

SOME time has now elapsed since *Edward Jordan*, whose trial is related in the following pages, has suffered the punishment assigned by the Laws of God and of his Country. for the crimes of which, on that trial, he was convicted---crimes of so atrocious a nature, that, they must appear to surpass the supposed limits of human depravity; but however great may be the abhorrence and detestation, which every man, who has heard the tale of blood, must feel for the monster who caused it to flow in such profusion,---yet the very violence of those emotions will shorten their duration. In a few months the name and the crimes of *Jordan* will only be remembered, by the few, whom accident may lead to the spot where his earthly remains are still exhibiting a terrifying example of the end of passions unguided by reason. In a few years, when those remains shall have been mingled with their native dust, even his name will be unknown, beyond the records of the Court which tried him; much less will be remembered the motives that induced the commission of his crimes, or the surprising and providential means by which they were discovered.

To add one feeble evidence, to the innumerable proofs which exist of the interest a Superior Being takes in the transactions of mortals, and to present another example of the punishment, which, in this life, inevitably overtakes the wretch, who, impelled by lawless passion, hath wantonly shed the blood of a fellow creature, were, among others, the reasons, which were thought sufficient for submitting the report of *Jordan's* trial, and that of his accomplice, to the eye of the public.

It is wisely intended by Providence, that the actions of mankind should be made known to each other,---that we may receive useful lessons from the fate of our fellow creatures, and, by reflecting on the incitements to the commission of crimes, learn to avoid them.

Reason tells us that we should observe the conduct of those around us, whether it be good or bad; that we should treasure up the recollection of the former, as a lamp to light and cheer us on the journey of life, and the latter, as a beacon to warn us from approaching, too closely the rocks and shoals which have proved fatal to others.

With this intention we may consider in the life of *Jordan*, his crimes, their causes, and his awful end.

From the brief account of his life, which is annexed to the Report of the trial, it may be collected, that his crimes originated in the sudden irritation of passions, rendered ungovernable by long indulgence, and inflamed by a continued state of intoxication, in which he sought to forget misfortunes brought upon him, perhaps, by his own misconduct. Revolving in his mind his poverty, the distressed situation of his family, the opportunity of retrieving his Fortune, and the hope of obtaining revenge for imaginary wrongs,---he precipitated himself into the dreadful scene of blood and destruction, the subject of this Trial.

When *Jordan* first began his career in the world---when living a domestic, perhaps an innocent life with his widowed mother, and cheering the evening of her days with all the dutiful attentions of filial love,---reason warrants the supposition, that the bare mention of such crimes as *Piracy* and *Murder* would have shocked him. He would then perhaps have confidently asserted, that not all the temptation of wealth, nor the stronger incitements of passion should ever induce him to violate the rights, or take the life of his brother man.