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No. 10.

Villette's Account of
the Behaviour, Confession
of
J^{rs} Hawke & J^{rs} Jones
executed 1774

A
GENUINE ACCOUNT
OF THE
Behaviour, Confession, and Dying-Words
OF
WILLIAM HAWKE
AND
WILLIAM JONES,

Who were Executed at Tyburn on the 1st of July, 1774.

(Price SIX-PENCE.)

A
GENUINE ACCOUNT

OF THE

Behaviour, Confession, and Dying-Words

OF

WILLIAM HAWKE

AND

WILLIAM JONES

Who were Executed at Tyburn on the 11th of January 1703

(Price Six Pence.)

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AND
DYING-WORDS
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AND
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Who were EXECUTED at TYBURN on
the 1st of JULY, 1774.

By THE REV. JOHN VILLETTE,
ORDINARY OF NEWGATE.

L O N D O N :

Printed for H. TURPIN, No. 104, St. John's-Street,
West-Smithfield; J. BEW, in Pater-noster-Row;
E. COOKE, at the Royal Exchange; S.
CHANDLER, Holborn-Bars; and at the
Author's House, Newgate-Street,

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A N
A C C O U N T

Of the BEHAVIOUR of

William Hawke,

For a HIGHWAY ROBBERY,

A N D

William Jones,

For STEALING a considerable Quantity
of LINNEN, the Property of

PEREGRINE HOGG, his Master,

Out of his Dwelling-House.



Y Virtue of His Majesty's Com-
mission of the Peace, Oyer and
Terminer, and at the general
Sessions of Goal Delivery of
Newgate, holden for the City
of *London* and County of *Middlesex*, at
Justice-Hall, in the *Old Bailey*, before the
Right Honourable *Frederick Bull*, Esq. Lord
Mayor of the City of *London*; the Hon.

B

Sir

Sir *Richard Aston*, Knt. one of the Justices of His Majesty's Court of *King's-Bench*; the Hon. Sir *James Eyre*, Knt. one of the Barons of His Majesty's Court of *Exchequer*; Mr. Serjeant *Glynn*, Recorder; *Thomas Nugent*, Esq. Common Serjeant, and others His Majesty's Justices of Oyer and Terminer, of the City of *London*, and Justices of Goal Delivery of *Newgate*, holden for the said City and County of *Middlesex*, on *Wednesday* the 18th, *Thursday* the 19th, *Friday* the 20th, *Saturday* the 21st and *Monday* the 23d of *May*, 1774, in the Fourteenth Year of His Majesty's Reign, the Eight following Persons were capitally convicted, namely, *William Jones* for a Robbery in his Master's Dwelling-House; *William Hawke* for a Highway Robbery; *Joseph Medcalfe* and *Joseph Everett* for House-breaking; *William Houghton* for Stealing a large Sum of Money; *John Thompson* for returning from Transportation; *James Whitehouse* and *John Charles* for Footpad Robberies.

On *Friday* the 24th of *June* the Report of the above Malefactors was made to His Majesty by Mr. Recorder, when His Majesty

Majesty was graciously pleased to respite *Joseph Medcalf*, *Joseph Everett*, *John Thompson*, *James Whitehouse* and *William Houghton*, and to order *William Hawke*, *William Jones* and *John Charles* for Execution on the 1st Day of July; previous to which a Respite was obtained on the 29th of June for *John Charles*. Before the Warrant came down all the Malefactors behaved suitable to their Situation, expecting with a becoming Piety and Resignation the ignominious Death, which they acknowledged to have most justly merited by the Laws of their Country.

AFTER the Warrant came down, and they, to wit, *William Hawke* and *William Jones* found themselves included in it, they took Occasion in a suitable and pathetic Manner to admonish the Respites, and hoped that the ignominious Death of such Young Men as they were might be a Warning to them.

WILLIAM HAWKE, about 24 Years of Age, had Two Indictments laid against him for Robberies on the Highway. Of the

first, for making an Assault on Mr. *Thomas Croucher*, he was acquitted; *of the other*, for Robbing Mr. *Charles Hart*, and taking from his Person One Shilling and Six-Pence and Seven Halfpence, *he was convicted*.

THE Prosecutor, Mr. *Hart*, in Company with Capt. *Cunningham*, deposed, That he was stopped by the Prisoner between *Knightbridge* and *Walham-Green*, to whom he gave the Sum above mentioned. The Prisoner, observing the Captain endeavouring to conceal a Pocket-Book, presented a Pistol to his Breast, and demanded *it*. Upon his refusing he fired the Pistol. The Prosecutor and the Captain immediately jumped out of the Coach, and the latter, being in Liquor, with a small Stick beat his Horse, but neither attempted to take him, and the Prisoner soon rode off, throwing back the Money into the Coach.

THE Captain is not much to be commended for Prudence and Discretion in provoking the Resentment of this Robber, who had him at so great a Disadvantage, by setting him at Defiance, and tempting him to the Commission of Murder by holding

holding up his Pocket-Book, in which were Notes of some value. The narrow escape of these Gentlemen with their Lives may be an useful Memento to Travellers, not to trifle with Freebooters, nor rashly expose themselves to Danger, when they have *either little to loose, or are not provided with Arms for their Defence.*

WHAT aggravated the Guilt of this unhappy Convict was the firing a Pistol through the Coach, which he assured me was done merely to intimidate the Captain, and make him surrender his Pocket-Book, having no Intention of committing the Crime of Murder, and which he had never committed, notwithstanding several Provocations, having been often fired at, and never returning the fire. This upon Reflection afforded him much Comfort, whilst under Sentence of Death; frequently expressing, and that publickly, *his Thanks to God for His preventing Grace.*

A SUFFICIENT Proof of the Truth of this Assertion, and that he was not the Person he had been represented, totally
divested

divested of Humanity and Tender Feelings for the Distressed, will appear from the following Instances. We do not mention them to excuse but to extenuate the Guilt of the Culprit.

A GENTLEMAN who had been attacked by him, and who fired at him, came into the Press-Yard after his Conviction, and enquired for him. The Gentleman mentioned the Time, the Place, and the particular Circumstance of firing at him, and expressed a real Concern for the Prisoner's Situation, and told him that *he came on Purpose to Thank him for his Humanity in not returning the Salutation, and taking away his Life when in his Power.*—Several Gentlemen, I was informed, visited him on the same Account, and offered their Service to him for the civil and kind Treatment they had met with from him.

ANOTHER Instance is, Having met a C——l and his Lady in their Carriage, and holding a Pistol, he was requested by the C——l to withdraw it, lest any Accident should happen to his Lady through sudden Fright and Terror. He immediately
com-

complied with the Request, which was no sooner done than the C——l unmanly and ungenerously fired upon him. The Ball grazed his Shoulder, and *Hawke* perceiving another Pistol in the Coach-Pocket, seized it, and presenting it to the C——l's Breast, robbed him of his Money, and the Lady of her Watch; but as she desired to have it again, he very generously gave it, notwithstanding the cowardly Treatment of the C——l, whose Pistol richly mounted, being valuable, he carried off.

ANOTHER Instance of his Humanity (the Particulars of which he communicated to me, different Accounts having appeared in the public Papers) is, On a Time, in *Langley-Lane*, between *Hounslow* and *Slough*, seeing a poor labouring Countryman sitting upon a Stump of a Tree, with his Head upon his Knees crying, *Hawke* asked him *what was the Occasion of his Sorrow*. He replied, *That he had a few Minutes before been robbed by Two Footpads of upwards of Two Guineas, a Saving which he had made by hard Labour, and lodged in the Hands of his Master for the Payment of his*

his

his Rent. This Scene of Distress so affected *Hawke*, that he took up the Man behind him, and immediately went in pursuit of the Robbers, whom, by the Description received, he had just before passed. He soon came up with them, and with a Pistol demanded the Money, which they had taken from the poor Fellow. Having no Arms to resist the Demand, they gave it, with Seven Shillings more of their own. All which *Hawke* gave to the Countryman, with an additional Present of Half-a-Guinea out of his own Pocket; and to prevent any Attack from the above Footpads, or others, he safely conveyed the Countryman home to the very Door of his House.

THESE Acts of Humanity and Generosity, properly represented, might have entitled him to the Mercy of a gracious Prince, had not the Accounts published before the Death-Warrant injured him, which by a Letter (too late) in the Public Ledger he declared to be an Imposition on the Public.

WHILST

WHILST Life remains there are Hopes. Criminals have been pardoned under the Gallows, who have turned out useful Members of Society. It was the Intention of this Criminal, had he obtained a Pardon, to have lived honestly, for which Purpose he had agreed for a House at *Dunkirk*, before he was taken up. It is not only illiberal but cruel to publish to the World infamous Falshoods concerning Convicts, which instil Prejudices against them into weak Minds, and prevent the Royal Clemency. Be the Man ever so wicked, as he stands in the same Class of Beings, Candour and Truth are due to him; he ought not to be loaded with more Guilt than strictly belongs to him. It is sufficient Affliction and Unhappiness to the sincere Penitent, that he hath offended the Laws of his Country; it is brutal to add to his Sorrow and Distress by increasing the Number of his Offences.

THIS unfortunate Man was born at *Uxbridge*, and by Trade a Jeweller. He told me that he could acquire a very comfortable Subsistence for himself and Family

C

by

by following his Business, not less than Two Guineas *per* Week. This I have been since informed by a Person in that Branch of Business is an Exaggeration; the Earnings afore-mentioned being more than a compleat Workman can procure.

BUT let the Wages and Emoluments of those, who are prone to Evil, be ever so considerable, they will be found insufficient to support them any length of Time in Intemperance and Debauchery, the Bane of numberless Youths in our Days. These Vices being expensive, which honest Labour and Industry cannot long support, oblige them to have recourse to Acts of Fraud and Violence to supply, which involve them in singular Difficulties and Distresses, and generally terminates in Banishment or Death.

THE Introduction to his Misfortunes he ascribed to bad Company, particularly the being acquainted with *Field*, who was lately executed at *Kenington-Common*.

HE acknowledged that soon after his Marriage he was transported with *Field*
for

for a Pocket-Book, of which he found in his Room, which *Field* had stolen. When he arrived at *Maryland* he was sold to a Blacksmith, and *Field* to a Taylor, being of that Trade. About Three Weeks after they ran away, and were re-taken, his Master using him civilly, *Field's* cruelty upon the return. Having continued a few Months they contrived the following Scheme for an escape. *Field* having Two genteel Suits of Cloaths to make for a young Gentleman, fitted them for himself and Companion, which served for a Disguise; for by appearing in the Dress of Gentlemen they passed unsuspected for Convicts. They travelled upon stolen Horses Northward, and for sometime worked at their respective Trades in *Boston*, where he should have remained, could he have got his Wife over. From the first landing to the leaving of *America* was about Eighteen Months. Upon his coming to *England* his Confederates were *Field* and *Milsom*, who were all taken up, and committed to *Totbill-Fields-Bridewell* for a Robbery, which *Field* alone had committed. From whence, by the assistance of a few Guineas, he escaped

with a Turnkey, who was afterwards transported for a Robbery in the Country. He assured a Clergyman in the Prefs-Yard, that before his Transportation he was never guilty of any Robbery, and was innocent of that for which he was transported. He further declared, by my asking him at the request of the Sheriff of *Aylsbury*, that his Companion *Milson*, though guilty of several Robberies, and meriting Death in other Respects, was innocent of the Crime for which he suffered; of which *Field*, *Robinson* and another were the real Perpetrators.

MANY have been the Instances of Persons falsely accused, of Presumption in Evidence from the strongest Circumstances and the most consistent Incidents. By this means several Persons have innocently suffered, which hath been proved (to the Affliction and Sorrow of their surviving Friends) after their Death from the Confession and Conviction of the real Offenders. Where the Life of a Person therefore is concerned, Prosecutors and Witnesses cannot be too tender and scrupulous in giving
Evi-

Evidence. Appearances and Circumstances of Guilt may be strong and many, but are not always just and true. The Senses are often imposed upon, the Understanding deceived, and the Judgment mistaken. The highest Degree of Probability falls short of Certainty. That Things may be so, or we believe them so to be, is not a Proof that they are so. Nothing short of plain, simple, clear and undeniable Facts should be attended to or regarded in Matters of the last Consequence to a Man's personal Safety or Interest.

AMONGST other Robberies he had committed he mentioned the following. One Time meeting with a Frenchman in a Post-Chaise, who perceiving his Intention, immediately leapt out of the Chaise, and pulled him off his Horse. With some Difficulty he released himself, and being exasperated, he said to him that he would kill him. The Frenchman, greatly terrified, most humbly intreated him to spare his Life, which he did, taking from him Half-a-Guinea and gave it to the Postilion.

ANOTHER

ANOTHER Time meeting a Coach, the Driver of which, who knew him, driving briskly on to frustrate his Attempt; he threatned to shoot him, if he did not immediately stop. The Coachman stopt, and he collected from the Passengers about Seventeen Pounds.

ANOTHER Time, in his Way to *Southampton* for the *Isle of Wight*, he met a Gentleman in a Post-Chaise on *Bagshot-Heath*, whom he robbed within sight of his own House of a Gold repeating Watch, Four Guineas and some Silver. He was then poorly mounted, and would have been apprehended, had the Gentleman consented to the Request of the Post-Chaise Driver, who offered to take out One of the Horses and pursue him. This was probably a borrowed Horse, the Mare on which he generally rode being a good one, and for which he said before his Trial an Officer offered him no less a Sum than One Hundred Guineas.

AN Application was made to him, whilst under Sentence, to return the Watch, if it remained

remained in his Custody. For which Purpose he wrote the following Letter to *Dunkirk*, where it is now pledged, which I transcribed with a few Alterations.

S I R,

“ I hereby give you to understand,
 “ that I am at present under some Diffi-
 “ culties, which obliges me to write to
 “ you in the following Manner, to wit,
 “ concerning a Gold repeating Watch,
 “ which I let you have. As the Watch
 “ was the Property of a Gentleman, who
 “ may, on his receiving his Watch again,
 “ be the Means of saving my Life ; I beg
 “ you would lend it by the first *London*
 “ Trader bound here, and your Demand
 “ for delivering it up shall be immediately
 “ satisfied. If you don't choose to deliver
 “ the Watch, the Gentleman, whose Pro-
 “ perty the Watch is, will come in Person
 “ for it, the Watch being a Family-Piece.
 “ Seeing therefore I have repeatedly wrote
 “ to you for the Shirts, and had neither
 “ Shirts nor an Answer to my Letters ; I
 “ think in Justice to the Gentleman, the
 “ Proprietor of the Watch, to recover it
 for

“ for him ; I beg you will not fail of
“ sending it immediately by the first Op-
“ portunity, and your Answer to this by
“ the return of the Post.

From your humble Servant,

William Harford.”

“ Direct your Letter to the Rev. Mr.
“ *Villette, Newgate-Street.*”

William Harford was the Name he assumed in *France*. No Answer to the above Letter hath been yet received. We wish the Gentleman a Recovery of his Watch, and are ready to give any necessary Assistance in our Power. The Copy of the Letter will be carefully preserved for his Use.

THE following Robbery is communicated to the Public upon the Veracity of a Gentleman in the City who knew the Fact. Meeting a Farmer near *Uxbridge* with a large Sum of Money about him, of which he had got Intelligence, after a little Conversation he told him that he must have Twelve Guineas of him. The Farmer denied

denied that he had any Money. *Hawke* immediately shewed him a Pistol, and said, Sir, I know you to have more than Twelve times Twelve about you. I want not to rob you of the Sum, but borrow it. Don't trifle any longer, lend it me, and on such a Day and Place, where it will be deposited, you may receive it again. The same was given, and the Promise of Payment punctually fulfilled. *Hawke* was at the Place appointed, and staid 'till he saw the Farmer come and take it away. To whom he pulled off his Hat, and rode off.

HE mentioned to a Clergyman, who occasionally called upon him, a particular Circumstance in his Conduct, which should not be omitted, that he never knowingly or wilfully robbed a Townsman of *Uxbridge*, the Place of his Nativity. He had at sundry Times met several, who, he knew, had considerable Sums of Money about them; One of whom, upon the Veracity of the above Gentleman, who knows it to be a Fact, he frequently met, and once with a Charge of 400*l.* which was known also to *Hawke*. When he came up to
D him,

him, he looked at him, pulled off his Hat, and passed on.

I ASKED him, having been suspected of committing a Robbery on *Epping-Forest*, of a Lady and her Child, to whom he behaved cruelly, he assured me that he never robbed on that Road, but principally confined himself to the Neighbourhood of *Hounslow*.

WILLIAM JONES, about 26 Years of Age, was indicted for Stealing a large Quantity of Linnen out of his Master's Dwelling-House, to a considerable Amount, which was proved by the Prosecutor.

THIS unhappy Person ascribed the Cause of his Misfortunes to bad Connections. He was born in *Shropshire*, and brought up to Husbandry. His Mother is now living, and hath a large Family on a little Farm in *Wales*. Upon leaving the Country he got to be Porter to some Linnen-Drapers; several of whom we have Reason to apprehend were no great gainers by employing him. This confirms what we have
before

before advanced, that the Vices of the Times are too expensive for the Wages of honest Industry.

GREAT Intercession was made to obtain a Pardon, and after the Trial he was recommended by the Prosecutor to His Majesty's Mercy, who endeavoured to the utmost of his Power to save him. All proved ineffectual, and Applications for such Malefactors, we fear, ever will. His Majesty, though a gracious and merciful Prince, as many unfortunate Convicts have sensibly experienced and gratefully acknowledged, is not disposed to forgive those who abuse the Trust and Confidence reposed in them by their respective Masters. *This, we hope, will be Warning to Servants to be honest and faithful in their different Stations.*

THE outward Deportment of both these unhappy Convicts, by which alone we can form a Judgment, seemed *before* and *after* the Warrant to manifest a sincere Contrition for their past Offences. They constantly attended the Duties of the Chapel, and

were very attentive to the Service and every Exhortation given them.

JONES said, *That he now experienced the fatal Effects of being left to himself, and allowed the necessity of praying for GOD's Grace in the Performance of those Duties, which we are indispensably obliged to do, if ever we expect an happy Futurity; adding, That he would rather undergo his Sentence, than presumptuously offend GOD, if he should have obtained the Royal Favour.*

AFTER I had explained the Nature and Efficacy of the Sacrament of the LORD's Supper, and lent them a plain and serious Tract upon that Subject, *Hawke* was in a short Time desirous of being admitted to the Table, which was administered to him and his Fellow-Sufferer, together with some other Prisoners, the *Sunday* before their Execution, and at his particular Request repeated on the *Monday*.

The Behaviour of *Hawke* was rather upon the reserve after the Warrant came down, nor was he so ingenuous and open in his Confessions as before; and when
any

any Questions were put to him, relative to Robberies committed, not so willing to give a satisfactory Account. I had more than once asked him about the Robbery which the Sheriff of *Aylsbury* requested me to do, in the Case of *Milsom*. He appealed to the Authenticity of what he had before asserted to a Fellow-Prisoner, who had heard *Robinson*, that died in the Cells of *Newgate*, declare that he, together with *Field* and another, committed the Robbery on Mr. *Lucas* of *Aylsbury*, for which the aforefaid *Milsom* suffered innocently.

THE Night before his Execution, at the Desire of a Gentleman of *Hillingden*, near *Uxbridge*, who had been robbed by him in *November* last, near his Park Wall, I asked him, after shewing him the Gentleman's Note, in which the Particulars were described, whether or no he was the Man. He replied with a Smile, *Why do they ask such foolish Things*. However at last he declared himself to have been the Man, though he knew not the Gentleman's Name. There was a remarkable Circumstance in the Robbery of the Highwayman's dropping
ing

ping a Guinea, which was mentioned to him, and he remembered it.

I LIKEWISE asked him, if he should be so fortunate to have his Sentence exchange'd, would he be willing to make Restitution to the Persons whom he had injured. He replied, *He would, if he left himself wholly destitute.*

THE Scene of parting with his Wife and youngest Child, about Five Months Old, was so extremely affecting as to force Tears from almost every Spectator.

The Morning of Execution.

ABOUT Seven in the Morning the Prisoners were brought out of their Cells, and after having their Irons loosened and a little Refreshment they accompanied me to Chapel, where, at the particular Request of *Hawke*, very few were admitted. They joined with me seriously and devoutly in Prayer, and likewise participated of the LORD's Supper. After a short Conversation, Notice being sent that the Sheriffs Officers
were

were below, and waited for them, they went down, and were made ready for Execution.

WHILST they were preparing, *Jones* appeared much affected, *Hawke* perceiving it, said to him, Sir, *Don't mind this.* When he himself was bound he uttered the following Expression, That *what he was about to suffer, was nothing to those Sufferings CHRIST underwent for him.*

ABOUT Nine they were put into the Cart, and conducted to *Tyburn* through a vast Concourse of People. At the awful Tree they appeared perfectly composed, and when I asked them *if they acknowledged the Justice of their Sentence,* they returned for Answer, *They did.* *Jones* said, *It was what he had deserved.* He delivered a Letter to me for a Friend, the Purport of which was *to take care of his Burial, and forgive the Debt of a young Man, which he had made over to him, as he thought it would be a charitable Act.*

AFTER

AFTER Prayer, having recommended them to the Mercy of Almighty God, and informed them what private Ejaculation was suitable to offer up, before they launched into Eternity, I took my leave of them. They returned me Thanks for my kind Offices, and presently suffered their melancholy Sentence:

F I N I S.