in her 75th year, who lived with me 10 years. Hannah Partington, in her 20th year, she lived me two years. It was my custom to go, with my wife, to the shop every market day. We went on the 26th about nine in the morning, and returned in the evening at eight. I had left about £160. £140 in notes, and 19 guineas in gold, a half guinea, and a 7s, piece. We left the money in a drawer where we slept. The drawer was not locked. I saw the money at seven in the morning,—There was plate in the kitchen. I heard of the alarm as soon as I came to the iron gate: I went on in front of the house: the shutters were to, but not fastened: there is a loose board to fasten them which the men did not understand. I tried the door, it was locked; the yard door was locked, and the key in it.—I got in at a lobby at the end of the house; I found the key of the door under the beer next morning. We took a ladder and went in by an upper window. Some went in before me; I went straight into the kitchen; Mrs. Marsden was sitting in the chair she always occupied: Hannah Partington was lying under the dresser with her knees bent toward is her head; they were quite dead and cold; the kitchen, was covered with blood; the poker was bent and very bloody, the cleaver, which was always hung in the kitchen, I found in there bed-room, with a little blood on it; the money was all gone; the notes were £1 and £2 Bank of England notes, out of the same drawer were taken shirts and silk handkerchiefs; from other drawers in the same chest were taken shawls and things belonging to my wife: all could be put into 2 or 3 small bundles; a person standing in the three-nooked field can see the house and front way as clear as if they were on the premises.

Ely Dyson (by Mr. Ashworth.)---I weave for Messrs. Johnsons in Manchester. I was going with my work to them on the 26th, and passing near Littlewood's I saw three men in the centre of the yard gate. They looked as if they were conversing together. As I was passing on the road one of them came out at the iron gate. I looked earnestly at him, that is the person, the third from me (young James). He had a bundle in a light-coloured handkerchief. It was not large. I see'd that another was coming up to the gate, with a bundle in a dark handkerchief. He had on a green coat. The fourth man from me (David) is the man. The third was nearer Littlewood's.

R. Disley (by Mr. Coltman)—I was in Hanover street in Manchester on the 29th. I saw J. Ashcroft, jun. and Holden about five or six in the evening at a play-ground near. James was betting 4s. or 5s. at a time with one Davies on the tossing up of halfpence. He said to Davies he would bet him a guinea or half a guinea. "I hear Davies has some gold," he said; and having offered the bet he pulled out some gold, five or six guineas in his right hand. He had some notes in his left hand. He had lost one note.

Joseph Nadin, (by Mr. Ashworth)—On the 27th I apprehended all of them, David and young James first in St George's road. I took them to James's house. I searched the house, and found nothing particular. On James's person I found a Bank of England pound note, 5 shillings, and a 7s. piece. On David I found seven guineas and a half in gold, and five one pound notes. I asked David if he had been the day before at Pendleton. He said he had. James, too, he said, had been at Pendleton.---In the evening I apprehended Old James in his own house in Silk street. I asked him if he had been at Pendleton the day before, and he said he had. He had nothing to do, and had taken a walk. I took him in a coach to the swan. I then took Holden in the street; he said he had lodged at the White Hart. I took him there, and searched him, and found two notes, one guinea, and 19s. 6d. in silver. He said he had not been at Pendleton; he had no clothes besides; he refused to tell where he had changed his shirt. I took him to a magistrate, and there he repeated the same things. At Dunstant's office he said he had changed his shirt at Abraham Hases. We found nothing there: he had taken his dirty shirt away. On Monday David and Holden were brought to Littlewood's. I took them to the parlour.---They were there, with several others, and their irons off, when Mary Hallows came and saw them, and pointed out Holden. I asked, if he still persisted in saying he had not been at Pendleton on Saturday. He said, "I do." Nay, thou knowest thou shaved opposite the pole." He answered "Yes, but I did not like to bring myself into a scrape."

Direct by Mr. Ashworth.—There was a handkerchief found in a bed of David's with blood upon it. It was between the blankets.

William Collins (by Mr. Coltman.]—I have been in the service of Mr. Harrison, the Magistrate, for seven years, till his death. I went then to live near Bolton. From the top of Park I was removing to Manchester, in April, on a Friday (25th). I removed the things in a cart belonging to John Astley. When I got to Manchester, Richard Young claimed the cart. He had bought it from Astley, but it had not been delivered. He took me up, and got me taken to the New Bailey on Saturday afternoon. I was put into the lock-ups. I was afterwards discharged on the 3d of May, on Astley's explanation. I was confined in the lock-up. On Saturday night I saw old James.—He was in the same cell with me the first night. There were other prisoners with us sometimes. At other times we were alone. He was taken out to be examined two or three times a day. I telled him my case over, and he telled me his. One day as he came back I said, "How are you going on now," He said, he was in very poor heart, for they brought fresh witnesses against him every time. I told him if he was not guilty he had no occasion to be afraid of any witness. I said, if you are guilty you are as sure to be hanged as you are a man. He said, "it would go better with him, but he understood they could not find Holden's shirt." We were together an hour or two either Tuesday or Wendnesday night. He said that there was him and his son, and his brother David and Holden, and made it up for to murder and rob Mr. Littlewood's house. He said, "that him and his son and Holden went, but when they got nearly to his house they saw some person, and they were afraid to go in; and he went to a butcher's shop for a little pith, to rub his corns: then they went past the Hare and Hounds, then turned back again: they went down to see a raven kept by a gentleman, and then came back again: after they had passed Littlewood's a third time, Holden went into a barber's shop to shave himself; they went then to a place to buy some cheese and bread: they then went to a public house, where they had some beer; I went down a lane into a field near Mr. Weston's manufactory, and sat under a hedge in that field; I saw my son James and Holden go into Littlewood's: I was aback of that hedge for a signal for them at the window: If I seen any body go towards Mr. L,'s house I was to lay my hat on a thorn that I sat under for a signal: I never saw any body and never lay my hat on the hedge: after seeing them come out, I went towards them,"—Just as he said that, they put other prisoners in with us, and we never had any conversation after that.

Case for the prosecution closed.

James Ashcroft the elder—It was as impossible for me to do it as to pull the sun from the firmament. I never saw the women in my life to my knowledge,

David Ashcroft—I am as innocent as the child unborn, and never heard of it till I was taken up.

James Ashcroft the younger, said he had never seen the women till he saw them dead.—He could not tell whether Mrs. Marsden was man or woman, "I kissed the innocent lips of Hannah Partington, and said, I would meet her in Heaven with a clear conscience: and so I will my lord, blessed be God."

William Holden said, he was innocent as the child unborn.

[One witness only, testified as to having seen the younger Ashcroft with 8 guineas in gold, and a number of bank notes, the Thursday previous to the murder.]

The Chief Baron summed up the evidence in a very luminous address of more than an hour and a half. Towards the conclusion of it, David Ashcroft begged to be allowed to say something farther. The Chief Baron said it was quite irregular, but he would certainly indulge him. He then threw out many incoherent charges against the evidence for the prosecution, and begged to have Mr. Wright, a magistrate, and Mr. Witherton a constable, examined to contradict Mary Hallows.

The Judge said he would allow it, but insisted that Mr. Williams, the counsel for Ashcrofts, and Mr. Starkie the counsel for Holden should be sent for.

After a considerable interval Mr. Williams appeared without wig or gown, and after he had conversed for a considerable time with his Lordship and with the prisoners, David Ashcroft said he would leave the case as it was to God Almighty, who he hoped would direct his Lordship and the jury to do justice.

James Ashcroft the elder.---O may God by his Holy Spirit inspire the jury to perceive the truth, and to give a true verdict, for we are all innocent of this murder.

The Chief Barron.---I'll listen to any thing for which you can offer evidence, but you must not be allowed to make speeches of that kind. His Lordship then concluded by a very impartial and solemn peroration.

The jury in two minutes returned their verdict. James Ashcroft the elder, David Ashcroft, James Ashcroft the younger, and William Holden---*Guilty*. John Robinson.---*Not Guilty*.

James Ashcroft the elder.---This is murdering us in cold blood. God will reveal this injustice. I pray earnestly that he would now send two angels to declare upon that table who committed this murder. We are innocent, and I will declare so to the last.

David Ashcroft invoked God, and protested, his innocence in the same manner.

Jas. Ashcroft the younger---If I must suffer death for a crime I never committed, I implore your honour to look in mercy on my poor wife and children. (Here a tremendious shrick burst from a female in the crowd, who, it was found, was his unfortunate wife).

William Holden.--Silence, silence (flinging one arm toward Heaven, and the other towards his earthly judge). There is a God yonder who knows that we are innocent, and who will make amends for this.

The Chief Baron.---Mr. Shuttleworth proceed.

The prisoners now again repeated their protestations of innocence, and declared all the evidence against them to be perjuries and lies.

The awful sentence of death was then pronounced. They were ordered for execution on Monday next. The judge declared that no sensible person who had heard the evidence could have a doubt of their guilt: that he owed it to justice to say, that he considered the verdict the only one an intelligent jury could have returned. The moment sentence was pronounced, James Ashcroft the elder waved his right hand with a white bundle in it over his head, and exclaimed aloud. "Glory to God!" David Ashcroft said, he hoped God would not allow the injustice done to them to be always unknown. James Ashcroft the younger said he would meet an higher judge with a conscience clear of this guilt. William Holden vociferated in a wild tone, "There is Mr. Nathan and there is Mr. Fox [attorney for the prosecution], and before they leave the earth God will punish them. Thus they were hurried away from the bar, while every person in Court was penetrated with a chilling horror at such a dreadful scene.

The trial lasted from 8 in the morning till 8 at night.

The Chief Baron, in discharging the jury, said, he owed them his best thanks. He had never seen any jury exercise so much diligence, attention, and accuracy, as he had observed in that Court during all the trials.

LANCASTER, Sept. 8.

Execution of the Ashcrofts and Holden, for the Murder of Margaret Marsden and Hannah Partington.

Percisely at a quarter past twelve the door leading from the Castle to the scaffold opened, and William Holden a strong built, middlesized, and grey-headed man, was led forth with his hands pinioned both at the wrists and elbows: before the cap was placed on his head, he turned round to the immense multitude of spectators, and, with a firm and loud voice, said, "I am innocent of the crime for which I am to suffer as the child unborn. May God take away all my sins as I am innocent of this murder." The cap was then drawn over his face, and the rope tied about his neck,—David Ashcroft was stationed next him. He spoke to this effect, with frequent repetitions of the same observations---"I am glad to see so many persons now looking on, as I testify to them that we are all ignorant of this crime. I do protest to you all, before God, that we are all innocent. Every one that now sees me is as guilty as I am. I would not say so if we had any connexion in any way with the concern; but I declare before God that we are perfectly innocent, for which I bless God. My prayer to God is, that all our persecutors may be forgiven. May God bless the town of Manchester. I know that many there thirsted for our blood, but they have sorer hearts than we have. We forgive them, and may God give his Holy Spirit to the town of Manchester. I pray earnestly that we may be the last innocent person to suffer from this Castle. May God find out the true murderers, and may you see them suffer in this place, and hear their confession of their guilt. I am now, I trust, going to glory, and I would not for the whole world die with a lie in my mouth. We are all innocent." (Holden exclaimed, "I can answer only for myself, I am innocent."---James Ashcroft the younger, who had in the mean time been brought, and on whom the cap and rope had been put, cried out, "We are all innocent." "And now may the grace of God be with you all now and forever. Amen." The cap was now put on his face, and the rope was tied round his neck. He was a good looking man. James Ashcroft the elder, a tall grey-headed man, came out last, came in front of his son, and kissed him with much earnestness. He never said any thing. They were all pinioned at the wrists and elbows. They joined the clergyman afterwards in repeating the Lord's prayer quite loud. David Ashcroft continued praying.---"Lord take away my sins, and save my soul for the merits of Jesus Christ." Holden repeated the same expression. All four then began to sing, David Ashcroft repeating line after line as they sung:---

I'll praise my Maker with my breath;
And when my voice is lost in death,
My days of praise shall ne'er be past,
While life and thought and---

The drop fell and their voices instantly ceased. There was scarcely a tearless eye among the crowd.

HARD WORDS.

The Rev. Dr. P. visiting a country clergyman, requested permission to preach to his congregation; which his entertainer consented to, on condition that he adapted the language of his sermon to the illiterate capacities of his parishioners, who were, in general, of the lowest class: and that he used no hard words. After the sermon was over, Dr. P. asked his friend whether he had not strictly abided by the conditions?---the other replied, that he had used several words beyond the comprehension of his hearers, and instanced the word *felicity*, for which he would have substituted *happiness*.

Dr. P. contended that one word was as plain as the other, and to prove it, proposed calling in the ploughman, and putting it to him, which was done---"Well, Robin, do you know the meaning of the word felicity?"---"Ees, Sir;" said Robin (scratching his head and endeavouring to look wise,) "Ees. Sir, I *thinks* as how I does"---"Well Robin, speak up."---"Why Sir. I doesn't know *disactly*, but I thinks it's some'at *inside of a pig!*"

JEDEDIAH SLASON

Has just received by the Brig CHARLOTTE from Liverpool, and the JOHN & MARY from London, the remainder of his SPRING supply of

GOODS,

Among which are the following articles:—

SOAP, Candles, Loaf Sugar,
Port, Sherry and Lisbon Wines,
Geneva, Cogniac Brandy,
Best London Porter,
A few Boxes Bloom Raisins, &c. &c.

ALL those indebted to J. S. up to the first of *January* last, are *earnestly* requested to call and settle their accounts without delay, otherwise they will put in the hands of an Attorney to collect.

FREDERICTON, 8th July, 1817.