon occasion: but the greatest beauty of all is, that it appears that the Grace of GOD has touched his heart; for without real religion and true grace there is no solid happiness.

On *Thursday, May 5, 1763*, *John Garvin*, a sailor, a *Dublin-man*, had received this day *Thirty five Shillings* as his

his own prize-money due to the *Burford* ship of war, at the *King's-Head* Tavern in *Fenchurch-street*, and came this very day to *Thomas Kenny's* a chandler's shop on *Salt-petre-bank* near *Rosemary-lane*, a very civil house, where RICHARD lodged, and was then at dinner. *Garvin* said that his mess-mate *Andrew Maggee* was gone to *Chatham*, and he had desired him to receive his prize-money of *Thirty-five Shillings*, and that he would give him *Half a Guinea* for his trouble. *Garvin* desired POTTER to go with him to the *Black Lion* Alehouse in the neighbourhood, and treated him with two pots of beer: afterwards they went to the *Bull and Butcher* in *Back-lane*, where they had one pot of beer, and each of them a dram: then *Garvin* came with POTTER and directed him to the very door where the prize-money was paid, and purposed to stay in the Alehouse at the next door till he returned, to receive the prize-money for *Maggee*, as he said; and to allow POTTER *Half a Guinea*; but POTTER being stopped he made off. It was a very ill-concerted scheme, but POTTER was a stranger to *London* and was easily deceived. POTTER said, in the room where the prize-money was paid, that his name was *Andrew Maggee*, and made a cross for that name; but no money was received, for he was presently asked the Captain's name, and he knew it not; *Mr Dixon*, the agent for the *Burford*, said that he was a rogue, and he would have him hanged. Poor POTTER directly and humbly told him that his name was RICHARD POTTER, and he hoped they would not hang him; he said that he was cast away in the *St Janeiro* in *March* last near *Ramsgate*: he trembled much, and was very sorry for what he had done: he begged forgiveness, and said he had never done any such thing before; but no ear was given to his request, though the attempt was not executed; and his unacquaintedness with *London*, and his trembling and great sorrow upon his spirits might have discovered that he was far from being an hardened old offender.

A Constable was sent for, and poor POTTER was confined in the *Poultry Counter*, and on the ninth of *May* he was brought before the Lord Mayor at the Mansion-house, who sent him to *Newgate*, and he was there put in irons for ten weeks: being sickly and having no friends he put his trial off at the sessions in *May*, but was tried at the *Old Bailey* and cast for death in the sessions of *July*. His trial did not continue long; *Mr Albert Innes*, the prosecutor, brought the prize-book into court, and gave evidence that the prisoner

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put his mark to receive *Maggee's* money. The jury brought him in guilty, though the design was not carried into execution. His defence was that he was put upon it by a sailor, and that he was in liquor. The Sessions-paper is erroneous, and says *sailors* for *sailor*. Moreover it is omitted in the Sessions-paper, that the sum designed to be received being small and not paid to the prisoner, the *Lord Mayor*, the *Jury*, the *Recorder*, and *Prosecutor*, recommended poor POTTER to His Majesty's mercy. The Sessions-paper is generally laid before the King and Council, therefore this was a very material omission; for Mr *Innes* told me that this was done.

It appears from the many favourable circumstances in the Prisoner's case that he was justly an object of mercy and compassion, and indeed his irons and long confinement seem to be a sufficient punishment for an offence that was not contrived by him, but artfully contrived by *Garvin*. He was double-ironed and put into the cells after sentence, and remained there for eight weeks.

The ways of God are unsearchable and his dispensations past finding out: He can bring good out of evil, light out of darkness, and order out of confusion, and meat out of the eater, and sweetness out of that which is strong: for our Prisoner is a great instance of the Grace of GOD even entering the cells of Newgate. He declares that, after he was put into the cells, he prayed to GOD night and day, that GOD would pardon his sins and save his soul for the sake of JESUS CHRIST; and he afterwards gave thanks for the many mercies he had received, and he trusts that the Grace of GOD hath reached his heart there; he says that he was affected every minute with his sins, and that even the very first night he was in the cell he prayed and moaned all night; *James Murphy*, a person under sentence of death, being sick, RICHARD was for some time put in his cell to take care of him; and he says, that *Murphy* read to him many good verses and chapters in the scriptures, [*these are RICHARD's own words*] and also in the Common Prayer Book, which, he says, were very useful and comfortable to him, and he was enabled to see the great evil of sin, and to trust in the Lord JESUS for pardon and salvation: the books belonged to the Rev. Mr *Roe*, the Ordinary of *Newgate*. *James Ellis*, a servant in *Newgate*, said to me, that when he watched the prisoners in the pres-yard, he heard, from the window in the cell, poor POTTER praying

praying very often in the night-time, and he said, *he believed that God almighty put the expressions into his heart.*

Friday, August 19. I usually go out before breakfast to read the morning News-papers, and this day I read in one of them that RICHARD POTTER was one among others in the dead warrant, which was very shocking to me; for I early heard his case from my valuable friend Mr *Innes*, the prosecutor, and always pleaded with him that his life might be saved, which Mr *Innes* always agreed to. I was thoughtful and prayerful till *Monday* morning, and could not be easy without using my endeavours to save this poor sailor, though unknown and unseen by me.

Monday, August 22. After praying earnestly for direction and a blessing on this affair, I went this morning to Mr *Innes's* office at *Gould-square* near *Tower-hill*, and told my errand to his clerks, and it appeared that one of them told him before he came down to his office what my errand was. When he came we went into a room by ourselves, and he with an agreeable countenance said, "*I know your errand;*" for he is a pleasant and sensible gentleman, as well as a very tall lively personable man. I answered, "That my errand is to plead with you to favour POTTER." He replied, "What can I do?" I said, "Please to write a letter to the under-secretary of state, and I will carry it." He said, "I know not what to write;" and I replied, "Please to give me pen, ink and paper, and I will write a rough draught of a letter," though neither I nor many of superior abilities can write letters so well as Mr *Innes*. But I had a willing mind, and my heart was set upon saving the prisoner. I accordingly wrote, and the purport was this: "RICHARD POTTER was condemned at last sessions for an attempt to receive *Thirty-five Shillings* of prize-money due to another man, but the money was not paid him: I, the prosecutor, would be very sorry that he should suffer death on that account; therefore I would humbly beg that you will please to lay the case before the Earl of *Halifax*, that he may be pleased to apply to His Majesty to turn the sentence into Transportation."

Upon receiving this letter I thought that I was now engaged about a matter of life and death, and I went with speed to the *Old-Swan* stairs and called for oars, and landed

at *Whitehall*, and then went through *St James's Park* to the Secretary's office near *St James's Palace*. I asked for my good and honoured friend *Mr Weston*, under-secretary; but I was told he was one hundred and fifty miles off: I then applied to *Mr Larpent* the first clerk, who now, and on a former occasion about presenting the second edition of my *Concordance* to His Majesty, behaved in a civil and obliging manner. He received me kindly, and, after reading *Mr Innes's* letter, he said that it might be of great service if I applied to the Recorder, and prevailed on him to write at the bottom of the letter, "That RICHARD POTTER is an object of His Majesty's mercy and compassion." This calls to my mind what I was lately told, That Princes and Governors most commonly see with other peoples eyes: which is a great disadvantage, though it often cannot be avoided. If all the favourable circumstances attending poor POTTER's case had been laid before the King and Council, I dare say that he had not been put in the dead warrant. Moreover a case very often is not fully represented to them that are in power, for one circumstance being concealed or unknown may give the scale quite another turn.

Then I left the Secretary's office and set out for *Whitehall* stairs, and went down the river, and landed at the *Three Cranes* in *Queen-street*, and went to *Guildhall* to inquire where I might find the Recorder. I was directed to his chambers in the *Temple*, but I stopped a little at my own lodging in *Ivy-lane*, and a passage of Scripture was impressed and set home upon my heart, which mightily encouraged me to proceed; after prayer I set out for the *Temple*, and the Recorder not being in his chambers, I said to his servant that I would stay a little and wait for him, for I was about a matter of life and death. When he came in I presented to him *Mr Innes's* letter, and he said, "That this affair was considered in Council, and that it was determined against POTTER, for they were resolved to protect the sailors in their property." This is not a true idea of the matter, for the agent only is protected in his property, and not the sailor; for *Mr Innes* told me that if an agent pays money to a wrong man he is obliged still to pay it to the right man: and if I was an agent I think at present that I would never pursue to death an ignorant sailor for receiving thirty or forty shillings wrongfully, much less for only attempting to do it. The Scripture says, *That God with the merciful will shew himself*

himself merciful: And with what measure you mete, it shall be measured to you again.

It is known that some merchants, ship-brokers and agents, near the end of the late war fitted out two large privateers, which, with provisions and other things, cost above forty thousand pounds, and that every shilling was lost. This was a very great loss, and those in trade meet with many losses; but I suppose there are few or no agents that have lost fifty or a hundred pounds in paying to wrong persons. Their property ought to be protected, but there is a way, I suppose, of laying the inditement that the offender may not be made liable to *Death*, but to suffer a punishment more adequate and equal to the crime. Poor RICHARD has suffered more than enough for his attempt, when it is considered that he was ignorant of the many bad practices in *London*, and was put upon it by another. He has been twenty three weeks in *Newgate*, from the ninth of *May*, without money to support him, till his providential friend visited him on *August* 24, which was about sixteen weeks after his first commitment; being a prisoner on the common side and in the cells, and a great part of the time in double irons, and he has been three times so very ill that it was thought he was dying; but it hath pleased GOD wonderfully to recover him, and I hope for some good end and purpose.

The Recorder's answer was a great discouragement, but my conscience directed me to proceed; therefore I went directly to the *Temple-stairs* and took oars to *Whitehall-stairs*, and then went to a friend a young judicious bookseller near the Secretary's office, and we consulted together. I sealed the letter and directed it, as it was first intended, to the Earl of *Halifax's* under-secretary, and delivered it to Mr *Larpent*, who said it should certainly be delivered to his Lordship. I left the event to Providence and returned home to *Ivy-lane*, and was in the afternoon engaged in correcting two sheets of a great work in five volumes, which was postponed in the morning. In the evening I thought it not improper to go and call at *Newgate*, to inquire what sort of a man poor POTTER was, and whether young or old? Mr *Freeborn*, the turnkey, told me that he was a young man and behaved well, and that he had been ill, and they thought that he would have died, but that now he was better. I was at home in the evening and thought and prayed for the poor prisoner.

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Tuesday, August 23. I rose about six o'clock this morning, and soon after wrote the following letter, which has been said to be so moving and so strong, that those in power could not but be affected with it.

To John Larpent, Esq; first Clerk in the Earl of Halifax's Office, as principal Secretary of State to His Majesty.

S I R,

Over-against the Ship, Ivy-lane,
London, August 23, 1763.

“ I T may be inquired why I am so desirous to obtain a
“ reprieve for RICHARD POTTER, unknown and unseen
“ by me? It may be said in answer to this question, that he
“ is condemned for only attempting to receive *Five and*
“ *Thirty Shillings*, but did not actually receive the money.
“ Some are of a more pitiful and compassionate nature than
“ others: And Mr *Innes*, the prosecutor, being my parti-
“ cular friend, I understood early the case, and always thought
“ that it would be hard to take away the life of a poor ig-
“ norant man who cannot write, for an attempt not exe-
“ cuted. Moreover Mr *Innes* is a young gentleman of an
“ excellent character, master of the office only this summer,
“ and successor to Mr *Dixon*, and it may not be very agree-
“ able to himself and friends that he should set out in the
“ world by being the instrument of a poor ignorant crea-
“ ture's losing his life in a case that is deserving the greatest
“ compassion. Mercy and compassion in many cases is most
“ safe: and it is to be lamented that there have been and
“ probably there will be an opportunity of making examples
“ of those who are more deeply guilty than this poor igno-
“ rant creature, who quickly made a confession of his crime.
“ I am sorry that I should give any trouble, for from the
“ sincerity of my heart I can say that I would not willingly
“ contribute any thing to occasion any real reflexion upon
“ His Majesty's mild and happy administration.

“ I thought it might be taking too much liberty to write
“ to the Earl of *Halifax*, but I would be glad that his Lord-
“ ship should see this, if you think proper: and then I have
“ nothing more to say but with resignation to leave it to
“ GOD to overrule the heart as he pleases.

“ Begging you to excuse this trouble, I am respectfully,

“ Sir, Your most humble and most obedient Servant,

“ ALEXANDER CRUDEN.”

“ *Postscript*, Since writing the above I have been with Mr
 “ *Roe*, the Ordinary of *Newgate*, who says that RICHARD
 “ POTTER has behaved humbly and quietly, but is a poor
 “ ignorant young man, and is an object of mercy: He says,
 “ that if it be desired he will attend and give an account of
 “ him; and that it will be a thousand pities not to save
 “ him. It is hoped that the letter of Mr *Innes* the prosecutor
 “ and what is said above, will move to compassion; and it
 “ is humbly supposed that the poor young man is not fit
 “ to die.”

I thought it not improper to call this morning on Mr *Roe*, to hear what he would say concerning the poor prisoner. I called at the Ordinary's house next to *Newgate*, but was told that he lived in *Rosamond's-Row* betwixt *Clerkenwell* and *Islington*: I was resolved to go and find him out. I found Mr *Roe* at home, and he spoke with great compassion of poor POTTER, as is related in the postscript of my letter to Mr *Larpen*. And moreover he said that some others that were to suffer were also objects of mercy, for their crimes were not of an atrocious nature. I am very unwilling to say any thing to offend; for when we speak of superiors, especially when we take the liberty to make observations on their conduct, it ought to be done with the greatest humility, reverence and respect. But it hath been said that too many have been hanged lately, and some for small crimes, tho' with a good intention, I suppose, to make others fear to commit the like: But we find that it hath not had that effect. The case is this, there is not generally a sense of religion among the people, and proper care is not taken by the Magistrates to restrain them or to punish them for many crimes which pave the way for their committing capital crimes.

After I left the Ordinary I set out for *Blackfriars-stairs*, and went down the river to *Whitehall*, and called at my friend's house in *St James's-street*. We consulted together, and I proposed that I should go to Mr *Larpen*, at his house in *St James's-street*, and deliver the letter to him, and ask him if he or I should deliver it to the Earl of *Salisbury*, and read the letter he in a very obliging manner to *George-street*, and deliver the letter to the Earl of *Halifax*.” And I telling the book-keeper that I was of that opinion, he much approved

of it: Then I said with courage and resolution, “ *I will go and find out his Lordship wherever he is.*”

I directly went to *George-street* and told the servants that I wanted to see my Lord *Halifax* upon an affair of life and death: They answered, that I could not see him, for his Lordship was very busy, and moreover the Attorney-General was with him. I replied, that I would stay till the Attorney-General went away. I was desired to walk into a parlour, and waited about a quarter of an hour till the Attorney-General was gone. I then spoke to one of the upper servants and told him of my important affair, and that it would be a good action if he could help me to speak to his Lordship; he said that he could not let me see his Lordship, for he was very busy and had the business of both Secretaries to do, the other Secretary the Earl of *Egremont* being dead two days before, and no body was to see his Lordship to day but Mr *Grenville* the first Commissioner of the Treasury: But he civilly said that if I had any paper or letter he would deliver it to his Lordship. I then gave him my letter above-mentioned. I beg leave to observe, that I have often experienced that foreigners who are servants are much more agreeable and obliging than those of our own country. Upon his Lordship's reading my letter I was admitted.

The Earl of *Halifax* is a very pleasant looking gentleman, and he kindly said to me, I have got Mr *Innes's* letter here, which was among other papers tied round with red tape, and also your letter, and I shall be with the King about an hour hence, and will represent the case to His Majesty. I pleaded hard, and said that the thing was not carried into execution; he allowed that to be an alleviating circumstance. I said that Government was no easy work, and that the prisoner was an object of mercy and compassion. His Lordship looked pleasantly, but said “ that when things come so far, we seldom make a change.” I pleaded that it was but a reprieve that was at present desired, and some favour might be shewn to me, for I had been by Providence to publish a very useful book of the Bible, and moreover that I had been a man's son at *Southgate*, in a family who related who had been Deputy-Auditor of the Exchequer to his Lordship's uncle the Duke of Devonshire, and I was for many years acquainted with him, and willing to lay hold on any twig to

pleaded very earnestly and took my leave, wishing all happiness to his Lordship.

I was very thoughtful in my room in the afternoon, and then went out to visit some friends for an hour or two, and came home and was thoughtful and prayerful. I went to *Newgate* in the evening to see if any reprieve was come; and none being come I was much discouraged and thought that all my labour was lost. I was very much concerned, and thought that I could now only pray for the prisoner's soul. I was at home in the evening, and went to bed soon after ten, but waking about three o'clock in the morning I could sleep no more, thinking on the poor prisoner and praying for him: And I was at the same time truly much concerned for my beloved friend Mr *Innes*, that he should be this summer only master of an office, and be an instrument of a poor sailor's losing his life in a case that so much deserved mercy and compassion.

Wednesday, August 24. I rose about six o'clock, and after seven went out to read the morning papers, and told a friend that I had applied for a reprieve for POTTER, but that there was no reprieve come. I was of opinion that my request ought to have been granted, but that it was my duty to submit to the sovereign will of GOD, and not to speak evil of those in authority. I came home, and was much affected with the case of poor POTTER, for though I had never seen him I had now heard a good character of him. After breakfast I went to Mr *Say's* counting-house near *Newgate*, and was inclinable at this time to see the prisoners set out for the place of execution, that I might see poor POTTER whom I had laboured to save. There were three put into the first cart, and two were put into the second, and the report being that there was no other prisoner to come, though there were six in the dead warrant, I jumped down from the window and went briskly through the mob and called at *Newgate*, where I heard the joyful news that a reprieve had come for POTTER last night after eleven o'clock. On my return I saw the Ordinary of *Newgate*, who was going to take coach to follow the prisoners to the place of execution, and he cheerfully said to me, "You have had very great success: POTTER is reprieved, but it is only for a fortnight; and if you be not active, what you have done will be of no great

“ consequence.” I went home and returned thanks to GOD for this great mercy.

RICHARD went the morning of the execution-day to the Chapel with the other prisoners, and after coming down to the press-yard *James Cary*, one of the prisoners who was to be executed, a Roman-Catholic, who had not been in the Chapel, told RICHARD that a reprieve was brought for him. He answered, “ *Pray, Femmy, do not make any game now, for it is not a time to make game.*” Then *John Gray*, one of the servants in *Newgate*, after some of the prisoners irons were knocked off, desired RICHARD to go up to his cell, telling him that a reprieve was brought him for a fortnight. He did not know of any friend that would appear for him, and he supposed that there was a design to make him suffer by himself, and he seemed surpris'd at it; for he says that he was then in an agreeable disposition of spirit, and he hoped that his soul should have been saved. I went this evening to a religious assembly, and gave in a bill to return thanks for delivering a prisoner under the sentence of death, and to pray that GOD might be gracious to him and deliver him from spiritual and eternal death.

About an hour after the prisoners set out for the place of execution, I not having ever seen RICHARD, thought it proper to pay him a visit, and RICHARD was brought down from his cell to the press yard, and the turnkey told him that I was the person that obtained a reprieve for him. I spoke religiously and kindly to RICHARD, and asked if he was sensible of the evil of sin, and some other questions. Upon telling me that he was born at *Newport* in the isle of *Wight*, I told him that I would bring a friend of mine his townsman to see him, and gave him some money. RICHARD looked upon me with a pleasant countenance, and afterwards said that upon seeing me he was very joyful, and conceived hopes that his life would be preserved. He continued praying night and day; and he says that he was so happy as to have it impressed on his heart by the holy Spirit that his sins were pardoned. I was glad to hear this account delivered in a humble and composed manner. I told RICHARD that I would do any thing to serve him, and I hoped that grace would be given him to behave well. He answered, that GOD had given him his grace, and he was thankful night and day for what he had done for him.

The

The following paragraph, I carried to my friend the printer of *Lloyd's Evening Post*, who readily consented that it should be inserted in his paper that evening; namely,

“ RICHARD POTTER, a young sailor, not twenty years
 “ of age, born at *Newport* in the isle of *Wight*, was among
 “ the rest in the dead warrant, and was to have been exe-
 “ cuted this day at *Tyburn* with the other five condemned
 “ criminals, but a reprieve for a fortnight came last night
 “ between eleven and twelve. He endeavoured to receive
 “ from the agent of the *Burford* ship of war, at the *King's-*
 “ *Head Tavern* in *Fenchurch-street*, *Thirty-five Shillings*
 “ for prize-money, which was the right of another man,
 “ but it was not paid him. His case should be a warning
 “ to all not to imagine or attempt any thing like deceit
 “ or forgery, but to withstand and reject with great in-
 “ dignation any wicked counsel. This poor object of
 “ mercy and compassion, who can neither read nor write,
 “ seems to be a good-natured sober young man, but was
 “ put upon that bad design by another sailor, *John Gar-*
 “ *vin*, a *Dublin-man*, for he knew nothing of that prize-
 “ money till *Garvin* came to his lodging and wanted one to
 “ receive it for his messmate *Andrew Maggee*. His friend,
 “ [*Mr Cruden*] who was the instrument of his reprieve, and
 “ had a great compassion for him, (it being supposed his first
 “ offence) though he had never seen him, paid him this day
 “ a visit in *Newgate*, and spoke to him religiously. The
 “ poor prisoner told him, that he prayed to *God* night and
 “ day. The Ordinary of *Newgate* spoke well of this pri-
 “ soner, and said that he behaved humbly and quietly, and
 “ that it would be a thousand pities not to save him.” The
 above paragraph was that very week printed in six other
 news-papers.

Thursday, August 25. Designing to visit the prisoner daily, I this day paid him a second visit. He behaved very well, but was still under some fears of death, his reprieve being only to the seventh of *September*. I spoke religiously to him, and my prayers very often attended him.

Friday, August 26. I went to visit the prisoner, and address-
 ed him as before. He was still in the cell, and heavy irons
 were on both his legs. He was serious, and behaved well.

Saturday

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Saturday, August 27. Two religious persons went at my desire to see the prisoner: It was expected that they should call for a pint of wine, and they not having money, one of them a peny-postman went home and raised a shilling for that end, which I readily reimbursed. When they were with RICHARD in the press-yard I came, and one of the visitors was then speaking seriously to him about the apostasy and corruption of man's nature, from which all other sins proceeded. There being a well-disposed keeper with RICHARD and us three visitors, I took an opportunity to pray; and also gave the keeper a prayer for the prisoner's use, and desired that he might shew it to Mr Roe the Ordinary. The Prayer was as follows:

Ivy-Lane, AUGUST 27, 1763.

A PRAYER for RICHARD POTTER under sentence of death in *Newgate*, for attempting to receive Thirty-five Shillings of prize-money due to another Sailor.

MOST holy and blessed GOD, I have greatly sinned against thee, and deserve to be cast into Hell; but I cry to thee for mercy through JESUS CHRIST the Saviour. O GOD, be merciful to me a sinner. I am a fallen and sinful creature; my nature is sinful and corrupted, and I am a great sinner in thought, word and deed, and deserve that everlasting wrath which thy law denounces against sin. O be merciful to me a sinner, for the sake of JESUS CHRIST the Mediator of the new Covenant.

Gracious GOD, open my blind eyes, that I may see my lost and perishing state by nature and practice, and my unspeakable need of CHRIST to be my Saviour, and give me a heart to believe in him and to flee to him for refuge.

O gracious God, hide me in CHRIST's wounds, wash me in his blood, clothe me with his righteousness, and sanctify me by thy holy Spirit. O bless me with renewing and heart-changing grace. Give me a new heart and a new spirit: Work in me true repentance for my sins, and enable me to mourn for them and to turn from them; and bless me with a sound faith in JESUS, enabling me to rely upon his obedience and sufferings for pardon and salvation: And may I experience that the blood of CHRIST cleanseth me from all sin.

Be

Be gracious to the King, and to the Queen, and bless them and the Royal Family; the Earl of Halifax, and Alexander Cruden my providential friend. Reform these sinful nations, and in thy providence raise up instruments of reformation, for thou canst out of the mouths of babes and sucklings perfect praise and ordain strength. Bless the Magistrates in these nations and in this great city: incline them to be more earnest in doing the duties of their office than in having the honours of it. Bless the Ministers of the Gospel, and prosper their labours for the salvation of souls. Put a stop to sin and wickedness, to Sabbath-breaking, profane swearing, fornication, lying, and other abounding sins. Bless me and my friend, and make us blessings in our day and generation. Bless my mother, my sisters, my uncles and all my relations, and make me a comfort to them. Sanctify my great afflictions, and appear more and more for me, and be pleased to bless me with liberty both spiritual and temporal, and direct to proper means for that end, and give thy blessing to them.*

Be pleased, O Lord, to appear in thy providence and in thy grace for me. Make me thankful that my life has been so remarkably spared, and incline them that have power to preserve my life. O that I may have grace to honour and serve thee in this world, and may be made meet by thy grace for praising thee for ever in Heaven: All I beg is for the sake of the atonement and mediation of JESUS CHRIST. To the Father, to the Son, and to the holy Spirit, one eternal GOD, be the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father, &c.

There is much difficulty in instructing a person who cannot read; therefore all parents should not only take care that their children be taught to read, and, if they learn to read, to admonish them to practise reading and not to forget it. RICHARD is an instance of forgetting his reading after he was taught when a little boy. It is about nine years since he went to sea, being then about eleven years old, and no books being regarded in the vessels he sailed with, he had lost his reading. Nathaniel Strettin one of the servants behaved very well, and was much pleased with our instructions and prayers for the poor prisoner, who afterwards went up two pair of stairs to his cell with his double irons rattling, which justly moved great compassion towards one of so good a behaviour.

On

* This paragraph was not in the copy of August 27, but we afterwards prayed to that purpose.

Lord's-day, August 28. I wrote this morning six bills to be given up in public religious assemblies, desiring thanks to be returned for relieving a prisoner under sentence of death, and prayers to be made for grace to repent of his sins, and to flee by a true faith to the blessed JESUS for pardon and salvation. I wrote above a dozen in the afternoon, and gave them to any proper persons I met with in the streets. The prisoner was prayed for this day in many places from *Hide-park-corner* to *Morefields*, and in some places earnestly and particularly.

The paragraph a few days ago in the news-papers, wherein it was mentioned that RICHARD was of *Newport in the Isle of Wight*, occasioned two of his own town to come and visit him. One of these was a shoemaker in *Trinity-lane*, and the other a young woman a servant-maid in *Coventry-street* who brought victuals to him, and gave him some money: She said that she never had heard any ill of RICHARD.

The Ordinary read prayers betwixt five and six o'clock this evening in the chapel, which is an inconvenient place at the top of the prison, and it was moving to see the poor prisoner go up so many stairs with his irons rattling. There was a decent-looking woman churched at this time, who had been delivered of a male-child about a fortnight before. She was a married woman, and her husband a shoemaker in or near *Field-Lane*, and had been convicted of stealing a coat and two pair of breeches, to the value of Nineteen Shillings. She dealt in old clothes, and took these things from a taylor's room in *St Martin's-Lane*. The clothes were all recovered about three hours after, and therefore no damage was done; but it seems that justice in this case was more regarded than mercy.

After the prisoner came down from the chapel, he had only water to drink in the press-yard. I said to one of the servants, why doth he drink water, seeing I allow him money daily? He said that RICHARD saved his money to buy a pair of shoes; and I ordered directly a pint of beer for him, and took care that he had a pair of shoes next day. This gave me pleasure, for I thought that it was a sign that he was not among the too numerous family of drunkards: A servant that attended RICHARD when in his cell, said that he had suffered all his hardships for no crime at all; and indeed there is some ground to say so, for he was a stranger to the evil practices

practices of *London*, and *Garvin* promised him half a Guinea for receiving *Andrew Maggee's* money, and he told him that he was desired to receive it for *Maggee*. RICHARD thought that there was no harm at all in it, and says that he could have run away from the constable, but he thought that no body could hurt him: But poor RICHARD has been exceedingly hurt, and it is owing to the wonderful providence of God that he is not in the silent grave. He says now that it is better for him that he did not run away: And that in his affliction God awakened him and touched his heart with his grace. The agent for the *Burford* wanted to make an example, but RICHARD was not so criminal as to be a proper person for an example. *Principiis obsta, withstand the beginning of sin or evil*, for one error or sin leads to another. I have observed in this affair not a little of old *Adam* appear: there are some who do not choose to cry *Peccavi, I have transgressed*; nor to be active in obtaining RICHARD's pardon, though there has been a declaration of its being heartily wished for. But I think it the duty of a christian to be ready to rectify and redress any injury. I hope that those that have been concerned in the prosecution will assist in obtaining a full pardon, if their concurrence be wanted: For in this history they are corrected with the rod of mercy, and it is ardently wished that they may act so as not to deserve correction with the rod of justice, if I should write another pamphlet, or publish a second edition of this; for harsher methods are worse than needles, when milder will prevail.

Monday, August 29. A friend of mine, one of the prisoner's townsmen, came with me to visit him: He knew his relations, and spoke religiously and well to him, and while I was speaking to him, he inquired of his keeper what was his behaviour? He told me that he said that he had been fourteen years about the prison, and he never remembered any prisoner of that kind of a more harmless and peaceable behaviour than RICHARD was.

Tuesday, August 30. I this morning wrote a rough draught of a letter to the first clerk in the Secretary's Office, to endeavour to get the reprieve turned into a pardon, for I was deeply concerned for RICHARD, still in the cell, as one that must be executed on the seventh of *September*, if his reprieve was not renewed. Intelligence is
D
a matter

a matter of great consequence, both in civil and military affairs, and I went up the river to the Office to see what had been done; for in the Gazetteer of this day, it was said that there came an order written by the excellent Earl of *Halifax* to the Sheriffs, "that RICHARD was to be reprieved during his Majesty's pleasure." The first clerk at the Office was so kind as to shew me this day in the book the first order for his reprieve for a fortnight, and also the second order dated only yesterday, wherein it was said, "that some favourable circumstances appearing in behalf of RICHARD POTTER, convicted for attempting to receive prize-money not due to him, His Majesty orders and appoints the Sheriffs of *London* to transport him to His Majesty's Colonies in *America*, where he is to remain for fourteen years." This order was directed to the Sheriffs of *London*, the keeper of *Newgate*, and those whom it might concern.

This new order gave me great pleasure, and in my return home I bought *Dilworth's Spelling-Book*, that the poor prisoner might learn to read. I visited him this afternoon in the hall of the common prison, for he had been removed this day from his cell, on the fresh order from the Earl of *Halifax*, signifying that he was reprieved during His Majesty's pleasure. There was now an alteration in his countenance, which was formerly the picture of death. The Ordinary of *Newgate* had told me that if I could not do any thing farther for him than the first reprieve, what I had done would be a disservice to the poor prisoner, for he would then go twice through the fears of death. But this second order is owing to the goodness and compassion of the noble Earl of *Halifax*, for it was done without any application, which was intended only to be made this day. I heard at the Secretary's Office, that the account of RICHARD in the News-papers was a great help in having the sentence of death turned into transportation; and I heard also at the Office that I was very much obliged to the Earl of *Halifax*, and that *he had acted in this affair chearfully and with good inclination.*

The four door-men clear the hall when any person is to come in or go out of the prison on the common side, that the prisoners may be safely kept. Moreover one of them, who is a prisoner for nine years for diminishing the King's coin, keeps a book of the names of all the prisoners, and when a prisoner comes in he demands two shillings for entrance. I

was present when a poor prisoner came first into *Newgate*, and the door-man asked him for two shillings: the poor man took out his purse and turned it over on the table; there was in it a sixpence and a penny; the door-man took the sixpence and returned the penny.

Wednesday, August 31. I paid a respectful visit to a first-rate friend, and one of the best of my friends, a worthy Clergyman at *Blackheath*, whom I have been acquainted with ever since the year 1754. He purchased of me the First Edition of my *Concordance to the Bible*, and twelve copies of the Second Edition at the full price of twelve Guineas; and desired me this summer to pay him a visit every fortnight; which I could not have the pleasure to do on account of correcting a large work in five volumes, which was printed at six or seven printing-houses. When I was six weeks in the summer of last year the greatest part of the time at *Greenwich*, being in a bad state of health, and being ordered by my kind friend Dr *Fothergil* to go into the country air, and to have a relaxation from business, I often dined with my kind friend, who was pleased to say that he should be ungrateful if he did not shew a regard to me on account of the *Concordance*, which he said "is a work of so great use that none of the Clergy, higher or lower, have published any thing to be compared with it, and that in that point his friend has exceeded them all."

I have just before me my worthy and excellent friend's unexpected and kind letter, dated at *Blackheath*, Christmas-Eve 1761, being three days after I had the honour to present my *Concordance* to His Majesty. He begins his letter thus; "I congratulate you on your having had the honour of presenting to His Majesty your *Concordance*, the best book, excepting One, now extant in His Majesty's dominions; for it not only enables us to find out with ease all those passages of the *Bible* which we may want more particularly to consider, and by a proper arrangement of the same words to compare the several significations of them, but also gives us in a clear and concise manner all the fundamental and essential parts of our religion, which are contained in it; so that your book is both a *Concordance* and a *Body of Divinity*."

I have been many years ago, called the *Apothecary* to the Parsons, alluding to the *Concordance* containing materials for

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the composition of their sermons; but no Clergyman has been so kind and friendly to their *Apothecary* as my worthy friend at *Blackheath* has been.

I went this day to *Greenwich* by water in my way to *Blackheath*, and came home by the coach, loaded with peaches from my kind friend, which I presented to my beloved friend Mr *Albert Innes*. I never thought that he deserved correction in any thing but in the affair of POTTER, and poor POTTER told me when he was attending him with the Constable to the *Poultry-Counter*, he said, "Why might you not have run away, and not have put me to all this trouble?" He did it at the desire of Mr *Dixon*, Agent for the *Burford*: and I readily acknowledge that Mr *Dixon* is a very sensible and agreeable gentleman; but all the actors against poor POTTER seem to have been blinded, as *Joseph's* brethren were in injuring *Joseph*. I doubt not but it will appear to be a signal Providence paving the way for some good ends and purposes. This was the first day of my omitting to visit RICHARD the poor prisoner.

Thursday, September 1. I visited the prisoner and gave him the Spelling-book, and began to learn him to read. He had been nine years at sea, and had been so bad a boy that he had neglected his reading. He knew the letters, but could hardly read a word of one syllable without spelling. I intreated him to be diligent to learn, and he said that he would do all in his power.

Friday, September 2. Coming to *Newgate* I met with Mr *Roe*, the Ordinary, who was going to read prayers. I went up with him to the Chapel. The congregation consisted of one person on the master's side, of four or five debtors, and a few in the place appointed for the felons or transports, whereas if all the prisoners had come there would have been about a hundred in the Chapel. This being the anniversary fast for the Fire of *London*, the prayers on that occasion were read. RICHARD was present, and I went down the dark stairs to speak to him in the hall. The prisoner lay upon the boards, and had nothing to cover him but his jacket, and said that the cold nights were coming. I promised to buy a bed for him. This day a friend of mine sent his servant with a letter to my lodging in *Joy-lane*, wherein he writes as follows:

"Dear

“ Dear SIR,
 “ I Have here sent for your poor prisoner an old wastecoat,
 “ a pair of breeches, a shirt, a neckcloth, a pair of stock-
 “ ings, and a handkerchief. May the good Lord richly re-
 “ ward this and every other labour of love. It is a great
 “ mercy to be in any capacity for usefulness, and herein
 “ you have been highly favoured. I doubt not but you
 “ ascribe the praise where it is due.”

All the above things were not worn out, and were very useful to poor POTTER, particularly a warm pair of velvet breeches. It is hoped that these will not be the last velvet he may wear; for if divine Providence favours his friend's designs of obtaining a free pardon for him, he doubts not of RICHARD's good behaviour, and in that case he purposes to take him under his care and protection, and to educate him for the sea, that he may be qualified for something better than a common sailor. He has been nine years at sea, and a townsman of his told me that he was reckoned a smart boy; and I hear he is a good sailor, and by being instructed in navigation he may be made fit for examination in order to be an officer; and if his life be spared, this remarkable and afflicting part of it has made him known to persons in power, and it may come to pass that he may be advanced by those at the helm according to his abilities and good behaviour. A particular friend of mine said about a week ago, “ who knows but that POTTER may come to be an Admiral?” and some days afterwards we merrily drank Admiral POTTER's health. But the reader is desired to excuse this humorous paragraph, for *we know not what a day may bring forth*: man may propose, but GOD disposes; and he alone gives success and makes prosperous.

Saturday, September 3. I visited RICHARD this morning and found him as usual in a serious frame of spirit. I spoke to him religiously, and catechised and instructed him in the principles of religion, for without knowledge the heart cannot be good; for how can any believe in JESUS CHRIST unless they know who he is as to his glorious person, his two natures as God-man Mediator, and his Offices as being the great Redeemer, a Prophet, Priest and King; therefore greater care should be taken to instruct all persons in a
 Christian

Christian country in the principles of religion than there is in this age.

The Protestants abroad take care to instruct their children in the principles of religion, and also the Roman Catholics, but it has been much neglected of late years in this kingdom. In the northern part of this island the minister always resides in the parish, commonly in a mansion-house at or near the church, and a parish-schoolmaster, who has a fixed salary, constantly attends his duty; and if the parish be large the minister and people take care that schools for teaching *English* be provided in distant parts of it. But pluralities and non-residence are two evils that ought to be cured by a strong resolute method, for it is *immedicabile vulnus ense recidendum*. Many hundred thousands and millions of money have been raised for defending these kingdoms, and arming the people; but when is money to be raised for *reforming the people*? That scripture in *Matt. xvi. 26.* is not duly considered, *What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?*

This afternoon I went with a friend to *Harp-Alley*, and bought a bed and a pillow for the poor prisoner, as also a good rug to cover him at another place, which were directly brought to *Newgate*. I went also to Mr *Akerman*, the keeper of *Newgate*, and begged an order to take off one of his irons, which he kindly gave me to his turnkey.

Lord's-day, September 4. I went about nine o'clock this Sabbath-morning to visit the prisoner, and prayed with him. I exhorted him and others to keep the Sabbath holy, and to make a difference betwixt that and other days. The prisoner always behaved well, and was quite of another stamp or temper than the prisoners in general in *Newgate* were.

Monday, September 5. Mr *Douglas*, a linen-draper of *Newport* in the isle of *Wight*, and his son, went with me to see the prisoner. I catechised him before his townsmen on the principles of religion, and prayed with him, and he read a little. Mr *Douglas's* son was a school-fellow with *RICHARD*. The prisoner has behaved well in *Newgate*, and is greatly beloved by the servants and prisoners, but he has neglected his reading though he was taught to read at school when a little one. When I enter the prison, the chief man

THE HISTORY OF RICHARD POTTER, &c. 27
of the hall sometimes calls aloud for DICK POTTER to appear.

Tuesday, September 6. I visited the prisoner this day, and was told that he was so ill of the rheumatism that he could not rise, therefore I went to the middle ward where his bed was. I spoke in a religious manner to him, and prayed by him. And after I left him I went to young *Pontack's* near the *Bluecoat Hospital*, and ordered broth and necessaries to be sent him.

Wednesday, September 7. I went to visit the prisoner; he continued ill of the rheumatism, so weak in his loins that he could not stand nor walk. I prayed with him in the middle ward, which is a dark dismal place, and spoke in a religious manner to him. I told him that I would get him some medicines proper for giving him relief; and in the afternoon I carried him a vial with the Tincture of *Volatile Guaiacum*, to take forty or fifty drops morning, noon and night: this *Guaiacum* occasions sweats, and is a very good thing in that disorder. I went and ordered at *Pontack's* some provision.

I lately sent a copy of my *Concordance* to Mr *Freer* my bookbinder, and gave directions to bind it in a good skin of *Morocco-leather*, with gilt leaves, marble paper, and a ribbon, in a very neat manner, which was sent to the excellent and compassionate Earl of *Halifax*, His Majesty's principal Secretary of State, with the following inscription pasted on next the Author's print and the title-page of the book.

Nobilissimo, Consultissimo, Excellentissimoque Viro

GEORGIO MONTAGU DUNK,
COMITI de HALIFAX,

Serenissimo REGI GEORGIO TERTIO à Secretis fidelissimo,
nec non per multos annos Commercii Insularum occidenta-
lium & Coloniarum in *America* primario Gubernatori felici-
cissimo, & nuper Præfecto supremo in *Hibernia* dignissimo,
& ab omnibus *Hiberniæ* Incolis dilectissimo, ac etiam du-
rante præsentis infelici motu intestino in BRITANNIA ab om-
nibus cujuscunque ordinis probatissimo,

Hoc

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Hoc Dictionarium Christianum, Scripturarum sacrarum Concordantia, in signum ingentis observantiae & verae gratitudinis propter insignem benevolentiam tuam in auscultando supplicationibus meis ardentibus, & RICHARDUM POTTER à mortis pœnâ liberando, humillime offertur: Et COMITIS de HALIFAX omnimodam felicitatem & gratiam ac pacem à DEO per CHRISTUM precatur

Londini, Ivy-lane, Idibus
Septembris, Anno ÆRÆ
Christianæ, MDCCCLXIII.

ALEXANDER CRUDEN.

Thus Translated.

To the most Noble, most Prudent, and most Excellent

GEORGE MONTAGU DUNK,
EARL of HALIFAX,

A most faithful Secretary of State to His most gracious Majesty KING GEORGE THE THIRD; as also for many years a most judicious and most successful Commissioner of Trade and Plantations, and lately a most worthy Lord Lieutenant of *Ireland*, and the darling of all the inhabitants of that kingdom, and also during the present intestine commotions in BRITAIN very much approved by all parties and degrees of men,

This Christian Dictionary, a Concordance to the Holy Scriptures, is most humbly presented, as a token of very great respect, and of a truly grateful mind for your Lordship's remarkable benevolence in hearkening to my ardent supplications for saving the life of RICHARD POTTER. That the EARL of HALIFAX may be blessed with all manner of happiness, both grace and peace from GOD thro' JESUS CHRIST, is the earnest prayer of

London, Ivy-lane, on
the Ides of September,
in the year of our Lord
MDCCCLXIII.

ALEXANDER CRUDEN.

Thursday, September 8. I visited the prisoner, who was come up to the hall. I bought a New Testament for him, and taught him a lesson in it. I called at *Pontack's* and ordered him necessaries, and every day gave him a little money.

Friday,

Friday, September 9. I visited the prisoner, who was in bed in the ward, for he said that he had caught cold by getting up yesterday. He is much respected and kindly attended by some of the prisoners. One of them, *Sebastian Hogan*, read the third chapter of the gospel of *St John*, some parts of which I explained, particularly the fifth, fourteenth, fifteenth and sixteenth verses. There were now about twelve in the congregation, we went to prayer, and I catechised the prisoner. I then took my leave, and ordered for him something at the usual place.

Saturday, September 10. I visited the prisoner about nine o'clock, who was ill of the rheumatism, and was in bed in the middle-ward. I read a chapter to him and to others present, and explained it to them. I catechised him: And he read as well as he could some verses in the New Testament. We went to prayer, and he was very serious. I was desired by one of the prisoners to go to see another that was very ill, who had been a watchman in *St Giles's* parish: I asked him what sin was. The watchman answered, "That it was what the Devil brought into the world, and put into our hearts." There were two this morning playing at cards; and I said that they ought to employ their time in reading their Bibles, and in a better manner than in playing at cards: One of them said he liked the cards better than the Bible, and comically said that he was sent to *Newgate* for taking a sack out of the *Serpentine* river in *Hide-park*. *Sebastian* who attended me said that he was very much hardened, for he had great plenty of money, and that was the thing. Money hurts very many, and is the root of all evil when it is ill used.

This day I went to *RICHARD's* former lodging at *Thomas Kenny's* a chandler's shop on *Salt-petre-bank* near *Rosemary-lane*, in order to be satisfied that the account given me by the prisoner was true: His landlord and landlady gave him the character of a quiet well-behaved man as ever was in a house: They declared that *John Garvin* came to him, and wanted one to go and receive his messmate *Andrew Maggee's* prize-money; for *Garvin* said that *Maggee* was gone to *Chatham*, and that he had told him that he would give half a guinea to any that would receive his prize-money for him. *RICHARD* says that *Garvin* is gone abroad in a stationed ship. A poor ignorant sailor might think that

there was no harm in reprenting *Maggee* and receiving it, with an intent to repay it to him when he saw him. This ought to be attended to.

Lord's-day, September 11. This day I visited the prisoner, and he came up to the Hall; and I read a little in the Bible, and explained the same: I catechised and instructed him in the principles of religion, and prayed with him. Several others attended and behaved decently. The prisoner also read some verses in the New Testament.

Monday, September 12. This day I visited the prisoner, who was not able to come up to the hall, and I went to the middleward where he was in bed. I prayed with him and spoke to him in a religious manner, but he was not able to read. I was afraid that he would not get over his illness, which affected me much; for Providence having blessed my endeavours hitherto for preserving his life, I was very sorry that he was in danger of being removed by death. In all these things we ought to be resigned to the will of God. I visited him a second time this day, and brought him physic.

Tuesday, September 13. The prisoner was much better, his physic having done him good. He was in bed, but was not able to speak much. I went to prayer with him, and spoke to him religiously, and was thankful that the poor prisoner was much-recovered.

By the post of this day I wrote a very long letter to a religious gentlewoman at *Newport* in the *Isle of Wight*, and gave her a particular account of the prisoner, and of my going up and down the river to serve him, to and from the Secretary's Office, and the manner I was providentially favoured with success. The prisoner desired me to give his duty to his mother and to his uncles: She has three daughters in younger years with herself at home, and one daughter married; RICHARD is her only son, and if the sentence had taken place, it would have occasioned a distressed mother and poor widow to have lost her only son, who has declared that he would be glad to work to help his mother.

Wednesday, September 14. I visited the prisoner, who was in bed and not able to come up to the Hall; I catechised him
and

and prayed with him. Some of the prisoners attended, and behaved with decency and respect.

Thursday, September 14. I visited the prisoner, who was now able to come up to the Hall, but he had a great breaking-out round his mouth. *Newgate* is a dismal place, and it may be supposed that not a few are killed by the cold, the jail-distemper, and other hardships in that prison. He read in the New Testament. I catechised him and prayed with him, and many of the prisoners were present. I endeavoured in catechising to explain the nature of the Covenant of works which was made with our first Parents, and that, by their sin of disobedience in eating *the forbidden fruit*, they brought sin and misery upon themselves and their Posterity: And that by the Covenant of grace there is pardon, peace and salvation to all that by a true faith receive, rest and rely upon Jesus Christ as he is revealed in the gospel.

There was a young man decently dressed: I asked him what he was accused of, he answered in a calm obliging manner, that he went into a house in *Budge-row* and called for a little punch, and being short of money, was tempted to take a silver spoon. He was presently followed and taken; and he declared his sorrow for what he had done, but mercy was not shewn him by the publican.

Friday, September 16. I visited RICHARD again; he was ill in bed: I prayed with him and catechised him as usual. A young printer was in *Ivy-lane* this morning, and he went with me to *Newgate*: He thought the middle-ward a dismal shocking place.

Saturday, September 17. I visited the prisoner, and three friends went with me, but they thought it a most unwholsom disagreeable place. RICHARD was better, and sat up in his bed in the middle-ward, and read some verses in the New-Testament. I asked him some questions in relation to religion, and prayed with him as usual. A printer that came with me said, that this prison was punishment enough of itself for any common crime.

Lord's-day, September 18. I called on RICHARD again. He read some verses in the New Testament. He sat up in bed; I prayed twice with him, and catechised him

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on the principles of religion. For several days past the prisoner was very ill, and something had been sent to the prisoner every day for some time past from *Pontack's*; but that house is always shut up on the *Lord's-day*, and no provisions can be had from thence. I gave him a feed-cake, and some sugar-candy for his cold, and broth was sent him about noon from *Ivy-lane*, where I lodge.

Monday, September 19. I visited the prisoner this morning, and found him very weak: He said that he was greatly pained in his bowels. I prayed, but he was not able to repeat the words as usual.

I called again about one o'clock, and enquired how he did: I spoke to the prisoner that attended him at the upper gate of the prison: He told me that he was very ill. I went to an apothecary on *Snow-hill*, and desired him to visit him; but we calling and not having access at that time, it was postponed till an hour after, when we went to see him and found him very ill: The apothecary said that his case was very doubtful, and that he had a nervous fever upon him. I prayed with him, and asked him what hopes he had of salvation; he said "that he was a dead man, and should not live long, and that he should go to heaven; for he said that he believed in JESUS CHRIST, and trusted in him as his Saviour and Redeemer."

I visited the prisoner afterwards in the ward about five in the afternoon, and he said that he was resigned to the will of JESUS CHRIST: He thought that he should die, and had a good hope that all his sins were pardoned and his iniquities forgiven through the blood and righteousness of JESUS CHRIST. I asked "when he first had this good hope through grace?" He answered, "In the cells before the dead warrant was sent." I said, "RICHARD, have I been of any benefit to you?" He answered, "Of very great benefit." I spoke religiously to him, and told him that if this illness should issue in death, I would take care of his body.

The apothecary had ordered panada to be made for him to drink, which was made at my lodging, and a servant went with me to the lower gate, and I carried it up to him, and commenced nurse in *Newgate*, and gave it him in a little spoon; but he was so very ill that

that he could not keep it on his stomach. The prisoner was in the middle-ward, a very dark disagreeable place, and there are many that lie in it. The turnkey, on my telling him how bad RICHARD was, kindly proposed moving him to the upper-hall, where there is more air and fewer prisoners. I assisted in moving his things, and he being very weak was moved with difficulty. The door-man of the hall was very kind and helpful to him. I ordered balm and mint tea to be made for him at my lodging, and I was doubtful whether he would live till morning, for he was very ill and very weak. My prayers constantly attended him both night and day, and I gave up a bill in a religious assembly this evening for him.

Tuesday, September 20. I visited the prisoner this morning, and was told that he had had a bad night, and had been in great pain, and had had little or no sleep. I prayed, and spoke to him; and he was in a praying frame, but in great distress and very low. I went directly to the apothecary on *Snow-hill*, who was so much frightened for fear of the jail-distemper, by seeing the prisoners yesterday in the middle-ward, that he mildly declined going, and recommended another apothecary. But I was desirous that he should continue, and told him that it would not be necessary for him to go to *Newgate* in person, for his servant and I could tell him the prisoner's case. The apothecary thought that if four or five ounces of blood were taken from him, it might ease him of the pain in his breast; therefore the servant went with me to *Newgate* with a design to open a vein and bleed him: But the prisoner was very weak, and intreated that he might not be blooded, and also his veins were so low that they were hardly visible; therefore we omitted letting blood.

The apothecary desired me to take care of myself, and advised me to take cinnamon in my mouth, or something to prevent infection, for he was apt to think that the prisoner's illness might be the jail-distemper. It is to be lamented that this prison of *Newgate* is so unwholsom and dangerous a place: Might not the Sheriffs find out some method of remedying this evil, at least in some measure? They give the Judges several dinners both on *Week-days* and

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and Sabbath-days: Might not that money be better laid out in cleansing and repairing *Newgate*, and for the benefit of the poor prisoners, especially those entertainments on the *Lord's-day*, where both the Judges and Magistrates of the city give but an indifferent example in going from public worship at *St Paul's* and dining publicly, and perhaps drinking a great part of the afternoon during the time of public worship. It is not right to spend the Sabbath in that manner, and it may have a bad influence upon others; for the more public their character, the more observed is their conduct. This is humbly left to their own consideration, whose consciences upon serious reflection cannot but accuse them of *doing what they ought not to do*; therefore this sinful custom, though never so old, ought to be laid aside.

I called in the afternoon to enquire how the prisoner did, but did not go up stairs: I was told that he was somewhat easier. I afterwards went to the Sessions-house, and spoke to Mr *Ford* clerk of the arraigns, who told me that he had the King's letter for changing RICHARD's sentence of death into transportation; and Mr *Akerman*, the keeper of *Newgate*, kindly desired to speak with me in court about the prisoner's case, and told me that it would not be of any great disadvantage that he was not brought down to the Sessions-house, and that it could be done in *October-Sessions*. Providence plainly prevented it, for the prisoner was so ill that he could not come down. I have some hopes that God will more and more appear for the prisoner, and I am of opinion that he hath suffered abundantly for what he had done, which was contrived by another but not executed, and was immediately confessed and lamented with sorrow by poor RICHARD. Mr *Ford* and Mr *Akerman* seemed to think that it was a disadvantage to RICHARD, that he was not able to come down to receive sentence of transportation, because the time of transportation commences from receiving sentence; but I saw with other eyes, and thought it a kind Providence, was thankful for it, and hoped that God would mercifully appear for him, and that a free pardon would be obtained from his Majesty; which I often in my heart prayed for in the Sessions-house.

I was told in court that *Thomas Madge*, an ignorant sailor, was cast that day for endeavouring to receive *Twenty Shillings* of prize-money due to another sailor; which was thought
a hard

a hard sentence. I am sorry that this crime should be death, for the poor ignorant sailors know not the consequences of what they do. Moreover it is to be considered that many of higher rank have not a true idea of this matter; for the sailor doth not suffer for any money that is paid to the wrong persons, the agent being still obliged to pay it to the sailor that has a right to it. I humbly apprehend that, when the agents fix a day for payment, it might be possible to have present a petty officer or a trusty sailor or two belonging to the ship, in order to prevent any frauds; for it must certainly give an agent of a religious tender spirit great uneasiness to be the instrument of shedding the blood and taking away the life of a poor ignorant sailor on that account; which is a deceitful action, but can hardly be called *forgery* in one who can neither read nor write.

Wednesday, September 23. I went this morning to *Newgate*, and the turnkey called up, and I was told that RICHARD was easier than he had been. And going afterwards to the apothecary, he did not care to visit him; nor to let his apprentice visit him, for he was of opinion that he had the jail-distemper; and he advised me against going, by telling me of some that had caught that distemper by going into *Newgate*: He is a sensible judicious gentleman, but seems to be a little timorous; and his stories about *Newgate* filled me with apprehensions of its being very dangerous to visit RICHARD.

I went home and washed my head and feet with hot water, and changed my linen and all my clothes; for the apothecary said that the distemper had been often caught by peoples clothes. I called to mind a story I had heard in my native city of *Aberdeen*, which an apothecary told his apprentice, who was to set out for *London*, "that he had done him justice in teaching him his business, but that he had as yet not acquainted him with one secret, namely, *That apprehension kills and apprehension cures.*"

"I sent word in writing to the door-man of the high hall, RICHARD's nurse, and begged him to take care of RICHARD POTTER with all tenderness. The apothecary desired word to be sent how RICHARD had rested last night? How he finds his head, and how his spirits are? And if any complaint in his bowels? What sleep he has had

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“ had last night, and what stools ? These questions are
“ desired to be answered in writing, that proper medicines
“ may be sent to the patient by the apothecary. Half-a-
“ crown was sent to the door-man to buy necessaries for
“ RICHARD, and he was to write down what he laid out.”
The apothecary sent what was proper for the patient.

RICHARD got somebody to write an answer, that he had had some sleep last night, and three stools, but had a weakness in all his limbs and in his bowels, and when he coughed it was very painful to him. RICHARD sent his blessing to me, and said that he sent a bill to the chapel in *Newgate* desiring to be prayed for.

RICHARD was favoured with one to write for him, who wrote a letter in the afternoon acquainting me that he had not the jail-distemper, and expressed a great desire to have me to come to visit him next day, he being able to sit up and much better. I was affected with his earnest letter, and after serious reflection and earnest prayer I determined to venture to go next day. I considered the cxxix Psalm, and trusted *that the LORD would be my keeper, and preserve me both in soul and body.*

Thursday, September 22. I visited RICHARD about noon, and bought a little rapee-leaf-tobacco to put in my mouth, and some snuff, which was a novelty to me, in order to preserve me from infection. He was then lodged in the high Hall in *Newgate*, which is much more airy than the dark dungeon of the middle-ward where he had formerly been. I was surprised and thankful for his recovery, after he had been on *Monday* and *Tuesday* in a very low and dangerous condition. I went to prayer with him, and spoke a little to him in a religious manner, and catechised him.

Friday, September 23. I visited RICHARD about noon, and *Daniel Broad*, a sailor, a man about fifty, who knew RICHARD from a child and had a kindness for him, said that he was the first of his family that ever was under such a confinement, and that he was descended from very honest parents. I read a little in *Dr. Watts's Hymns*, and he appeared to relish those Spiritual Hymns. I prayed and catechised him before his townsman, and was thankful for his being so much recovered. I told him that he should want
for

for nothing necessary that was to be had from *Hide-park-corner* to *Limehouse*. He behaved very religiously, and I hope that the grace of God has effectually reached his heart.

Saturday, September 24. I visited the prisoner in the afternoon and spoke religiously to him, catechised him a little, and went to prayer. He behaved mighty well, and more and more discovered signs and marks of the grace of God in him.

I had occasion, about the beginning of this month, to write to a gentleman who is truly noble, great and good, being distinguished by many personal accomplishments as well as by the grace of God, which is the greatest beauty and accomplishment of all. I acquainted this amiable gentleman that I had lately commenced *Catechist* or *Tutor* in *Newgate* by daily visiting RICHARD POTTER, and other prisoners who attended me there. I told him I was very willing to submit to any thing wherein I could be useful. I said that RICHARD was very serious and behaved well at all times: But I longed to see some evidence of a work of grace upon his heart, which would fill my heart with love, gratitude, and praise to God for so great a mercy. The letter to this noble person was writ on the sixth of *September*, and RICHARD had not then spoke out as he did in his dangerous illness after that time, wherein he discovered that the grace of God had really touched his heart.

Lord's-day, September 25. I visited the prisoner this morning betwixt eight and nine o'clock, that he might attend the chapel in time. I catechised him, and read to him two pages in the catechism, and some verses in Scripture. I prayed twice with him; and he read a little in the *Common-Prayer-Book*.

He told me that his life had been twice wonderfully preserved before his late providential deliverance, which makes the third time. He fell over-board at *Guernsey* from a merchant-ship, called the *Duke of Cumberland*, about four years and a half ago, and if he had not been a good swimmer he must certainly have been drowned. He was taken up by the boat, and was soon recovered; but three or four days after he was seized with the rheumatism in his left knee, which affects him still, especially in very cold weather. He was also knocked down by *James Mory* a ship mate aboard
 F a Brig-

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a *Brigantine, the Duke of Cumberland*, at *Guernsey*, about four years ago, being about six months after he fell over-board into the sea, and was thought to be quite dead, but a surgeon being sent for in *Guernsey-town*, he was blooded and recovered. He said that his father did design to have prosecuted the offender *Mary*. It seems that RICHARD was an approved sailor, for he was aboard the *Prince William* of *Newport*, *John Major* master, three years, and had *Forty-Shillings* a month: And he sailed aboard the *Duke of Cumberland* a *Brigantine*, *James Major* son of *John Major* master, two years, and had *Forty-five Shillings* a month.

The prisoner told me that he owed no body any thing but his landlady near *Rosemary-lane* eleven-pence three-farthings, and said that he designed to pay her when he should be out of this place. I said that I would discharge this moderate debt. Many would rejoice to be so happy as RICHARD in this respect.

Monday, September 26. I visited the prisoner about noon, and found him in a composed frame and disposition. We prayed together, and I catechised him and read a little in two or three places of the New Testament, and out of *Dr. Watts's Hymns*; and he read some verses in the first page of the *Common-Prayer-Book*. I also read over the petition in his behalf in order to obtain from his Majesty a free Pardon for him. I told him that my characteristic was truth and sincerity, and begged of him not to tell me any thing but truth; and I always have observed that he spoke truth, after having attended him from the 24th of *August* to this time, and not omitted visiting him every day, except two days. We prayed together, and in particular for direction and a blessing upon this good design of obtaining a free Pardon for him.

Tuesday, September 27. I visited in the afternoon the prisoner, and prayed with him, catechised him, and read a little in the Bible and catechism. I do not at any time forget to supply him with what is necessary for his bodily support. I told him that application was to be made to his Majesty for a free Pardon, and desired him to pray to God for direction and success.

I told him also that in going to *Mr Innes's* this morning I stopt a little at the *King's-head* in *Fenchurch-street*; and the drawer shewed me the room where the prize-money was paid.

paid. He said that he remembered very well the affair about POTTER. When the agent sent for a constable he said that POTTER trembled much, and was very sorry for what he had done. Mr *Innes* told me this day "that I acquainted all my friends that I was the providential instrument of saving POTTER from death, and that he was much scolded and rosted about that affair." I answered, "that he deserved it." I hate flattery and dissimulation, and my characteristic of integrity and sincerity I hope I shall always be enabled to maintain. Mr *Innes* is a very pleasant and sensible young gentleman, but he went rather too far in the affair of POTTER, and deserves to be put in mind of it. Mr *Innes* fixed a time for me to come and visit him, and we parted very good friends. I told this to POTTER, and he said, "that Mr *Innes* bore hard upon him at his trial, but that he forgave him."

Wednesday, September 28. I visited RICHARD this morning and prayed with him, catechised him, and read in the Psalms and New Testament, and two pages of the catechism. He behaves very well; and I am persuaded that if His Majesty knew all the circumstances of his being put upon the attempt of receiving the *Thirty-five Shillings* of prize-money, and how much he hath suffered since his commitment, and his agreeable and religious behaviour, a free Pardon would be granted without much difficulty; for *Salus populi est suprema lex*; "The salvation of the People is the supreme law."

Thursday, September 29. I visited the prisoner to day and prayed with him: I catechised him, and read a little in the New Testament, and two pages in the catechism. He behaves very well and seriously. I hope his afflictions will in the end work for his good. He was in the chapel when I came this day to visit him.

Friday, September 30. I visited RICHARD this day before ten o'clock, and went to prayer with him in the hall, for there were eleven sick of the jail-distemper in the high-hall where the prisoner lodges. It is to be lamented that the Lord Mayor, and particularly the Sheriffs, do not contrive some way of making this prison of *Newgate* less dangerous to the health of the prisoners and visitors. The Ventilator

has not been wrought for many weeks past, which is a great omission, it being of great use to draw out the infectious air.

I read two pages of catechism, instructed him by catechising him upon the principles of religion, and reading a little out of the New Testament. I taught him a little to read in the Common-Prayer. There were several of the prisoners who attended and behaved well. One of them swore in my presence, I desired the chief door-man to keep a list of the prisoners, and to put the swearers names down. I read also several pages of the copy of this pamphlet, intitled, *The History of Richard Potter, &c.* which entertained the prisoners that were present. My chief intention was to read it to RICHARD, that he might acquaint me if any thing was said contrary to truth.

Saturday, October 1. About eleven o'clock I visited RICHARD, and told him that a friend of mine in town had received a letter from a valuable gentlewoman, his mother, at *Newport* in the isle of *Wight*, wherein she tells him, "That she received a long letter from Mr *Cruden* with a surprising account of his goodness to young POTTER: The Lord grant that his endeavours may succeed in every point. Pray my respects to Mr *Cruden*; tell him I intend to wait on Lord *Holmes* with his letter as soon as he is returned from one of his seats in the island. POTTER'S father is dead, [about eleven months ago] the poor mother is very thankful." I told RICHARD that I was apt to think that he was much beloved in that island; he answered, *That he always was.*

I gave a catechism to a prisoner lately come to *Newgate*, and told the chief door-man that those that were desirous to read the catechism should have one. I desired him to write down the names of those that were guilty of profane swearing, and put an S to their names, as an R was put to the names of those that ran away from their ships in the Navy-Office. I said that if they should confess, and profess repentance of their sin, and promise to watch against it, the S should be taken off.

I prayed with RICHARD in the hall where many prisoners were present, who behaved very well. I catechised him, and he read to me a little in the Common Prayer, and I desired him to be diligent in learning to read. I then read out of the New Testament, and two pages of the catechism, and

and gave him a supply of money, and asked him if he wanted any thing: and we concluded with prayer.

Lord's-day, October 2. I went this morning to visit RICHARD, and saw a woman sitting at *Newgate* cleaning shoes. I gave her a penny to go home and not clean shoes any more this day, which I did out of regard to the fourth commandment; for it was said by a great divine, "that as the Sabbath is observed, so will national religion flourish; and as family worship is observed, so will family religion flourish; and as closet religion is observed, so will real religion flourish in the soul." I spoke to the man whose shoes this woman, *Ann Griffith*, was cleaning, and said that if she was to be fined one shilling, he ought to be fined two. The woman cleaned only one shoe, and the man must make a poor figure with one dirty shoe and one clean. It is a sign that too many are Sabbath-breakers, else the shoe-blackers and sellers of fruit and other things would not have the encouragement they have on that sacred day. But the buyers are much more guilty than the sellers.

I renewed the appointment to *John Gibson*, a prisoner, to write down the names of those guilty of *Swearing*, and to put an S at their names, as they put an R in the Navy-Office at the names of those that run away from His Majesty's ships; which he engaged to do. The S was to be taken off upon confession of their sin, and purpose to watch against it for the future.

I prayed with RICHARD in the high hall, and several other prisoners attended, and then read a sermon in manuscript which I composed in *September 1744*, upon these words, *How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?* Heb. ii. 3. I had then some thoughts of commencing preacher or minister of the gospel, but it did not take place: it seems Providence designed otherwise. I have been called *Apothecary to the Parsons*, on account of my *Concordance*; having prepared materials for them, particularly in the various significations of the words.

RICHARD read a little in the Common-Prayer, and I instructed him by catechising him, and read two pages out of a catechism. I read a chapter, *Matt. xi.* and some other verses in the New Testament. I exhorted the prisoners to make a difference betwixt the Sabbath-day and other days, and concluded with prayer.

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John Gibson, a prisoner, promised to read prayers this morning out of the Common-Prayer to the prisoners in the hall. A prisoner died last night in the high hall of the small pox, he was a man from *Enfield*, about twenty five years old, and his accusation was for stealing some clothes. The poor man got out of bed and drank out of a pan about a quart of water, which was supposed to be the occasion of his death.

I writ above a dozen bills to be given up in public assemblies to pray for RICHARD. The bill was thus: *Prayers are desired for one long under confinement, that God may appear more and more for him and set him at liberty, both spiritually and temporally, and may direct to proper means and give his blessing thereto.*

The first person I met with and gave a bill to was a gentleman whose name was *Grace*, and I gave to two others in my going to the place of worship where I attend; and I gave about a dozen bills this day to gentlemen and ladies that I met and had any knowledge of. I myself delivered three bills, and heard him prayed for three times; and the third time in a very particular manner, *That God would set him at liberty in all respects, and greatly enlarge him, and set his feet in a large place, and direct to means for it, and give a blessing thereto.* Which was very agreeable to me.

Monday, October 3. I visited RICHARD about ten o'clock, and a friend went with me and carried with him a scarlet *Great Coat* of mine in very good order, but it was too heavy for my use. I went to prayer with RICHARD, instructed him by catechising, and he read a little in the Common Prayer, and we concluded with prayer. I this day paid *John Gibson*, a prisoner, for reading prayers yesterday, which is done at a low price in *Newgate*.

I put the scarlet coat upon RICHARD, and told him that he might wear that coat though he were an *Admiral*. I said, "that he was a wonderful man, who had been for two or three days so dangerously ill, and was now so well recovered." He answered very properly: "*That it was the work of God Almighty.*"

I asked *Nathanael*, one of the servants, why the Ventilator was not wrought? he said that it was mending, and that it would be ready in a day or two. I designed, if I had not had this intelligence, to have writ a letter to one of the Sheriffs to be pleased to order it to be set a working, for it

is of great use to the cleansing the air of the prison. Many of the prisoners have been lately ill of the jail-distemper, not improbably occasioned by the want of fresh air.

I went this day about two o'clock to the cells to visit *Sebastian Hogan*, under sentence of death, who wrote to me to come and see him: when he was in the common prison he taught RICHARD, and waited upon him, and was of a good and obliging behaviour. He hath been eleven years a sailor, and was convicted for a robbery of a hat on *Tower-bill*; he is a sensible man and seems to be under a great concern about his soul and salvation. I prayed in the cell, and desired him to rely only upon JESUS CHRIST's righteousness, his obedience and sufferings, for pardon and salvation, which I rather did because he professes the doctrines of the church of *Rome*. I carried him some writing-paper and pens, and giving him a little money I took my leave of him. He was mighty thankful and fell down on his knees, and earnestly said, *God Almighty speed you. Nathanael*, the servant, at my desire shewed me RICHARD's cell.

This afternoon I was favoured with a visit from Mr *Innes*, and we went to *Newgate* to see RICHARD, who behaved very well, and said *that he forgave every body*. I went to prayer with RICHARD, and catechised him before Mr *Innes*, and the poor prisoner answered very well. Mr *Innes* generously remembered him, and heartily wishes him his liberty. We were a little humourous, and I said that I hoped RICHARD would employ Mr *Innes* as his agent when he should be an Admiral. RICHARD answered, *As soon as any body*.

When we were praying, *John Barret*, a prisoner, a *Dublin*-man, seemed to be very hearty in joining with us, and begged that I would instruct him as I did RICHARD. I gave him a catechism, and he said that he would read it; for he told me that he could read, write, and cast account. He seems greatly affected with his condition; he is accused of a robbery on the new city road, and it is said to be his first offence.

Tuesday, October 4. A young printer, my townsman, called on me this morning, and after breakfast we went to visit RICHARD. The young printer said that in my former attempts for Reformation I began high, namely, at the Universities of *Oxford* and *Cambridge*, but that now I was got as low as *Newgate*. If I be honoured by Providence to make

a Reformation in *Newgate*, the King, who in his Coronation-Oath promises to promote Religion among his people, may perhaps say that I should be encouraged in my favourite scheme of reforming the people. These offices of being the *Reformer or Corrector of the People, and Catechist or Tutor in Newgate*, are what nobody besides myself puts up for. But it seems I have but little interest at Court; though they all wish me well; but I wish them to *do* well, as well as to *wish* me well. I prayed with him, then catechised him, and read a little out of the catechism; then I read the second chapter of the *Ephesians*, and made a few observations on it: and RICHARD read some verses in the New Testament, and *John Barret*, and *Darby Quin*, and *John Gibson*, also read to me: they are all three from *Ireland*. *Barret* appears very sorrowful, and has tears in his eyes: he has been but a short time in *England*, and many poor men from *Ireland* come into *England* with an empty purse, and poverty often drives them to bad courses. I acknowledge that I am not convinced that the Christian Religion allows the taking away of life for stealing or robbing people of a small sum of money; but murder is a crime that in Scripture plainly and fully deserves death for its punishment. *Darby Quin* is accused of going to receive prize-money for the *Dragon* ship of war in *July* last, due to another man. He was quickly detected in not being able to tell the Lieutenant's name, and had not signed his own name. He seems to be a sensible agreeable young man of eighteen years of age, and to be tried next Sessions. I am persuaded no agent can have pleasure and peace in his mind upon reflexion of being the instrument of shedding the blood of a poor young man for such an attempt, where no damage has accrued. I do not know if I think right, but I am apt to be of opinion that if I was an agent I should rather suffer than be the occasion of shedding a poor creature's blood for a small sum of money. Some seem to be for severity from a wrong idea, that the sailors in that case suffer; but it is the agent who suffers, he being obliged to pay it again to the true man, whose right it is. Surely irons, confinement in the dismal prison of *Newgate*, and transportation, seem to be more than an adequate and equal punishment for such an offence; and where it is the first offence, and many favourable circumstances attending the case, it seems to call for mercy and compassion.

I delivered

I delivered to *John Gibson*, lately a marine, a prisoner for a year and a day for being concerned in a riot at *Duke's-Place, London*, who has undertaken to set down those guilty of Swearing and to put an S to their names, which is taken off on their acknowledging their fault and purpose to watch against the sin of profane swearing for the future. I said to him that I believed no such scheme was proposed in *Newgate* for a hundred years past. *Gibson* very properly answered, *Not since Newgate was built*. He is the person who reads prayers in the hall, and I gave him a book and remembered him for it.

Wednesday, October 5. I visited the prisoner this morning, and we prayed together. I catechised him, and read two pages of the catechism, and a little in the New Testament. He also read some verses in the Testament. I brought to RICHARD one of my old wigs, and it was said by the chief door-man that he then had the appearance of an *Admiral*; for he looked very well in his fair wig and scarlet great-coat, he being a very tall man near six feet high, above an inch taller than his friend.

John Gibson told me that he had set down the names of two prisoners for swearing, and put an S at their names. One of them came to me and confessed his sin, and I told him of the great guilt and heaven-daring nature of that sin of swearing, and he promised to watch against committing it any more.

Thursday, October 6. *Richard Walker*, a letter-carrier in the Peny-post-office, visited me this morning, and after breakfast we went to *Newgate* to visit poor RICHARD POTTER. I prayed first, then the pious peny-post man prayed in a most agreeable and ardent manner, and spoke religiously and well to him, especially of the great mercies GOD had granted him both as to his soul and body, and particularly of his raising up a friend to preserve his life. I catechised the poor prisoner, and he read several verses in the New Testament, and I set him another lesson to say next day. And *William Armstrong*, a well-looking boy of fifteen years old, read in the New Testament very well; and I promised to bring him a writing-book next day that he might learn to write. He told me that he was in prison for taking a handkerchief out of a man's pocket in the *Strand*, value sixpence: he was tried

at *Hicks's-Hall*, and is to be transported for seven years. I have often thought that we in this kingdom act as if we paid a particular regard to the eighth commandment, and that the other commandments were not properly minded, except the sixth.

There is a visible disregard to keeping holy the fourth commandment, and those in the highest stations greatly neglect it. I beg leave to begin with an exhortation to *Book-sellers* and *Printers*, with whom I have had a connexion many years, and to whom I wish every real good. Some of them are notorious *Sabbath-breakers*. They work on that sacred day whenever they please, and no Magistrate has courage to restrain them, though I have applied to more than one. Some printers print on that sacred day, and they pretend to their journeymen that the work is in haste; and the printers of the four morning news-papers work every *Lord's-day* in the year, which destroys all sense of religion in their apprentices and journeymen. They pretend to excuse this sinful practice by saying that there is a necessity for it: But it is a necessity of their own making, for why ought they not rather to publish on *Monday* at eleven or twelve o'clock, than be guilty of a plain breach of the fourth commandment? It is the duty of Magistrates to make them all act in this matter as they should do. Every one of the offending printers will be apt to say, *I wish this sinful practice was laid aside, but I must do as others do*: It is certainly the duty of Magistrates strictly to take care that none be suffered to be guilty of Sabbath-breaking with impunity, for those guilty will approve of the Magistrates conduct in that case on a death-bed.

Moreover upon national *fast-days*, *thanksgiving-days* and the day appointed for the commemoration of the *Nativity* of our blessed LORD, they take the liberty to publish, as on other days, their papers; whereas in *Holland*, and other places abroad, as I have been informed, no news-paper is allowed to be published on such days. I mention this sinful practice in a mild way, and only desire my friends the book-sellers and printers that are guilty, to compare the words of the fourth commandment with their practice, and to ask their own consciences whether they obey or transgress that divine law. And it may also be an injury to some sober religious persons who cannot in conscience undertake any business done on that sacred day, and others that have no regard to conscience are preferred before a conscientious man, and sometimes

times it issues in the ruin both of their souls and bodies: Likewise when the monthly *Magazines* are to be published, if the *Lord's-day* be the first or last day of the month, and the publication be properly on *Monday*, the booksellers, especially the shops in *Paternoster-row* and places adjacent, are so full of business at five or six o'clock in the afternoon, and several hours after, that their shops, it is supposed, are somewhat like a fair, and their poor servants, some of them against their consciences, who were afterwards grieved for it, are employed in receiving the *Magazines*, and selling them again to the hawkers, and tying up parcels to go next day into the country, all which breaches of the fourth commandment might be prevented by rising a little sooner on *Monday* morning. The printers of the *Magazines* and their authors are so dilatory and negligent that often the journeymen printers in the end of the month are ordered to violate the fourth commandment: and this is generally an introduction to hardness of heart, throwing off all religion, and becoming slaves to sin and Satan. A printer said to his journeymen, "That those who will not work on *Sunday* shall not work on *Monday*." They that forsake God, find often to their sad experience that God forsakes them.

I have been also lately informed that the *East-India* company are great transgressors in obliging their servants very often to work upon that sacred day. It puts me in mind of what is said in scripture, Judges xvii. 6. *In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.* But it is the great mercy and happiness of these nations that we have a King, that has declared again and again his desire to promote religion among his people: But it seems that he has not found out as yet a proper person to invest with authority to execute this important design. There is One of his Majesty's loyal subjects, of whom this has been many years foretold, whose character is without blemish, and who is zealous and prayerful for the happiness of his fellow-subjects both in soul and body: he ordinarily aims at the *meekness of Moses*, but when a proper occasion and great necessity require it, he can act with the *vigour and resolution* of an *Alexander*. The great maxim of the Reformation of the people is, That religion should be a step to preferment, and irreligion a bar to it; and that even the constables, as well as all Magistrates,

should be obliged to do their duty faithfully and personally, and not give a bad example, or be allowed to employ deputies, but in case of absolute necessity. It is incumbent on the Sheriffs and other Magistrates personally to do their duty as much as possible, and not employ deputies. If every man would do his duty, all things would be well.

Friday, October 7. I this day visited RICHARD about noon, and I prayed with him; and several others were present in the Hall. There were two men playing at cards, and at my mild request the cards were laid aside. RICHARD read several verses in the New Testament and Common-Prayer-Book; and *William Armstrong*, a boy of fifteen, read *Matt. xxv.* throughout, and also in the catechism and Common-Prayer-Book. I gave him a writing-book, an inkhorn and pens, and one of the prisoners undertook to assist him in learning him to write.

RICHARD behaves very religiously, and I told him I would be as glad to serve him as if he was my brother; and I said, that I believed he was my brother in CHRIST JESUS. He answered, that he hoped so. He desired me to write to his mother, *Mrs Mary POTTER*, at *Newport* in the Isle of *Wight*, and to give his duty to her, his sisters and uncles: He says that his mother took care, when he was a little boy, that he should pray morning and evening; which I was glad to hear, for it has some appearance of her having a sense of religion. *Sebastian Hogan*, now in the cells under the sentence of death, wrote to me yesterday to supply his necessities. I got a little money last night at *North's* Coffee-house near *Guildhall*, and with a little addition delivered it to RICHARD, and told him that I appointed him my *almoner*, to send it to *Sebastian* as he thought proper. *Sebastian* took care of RICHARD in his illness, and taught him to read, and RICHARD retains a grateful sense of it. I was straitned for time this day, and a printer calling on me this morning, I had promised the proof-sheet about two o'clock and was obliged to finish correcting it in the Hall of *Newgate*: For I am ambitious to keep my time and to imitate the Earl of *Halifax*, and to be better than my word; for that noble and excellent person did not promise to grant my request, but graciously did what I had much at heart.

Saturday,

Saturday, October 8. I visited the prisoner in the evening and prayed by him, and instructed him in the principles of religion in the catechetical way, and he read a little to me as usual. I was sorry to see one in the dead warrant in this day's news-papers for an attempt only to receive so small a sum as *Twenty Shillings* of prize-money due to another man; his name was *Thomas Madge*. I asked *Nathanael*, who attended the prisoners in the cells, what sort of a man he was, he said, "that he is as inoffensive a man as exists." I was much concerned about his case, he having been put upon the attempt by another sailor.

This evening I writ a letter at RICHARD's request to Mrs *Mary Potter*, his mother, of *Newport* in the isle of *Wight*, which, I hope, *made the Widow's heart sing for joy*; it would be a thousand pities that her *only Son*, who is very dutiful, should not be allowed to shew his regard to her. He is most earnestly desirous to help her if ever he should be happy enough to have it in his power. I wrote also a letter to a pious gentlewoman at *Newport* to beg of her to stir up the people of that town to be active, as I mentioned in a former letter, to get a full and free pardon for RICHARD. I have inquired whether the agent of the *Burford* has lost any thing by wrong payments, and I heard that he hath not lost a shilling. The agents seem to be more afraid than hurt: They made a considerable figure at the *Old-Bailey* with their prize-books: It is well if the *Jury* are not thrown as it were into a consternation, and over-awed thereby to bring in poor sailors guilty, who are condemned to death for it.

Lord's-day, October 9. I visited RICHARD, and in the hall read part of a sermon composed by me in 1744, from those words in *Luke xix. 10.* *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.* RICHARD read in the Common-Prayer-Book. *William Armstrong*, a young lad, read in the Bible; RICHARD was instructed in the catechetical way: we concluded with prayer. I went again betwixt twelve and one to the press-yard in *Newgate*, and spoke for the first time to *Thomas Madge*, who seemed to be a very inoffensive man, and, as I then apprehended, of weak intellectual faculties or of a very mild temper: but he answered well to some religious questions. I went up to the chapel and heard the Ordinary's exhortation to the Protestant prisoners that were to suffer next *Wednesday*; and I afterwards

afterwards spoke to them some time in the chapel, partly in presence of the Ordinary, and concluded with prayer.

Monday, October 10. I wrote a letter to the noble Earl of *Halifax* in favour of *Thomas Madge* abovementioned, and went to Mr *Mattocks's* in *Crutched-friers*, his prosecutor, who also wrote a letter to the Earl approving of my design to save *Madge*, and intreating that my compassionate request might be granted. I set out from *Crutched-friers* for the *Old-Swan*, and went up with oars to *Whitehall*. The waterman's apprentice acknowledging that he had not been at church yesterday, I gave his master, *William Clark*, a catechism to give him, provided he went to church next Lord's-day. I then went to *George-street*, but the Earl of *Halifax* was at *Busby-Park*, near *Hampton-court*. I went to *St James's Palace*, and a gentlewoman told me that the King was at the Queen's Palace, and would be there all day to-morrow. I went directly to the Queen's Palace, but the porter would not let me go to any of the pages, for I intended to leave my letter with one of them, and probably His Majesty might by that means see it directly, but I was obliged to depart. I went to my Lord *Halifax's* office near *St James's Palace*, and I saw a very civil woman who told me that the office hours were from ten to three o'clock, and from six to nine in the evening. I then went to *Whitehall*, and returned by water to *Black-friers*. I asked a youth, a rower in the boat, *what sin was?* He said that it was *drunkenness, swearing, and staying out at nights, and sabbath-breaking*; which last he said was worst of all: I gave him a catechism, which he promised to read.

I visited RICHARD about six o'clock, and began with prayer as usual in the hall. He read in a new Bible I brought him. I catechised him and also young *Armstrong*. I prayed by one of the door-men, he being sick and abed in the hall. I gave Mrs *Jones* a catechism, which she promised to read: She was tried and cast for Death for being guilty of stealing goods out of a shop in *Cheapside*, but is reprieved for Transportation. I was obliged this evening to go to *Hoxton-square*, and as I went there was Preaching in the Tabernacle in a very evangelical way, inviting sinners to come to CHRIST for pardon and salvation. In my return I met with a youth who was my guide, and behaved very well. He said that he used to attend at Mr *Wesley's Foundery*,

Foundery, and that he was going home to his father's, being a glazier in *Lothbury*: He said that there was a class met that evening at his father's house, and that their method was to begin with a hymn and then prayer: The leader of the class afterwards stood up and spoke; then every one in his turn spoke; they told whether they experienced more love to GOD and CHRIST in their souls, or had more desires after CHRIST and salvation by him, and more hatred to sin, and such spiritual questions. This is agreeable to *Mal. iii. 16. They that feared the Lord spoke often one to another*; and they concluded with a hymn and prayer. He told me that his father had been a Dissenter, and that he himself had learned the *Assembly's Catechism*: I asked him, if he knew *what was Faith in Jesus Christ*? He answered, that he knew the answer to the question, but that *he did not feel it*. The answer is, *Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive, and rest upon him alone for salvation as he is offered to us in the gospel*. I gave him a catechism: he was very well pleased, and promised to read it.

Tuesday, October 11. I went up the river in order to wait on the Earl of *Halifax*, and sent in a letter wherein I pleaded the necessity of the case to excuse my making application so soon after favours received. I most earnestly pleaded for a reprieve for *Thomas Madge*. The Earl of *Halifax* was so kind as to admit me to speak to him; but I perceived that there was not such an appearance of success as formerly; therefore I writ in my friend the bookseller's shop a second letter, and then went to the Queen's Palace, where Mr *Laeday*, one of the porters, was very kind to me, and conducted me to Mr *Rheims*, one of the pages, who very civilly put me in a place where the Earl of *Halifax* was to pass in going up to the King. I waited near an hour before the Earl came. When I delivered the letter to him, I asked if I should wait till he returned: He desired me *to leave it to him*. This gave me some hopes, and I thought it best to wait to know the issue. When his Lordship came from the King, I asked him if the thing was done: He answered, "that it was not done, for the Council had been against it; and His Majesty did not choose to do any thing contrary to what had been settled in Council." It is a pity that things can seldom be represented with all their circumstances to the higher powers.

In the evening I visited RICHARD, and prayed, and catechised him as usual; and afterwards I went to Mr *Isaac Whitechurch* an undertaker in *Fleet-market*, and we computed the charge of burying *Thomas Madge*: I ordered a horse to be sent to morrow to receive his body at *Tyburn*. We agreed to bury him in the churchyard of *Marybone* or *Paddington*; but it seems that afterwards Mr *Whitechurch's* servants advised to bury him in the burying-ground of *St George's Bloomsbury* in *Red-lion-fields*.

Wednesday, October 12. I went this morning before eight o'clock to the Press-yard, being desirous to see *Madge*. The four Protestant prisoners that were to suffer being in the chapel with the Ordinary, I went into the room in the Press-yard, and spoke in a religious manner to the four Roman-Catholics, and also prayed. They behaved very well, and as if they had been acquainted with me; for they had before seen me in the prison. When meek *Madge* came down from the chapel, I told him that I had endeavoured to preserve his natural life, but had not met with success: Though I never had told him that I would apply for it. I told him that I would take care of his body, and that an undertaker's servants were to attend at *Tyburn* with a horse, and to bury it at *Marybone* or *Paddington*. I was obliged to correct two sheets this morning of an exposition on the Bible, and finished about two o'clock. I went to the undertaker's with a design to go and see *Madge* buried; for the undertaker said that he would not be buried till three or four o'clock. On calling at his house I was told that he was to be buried in the burying-ground of *St George's Bloomsbury*, which is in *Red-lion-fields*. I went to the ground, and missing the grave-digger, I went to visit my old friend Dr *Stukeley*, Rector of *St George the Martyr*: a little before five I returned and found the grave-digger, who shewed me the place where he had been buried: But I desired to see the body that I might be satisfied that it was the right man: This could not be done till next morning; and the grave-digger was to meet me at the *Lamb* at the end of *Red-lion street* next morning at eight o'clock, and I brought the undertaker with me: We went to the burying-ground and the grave being opened again, the lid of the coffin was lifted up, and I saw the body, and was fully satisfied. I was greatly pleased with a conversation I had with him just before
he

he went into the cart. I prayed in the press-yard, though it was pretty much crowded. *Madge* told me that he had never committed any atrocious crime in his life. "He said that he received comfort from the Ordinance of the LORD'S Supper by hearing the name of CHRIST mentioned: And that he believed that CHRIST'S Body was broken for him, and his blood shed for him." He desired me to write to a plumber at *Exeter*, to whom he had been apprentice, and acquaint him with what had befallen him; which I will take care to do. I went with him to the very foot of the cart; and spoke to him seriously and affectionately: He prayed, "That GOD ALMIGHTY might bless me every minute of my life." *Amen.*

Tuesday, October 11. I went in the evening to Mr *Innes's* office near *Tower-hill*, to see Mr *Robinson*, one of his clerks, who was the prosecutor against *Darby Quin* for attempting to receive prize-money due to another man belonging to the *Dragon* man of war. This young man, about eighteen years of age, neither signed his name nor received any money, and yet he has been confined in *Newgate* ever since *July*, and in irons, and I suppose has had little more than the prison allowance, a penny loaf a day and water. He was one of my catechumens in *Newgate*, and with a good address applied to me for assistance, which I was very willing to give him. Mr *Robinson* went with me to the *Navy-Office Coffee-house*, and was also inclinable to use all lawful means to save the poor young man. I said that truth was strictly to be spoken, but desired him to give his evidence with a slow and soft voice, and to declare his inclination for mercy to the youth, and his unwillingness to take away his life for an attempt not executed.

Mr *Robinson*, according to appointment, called on me next day at my lodging in *Ivy-lane*, and after dinner we went to the *Old-Bailey*, and waited on the clerk of the arraigns; and afterwards I went with him to the door of the room where the *Grand-Jury* were sitting, and waited till he did his business there.

It may be observed that the receiving prize-money due to another man was not capital in the last war, but only punishable with transportation. Some acts are only made *in terrorem*, for warning, but the opulent agents, if they have tenderness of conscience, must be uneasy upon the reflexion

of taking away a poor youth's life for an attempt not executed; and where no damage accrued.

When Mr *Robinson* and I were in the Navy-Office Coffee-house he went to a neighbouring public house, and brought *Thomas Nursy*, prosecutor of *Hugh Malony*, who nursed RICHARD in his illness, for receiving money wrongfully at the pay-office in *Broad-street*. I intreated the prosecutor to be as favourable as truth would admit. He said that his case was bad, but that he had been aboard the same man of war for four years with him, and then the man behaved very well.

Saturday, October 15. I called on Mr *Mattocks*, *Madge's* prosecutor, and told him that my application for him had been fruitless: He said that he was sorry for it, and that he had hoped I should have had success: I told him that I had taken care of his burial; and asked him, seeing he was so much concerned, to pay half the charge. He asked what was the charge? I told him, about three guineas. He offered me a guinea, but I did not accept of it; I told him that I would not have had such a hand in that man's death for treasures of gold and silver. I asked him, if ever he lost ten pounds by wrong payments. He avoided a plain answer, but said that he had lost some pounds.

Lord's-day, October 16. The journal of my going to *Newgate* cannot for want of room be duly carried on, therefore I pass from the 11th to the 16th of *October*: And this morning betwixt eight and nine o'clock, I visited RICHARD. I began in the Hall with prayer and read a great part of a Sermon composed by me in 1745, upon these words in *Isaiab lxi. 1, 2.* *The Spirit of the LORD GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings to the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound.* I then read the *Collect* for the day, it being very suitable to my case; and I also read the *Epistle and Gospel*. RICHARD read a little, and also *Darby Quin* and *John Stevens*. I catechised RICHARD and the two others just mentioned, and *Sebastian Hogan*, *John Barret*, *James Kelly*, *George Kelly*, and *Edward Lambden*; so that I had a good number of catechumens: *Samuel Davis*, the chief door-man, and *John Prince* attended some part of the time.

Edward

Edward Lambden, born at *Henley on Thames*, a barber and a *Middlesex* militia-man, gave me the following account of himself; “ That he was awakened and convinced under Mr *Whitefield* about three years and a half ago; his subject was about the LORD’s holding out his *Sceptre* of mercy to returning sinners, and his rod of *Justice* to those that would not obey him :” He said, “ that the Spirit of GOD convinced him of *sin, of righteousness, and of judgment.*” And he discovered upon being catechised some real knowledge of the principles of religion: He said, “ That true faith was a relying upon CHRIST as his Saviour, and a belief that the Saviour died for him.”

Daniel Broad, a sailor from *Newport* in the *Isle of Wight*, came to see RICHARD; and *Daniel* was going to set out soon for *Portsmouth*, but he had no money: RICHARD lent him generously half-a-crown, which was a very good and kind action of one in his circumstances.

Monday October 17. I visited RICHARD, and we went up to the high hall. I prayed, and RICHARD read some verses in the beginning of the xxxviiith Psalm: *Fret not thyself because of evil-doers, &c.* *Edward Lambden* and two or three others attended: *Edward* repeated the above account of his being convinced under Mr *Whitefield*.

I acknowledge I have often wished that a general act of grace was passed for all except murderers; for I shall be sorry if any of my catechumens should suffer death, they seeming to be penitents. It is to be considered that no act of grace hath as yet passed in the present happy reign.

A PETITION from the Minister, Churchwardens, and Overseers of *Newport in the Isle of Wight*, to the Right Honourable the EARL OF HALIFAX, Principal Secretary of State to HIS MAJESTY.

“ WE understand that RICHARD POTTER a young man, a sailor, only son of *William Potter*, deceased, many years a sworn Corn-meter and Coal-meter at *Newport* in the *Isle of Wight*, has been under sentence of death, and that Mr *Cruden*, a Providential friend, has been the instrument of obtaining his reprieve, and of the sentence being turned into transportation, which we are

“ glad to hear and are thankful for. But RICHARD POT-
 “ TER, being a stranger to *London*, and never in *London*
 “ till after he was cast away in *March* last in the *St Ja-*
 “ *neiro*, a *Spanish* ship of war taken at the *Havannah*, and
 “ being drawn into this affair by a sailor, a *Dublin-man*, and
 “ it being his first offence, and POTTER behaving, as we
 “ are well informed, in the prison of *Newgate* very soberly,
 “ where he hath been one and twenty weeks, and hath been
 “ twice or thrice in so dangerous a way that it was thought
 “ he could not recover: And he being the only son of a
 “ poor widow with several daughters in this town of *New-*
 “ *port*, we humbly and earnestly recommend him to his
 “ Majesty’s farther mercy, and hope and believe, from
 “ many very favourable circumstances, that it will be a good
 “ action in itself, and not cause the least reflection on his
 “ Majesty’s mild and happy administration to grant this
 “ poor prisoner, who hath already suffered much by his
 “ long confinement, a full and free Pardon. And we beg
 “ leave humbly to implore and to intreat that his Majesty
 “ will be graciously pleased to grant the same. Given at
 “ *Newport* in the *Ile of Wight*, the tenth day of *October*
 “ one thousand seven hundred and sixty three.”

LEONARD TROUGHEAR, Minister of *Newport*.

JOHN HOW,	}	Churchwardens.
JAMES GUMM,		
WILLIAM BANISTER,	}	Overseers.
JOHN PERRY,		

This earnest application by all the representatives of the
 parish of *Newport*, and also Mr *Cruden*’s earnest desire to be
 useful to RICHARD, who he thinks is by divine Providence
 committed to his care and protection, will be of some
 weight to obtain a free Pardon, especially on account of the
 favourable circumstances of his case. My character for loy-
 alty is unquestionable, and I desire to seek after nothing but
 from right principles, motives and ends; the honour and glory
 of GOD, the true happiness of His Majesty, and the real good
 of his people, therefore I hope this request will be granted.

Friday, October 21. I went to the *Old-Bailly* to see the Gaol-
 Delivery; sentence of Death was also passed upon eleven
 poor prisoners, some of whom had been my Catechumens in
Newgate.

Newgate. My heart was affected and grieved. I should rejoice that some person of importance would supplicate and petition His Majesty to turn their sentence of Death into Transportation; for most of them pleaded that it was their first offence. Surely if I had a thousand votes I would vote for their Transportation, and against their execution at *Tyburn*. They may be then of some use, but the shedding of their blood can hardly be expected to do any good.

I asked Mr *Akerman* to grant me the favour that my adopted son, RICHARD POTTER, might not go into Court to receive sentence of Transportation: but he said that it could not be granted.

The noble Earl of *Halifax* has been very good and compassionate in obtaining a reprieve for a fortnight; and getting the sentence changed into Transportation; but I hope he will apply to His Majesty cheerfully and with good inclination, as formerly, and obtain a *full and free Pardon* for my son RICHARD, and bring this affair to a perfect and happy conclusion. This will more and more endear his Lordship to the people in general. My affectionate and loyal behaviour to His Majesty and his illustrious Family, and my usefulness by my *Concordance* and *reforming Newgate* and perhaps others of His Majesty's subjects, give me hopes of success. I have made several publications of books, and wrote one Dedication to the great Queen CAROLINA, a second to the Duke of CUMBERLAND, a third to His Majesty KING GEORGE THE SECOND, a fourth to the Princess Dowager of WALES His Majesty's valuable and excellent Mother, and a fifth to his amiable Majesty KING GEORGE THE THIRD. Few of His Majesty's subjects can say so much.

I called at *Newgate* to see RICHARD, and *Robert Carpenter*, who attended him, gave me a petition to the Lord Mayor, to beg his Lordship to accept of his own bond for bail for his good behaviour for a year. His sentence was to be imprisoned for a riot in *Water-lane* three months, to pay a shilling fine, and to find security for his good behaviour for a twelve-month. It was presented to my Lord Mayor, and about half an hour after the petition was returned to me by his Lordship, and he said that he had considered the affair and the thing was ordered to be done. I thanked his Lordship, and said that I was much obliged to him. I shall rejoice if my application at the west end of the town for my son RICHARD's free Pardon be as successful.

§§ THE HISTORY OF RICHARD POTTER, &c.

I am in hopes that when this History, giving a true state of this favourable and uncommon case, is known, a pardon will be graciously granted; for if there be a willing mind and a good inclination, it is not too late; yea it could be done if the ship with the transports was as far as *Portsmouth*, or at the *Land's-end*, by sending a sloop after the ship wherein my son RICHARD was. RICHARD's pious behaviour, and the uncommon favourable circumstances of his case, I humbly apprehend, will determine His Majesty to grant my humble and earnest request. His Majesty may perhaps say, "I desire to study the happiness of my people, and to act as their Father, and like a merciful Prince; and seeing the circumstances are so favourable, and the youth so pious; and moreover seeing Mr *Cruden*, a person of great integrity, purposes to take RICHARD POTTER under his care and protection, from my very heart I incline cheerfully to grant him a *full and free Pardon*, and I doubt not but it will be applauded by all my subjects. And moreover as Mr *Cruden* seems designed by divine Providence to be an instrument of bringing about a *Reformation* among my people, he ought not to be made uneasy or have any cause to cross the seas, and leave my people unreformed; for it is too evident that Religion is greatly disregarded and neglected by them; and it will be a great mercy if his prayer in the dedication of the second edition of his *Concordance* to me be granted, namely, *That GOD may make me an HEZEKIAH to our British Israel.*"

I am credibly informed that the late Dr *Butler*, Bishop of *Bristol*, was against the naturalization of foreigners, because we being so wicked in this nation might then infect all the world. Surely this was an awful argument against the bill.

Saturday, October 22. I went this morning to the press-yard in *Newgate* to see *Richard Cinderbury*, the prisoner who was to be executed for murder, whom I had spoke with in *Newgate* before his trial. While I was in the press-yard I had some conversation with *Osmond Cooke*, Esq; the City-Marshal, who told me that when I was speaking to *Thomas Madge* in a religious manner, the day of his execution, the 11th of *October* last week, he was desired by a gentleman or two to take me into custody, as a Roman-Catholic priest that was endeavouring to seduce the prisoner and bring him
over

over to the church of *Rome*. The Marshal told them "that
 " that person was no Romish priest, but that he was the gen-
 " deman that published the Concordance to the Bible."

This afternoon my first-rate friend the worthy clergyman
 of *Blackheath* paid me a visit, and he having treated me with
 a dinner the 20th instant, two days before, at the *Horn-Ta-*
vern in *New-Palace-yard, Westminster*, I read to him the
 twenty third and twenty fourth pages of this pamphlet con-
 cerning himself, and he now wanted the expressions signify-
 ing that none of the clergy, higher or lower, had published
 any thing to be compared with the *Concordance*, to be omit-
 ed. He owned that it was *very just and very true*, but he
 was afraid of giving offence. He offered to be at the charge
 of reprinting that part, but I in a mild and respectful manner
 humbly desired to be excused. This pamphlet is written
 with a design to obtain for RICHARD POTTER a full par-
 don, whom I regard as my Son; and I hope that on the
 account of my good intentions to be useful, the higher powers
 will hearken to my supplication; otherwise I am at present
 thinking of writing another pamphlet, and then to beg the
 favour of a passage in the public packet-boat from *Harwich*
 to *Helvoetsluys*.

Lord's-day, October 23. I visited *Newgate* this morning,
 and began with prayer, and then read a sermon composed
 by me in 1744, on these words, *Rom. viii. 1. There is no*
condemnation to them that are in CHRIST JESUS, who walk
not after the flesh but after the Spirit. I then read some of the
 collects in the *Common-Prayer-Book*. One of the prison-
 ers read the epistle for the day, and another the gospel.
 Then I catechised RICHARD and my little congregation on
 the principles of religion. One of my congregation was *Sal-*
omon Gabriel, a Jew, a prisoner lately committed, and also
Charles Gilfoy, a *Dublin-man*, who readily accepted of *Ca-*
techisms: we concluded with prayer. *John Gibson* was
 with us, who keeps the book for setting down the Swear-
 ers. He told me that all the prisoners behave very well. I
 ordered *Gibson* to read prayers in the Hall, and promised to
 pay him for it. Mr *Freeborn* the turnkey said "That the
 " STRANGER would be the finest man in *England*, if he
 " could reform *Newgate* and keep them from swearing."
 This is already done in a great measure.

TUESDAY.

TUESDAY, October 25.

I WAS walking in St James's Park yesterday with a worthy Clergyman who knew a good part of RICHARD's *History*, and he desired me to ask him seriously, What he was to do with the *Thirty-five Shillings* of prize-money if he had received it? I have asked this question, and he declares solemnly that he was to give it to *Garvin*, and he himself was to receive *Half a Guinea*, and *Garvin* said that the remainder was to be given to *Andrew Maggee* his messmate: for *Garvin* had that day received his own prize-money, and he might suppose the Agent would not pay him *Maggee's* without a power of Attorney. The Clergyman said that this was but like some of the silly tricks that Sailors often commit; and that it was hardly any crime: and yet poor POTTER was near being hanged for this nothing, or next to nothing.

The HIGHER POWERS have reason to thank Mr *Cruden* for being the instrument of preserving the life of a youth who did not at all deserve Death. Surely it seems but just and equitable that RICHARD POTTER should be delivered up to Mr CRUDEN, OR TO HIS RELATIONS: There seems no reason for *Transportation*. He has suffered more than enough for a Sailor's trick, since his confinement on the fifth of *May*. When RICHARD and EIGHT more were sentenced to Death about the ninth of *July* last, the turnkey says that the capital of these nine prisoners in the cells amounted to just three farthings. The *Prison-allowance* is only a *peny-loaf a day and water*. How would those that have prosecuted RICHARD like such an habitation, or such entertainment in the *Cells of Newgate*?

I went

I went this day to call on Mr *Innes*, RICHARD's prosecutor, at his office at *Gould-square*, *Tower-hill*, and there was an Officer in the office guilty of *swearing*. Mr *Innes* and I went into a room, and I told him that I had been according to his desire with Mr S—, master of an academy, to desire him to accept of a friend of his for his scholar at a moderate price. He was satisfied with what I had done. I then presented to him a short letter and desired him to sign it, to make use of it to obtain RICHARD's *full Pardon*, if there should be occasion for it. I told him that I thought it was his duty to do it. But he refused to do it, and said that I could get it done without his signing the letter. I told him, "that if he would not do it I WOULD DECLARE WAR AGAINST HIM:" He said "That he could not help that." I then quickly retired: But I am sorry that my beloved friend Mr *Innes* acts with so much of the *Old Adam* in refusing to acknowledge his transgression; for he told me about three weeks before, that he heartily wished that RICHARD might have a full Pardon. It is not impossible that he may, for his refusing to confess his fault, be some time or other punished with the *rod of justice*, for in this pamphlet he is only chastised with the *rod of mercy*.

The letter was written by me in a friendly way, as he used to write to the *Corrector*, for Mr *Corrector* is often my appellation by some of the gentlemen at *North's Coffee-house*, and by others; and it was as follows;

DEAR CORRECTOR,

" I shall be glad of the favour of your company on *Thursday* in *Gould-square*. I heartily wish that a kind PROVIDENCE may prosper all your affairs: I shall be glad to hear that you are successful in obtaining a full *Pardon* for RICHARD POTTER, to whom you have shewn so great friendship. I am affectionately,

" DEAR CORRECTOR,

OCTOBER 25, 1763.

I have the honour to be known to his Majesty, at least by character; for a pious minister said in a Coffee-house near the *Royal Exchange*, that he understood that the Earl of *Halifax* told his Majesty that a very honest man spoke

for RICHARD: And that the King said, that he would have the greater regard to the application because I had interested myself in it, for he heard a good character of me. We hope that his Majesty will allow me the pleasure and happiness of educating RICHARD in a proper manner to serve in his Majesty's Royal Navy; for RICHARD sometimes in *Newgate* goes under the name of *Admiral POTTER*. When they called him so, I said that he had not as yet got one ship to command: *Gibson*, my deputy-chaplain in the prison, replied, that "He may command a whole fleet before he dies." My heart is much set upon RICHARD's free Pardon, and Mr *Innes* the prosecutor did tell me that he heartily wished he might obtain it. I said in his Office lately, that if any of them should oppose POTTER, I would declare war against them.

It must be acknowledged that since the fall of *Adam* human nature is greatly corrupted; but we in these nations are favoured with the gospel of CHRIST, and why should not we be as much reformed as other churches and countries abroad? It was observed in the late war that the *Hannoverian* troops before battle went to prayer, sung Psalms, and were instructed and exhorted by their ministers how to behave and act. But is it not a reproach for any people to go to battle, and at that very time to be guilty of profane swearing; and to act in many cases as if they were brutes in the shape of men? Doth it not appear that GOD is displeased with us as a nation? for though we are favoured with PEACE, yet our parties and divisions will not suffer us to enjoy the blessings of it. It is not to be wondered at that some tokens of GOD's displeasure should be seen among us; when the streets of *London* sound aloud from morning till night with profane-swearing, and there are many grossly calling for damnation every hour in the day. A young gentleman from the country a few months ago said, that it was shocking to him, and that the end of this city, without repentance, must be destruction like that of *Sodom* and *Gomorrab*, or some such dreadful judgment sent to destroy it.

I repeat a prayer in the dedication of the second edition of my Concordance to his Majesty: "May the great GOD
 " be the guide of your life, and direct and prosper you, that
 " it may be said by the present and future ages that KING
 " GEORGE THE THIRD hath been an *Hezekiah* to our
 " *British Israel*."

It may seem surprising that one who has been many years in the private station of a *Corrector to the Press* should be so desirous of being a REFORMER OF THE PEOPLE, when persons in the highest stations in church and state seem to be silent, and scarcely exert themselves with a steady resolution and zealous vigour to reform the nation, or even to train up their own families in a pious manner: But if the work be done, that is the chief point, for the *Great God* often brings great things to pass by mean instruments; for Christianity was first published and planted by a few fishermen. It hath sometimes come to pass that a private soldier hath been honoured to have a great hand in gaining a battle and obtaining a victory.

His GRACIOUS MAJESTY by his Coronation Oath was pleased to lay himself under an obligation to study to promote religion among his people; and our *Nobles* and *Parliament-men*, who represent a Christian people, ought to act as becomes Christians; and our *Judges*, who often very affectingly pass sentence upon criminals for the breaches of the laws of the land, ought to consider the dreadful denunciations of the law of GOD against *sin*, and endeavour to reform the people by their *influence and example*. It seems to be incumbent on the *Aldermen of London* to take care of their respective wards, and to cause all the officers and constables in the ward to do their duty in restraining Sabbath-breaking and *other sins*: For the *sin of Sabbath-breaking* greatly increases. If every one did his duty, things would then go on well. The booksellers and printers are not the only transgressors and Sabbath breakers: for I lately was well informed that a *Watchmaker* stay'd at home all the *Lord's-day* to receive the work from those he employed.

I told a *bookseller*, that if I had power I would give him some correction for breaking the Sabbath. He asked me, "what I would do." I answered that I would order him to appear before me at *Guildhall*, and endeavour to convince him of the evil and sin of *Sabbath-breaking*, and give him a proper admonition or exhortation: for the second offence I would renew the exhortation, and oblige him to pay a few Shillings, and for the third offence I would act with a little severity, as the law directs. He could say nothing against this method. The people, upon a serious conscientious reflexion, will be apt to blame their Magistrates, who did not restrain them from sin as they ought to have done.

All divisions and parties are to be discouraged, and a catholic spirit is to be encouraged; for we ought to love them who bear *Christ's* image, and who have the essentials of religion, and not differ about circumstantials. All true christians are to be loved; for the chief distinction at the day of judgment will be of those on *Christ's* right hand and of those on his left. Our love is to be shewn to all that have the root of the matter of true grace, whether they be of the established Church, or Methodists, or Puritans, or of whatever denomination; and he is to be looked upon as the best *Englishman* who is zealous and useful in reforming the nation, whether he be born in *Cornwal* or in *Cathness*.

Lords and Ladies should be acquainted with the LORD JESUS CHRIST and his religion. They owe more to GOD than others. Usefulness ought to be more minded than honours. In other countries those in high stations attend the Ordinances and keep up a regular profession of religion; but in these nations, many of those in high rank act often as if they neglected GOD, their souls, and all religion: Those that forget GOD and have no concern for their souls, should sincerely consider the xxxviith Psalm, from the beginning to the end. A wicked rich man is one of the most guilty and most miserable creatures on the terraqueous Globe; *for the prosperity of fools or wicked men shall destroy them.*

The question is, What are the proper means to bring about this *Reformation*? This is a question not easily answered. We are to look up to GOD for his direction and blessing, and to be vigorous and diligent in all means that tend to a *Reformation*. Those in the highest stations in Church and State should think most seriously about the salvation of their own immortal souls, and then they will be concerned for the souls of others. A national fast for humiliation and prayer is very proper: Swearers and Sabbath-breakers and other notorious sinners are to be punished, and lewd women are to be restrained.

Magistrates are to be exemplary, and are not to be guilty of swearing and sabbath-breaking as is sometimes the lamentable case, and to perform the duties of their office agreeably to their solemn oath. *Were religion a step to preferment, and irreligion a bar to it, it would tend to make the nobles and others behave in a regular and religious manner.* The preachers of the gospel ought to search the scriptures and their own hearts,

hearts, those two necessary books, and to be concerned for their own salvation and the souls of their people.

If we become a religious people, then the horrid crimes of murder and robbery will soon cease; for it is but lopping off the branches and leaving the root to spread, to cut off a few guilty persons, when there is a general want of a sense of religion among the people. Example is always more powerful than punishment.

Those in the highest stations ought to be exemplary, and follow the good example of the late excellent *Prince of Orange*, who attended public worship twice on the *Lord's-day*, and took care of his family, they sitting in the pew round him. When he was congratulated upon the honour of being made *Statholder*, he answered, *He did not regard the honour, but hoped that it was for the glory of GOD and the good of the protestant religion.*

May GOD be pleased to raise up instruments to reform our sinful land, and pour out his Spirit upon all ranks and degrees of men, and enable us seriously to apply to the blessed Redeemer for pardon and salvation, and make us a holy and happy people, through JESUS CHRIST.

GOD doth great and mighty wonders in his Providence, which is always righteous yet often mysterious, and he by his secret power and wisdom can bring about great and valuable purposes by seeming contrary means, for he hath all things in his hand and under his control, and is the GOD of the whole earth. The STRANGER is of opinion that many things have befallen him which were emblematical and typical of something good and great designed by Providence for him. Some pious and valuable ministers of the gospel made some prophecies or predictions with regard to the STRANGER's sufferings.

It is to be carefully observed that the *wheels* of Providence are said in *Ezekiel's* prophecies to be lifted up from the earth, and to be high and dreadful, which is to teach us that GOD's wisdom is infinite and unsearchable, and his Providences full of mystery. Sometimes they move in an ordinary way, then the *wheels* move upon the earth. Sometimes GOD goes out of the usual road, and acts in extraordinary ways, and in unaccountable methods that reason cannot reach, nor the short line of human wisdom fathom, then the *wheels* are said to be *high and lifted up from the earth*. Who can trace GOD in his motions, whose ways are far
above

above out of our sight? Clouds and darkness are round about him. How little could be seen of what GOD was doing when JOSEPH was in the pit at *Dothan*, and left in the dungeon in *Egypt*, when he was laid in chains for a reward of his chastity. GOD's Providences are ever righteous, but sometimes very mysterious. An eminent-London-Minister prophesied concerning the STRANGER as follows:

“ That the STRANGER would be a great man, and
 “ make a great figure at court; and that his troubles were
 “ to be looked upon as designed by Providence to be an in-
 “ troduction and preparation to his future advancement,
 “ and several things to that purpose: And particularly,
 “ that the STRANGER was a *Joseph*; meaning that GOD
 “ would be with him, bless him, and make him a prosper-
 “ ous man after his reproaches and troubles.” The
 STRANGER said, that he was willing to be as humble
 or exalted as GOD pleased.

And another minister, the Reverend Mr *John Willison of Dundee*, one of the best men of the age in which he lived, eminent for piety and great abilities, as appears from his treatise on keeping the Sabbath holy, his catechisms and other works, writes as follows in a letter dated *July 16, 1739*.

“ Your account of the treatment you met with from
 “ Mr *W—man* and others is most surprizing, and puts me
 “ at a stand what to think of it. I see you have been laid in
 “ the darkness and in the deeps, and lover and friend put far
 “ from you for a time; but I hope you will not rashly cen-
 “ sure him, *whose way is in the sea, and his path in the great*
 “ *waters, so that his footsteps are not known.* Whatever
 “ waves and billows have gone over you, I hope the LORD
 “ will command his loving-kindness in the day-time, and
 “ in the night his song shall be with you, and your prayer
 “ to the GOD of your life, who hath hitherto preserved you,
 “ and will bring his own glory and your good out of those
 “ strange Providences that have passed over you. *The*
 “ *foundation of the Lord standeth sure, and he well knoweth*
 “ *those that are his, and will not let go the hold he hath*
 “ taken of them. Whatever affliction he thinks fit to lay
 “ upon them, yea though they go through fire and water,
 “ he will at last bring them out to a wealthy place. I
 “ know you look above all instruments to his wise and holy
 “ hand that hath ordered this heavy trial for you, and will
 “ adore

“adore him with humility and silence.” This pious minister was inclinable to shew favour to the criminals that occasioned his severe campaign at *Bethnal-green*; and adds, “It is not unbecoming him who hath been in the hand of GOD instrumental to bless the world with a *Concordance to the holy Bible*, that will perpetuate his memory, and make it savoury to all the lovers of that matchless book the Bible, in which we have eternal life.”

A third prophet, the Reverend Mr *William Macknight of Irvine*, wrote a letter to the STRANGER, dated July 16, 1739, wherein he says, “I pray that our gracious GOD may cause your integrity and innocence to shine as the light at noon-day. Wait on GOD, and commit your way to him, and trust in him who is able to bring it to pass: Perhaps this depth of trouble you have been in may be designed by divine Providence as an introduction and preparation to some great things GOD has in store for your good and benefit. I pray and hope, that upon trial your faith, hope, patience and other graces shall be found to praise, honour and glory; and upon humbling yourself under GOD’s mighty hand he will in due time exalt you.”

There have been some prophecies concerning THE STRANGER’S being a JOSEPH and a prosperous man, which are published in some pamphlets, called his *Adventures*, in 1754 and 1755. About the beginning of February in 1754 THE STRANGER paid a visit to an eminent *London Minister* of the established church, who repeated the words that follow, and declared them to be a prophecy (the fourth) about THE STRANGER.

————— *Si quæ fata aspera rumpas,*
Tu JOSEPHUS eris.

BRITAIN in thee her JOSEPH shall behold.

And upon taking his leave of THE STRANGER, he said, “I wish that GOD may fit you for the work he designs to employ you in.”

THE STRANGER is filled with an ardent zeal to do good, and with compassion to the poor miserable creatures who have no sense of religious or right impressions about spiritual and eternal things. The Sabbath-breakers and Swearers are not at all sensible of the evil of sin; but many of them
are

are as ignorant of CHRIST and salvation as the heathens. A person of the episcopal dignity in *March* 1754, was pleading in the right honourable house of LORDS for a *reformation of the people*; and said, *something must be done, else we are undone*. The oldest printer in *London* said to the STRANGER on this 21st instant of *October*, 1763. "That there is no religion left in the nation; which is a most lamentable thing:" There is too much ground to say so; and it is high time to begin a work of reformation.

May his Majesty KING GEORGE THE THIRD be inspired with a zeal for promoting religion among his subjects: And may he be carried through the difficulties of reforming a people, who are so careless and unconcerned about the honour of GOD and the salvation of their souls, that many of them intirely neglect the means of salvation, and shew a contempt and disregard to the fourth commandment; which day is appointed for worshipping GOD and hearing his gospel, and for minding in a particular manner those things that relate to the salvation of their souls.

May GOD be gracious to our amiable and excellent Prince, KING GEORGE THE THIRD, and make him an HEZEKIAH to his people, and direct and counsel him in this important affair of the *Reformation* of these nations; and may GOD raise up instruments for the work, and choose such as will be either fit for the work, or whom he will make so; for he is able *out of the mouths of babes and sucklings to perfect praise and ordain strength*. Counsel is his and sound wisdom; he is understanding, and he has strength; for he is the mighty GOD, and able to execute all his counsels.

Help me, O LORD my GOD; O save me according to thy mercy: That they may know that this is thy hand: That thou LORD hast done it. The LORD is my strength and shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped through JESUS CHRIST the Mediator of the new covenant. O almighty and most merciful GOD, of thy bountiful goodness keep me, I beseech thee, from all things that may hurt me; that I being ready, both in body and soul, may chearfully accomplish those things that thou wouldst have done by me, through JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD.
Amen.