

THE PIRATES.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE
HORRID MASSACRE
OF THE
CAPTAIN, MATE AND SUPERCARGO
OF THE
SCHOONER PLATTSBURG, OF BALTIMORE,

On the High Seas, in July 1816,

BY A PART OF THE CREW OF SAID VESSEL,

Agreeable to the Evidence of the two Witnesses
(the Second Mate and Steward,) and confirmed
by the declaration of one of the Prisoners,
since his Condemnation.

Annexed, are some remarks relating to the Trial,
and to the extraordinary behavior and apparent in-
difference manifested by the Prisoners, through-
out their Trial, and at the awful period of
their Condemnation!

PREFACED WITH AN APPROPRIATE AND SOLEMN
ADDRESS TO THE PUBLIC.

‘Those who have shewn neither mercy or compas-
sion to their fellow creatures, can have none to
expect from the hand of man!’

—: * * * * * —
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THE PIRATES.

IT is a melancholy fact, that in proportion as the civilized state of society rises above the savage, the imaginary wants of man increase as the means for the diffusion of knowledge are unfolded. Although the progress of the arts and sciences tend to widen the line of distinction between man and brute, yet such is the frailty of fallen humanity, that crimes multiply, both in variety and turpitude as the knowledge of good and evil predominates; and wherever moral virtue rises to her most exalted eminence, there will vice often intrude herself, in her most imposing attitudes.

Whatever may be the minor causes which lead to the commission of crimes in the savage state, the instinctive feelings of nature constitute the principal. Hence the untutored Indian loves his

friends, while he hates his enemies ; and as the passions of love and rancour sway his mind with equal ardor, it follows that the gratification of his feelings is his principal pursuit.

But though civilization is a blessing to those whose hearts naturally lean to amiable impulses, yet with those whose minds are habitually gloomy and malignant, " the wisdom of the serpent alone prevails ; and all the efforts which cunning, fraud, deceit and avarice can call into action, drive from the mind the " harmlessness of the dove." Hence, that which ought to add to the amiable coloring in the portrait of humanity, serves but to deepen the shades in the moral character of man.

Among the various causes which contribute to the happiness of man in modern times, none add more to the comforts and conveniences of life, than the improved state of commerce ; by means of which,

" The various products of each foreign soil

" Are brought to cheer the weary lab'rer's toil,"

and all the blessings of life are enhanced in proportion to its extension. But it is with pain to be observed, that such are the unbounded desires of man, that all the advantages resulting from an improved state of society, are not always sufficient to extinguish the principle of avarice from the heart ; nay, the very means which ought to satisfy the craving appetite, operate as fuel to kindle the flame of unwarrantable, and unsatiated desires.

As a drawback on the blessings of commerce, a new crime rose into being, fostered in the same cradle with that Handmaid of the Arts—PIRACY ON THE HIGH SEAS, has swelled the catalogue of outlawry to an enormous extent—and as the robber on the ocean generally calls in the aid of murder and every species of felony to further his black designs—so has the gibbet been crowded with almost innumerable deluded wretches, sentenced by the laws of offended justice, to pay their forfeited lives, for outrages on humanity.

An example, of the most atrocious nature, of this species of crime, has, during the last week, come before the district Court of the United States, now sitting in this town, in the case of a number of the crew of the schooner Plattsburg, late of Baltimore, charged with murder and piracy. These misguided wretches, after a trial by an impartial jury, and having the indulgence granted them of able counsel, a patient hearing, and all that could be expected from Justice tempered with Mercy, were, on the 30th of last month, sentenced to meet their final earthly doom, on the 21st of the present month!—Then will be seen four fellow creatures, now apparently in perfect health, hurried from this state of existence—suspended between the heavens and the earth, an awful spectacle for the gazing multitude—the heart must recoil with horror at the sight. Observe them conducted from the place of their confinement, to the spot which is to be the utmost

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Boundary of their career in the voyage of life !—See their pale and haggard looks !—behold in every feature, Despair portrayed, with all the gloom of death-like despondency !—they mount the scaffold—the fatal signal at length is given, and they are launched into the boundless expanse of eternity—into the awful presence of the Omnipotent Judge of the universe, to answer for their bloody deeds, and aggravated enormities !—perhaps, without one pitying tear, or the inward consolation of hope for pardon in the world to come.—Those men, who turned a deaf ear to the supplications of their victims for mercy—can *they* hope for compassion ?—can *they* expect sympathy ?—O dreadful predicament !—O awful destiny !

What caused the crime ?—Was it committed with the view of redressing any real, or even *imaginary* grievance ?—No, had they even the miserable subterfuge to plead, in extenuation, the heat of *passion* ?—No. Or, what is still worse, was the murder instigated by REVENGE ?—No—not even that *shadow* of palliation is afforded them. In cool blood—perfectly collected—and after a plan was digested and organized, each having his part assigned him, was the deed committed.—From a thirst after gain, and the principle of

✎ AVARICE ✎

at whom the good, the virtuous and the amiable, will always point the finger of scorn, three innocent men, who never harboured in thought, or evinced in

word or deed, aught to the prejudice of their sanguinary assassins, were murdered !!

Let the impending fate of these criminals be an awful warning to our youth—and let their shameful exit prompt the rising generation and the middle aged, to shun the path which leads to destruction, and avoid those rocks and quicksands, on which so many have perished—by circumscribing our desires within the bounds of reason, and pursuing the road of Virtue, v

approach, i

to happiness

ugged at its first

ght and direct path

the good and virtuous

may sometimes meet with obstructions in their passage through this chequered vale of life—yet an inflexible adherence to the line of thier duty, with patience and unremitted exertions, cannot fail, in the end, to produce, in this life, peace, and in that which is to come, unbounded felicity.

Vice is fascinating at first view—under the mask of plessure, she draws her votaries onward by slow degrees, till they have so far entangled themselves in the maze of her seductions, that retreat is impossible. The sparkling bowl is dangerous ; at the first taste it appears to promote conviviality—but mark the sequel ; a repetition of the maddening draught destroys the faculty for usefulness—enervates the body, and corrupts the mind—habitual intoxication insues, with its concomitant attendant, Poverty, which incites to theft—and even murder—then—the gallows closes the scene.

Having made these introductory remarks, I now proceed to present the particulars of this most atrocious murder, together with a brief sketch of the trial of the culprits.

The schooner *Plattsburgh*, owned by Mr. ISAAC Mc'KIM of Baltimore, was in June 1816, equipped for a voyage to Smyrna—her cargo was comprized of Coffee, and Specie to the amount of about 42,000 dollars.—The command of the schooner was given to a Mr. WILLIAM who, it appears, had previously sailed in of the owner of the *Plattsburgh*. Capt. H. was appointed by the owner, to select a 'good crew, cargo was very valuable, and the attempt to perform so long a voyage in so small a vessel, would be attended with no inconsiderable risk. Capt. H. appointed one FREDERICK ENGLEHEART GEIZER, and one STEPHEN B. ONION, his first and second Officers, and a Mr. THOMAS BAYNARD, a native of Baltimore, was appointed by the owner to accompany the schooner, in the capacity of Supercargo. A crew of fourteen hands was obtained by the captain; but, in his selections, he unfortunately was not so wise, perhaps, as prudence and the nature of the voyage ought to have dictated—as it since appears that it was not comprised of native Americans, but men of different nations; and unfortunately, among them, *desperadoes*, capable of almost any crime, that ever blackened the catalogue of human events. As a proof of this, two days after the schooner sail-

ed. and while lying at anchor near Cape Henry, at the mouth of the Chesapeak, a warm dispute arose between the mate, and one JOHN WILLIAMS, a seamen, (by birth, we believe, a Canadian) Williams swearing, that he would perform no duty on board, unless certain proposals were acceded to—a scuffle ensued between the Mate and Williams, which brought the Captain on deck, who took proper measures to compel Williams to return to his duty. The next day the schooner weighed and pursued her voyage, and nothing very remarkable occurred until the 23d of July, when, being off the Island of Madeira, an attempt was made to destroy the lives of the Captain, Mates and Supercargo of the Schooner, by infusing poison into a pot of coffee, preparing for the cabin—in this nefarious design, Williams appears to have been the principal, and probably the projector—he had so far succeeded in the plan, as to deposit a part of the poison in the vessel, when the second mate unexpectedly making his appearance, he threw the paper containing the remainder, into the fire, which was observed by the second mate, at the moment, to cause a blue flame, but he had no suspicion of the diabolical design of Williams—the small portion of the poison which had been infused, giving the coffee an unpleasant taste, little or none of it was drank by any of the officers, but by Onion, the second mate.—In a day or two after this, the Western Islands were descryed, when another plan appears to have been projected to dis-

pose of the officers of the vessel—which, as was observed by the learned Chief Justice, had the mutineers carried into execution, might have been the means of preserving the lives of three innocent men, and thereby have served as a palliation of the wretched culprits crime—the plan was to seize on the officers, as they were taking an observation of the sun, and embark them into the boat, that they might land on one of the Islands—in this plan Williams, it appears, was again to have acted as principal—he had provided himself with a cord (which he concealed in his bosom) with which he intended to have bound the captain, and proceeded at the moment agreed upon as far as the main-mast, for the purpose, when, looking back, and finding himself alone and not followed by such of the crew as had agreed to aid and assist him, he desisted from the project and returned back, probably without causing any suspicion on the part of the intended victims.

A plan was now devised finally to dispose of the ill-fated and unsuspecting captain and officers of the vessel—which, from its diabolical nature, we think ourselves warranted in saying, must have had *Lucifer* for its projector! It was at midnight of the 24th of July, when being about 100 miles from land, the night dark, and the wind blowing strong, just as the larboard watch had been called, the agreed upon signal was given, by a cry of "Sail O!" from the fore-castle, by Williams, or Rog, one of the ac-

accomplices—a sail so close aboard as to be discern-
 ed from the deck, in so dark a night, they too well
 knew would be considered by the officers, a danger-
 ous circumstance, and would probably occasion
 some alarm and confusion among them—nor did
 the nefarious plan fail—the first and second mate
 appeared instantly on deck, and by them the
 inquiry was made “where is the sail?” by the mu-
 tineers on deck they were directed forward, un-
 conscious of the bloody scene that was to ensue,
 or that they were approaching Ruffians, who had
 proscribed them as the victims of slaughter—the
 better to inflict the fatal blow, and the easier to dis-
 patch them, when forward, they were separated,
 one being directed to the larboard and the other to
 the starboard side of the vessel, and when bending
 over to descry the sail which the vile monsters pre-
 tended to point out to them, by heavy blows inflict-
 ed by them, they were prostrated on the deck—
 the mate cried murder! but the wretches, by repeat-
 ed blows soon deprived him of the power of utter-
 ance, and rendered him incapable of the least resis-
 tance—the second mate recovering from the first
 blow given him (which he at the moment supposed
 might be occasioned by the flapping of the jib) suc-
 ceeded in raising himself upon his hands and knees,
 when looking up, he beheld Williams standing o-
 ver him with an uplifted ax, and with which he was
 about to inflict a blow; in the mean time crying
 out to his accomplices “here is one of the damned
 rascals!”—here, we cannot but remark, was what

we conceive a striking proof (in the preservation of the life of Onion) of the interposition of the Almighty to preserve *him*, that in the hands of justice, he should prove an instrument to bring to light "a deed of dreadful note!" and the perpetrators to condign punishment—Onion raised and received upon his arm the blow which might have otherwise terminated his earthly existence. It was at this moment that the unfortunate captain made his appearance on deck, who being discovered, was seized by Williams, and Onion was thereby enabled to escape to the cabin.

The Supercargo (Baynard) who during the horrid massacre on deck, had remained in his birth in the cabin, was now ordered by the murderous gang, with dreadful imprecations, to repair immediately on deck!—alas, to him, how awful the summons, had he been conscious that this call was from those, who, armed with bludgeons, were prepared instantaneously to terminate his earthly existence! Poor Baynard begged that he might be allowed to put on his cloathes, but even this indulgence was not allowed him—his immediate presence on deck was represented by the mutineers as indispensable—he obeyed the summons, to return no more!—as soon as he reached the deck, a fatal blow was given him by one of the wretches with a stone contained in a stocking.

The bodies of the unfortunate Captain and Mate (before life was wholly extinct) it is stated, were

cast into the sea !—in the agonies of death the former grasped hold of the jacket of one of the mutineers, and forced him nearly over the vessel's side, before he was enabled to extricate himself—the mate after striking the water, caught hold of a rope, from which his murderers, unable to disengage him, cut the rope, and he sunk, exclaiming in broken accents (as near as could be understood) “ Lord have mercy on my soul ! ”

Sammerson (the steward) who had remained until this time below in his birth, was then ordered on deck, where he saw the lifeless body of poor Baynard stretched upon his back. An inquiry was now made for the second mate—while one or two insisted that he had been thrown overboard, another declared that he had seen him descend into the cabin, and crawl into the bread locker—thither repaired the blood-thirsty monsters, Williams, Rog, and Peterson, in quest of him, and by whom Onion was commanded forthwith to come forward—Alas, what must have been the sensations of this wretched man, peremptorially commanded to come forth to share the fate of his fellow officers !—he intreated for mercy, when, by the order of Divine Providence, a single relenting heart alone seemed to favour his entreaties—a voice (amid the exclamations of many to dispatch him at once) was heard to exclaim “ let him live, we have already shed innocent blood enough ! ”—after some moments deliberation, Onion's fate was decided—conditionally he was per-

mitted to live—fortunate decision—by thus deciding the fate of Onion, four of the crew sealed theirs forever ! By the repeated declarations of the Mutineers that he should receive no injury, Onion was now persuaded to leave the bread locker he was then given to understand, that his life would be spared on the condition of his taking an oath of fidelity, and receiving his proportion of the specie, and effects on board—compelled to acquiesce, he was admitted a member of the nefarious fraternity.

The bloody work was then compleated—the hellish project of the mutineers was accomplished—they were then in complete possession of the ill-fated vessel and cargo—the next step to be taken was to appoint their officers. Stromner, one of the crew who had distinguished himself in the horrid massacre, was appointed Master—Williams, who had not been less active in the murderous conflict, was appointed Mate, and Onion, on condition of his faithfully obeying the commands of his older officers, was allowed to retain his office as second mate.

The next object (which undoubtedly had been a principal one in the accomplishment of their murderous project) was the SPECIE ! on the succeeding morning it was brought on deck, and divided by hats and tin-pots, about 3000 dollars to a share. On Onion's being called to receive the share allotted him, and declining, he was ordered to

take his choice, either to accept of the money or share the fate of his murdered companions—to preserve life, Onion consented to receive his proportion.

A consultation was now held among the officers and crew where it would be best to carry the vessel—one or two were of opinion that South America would be a place promising the most safety, but Stromner, who acted as commander, preferred carrying her to Norway, where he represented he could run her into some of the small ports and smuggle the cargo on shore without causing suspicion—it was accordingly decided that Norway should be their place of destination. By Stromner, Onion was ordered to alter the invoices and letters consigning the cargo to a Mr. Myers, of Hamburgh.

On their passage to Norway, these desperadoes (particularly Williams) frequently boasted of their deeds of villiany, and spoke of the untimely fate of the unfortunate Captain, Mate and Supercargo, with an indifference peculiar to such persons only, who are hackened in all the vices that human beings could be guilty of—it was stated by two of the wretches, that they had at the moment of sailing agreed to take the vessel from her officers, or jump overboard ! By Williams it was stated, by way of bravado, that he had more than once been sentenced to suffer capitally for his crimes, but thus far he had succeeded in escaping the HALTER !—

another declared that this was the second vessel that he had served in this way, and that if in this instance he should lose his money, he would try it again ! Heaven forbid that he should be allowed another opportunity to carry his threats into execution.

In a few days they arrived on the coast of Norway, and brought the schooner to an anchor off a small port, where they disposed of a part of their cargo of coffee, at a very reduced price. All the crew but Onion were frequently on shore ; him they permitted but once to go on shore, and then accompanied by Williams, who kept a strict eye on him ; for as guilt is ever suspicious, the pirates appeared not to be without their apprehensions of being brought to justice by means of Onion, notwithstanding the path which he had taken and the part which they had compelled him to perform.

Two or three days after their arrival at Norway, it was proposed by Williams that he, Rog. Onion and Sammerson, should take passage on board a brig bound to Copenhagen, after making a division of the clothes of the murdered men, they conveyed their trunks on board said brig, and after a passage of a few days, they reached Copenhagen, where they purchased merchandize to a considerable amount, to appear as traders ! but, their crimes were of a nature too atrocious to be longer concealed—justice was suffered no longer to slumber—their well-stored pockets of their ill-gotten gain

excited the suspicions of the police, when they were on the point of quitting Copenhagen—by the request of the American Consul, Onion and Williams were arrested, and committed to prison; the next morning they underwent a separate examination when Onion made a full disclosure of all the facts relative to the wicked transaction—they were committed to prison, and measures were immediately taken to secure Rog, and the remainder of the Mutineers; but unfortunately, but five of them have as yet been taken (to wit) John Williams, John Peter Rog, Francis Frederick, Niles Peterson Fogelgram, and Nathaniel White Glass—these, with others of the crew, arrived within this District, in November last, in the *Hornet*, dispatched by the President for the purpose. The Circuit Court being then in session, the Grand Jury were called in, and they preferred five bills against these defendants for the murder of William Hacket, the Master, of Frederick Engleheart Yeizer, mate, and Thomas Baynard, supercargo; a fourth for piracy, and a fifth for revolt. To these indictments the prisoners pleaded severally Not Guilty—two Council were assigned them by the Court, and Monday the 28th December last, was the day assigned for their trial.

So great an interest had the situation of the prisoners excited, and so anxious were almost every one to attend their trial, that by nine o'clock in the morning of the said 28th day the avenues leading to

the Court-room were so completely crowded (awaiting the opening of the doors) that it was with considerable difficulty that some escaped being suffocated or crushed to death.

At 11 precisely the doors were thrown open, and that part of the Court-room allotted to spectators was in less than six minutes occupied by nearly 600 ! As soon as the Marshall, &c could command silence, the Court proceeded on the important Trial.

The prisoners being set to the bar the Clerk proceeded to impanel the Jury. The Prisoners were informed by the Chief Justice, that they had a right to challenge preremptorially twenty Jurors, without assigning any cause---but we believe but very few, if any, were challenged. By the Clerk the Prisoners were next commanded to hold up their right hands, and to harken to the indictment found by the grand inquest against them---the Indictment was then read---the Clerk then turning to the Jury, said "To this Indictment, gentlemen, the Prisoners have severally pleaded not guilty, and for trial, have put themselves on God and the country ; which country you are ; and you are now sworn to try the issue. If they are guilty, you will say so ; if they are not guilty, you will say so, and no more. Good men and true, stand together and harken to your evidence."

The District Attorney now proceeded to state the case, and the facts, as charged in the Indict-

ment ; to substantiate which, Onion, 'he principal witness for government, was called upon to state such particulars of the voyage, the bloody transaction, &c. as he had personal knowledge of ;--- the testimony of Onion, was plain and consistent--- it did not, we believe, deviate in a single point from the particulars with which we have in the preceding pages presented the public : and was such as fully to substantiate the charge against the Prisoners, of being guilty of one of the most wicked and atrocious acts of premeditated murder that ever came before a Court of this country. Sammerson (who had acted as Steward on board the Plattsbusgh, and who was also a witness for government) was next called, and by his testimony, fully confirmed that of Onion. Here the evidence on the part of government closed, and the District Attorney for the prosecution, commenced his Plea, in which was displayed that perspicuity and ability peculiar to that learned Counsellor.

The defence set up by the Prisoners Counsel, rested on three points.—1st. that there was no proof of the death of the master, mate and supercargo ; 2d, that convictions ought not to be had upon the sole testimony of accomplices ; and 3d, that neither of the prisoners, especially White, had been identified as principals in the death of Baynard. Their Pleas, and the closing one of the District Attorney were not concluded until about one o'clock the succeeding day. The Chief Jus-

tice, with his usual ability, then charged the Jury---the Charge was elaborate and decided, and the cause was given to the Jury about half past 2 P.M. The Jury returned into Court about 4, and rendered their verdict, by which Williams, Rog, Frederick and Fogelgreen, were declared Guilty of the crime of Murder. White was acquitted of this charge, but was remanded to be tried on other indictments.

Early the succeeding morning the court-yard was thronged with spectators, assembled to hear the awful sentence of the law pronounced upon the convicted Criminals. The Court was opened at 9 o'clock, and the Prisoners being set to the bar---the District Attorney, in the usual form, moved his Honour that the sentence of Death be pronounced upon the Prisoners. His honour, the Chief Justice, then enquired of the Prisoners, severally, if they had any thing to say, why the sentence of the law should not now be passed upon them--on which WILLIAMS replied, that he, for his own part, had something to say, and proceeded to declare, that---notwithstanding he might lose his life, he would persist in his innocence---that no man could say aught against him---that he was of respectable parentage---and that he in early life received his education at the university of Montreal, which, when quitting, he became a Student at Law! but, taking a dislike to a Professional life, he turned his attention to the sea, which he had ever since

followed for a livelihood---as regarded the declaration that he had made on board the Schooner, of having two or three times narrowly escaped the halter, he declared to have been made in *jest*, except in one instance, when he was wrongfully convicted and confined in New-Orleans, for having acted in his own defence---that he had sailed before with captain Hacket, and on being applied to by him to accompany him this voyage, he first declined on account of a difference that had prevailed between him and the captain, on a former voyage---but the captain insisting upon his entering, he at length consented. Williams now spoke of the horrid Massacre on board, and declared, that so far from taking any part in it, he was opposed to it, and that Onion (who had sworn falsely against him) owed his life to him ; as, when it was the intention of others to murder him he gave him an opportunity to retreat to the cabin. Two of the other Prisoners also made a few observations, in which they attempted to exculpate themselves of the charge alledged against them, and of which they had been pronounced guilty. His Honour, after observing to the prisoners that he had listened with attention to the observations which they had been pleased to make, & that he had heard nothing but what rather tended to aggravate than to lessen the enormity of the crime for which they were shortly to suffer, after a most impressive and solemn address that ever perhaps was delivered from the bench on a similar occasion, pro-

ceeded to pronounce the awful sentence of the law upon them, which agreeable to our recollection was nearly as follows :—That they be carried from thence to the prison from whence they were taken, and from thence, on the 21st day of January, to the place of Execution, where, between the hours of 1 and 3 they be hanged by the neck until they were dead ! &c.

At the pronouncing the awful sentence, a solemn stillness prevailed throughout the crowded hall of justice—not a whisper was heard to breathe from the numerous auditors—all was hushed—all was still ;—it was like the death-like calmness which pervades the face of nature, portentous of some violent concussion of the elements. The sentence is pronounced, and the full-thronged assembly manifested feelings suited to the solemn occasion.—Who could hear with indifference the fate of four wretched creatures decided, without being rivetted in awe, and fascinated into silent terror ? Yet there were present those, who manifested a total difference—who discovered no emotions stronger than would be evinced, on witnessing the most trivial and common occurrences of the day—AND THOSE WERE THE CRIMINALS THEMSELVES ! Yes, my readers, just as the sentence of death was about to be pronounced upon these wretched men, they, with the exception of one, pursued a detailed relation of the circumstances of the late horrid transaction, with as much unconcern, as if they were to give account of the occurrences of their voyage,

for the amusement of their comrades, over the flowing bowl! No meek resignation, which constitutes the christian hero, was discovered in these criminals. —It is even said that the sneer of contempt played itself over the countenance of Williams, at this eventful crisis, which announced his fate on the gibbet—and that all his privations in prison—the announcing of his death warrant—and the state of the lowest degradation in which he was then placed, could not eradicate from his soul the ferocity of the assassin —O may they all soon be brought to repentance for their misdeeds—may they in their gloomy dungeon, be brought to see the errors of their ways—may their hearts be softened, and by the spending the few remaining days allowed them here in enquiring “What they shall do to be saved,” and by watching and prayer—May they appease the wrath of an offended GOD—and meet salvation in the world to come, through the atoning blood of the LAMB—who came into the world to save the guilty; and who rejoiceth more in the salvation of one sinner, than in a multitude of just men who need no repentance. That such may be their lot hereafter, is the sincere wish of the

WRITER.

WRITTEN ON THE CONDEMNATION OF
THE PIRATES.

HOW my heart with bitter anguish
Sinks in melancholy gloom ;
Pensive and sad my muse must languish,
As I sing the Murderer's doom.

Lo ! in gloomy cells confined,
Shut from light and wholesome air,
Are four Outlaws, in chains entwined,
Who must for speedy death prepare.

All moral ties they burst asunder,
No laws could these vile wretches bind ;
For nought but murder, guilt and plunder,
In their vile hearts could refuge find.

As on Ocean, in soft slumber,
Three devoted victims sleep ;
Ah ! their hours are few in number,
Soon they're destin'd for the deep ?

Ere the midnight watch is called,
Sudden alarm is quickly spread ;
The victims rise—they are enthralled,
Soon to be numbered with the dead

Cruel ruffians now surround them ;
In vain for mercy do they cry ;
With heavy blows the fiends astound them,
All hope has fled---alas !---they die !

But a final retribution
Soon the murderers will await ;
Speedy, for their vile pollution
Will the wretches meet their fate.

Let our youth by them take warning ;
Shun the path those murd'ers trod—
Lest, they should be by virtue scorning,
Called to the awful bar of God.