



The Trials, Confessions, &c. of Miss Blandy for Poisoning her own Father, John Swann, and Miss Jefferies for the Murder of her Uncle, being the most Shocking Murders ever known for many Ages.

ON Tuesday the 3d of March came on at Oxford the Tryal of Miss Blandy for poisoning her Father in August last. The Court sat at 8 o'Clock in the Morning, when the following Evidences were call'd,

Dr. Addington depos'd, that Mr. Blandy told him he thought he had taken Poison, and particularly when his Daughter had receiv'd the Powder and Scotch Pebbles from Capt. Cranston, that he ask'd the Deceas'd who gave it him, he answer'd with Tears, *A poor Love-sick Girl*: that the Symptoms were Pricklings in his Fundament and Bowels his Teeth rotted out of his Head, and he believ'd the Deceas'd dy'd of Poison. Mr. Norton deliver'd into Court some of the Powder found at the Bottom of the Water-Gruel, which appear'd to be White Arsenick.

Susannah Gunnell, who made the Water-Gruel, depos'd, that Miss went into the Pantry, and said she had been stirring it, and had eat the Oatmeal; that the Deceas'd drank Part of it, that Miss the next Morning said the old Gruel would do again, when the Deponent said it was too stale, and was white and gritty at the Bottom. That Miss sometimes wish'd her Father long Life, and at other times damn'd him for an old Villain, that Miss exclaim'd against that Villain Cranston, to make her kill her Father, that Miss was teen to throw some Powder into the Fire.

Eliz Binfield depos'd, that Miss ask'd her if she eat any of the Water-Gruel, and said if she did it would do for her. That she heard Miss say, who would grudge to send an old Father to the Devil for 1000 l.

Mr. Littleton, her Father's Clerk depos'd, that he Breakfasted the 10th of August last with his Master, that Miss pour'd out a Dish of Tea for her Father, which he dislike'd, and said, there was too much of the Black Powder in it, and that he would eat no Breakfast. That Miss ask'd this Witness the next Day to take a walk into the Garden, when she put a Letter into his Hand, and bid him direct it as usual to Capt. Cranston, but he hearing his Master was poison'd, broke the Letter open, and read it, and then carry'd it to his Master, who said, *Oh: poor Love sick Girl: but what will not a Woman do for a*

Miss Jefferies, was convey'd to the Place of Execution at Walthamstow, (being 26 Miles from Chelmsford) in an open Cart, and John Swan on a Sledge, on Saturday the 28 of March

Man she loves? The Letter was as follows,

Dear Willy,

My Father is so bad, that I have only Time to tell you, that if you do not hear from me soon again, do not be frighten'd; I am better myself, and lest any accident should happen to your Letters, take care what you Write. My sincere Compliments.

I am ever Yours.

Robert Harlan depos'd, that Miss Blandy offer'd to make it worth 500 l. to him to go away with her.

After the Witnesses were all call'd and examin'd, Miss Blandy was call'd upon to make her Defence, which she did in a very long and handsome Speech and concluded it thus,

I will not deny, my Lords, that I did not put some Powder into my Father's Water Gruel; no, my Lords, I will not attempt to save my Life at the Expence of Truth; and I here solemnly protest, as I shall answer it at the great Tribunal, and God knows how soon, that I had no Evil Intent in putting the Powder in the Water-Gruel; nor did I know it had a poisonous Quality: It was put in to procure his Love, and not his Death.

The Trials of John Swan and Eliz. Jefferies at Chelmsford for the Murder of her Uncle.

ON Wednesday the 11th of March John Swan and Eliz. Jefferies were try'd for the Murder of Joseph Jefferies when there were 17 Witnesses examin'd, one of whom was Thomas Matthews, who swore that both the Prisoners had persuaded him to do the Fact, and promis'd to give him 700 l. for it; that Night the Murder was committed he was secreted by them in the Pantry for that Purpose, and they came to him to go and do the work, but his Heart mis-giving him he refus'd; when Miss Jefferies said, *He ought to be shot thro' the Head for a Villain in not performing what he had promis'd;* and then Swan took the Pistol in his Hand, and he and Eliz Jefferies both said they would go and do it; that they went up Stairs, and presently after he heard the Pistol go off. The other Witnesses swore very strong as to

On her being deny'd a Coach to go in she fell into fits, and when she came to herself, said she did not mind being hang'd, but was shock'd at being expos'd in such a Publick manner on the Road

the Circumstances, and they were both found Guilty of the Murder.

A number of witnesses appear'd to set forth the State they found things in after the Murder was committed. And Anthony Gallant depos'd, that the same Morning he saw Miss Jefferies bounce herself down into a Chair, and said, *Oh! I shall dye a worse Death than my Uncle.*

Miss Jefferies was indulg'd the Liberty of a Chair at the Bar, and was very sullen, and seem'd little affected till the Jury brought in their Verdict, and then she began to weep. Swan appear'd undaunted during the whole Trial.

The Confession of Eliz. Jefferies.

I Elizabeth Jefferies do freely and voluntarily confess, That I first enticed John Swan and Thomas Matthews to murder my Uncle, which they both consented to do the first Opportunity: That on the 3d of July myself and John Swan agreed to kill my Uncle; and when the Maid was gone to Bed I went into John's Room, and we went down Stairs together into the Kitchen, and putting some Pewter and other things into a Sack, I said I would do no more: I then went up into my Room, and afterwards Swan came up, as I believe, and went into my Uncle's Room, and Shot him; which done, he came to my door and rapped. Accordingly I went out in my Shift and John Swan opened the Street-Door, and let me out; that done, I alarmed the Neighbourhood, and I do solemnly declare, that I do not know that any Person was concern'd in the Murder of my deceas'd Uncle, but myself and J. Swan; for that Matthews did not come to my Uncle's House the Day before, or Night in which the Murder was committed, as I know of.

Eliz. Jefferies.

Miss Jefferies has further confessed, that her Uncle took her from her Father when she was five Years Old; and that when she was Sixteen, her said Uncle debauched her: That she lived in a continual State of Incest with him (having had two Miscarriages by him) till about a Year before his Death, when he slighted her in Favour of another Woman. His repeated Neglects of her, and his threatening to alter his Will, which she knew had been made intirely in her Favour, were the Motives that induced her to perpetrate the Murder for which she is sentenced to die.