

The Father's Crime; or Fatal Curiosity.

AN AFFECTING AND TRUE HISTORY

OF

The Unnatural Murder

OF

JAMES ANDREW MACAULEY, a Young Sailor,

For his Wealth, and who proved, on the Morning after the Fatal Deed, to be
the MURDERER'S LONG-LOST and ONLY SON!



SOME time since, there lived a man named Macanley, at Peurya in Cornwall, who had been blessed with an ample possession and fruitful issue; unhappy only in a younger son, who, taking liberty from his father's bounty, joined with a crew like himself, who, weary of the land, went roving to sea, and, in a small vessel, southward made prize of all whom they could master; and so increased in wealth, number and strength, that as they were cruising in the Straits they ventured upon a Turkish man of war, where they got great booty; but their powder by mischance taking fire, our hero, trusting to his skillful swimming, got to shore upon the Isle of Rhodes, with the best of his jewels about him; where he offered some of them for sale to a Jew, who knew them to be the governor's of Algiers, when he was apprehended, & condemned to the galleys as a pirate along with other Christians, who with him slew some of their officers, and released themselves. Macanley got safe on board an English ship, and arrived in London, where, from the experience he had in surgery, he was engaged by a surgeon, who after a while sent him to the East Indies: there, by his talent he got much money; when he resolved to return to his native town in Cornwall. Being absent fifteen years he learned his father was much reduced in circumstances, and in debt.

His sister he finds married to a mercer, a meaner match than her birth promised. To her he first appeared as a poor sailor, but after awhile privately reveals himself to her, shewing her what

jewels and gold he had concealed in a belt about him; and concluded that the next day he intended to appear to his parents, yet he kept his disguise, till she and her husband should come thither, to make their common joy complete.

Being come to his parents, his humble behaviour, suitable to his poor suit of clothes, melted the old couple into so much compassion, as to give him shelter during the cold season, under their roof; and, by degrees, his stories of his travels and sufferings, told with much passion to the aged people, made him their guest so long by the kitchen fire, that the husband bade them good night, and went to bed. Soon after this, his true stories working compassion in the weaker vessel, she wept, and so did he; but, withal, he, taking pity on her tears, comforted her with a piece of gold, which gave her assurance that he deserved a lodging, which she afforded him; and being in bed, he shewed her his wealth, which was girded about him, which he told her was sufficient to relieve her husband's wants, and to spare for himself; and so being weary, he fell asleep.

The old woman being tempted with the golden bait that she had received, and greedily thirsting after the enjoyment of the rest, she went to her husband, and awaking him, presented him with the news, and her contrivance what further to do; and, though with horrid apprehensions he at first refused, yet her purling eloquence (Eve's enchantment) moved him at last to consent, and to rise to be master of that wealth, by murdering

the owner thereof, by stabbing him; this he accordingly did, and then covered the body with clothes, till opportunity served for carrying it away.

The early morning hastens the sister to her father's house, where with signs of great joy, she enquired for a young sailor that should lodge there last night. The old folks at first denied that they had seen any such, till she told them that he was her brother, and lost brother, which she knew assuredly, by a scar upon his arm, cut with a sword in his youth, and they had determined to meet there that morning, and be happy.

The father hearing this, hastily runs up into the room, and finding the mark, as his daughter had told them, with horrid regret for this monstrous murder of his own son, with the same knife wherewith he killed him, he cut his own throat, and threw himself over the mangled body of his murdered boy! The mother, soon after, going up to consult with her husband what to do, in a strange manner beholding them both weltering in their blood, wild and aghast finding the instrument of death at hand, immediately rips herself open.

The daughter, wondering at their delay in returning, seeks about for them, whom she found too soon; and with the sad sight of this bloody scene, being overcome with horror and amazement for this deluge of destruction, she sunk down and shortly after died of a broken heart. Such was the fatal end of this wretched family.

COPY OF VERSES.

ALL you who have children dear,
Now hear this tale of woe,
And the history of this sad tragedy,
I now to you will show.

A happy pair who at Peurya did live,
Had a son who went to sea,
After fifteen years absence he return'd,
His parents fit to see.

He to their cot in disguise did go,
To ask shelter from the cold,
And ere he laid him down to sleep,
Shew'd all his wealth and gold.

The mother to the father went,
In anxious breathless haste,
To tell of the treasure she had seen
Around the stranger's waist.

The father then, by Satan led,
Stab'd his poor boy to the heart,
And stole the cur'd gold away,
Which soon caus'd his heart to smart.

And scarce ere the parents both
Had seen the morrow's light,
Their daughter came with joy to ask,
Of the sailor who slept there last night.

She said it was her brother James,
Who to sea long time had rovd,
Now home had come to share his wealth
With those he dearly lov'd.

O, when they found the murder'd youth,
Was their long-lost darling boy,
Most frightful horrors seiz'd their minds,
And bitterly did they cry.

The guilty pair then slew themselves,
When their murder'd son they espied,
And the broken-hearted daughter,
Sunk on the ground and died!