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February 19, 1752.
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House in Annapolis, and
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MARYLAND GAZETTE,

Containing the freshest Advices foreign and domestic.

THURSDAY, June 4, 1752.

From the LONDON GAZETTEER, March 9.

ON the Trial of Miss Blandy, who is to be executed on the 3d of April next, for poisoning her Father, Mr. Littleton (her late Father's Clerk) deposed, that he had been out of Henley some Time to visit his Father in Warwickshire, and on his Return on Saturday Morning the 10th of August last, he breakfasted with his Master, the Deceased, and the Prisoner, and found his Master much disordered; that Miss poured out a Dish of Tea for her Father, which he disliked, and said to her, "There is too much black Powder in it;" upon which she seemed confus'd, and to have a Tremor upon her, and went out of the Room; that the Deceased then took the Cup with the Tea, and poured it into the Cat's Basin, that stood in the Window, and went away, and would eat no more Breakfast; that then Miss came into the Room to this Witness, and asked him what her Father had said, and he told her, that her Father had thrown the Tea into the Cat's Basin; and that he had left the Room, seemingly displeased, and would not eat any more Breakfast, but that he had said nothing. That the next Day he, this Witness, went to Church, but Miss did not; and when he came home, Miss asked him to take a Walk with her and her Father in the Garden. As they went into the Garden, she put a Letter into his Hand, and desired him to direct it as usual to Capt. Cranston, and put it into the Post; but he hearing that his Master was poisoned, and Miss suspected, he broke the Letter open, read it, and then carried it to his Master, who said, "Ah! my poor Love-sick Girl; but what will not a Woman do for a Man that she loves!" Then the Letter was produced, and read as follows:

"Dear Willy,
"My Father is so bad, that I have only Time to tell you, that if you do not hear from me soon again, do not be frighten'd; I am better myself; and last any Accident should happen to your Letters, take Care what you write.
"My sincere Compliments.

"I am ever your's."

Robert Harman was called and asked, whether his young Mistress desired him to go away with her after his Master was dead?
Harman said, Miss Blandy asked him if he had got any other Master, and he said no; and then she asked him if he would live along with her, and he also said no; that then she asked if he would go away along with her, if he would, it should be worth 500*l.* to him. He then asked her where they were to go, and she said to London; he asked her then if they were to go to the North from thence, and she replied, no, perhaps to the West; and asking again if they were to go by Sea or Land, she said, perhaps by Sea and Land too.

Mrs. Lane (a Gentlewoman who happened to be passing by at the Time Miss Blandy had taken Shelter at the Angel from the Mob) deposed, That she went into the Angel to her Husband, who was there, and Miss Blandy with him; that she heard her Husband say to the Prisoner, when she first went in, "If you are innocent, you will be acquitted; and if you are guilty, you will be punished according to Law." That upon this, Miss Blandy stamped upon the Floor, in a seeming Agony, and said, "Oh that damn'd Villain, Cranston! my Honour to him has been my Ruin." Then turning about, after a short Pause, said, "But why do I blame him? I am more to blame; it was I administered it, and knew the Consequence."

Mr. Lane deposed to the same Purpose.
Richard Fisher (who was on the Coroner's Inquest, and brought Miss Blandy from the Angel to her Father's House) deposed, That on being asked by her what could be done for her, he answered, if she could produce any Thing that would fix it upon Cranston, possibly she might be saved; that

upon this, in some Agony she answered, "I am afraid I have destroyed that which would have hanged that Villain; but here take this Key. Search my Drawers, and see if you can find any Papers that will be of Service." That there being a Gentlewoman there who better knew the House than himself, he declined going, and desired her to search; that she did, accordingly, but could find nothing of Consequence.—Being asked by the Prisoner's Council, if he believed the Prisoner had any Intention to go off, and if she was not very ready to come back with him from the Angel, he answered, she was very ready to come back, and desired him to protect her from the Mob, and that it did not appear to him she had any Design to make an Escape.

The other Witnesses on Behalf of the Crown were, Dr. Addington and Dr. Lewis, Mr. Norton the Apothecary, Mrs. Mountney, Susanah Gunnell the Chamber maid, and Elizabeth Binfield the Cook-maid; and here the Council for the Crown, tho' they had many more Witnesses to call, reit'd their Proof against the Prisoner, who was thereupon called to make her Defence, which she did to the following Purport:

My Lords,
In my unhappy Situation, if I should express myself in any Terms that may be thought improper, I hope I shall be forgiven; for it will not be, I assure your Lordships, with any Design to offend. My Lords, some Time before my Father's Death, I unhappily contracted an acquaintance with Captain Cranston. This gave Offence to some particular Persons, that wou'd not well to the Repose of our Family; these Persons having first perswaded my Father, they were continually filling his Head with idle Stories, to my Prejudice; and, unhappily for me, they so far succeed, that from one of the most indulgent Parents, he grew very peevish and distrustful. I am extremely passionate, which I must own as a Fault, and when I have found my Father without any Cause angry with me, about Captain Cranston, I might let fall an unguarded Expression, but never to wish any Injury to his Person, much less to desire his Death; but, on the contrary, I did all that was in my Power for his Recovery, while I was permitted to be at Liberty to attend him in his last Illness, as the Witnesses against me have not denied. My Lords, the first Step my Enemies took against me in my Father's Illness, was to persuade him to forbid me his Presence; then having him entirely to themselves, I was ordered to be close confined to my Chamber, my Buckles and my Garters were taken from me, nor was I permitted to have a Knife to cut my Victuals, insinuating that I might be wicked enough to destroy myself. Thus confined, my Lords, and guarded by Men, I was not permitted to have a Woman to attend me, to do any Offices proper to be done by my own Sex. My Father being dangerously ill, myself confined to my Chamber, accused of being the Cause of that Illness, and not permitted to see my Father to justify myself, or see that he had proper Care taken of him; judge, my Lords, how great must be my Distress! I was almost distracted.

When my Father was dead my Guard left me, and I was at Liberty to go where I wou'd. The next Day after my Father's Death, I was told his Body was to be opened, and being ill with Confinement in the Room, and not being able to bear the Shock of being in the House during that Operation, I took a Walk over Henley-Bridge to take the Air, but in my Way I was insulted, a Mob raised about me, so that I was obliged to go into the Angel, a Public-House, on the other Side the Bridge, for Shelter. When Mr. Fisher came to me I desired his Protection, and to go home with him, which I did. When I was sent to Oxford-Castle, my Lords, the Malice of my Enemies could not rest here, the numberless Calumnies that have been invented, and industriously reported abroad, do abundantly shew; and particularly a Pamphlet was published, with the Affidavits taken before the Commiser, and all the aggravating Circumstances of this melancholy Affair,

calculated to inflame the Minds of the Public, and thereby prepossess them against me. It has been said, that I am a wretched Drunkard, a prophane Swearer, that I never went to Chapel, a contemptible holy Ordinance, and in short gave myself up to all Kinds of Immorality. Quite the reverse of this, my Lords, is my true Character. I am rather abstemious than otherwise in Drinking; prophane or immoral Discourses are my Aversion; and for my attendance in religious Duties, the Rev. Mr. Swinton, the Chaplain of the Prison, can testify, that I never neglected Chapel, when my Health would permit me; for I was very ill in Goul, and when so, Mr. Swinton constantly attended me in my Room. But this not being enough against me, it was confidently asserted, that I attempted an Escape; this occasioned Orders to have an Iron put on my Leg, which Report the late High Sheriff was convinced was malicious; he therefore in Person came and ordered it to be taken off, and promised I should not be so affronted again. I did not enjoy this Ease long, the Sheriff came again, and, with much Reluctance, ordered another heavier Iron to be put on my Leg; he named a noble Lord, at whose Instance, he said it was done. I told him I calmly submitted to whatever should be done to me, for I always made it my Rule to obey those that were set over me.

I will not deny, my Lords, that I did put some Powder into my Father's Water Gruel; no, my Lords, I will not attempt to save my Life at the Expence of Truth; and I here solemnly protest, as I shall answer it at the great Tribunal, and God knows how soon, that I had no evil Intent in putting the Powder into his Water Gruel; nor did I know it had a poisonous Quality: It was put in to procure his Love, and not his Death.

Several Witnesses were called in her Defence; but the King's Council in the Reply observed, that the Prisoner had given no Evidence in Contradiction of the Facts established by the Witnesses for the Crown: That indeed Anne James and Mary Banks had sworn to an Expression of Elizabeth Binfield, which, if true, served to shew some Ill-will in Binfield towards the Prisoner; but that there was so material a Contradiction to each other, that he thought they deserved no Manner of Credit. That the other Witnesses produced by the Prisoner, served only to prove, that Mr. Blandy was a very fond, affectionate, and indulgent Parent, therefore there could be no Pretence for giving him Powder, or any Thing else, to promote in him an Affection for his Daughter. That it had come out in the Examination of Hearne, one of the Prisoner's own Witnesses, that once when he was in the Castle to visit her, upon hearing that Cranston was taken, she broke out into Expressions that amounted, he thought, to a full Confession of Guilt. That however the Prisoner's Council might endeavour to explain it away, he was sure no Man in his Reason could understand these Words otherwise than a Confession, "I am glad the Villain is taken, that he may receive the Punishment he deserves, as well as I." That if the Jury believed the Prisoner to be innocent, they would take Care to acquit her; but if on the other Hand, they believed her to be guilty, they would take Care to acquit their own Consciences.

The Prisoner desired Leave to speak in Answer to what the King's Council had said, which being granted, she said, the Gentleman was mistaken in thinking the Powders were given to her Father to procure his Affection to her, for that they were given to procure her Father's Love to Mr. Cranston.

The Judge summed up the Evidence in a clear and impartial Manner to the Jury, and they, without going out of Court, brought in their Verdict, Guilty, Death, as beforementioned.

This unhappy Woman is about thirty-five Years of Age; and tho' not reckoned a Beauty, her Face is agreeable, and her Hair, Eye Brows, and Eyes, are black. She is of a middle Stature, a genteel Person, and a polite Behaviour, as her Father, who