

### THE OLD BACHELOR.

Isaac, when dying, lamented his fate,  
A mourn'd for his follies committed too late;  
His youth he a very gay liver had been,  
The ways of the world, and its frolics, had seen;  
Had enter'd the lists with the wild and the free,  
Had indulg'd their desires in their fullest degree.  
No vice but he tried, all warning was vain;  
He had money, and would not his passions restrain;  
Gave scope to his wildness, and range to his joys,  
'Till he found that indulgence all pleasure destroys;  
That roving unbridled both injur'd his health,  
And help'd to diminish a part of his wealth;  
So, just when he'd ruin'd the best of his prime,  
He thought he'd reform for the rest of his time,  
Then quitting the set, he had formerly join'd,  
He took a neat house with a garden behind;  
Room enough for himself, and of servants a pair,  
Fit to manage the house, and his clothes to repair:  
He thought he was going to sit snugly down,  
And forget all his follies committed in town;  
But cramps and rheumatics, with pains of all sorts,  
Jogg'd his mem'ry, and bid him remember old sports.  
With a pain in his head, and a twinge in his toe,  
Th' Old Bachelor growl'd in the mid'st of his woe;  
He growl'd and lamented the wase of his life,  
And the want of that comfort in sickness, a wife;  
For tho' many men think that a wife is an evil,  
And, rather than have one, they'd go to the devil,  
Yet often, like Isaac, when sorely tormented,  
That they did not obtain one, sincerely repented;  
But when death points his dart, 'tis too late to repine,  
For no remedy waits, but alone he must whine;  
Exhausted, neglected, worn out with disease,  
No hope to support, and no friend to appease,  
The terrors of death, or the rage of the mind,  
To soften its anguish, with tenderness kind,  
He sinks to that grave, and goes down to that bourn,  
Where all must descend, but none ever return;  
His body's consign'd in the coffin to rot—  
His name, dying with him, is quickly forgot.

PHILADELPHIA, OCTOBER 30.

### THE MURDER OF MISS REEVES.

On the night of Wednesday, August 15, 1792, a murder, attended with peculiar circumstances of Atrocity, was committed on the body of Miss Elizabeth Reeves, of this city, aged 17. The sympathy which prevailed throughout the city for the fate of this unfortunate girl, is still fresh in the recollection of many of the citizens. Governor Mifflin issued a Proclamation offering a reward of 300 dollars for the discovery of the murderers, but without effect. Eighteen years had rolled away, without being able to discover the perpetrators, the whole circumstance was fast consigning to oblivion, and justice was apparently slumbering till the last Day, when on a sudden light shines, forth on this deed of darkness and a clue is given whereby to trace it.

Last Saturday CHARLES BREECE, late a constable in this city, was committed to jail, after a hearing before the Mayor, charged with strong suspicion of the aforesaid Murder, on the confession of his step-mother, then at the point of death. The statement she is said to have made on oath is to the following import: that on the night on which Elizabeth Reeves was murdered, the accused came to his father's house with his clothes covered with blood, took off his shirt, threw it into a wash tub and washed the blood off it.—That he was for some time afterwards very restless in his sleep, and would often make frightful exclamations.—In the dead of the night, soon after the murder of Miss Reeves, she, the step-mother, heard him groan, and went up into his room and asked him what was the matter, and he answered, that a young woman had just been in the room with a lighted candle in her hand, that he had his face towards her when she first entered the room, but he turned his back to her as soon as he saw her.—These, and some other occurrences, had induced her to suspect the accused of the murder, and she could not die in peace without divulging what she knew respecting it. The accused asserts his innocence, and says that he can prove that he was in the state of Virginia at the time Miss Reeves was murdered. He afterwards admitted that he was at home at the time, had read the Governor's Proclamation offering a reward for the murderer, and did not go to Virginia until the year after. Another man who was with the accused at his father's on the night of the murder, and who does not now live in this state, has likewise been accused, by the same woman, of being concerned with him in the murder, and we understand that a stock buckle, which was found in the hand of the corpse, is marked with the initials of that man's name.

The following circumstantial account of the Murder is copied from Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser, and cannot fail to be interesting at this moment. The almost prophetic remark of Capt. Dunlap, that the time would come when the perpetrator of this foul murder, although he should "take refuge in the hollows of the mountain or in the bottom of the deep abyss, must and will be vomited up again to appease the justice of the virtuous living,"—will strike the reader as singularly emphatical. *Freeman's Journal.*

From Dunlap's American Daily Advertiser. Saturday August 18, 1792.

Thursday morning the corpse of a young woman was found in one of the docks near Kensington; an inquest sat upon the body, but we have not yet learnt their verdict. Report is, that they brought in—*Willful Murder, by persons unknown:* Of this, however, we shall soon be able to lay the particulars before our readers. In the mean while we cannot refrain from communicating such intelligence as has come within the range of our enquiry. Her name is Elizabeth Reeves,

about 17 years of age—handsome—apprentice to a mantua maker, and courted by a young tradesman of the vicinity, to whom it was reported she was shortly to be espoused.

In the afternoon of Wednesday, after her work was done, she had requested leave of her mistress to take a walk to market, to purchase some fruit;—for which purpose she obtained liberty, and a sum of money, from her mistress:—who saw no more of her until yesterday; when, as it has been traced, a boy, being on the fatal wharf at a very early hour, observed a man heaving stones on something, which the boy soon discovered to be the dead body of a man or woman, he could not tell which; that the instant the man saw the boy he leaped into a batteau, and pushed off a few yards to a shallop, that lay convenient, to which he made fast the batteau, and then boarding the shallop, the latter put off with the tide down the river, which was favourable to the design at this moment.

The body of a female with gold ear-rings, and some other marks of respectability, soon attracted the notice of the citizens,—and the noise reaching the ears of her mistress and uncle, (for the unfortunate girl was an orphan) her person was soon ascertained. A comb which she wore in her hair was found at some paces distant, lying in contact with a man's black carvat, which has been supposed to belong to—! Humanity forbids our proceeding in this horrid recital,—except to mention, that some officers belonging to the custom-house sent off a boat, as did several others, after the shallop beforementioned.

Justice Coats took an active part to investigate and discover the perpetrators of this infernal deed—professional persons of both sexes were brought to examine the body, and it was the opinion of the women that the unhappy girl had been—and then murdered!!

Surely the earth and sea combined could not hide a villain of so deep a die as he who could have committed a crime like this—let him take refuge in the hollows of the mountains, or in the bottom of the deep abyss, he must and will be vomited up again to appease the justice of the virtuous living.

From the LONDON GAZETTE, September 29.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, September 28.

Copy of a letter from Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, Bart. Commander in Chief of his Majesty's ships and vessels in the Mediterranean, to John Wilson Croker, Esq. dated on board his Majesty's ship San Josef, off Toulon, July 24, 1810.

SIR,—A continuance of strong gales from the northwest since the 15th instant, obliged me to take shelter under the Levant Island with the fleet, from which, however, we were driven as far to the eastward as Villa Franca. I have been at length enabled to gain the rendezvous off Cape Sicie; and having had communication with Capt. Blackwood, the senior officer in shore, have received from him an account of his proceedings with the detached squadron under his orders, upon a division of the enemy's fleet, consisting of six sail of the line (one a three decker with the Commander in Chief's flag,) and four frigates, coming out of Toulon on the 20th inst. for the purpose of enabling a frigate and convoy to get from Bandol, and no less, to endeavour to cut off the Euryalus and Sheerwater: and, in justice to the Captains of his Majesty's ships named in the margin,\* I cannot desist from transmitting to the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty the enclosed copy of Captain Blackwood's letter on the subject, and I doubt not their Lordships will view with no small degree of satisfaction the gallantry and steadiness of these ships, and, under the existing circumstances, the determined measure that officer adopted by bringing to in order of battle, with his Majesty's squadron against so superior a force, and engaging the headmost ships of the enemy's line, which had the effect of completely frustrating their intentions, as regarded the Euryalus and Sheerwater, though the latter was under their guns, and received three broadsides from one of the line of battle ships, besides a frigate, but without being struck by either.

The enemy's ships remain in the same state as usual in the outer road off Toulon; five or six sail daily stand out of the harbour's mouth to exercise. I have the honour to be, &c.

(Signed) C. COTTON.

\* Warspite, Ajax, Conqueror, Euryalus, and Sheerwater.

Copy of a letter from Capt. Blackwood, of his Majesty's ship Warspite, to Admiral Sir Charles Cotton, dated off Toulon, 20th July, 1810.

SIR,—In a former letter I did myself the honour to acquaint you of the enemy having twice come out in great force, and failing in an attempt to detach a store-ship to the eastward, and liberate a frigate in Bandol, where we had forced her to take refuge. This morning they again came out with six sail of the line, one of them of three decks, bearing the Commander in Chief's flag, and four frigates; and as the weather was light and variable, I found it impossible to prevent the junction of the frigate in Bandol; I therefore endeavoured to collect the squadron, and place ourselves without the enemy in as good a posture of defence as I could, but owing to the situation of the Euryalus and Sheerwater, who were obliged to cross their headmost ships, and the wind rather failing them, whilst the enemy preserved it so entirely as to render the capture of the Sheerwater certain, if not that of the Euryalus.

It became a matter imperatively necessary that I should risk an action, though at the door of the enemy, and with a force so superior; a step which, without such an object, I should not have considered myself authorised in taking, particularly as you had been unavoidably blown off and out of sight by the late heavy gales.

I therefore brought to, with the Conqueror and Ajax astern of me, in such a position as evinced my determination to protect the frigate and brig, and I am happy to inform you, that the result has proved as creditable to the British flag as I could have wished or expected; for although the enemy appeared equally as decided to endeavour to cut them off, as we were to defend them, the moment they came within reach of our fire they hauled up in succession their headmost ships, giving us their broadsides, and then tacked, in which we followed their example, by also tacking; a movement for which I am entirely indebted to Captain Otway's promptness and good judgment, who being the sternmost ship in our line, and perceiving the enemy began to retreat, became the more anxious to endeavour to disable them, when after a few more shots passing, and we had some time previous to this movement secured the retreat of the Euryalus and Sheerwater, and the wind rather failing us, we wore and stood a little way to the southward, which the enemy most politely permitted us to do unhurt and unmolested, at a time too when they had it fully in their power to bring us to a decisive action, under circumstances as highly advantageous to them as they were the reverse to us; their conduct therefore puts in a flattering and clear point of view the respect in which they hold the British navy; and from the determined conduct of the squadron you did me the honour to place under my command, I am fully persuaded had the ambition of the enemy permitted him to make a bolder attack, the result would have been still more honorable to his Majesty's arms.

And I trust it cannot escape your notice that, although the disparity of force was conspicuously encouraging to the enemy, yet from the moment that the situation of the Euryalus and Sheerwater became doubtful, and for a long time after, we never declined an action, but on the contrary lay to receive them for more than an hour and a half. I have now Sir, to perform a task most grateful to my feelings, which is that of reporting to you, that in proportion as dangers and difficulties presented themselves, the patient, active and undaunted conduct of the squadron was such as to merit my warmest approbation, and I feel most particularly sensible of the exertions of Captains Otway and Fellows, in preserving such compact order, which evidently deterred the enemy from making a further attack.

The honorable Capt. Dundas of the Euryalus, and Capt. Sibley, in the Sheerwater, situated as they were, did every thing I could either wish or expect; the latter I dispatched by signal to apprise you of our situation.

To the officers and crew of this ship I shall ever feel much indebted for their steady and active conduct, but particularly to Lieut. Calloway, from whose judgment, zeal, and activity, as well as that of Mr. Bowen, the master, I derived a most essential aid.

Captains Otway and Fellows have also reported to me, that the same coolness and activity manifested itself in all ranks in their respective ships; and that they feel equally sensible of the assistance they received from their first Lieutenants Messrs. Lowry and Fitzmaurice.

I have the honor to be, &c.  
(Signed) H. BLACKWOOD, Capt.

ADMIRALTY-OFFICE, September 25, 1810.

Despatches have been received at this Office, from Vice Admiral Drury, commander in chief of His Majesty's ships and vessels in the East-Indies, addressed to John Wilson Croker, Esq. enclosing letters from Captains Tucker and Court, of which the following are extracts.

Government House, Castle New Victoria, Amboyna, February 20, 1810.

SIR,—Since my letter of the 8th inst. acquainting your Excellency with the capture of the Dutch brigs of war Rembang and Hope, by His Majesty's ship Dover, under my command, off the Island of Amboyna, I proceeded on the service.

I have now therefore to inform your Excellency, that being joined on the 9th by His Majesty's ship Cornwallis, and a Dutch sloop of war, (the Mandarin,) which she had taken, I proceeded immediately up the harbour of Amboyna, and anchored in Lalitia Bay.

On the morning of the 16th the plan of attack was determined upon, in consultation with Captains Montague and Spencer, of the Royal Navy, Capt. Major Henry Court, of the Hon. the East-India Company's Coast artillery, commanding the troops, and Captains Phillips and Forbes, of the Madras European Regiment.

The arrangements of the attack were, that 400 men (including seamen and marines) under the command of Capt. Court, should be landed a little to the right of Portuguese Bay, and advance immediately to the attack of the batteries on the heights commanding that anchorage. About two P. M. the boats being all out and every thing ready for landing the party selected for that service, the ships were got under weigh, and stood across the Bay, with the apparent intention of working out to sea; but by keeping the sails lifting, and other manœuvres, we contrived to drift in towards the spot fixed upon for a landing, at the same time keeping the boats on the opposite side of the ship, so as not to be perceived by the enemy.

The ships immediately commenced an attack upon the fort and surrounding batteries, which was continued without intermission for two hours and a half, by which time, having drifted very close in, exposed to an extreme heavy fire, particularly from the heights on the left of the town, with red hot shot, and the object of the attack being accomplished by the unexampled intrepidity of the troops, seamen and marines, in storming, and gaining possession of the heights, commanding Portuguese Bay, I took advantage of a spurt of wind off the land, and ordered the ships to anchor there.

During the night, forty men were landed from the Samarang, and two field pieces from the Dover, under