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A Faithful Account of the Life, Depredations, Confession and Execution of that Notorious and Desperate Villain John Young, The Murderer of Mr. Richardson!

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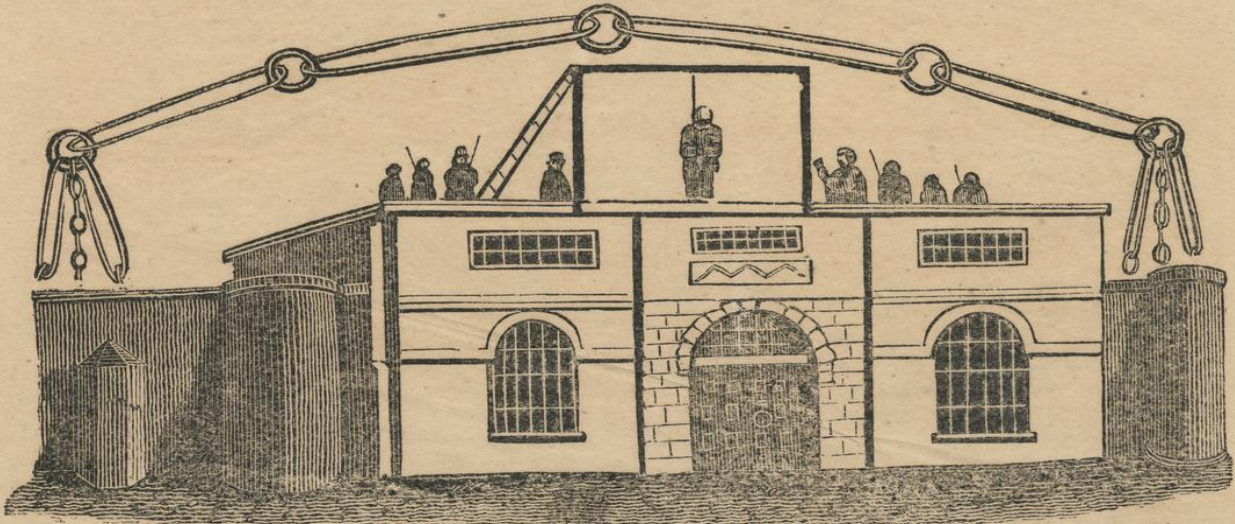
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A FAITHFUL ACCOUNT OF THE *LIFE, DEPREDATIONS,* **CONFESSION AND EXECUTION**

OF THAT NOTORIOUS AND DESPERATE VILLAIN,

JOHN YOUNG,

The Murderer of Mr. Richardson!



THE crime for which the above villain suffered Death, at Winchester, Saturday, August 2, 1834, was for entering the house of Mr. Crockford, at Basingstoke, in company with a person named Higgins and stealing 200 sovereigns. It appeared that Young beat Mr. Crockford with an iron bar, and otherwise ill-used him. While the learned Judge was passing sentence of death, Young behaved throughout with the greatest levity and indecorum, making grimaces and jeering at the Judge. After he had received sentence he danced out of court, and ran down the stairs with the greatest seeming glee.—But it was not many days before he confessed to be the actual Murderer of Mr. Richardson, who was shot in February last at Purcell's Gap.

"He felt the Murder sticking on his hands."

There are circumstances in the career and apprehension of this daring offender, which seem to mark a peculiar retributive PROVIDENCE in the fate which has overtaken him.

"Truth will come to light, Murder cannot long be hid."

It was six years ago, at the Kingston Summer Assizes, Young became witness for the Crown, and was the means of convicting three of his associates in a burglary, two of whom were hanged. He is now himself hanged on the evidence of an accomplice with him in another burglary. The case of burglary in which he was admitted approver, was of a most aggravated kind. They had broken, at the dead of a winter's night, into the retired residence of the Reverend Mr. Woodroffe, at Moulsey, dragged the Clergyman and his wife from their bed, tied their hands behind, and then thrust them with nothing but their night clothes

on into the cellar. The domestics were afterwards in the same way dragged to this dark chilly place of imprisonment. The application for some clothing for protection from the cold was met with unfeeling ribaldry. At last one, (and Young did not dare take the credit to himself,) tossed them down a bed and some blankets. The family were here left by the burglars, nor did they obtain release till accidentally discovered the next morning. It was the one who had shown this trifling mark of humanity whose life was spared. The writer was present at the trial, and well remembers hearing this villain give his evidence; the daring callousness and effrontery he evinced—the indifference with which he admitted himself to have been the leader and most ruffianly of the party, and that he had been long associated with burglars.—At the Surry assizes, April 1829, he was admitted King's evidence against Charles Kite, William Wheatly and George King, (one of whom was his brother in law) for breaking into the Teddington lock-house, and violently assaulting Mr. Savory, and stealing £20. of money. Young, on his cross examination, admitted, that on a former occasion, he had also turned King's evidence as to an offence for which his brother was hanged. These facts he deposed to without any appearance of compunction or shame; on the contrary, he seemed to think that any thing was right and proper, which could at all avail to save his own life. There is another point in which justice has been peculiarly retributive in this case. The burglary, for which by this time he has been hanged, was committed two years ago, and is entirely owing to his appre-

hension as the suspected murderer of Mr. Richardson, and the searching investigation then made into his character and haunts that the facts were elicited, and evidence obtained which led to his conviction. His admissions, as far as they are at present known, are that he and another made the attack on Mr. Richardson; that it was his hand which fired the deadly shot, but he denies that murder was premeditated. It was because of the bold front which Mr. Richardson presented, and the discovery that he was armed that he fired, conceiving he had no alternative but to shoot or be shot. He says only two were actually engaged in the attack, but a third party was concerned, altho' not on the ground—if West the carrier, had pursued him he declares he should certainly have fired on him.

THE EXECUTION.

"At eight o'clock this morning, Young underwent the severe sentence of the law: when placed under the gallows, he said in a firm voice, "I would rather be cut in pieces on this scaffold than split on my accomplices. I have made no confession as to my accomplices, nor never will I; and I advise all who may be concerned in robbing, to keep their own council; and have no women concerned with them." He spoke these words with the greatest firmness.

"The late Mr. Richardson's brother has been twice to Winchester gaol, to see Young, who freely admitted to Mr. R. that he was the person who shot his brother, and says, his companion, who was the tallest of the two, first seized the horse's head, on which Mr. R. fired, and shot a piece off his companion's shoulder. He added, I felt a great remorse in doing so, for he appeared such a fine man, but could not help it, as I was hired for the purpose. Young said he did not know Mr. R. but his companion did, and every inch of the ground; and that he (Young) was hired to commit the murder by another party. Young says he was in the house at Hounslow at the time the officers were in search of him."

Hampshire Chronicle, August 2, 1834.