

After a long and very impartial trial, in which every attempt has been made by your Counsel and by the Jury to rescue you from the conviction of murder, you have been found Guilty—Guilty of the highest offence in the black catalogue of human depravity—of the wilful death of a fellow creature, by malice aforethought, of one living in the same society with yourselves ; guilty of no offence against you, but an honest endeavour on his part to provide for himself and family—committed against the possessor of the property which was to furnish his family and himself with the means of subsistence, you having at the same time property of your own, and he being proprietor of the lot on which this unfortunate event occurred. The crime of murder, almost from the commencement of time, has been declared by God himself to call for the blood of the murderer. He has been pleased by that infinite justice that sees the propriety of every thing to say, “who-soever sheddeth man’s blood by man shall his blood be shed.” Every civil society has passed this into their Code of Criminal Jurisprudence in obedience, to the Word of God, and in obedience to the sense of self preservation, regarding that man who can be so totally insensible to his duty towards his fellow creature as to occasion his death as too dangerous a man to exist any longer in society, and who for the safety of society it is indispensably necessary to remove. Your conduct has been aggravated by the circumstances to which I have alluded, and if I have alluded to them at this moment, far be it from me to mean it as a reproach to you. He must be insensible to your situation and totally devoid of every sense of feeling who does not enter into all your thoughts at this moment, and feel for you as fellow Christian ; far be it therefore from me to enlarge upon this now as a matter of reproach against you. I urge it in this place, in order to hold you up as an example to others. I have the preservation of society committed to me at this moment, as far as the important duty I have to discharge can prevail for that purpose ; and in order to draw the attention of every one of this numerous audience to the awful situation in which you are placed ; to bring home (as much as I can) to the mind of every individual present before me, the danger of submitting to the rule of passion ; the necessity of repressing every sentiment—every thing that looks like anger against their neighbour, and turning their attention to the rule—that great Rule of our Creator—“You shall love your neighbour as yourself ;” that you shall not meditate any wrong against him—that, above all, you shall regard his life.