

mitted. I am therefore obliged in this case to take a different course from the others, and accordingly the sentence of the court upon you, William Johnston, is that you be imprisoned for the period of one calendar month, and that at the expiration of that period you enter into security, yourself in £500, and two sureties in £250 each, to be of good behaviour for the period of two years, and, in default of doing so, that you be imprisoned for a further period of one month. The sentence upon you, Wil-

liam M'Whinney and Thomas Keatinge, is that you also be imprisoned for the period of one calendar month, and, at the expiration of that period, that each of you do enter into security, yourselves in £50 each, and two sureties in £25, to be of good behaviour for a period of two years, or, in default, a further month's imprisonment.

The prisoners were then removed by an underground-vaulted passage leading from the door to the interior of the jail, and which is of considerable length.

SWEARING.

Cats are said to curse and swear. If they did, the poor beasts are no models for men. But cats are slandered—*men are the only animals who curse and swear*. The august name most commonly profaned is their Lord and Maker's, and the evil one most frequently adjured is their worst enemy, the devil's.

A quaint old porter, in one of the London meat-markets, gently protests against a fellow-porter's oath, by the expostulation: "Nay, Joe, don't *blacken* thy tongue, lad. Why should'st thou make *black* what God has made *white*?" The black tongue the familiar sign of diseased meat, has more than once condemned the swearer, like a putrid carcass out of his own mouth.

"*Why do you swear, my friend?*" I once asked a soldier who was cursing his children."

"I mean nothing," said he.

"Perhaps not, but your swearing means gratuitous perjury, because perjury is swearing what you don't mean."

"I intend no perjury, sir."

"Then you *do* intend what God equally forbids—taking his name in vain?"

"No sir, don't mean that either, I don't *mean* anything."

"So you said before; but you know a jury tries a man not for what he intended, but for what he did."

"I meant no perjury to the complainant," pleaded a libeller, on his trial.

"'You are not convicted of what you did not mean, but of what you said,' says the judge. 'God, the Judge of all, saith so too.' 'By thy words thou shalt be justified, by thy words thou shalt be condemned.' If God or Satan took some men at their word, what would become of them."

"But, sir," rejoined the soldier, "our young 'uns don't think I'm in earnest till I swears at 'em."

"Worse and worse. Are you not ashamed to own to have trained them so meanly and immorally, that they won't believe you till, so to speak, you are put on your oath? Really, my friend, your word must be like a bad bill, with a worse endorsement, which only effects its credit by insuring its being dishonored. Think over this again."

"Indeed I will, sir; I never saw it that way before."

"Blaspheming, my friend, is no vernacular of good faith, whether with God or man. The more you swear—which, on your own showing, is the utterance of forged oaths