THE LIFE OF CALCRAFT.

AN ACCOUNT OF THE EXECUTIONS IN SCOTLAND FOR THE PAST 260 YEARS

DUMBARTON.

	Date of Execution.
Murdoch Currie, theft, - - -	June 14, 1751
Patrick Lunnay, murder, - -	Jany. 18, 1861
WILLIAM CALCRAFT, the general executioner of Great Britain and who officiated at Dumbarton on the 18th Jan. 1861, was born in thyear 1801, of humble but industrious parents, in a littlevillage about ten miles from London, situated in the county of Essex. When 19 years of age he was appointed tothe office of Newgate Hangman, and on being installedsware to the following oath—"I swear to hang or behad, and to draw and quarter, or otherwise destroy allsolons and enemies to the peace of our Lord the King,nd of his subjects, duly sentenced according to law; so I will do the like unto father or mother, sister or broth, and all other kindred whatsoever, without favour or hdrance. So help me God!"	
Thereupon a black veil is throwover him at his rising, when he is conducted out of the court, amid the groaning of the assemblage, the tolling of the death-bell, and the horrifying words of the city jude grating in his ears, "Get thee hence, wretch!"	
The hall in which the oath is ministered contains a table with the following articlepiaced thereon:—An axe well sharpened!—the same aldaz used for the beheading of traitors—a pair of leirons—handcuffs and other fetters—a small coil of rope-a pair of white caps.	

GLASGOW.

At the Howgate Head, where thelonkland Canal Basin is now situad.

	Date of Execution
Hugh Bisland, robbery - -	July 10, 1766
Acnes Dougal murder - -	Nov. 1, 67
Andrew Marshall murder, hangedchains,	Oct. 25, 70
Wm Mitchell and Chas. Gordonrobbery,	Nov. 17, 73
George M'Taggart, housebreakin &c	June 21, 76

At the Castle Yard, where the oyal Infirmary now stands.

	Date of Execution.
James Jack, robbery - -	June 7, 1784
James and William Brodie and Jas Scott, housebreaking, - -	Nov. 7, 84
Neil M'Lean, forgery - -	June 1, 85
David Stiven, murder - -	June 3, 85
Thomas Vernon, robbery - -	Nov. 9, 85
James Spence, housebreaking andtheft,	June 7, 86
Elizabeth Paul, housebreaking andtheft,	Oct. 25, 86
John M'Auley, Thomas Veitch, and Thos Gentles, robbery - -	May 28, 8[illegible]

At the Cro

Walter M'Intosh, robbery - -	Oct. 22, 1788
William Scott, housebreaking andrcé — This criminal was tried & celemned by the Sheriff - -	Dec. 3, 88
John Brown, forgery - -	June 9, 90
James Day, murder - -	Oct. 20, 90
James Plonket, robbery - -	Jan. 11, 92
James Dick, murder, - -	May 16, 92
Mortimer Collins, murder - -	Nov. 7, 92
Agnes White, murder, and Jas. McKenzie, robbery - -	May 22, 92
James M'Kean, murder - -	Jan 25, 97
John Jackson, murder - -	May 16, 98
Peter Gray, hamstrung, - -	May 28, 1800
William Cunningham, theft - -	June 8, 03
David Scott and Hugh Adamsforgery,	June 5, 06
Adam Cox, murder - -	June 10, 07
James Gilchrist, murder - -	July 20, 08
John Gordon M'Intosh & Georgestewart, housebreaking - -	Nov. 8, 09
James Ferguson, robbery - -	May 16, 13
W Muir and W. Mudie, robbe -	Nov. 17, 13

In front of the N. Prison.

Wm. Higgins and Thos. Haroldrobbery	Oct. 10, 1814
John Sherry, robbery - -	Nov. 8, 15
William M'Kay, forgery - -	Mar. 28, 16

	Date of Execution
Freeburn Whitehill, robbery, William M'Keolnie and James M'Cormick, housebreaking and theft. - -	Oct. 29, 1817
William Baird and Walter Blair, robbery,	June 3, 18
Matthew Clydesdale murder, and Simon Ross, housebreaking - -	Nov. 4, 18
A. Robertson, housebreaking and theft,	April 7, 19
B. M'Kinlay, H. Guthrie, J Forbes, & W. Buchanan, housebreaking and theft,	Nov. 3, 19
John Buchanan, murder - -	Nov. 17, 19
Richard Smith, housebreaking -	May 21, 20
James Wilson, high treason—hanged and beheaded - - -	Aug. 30, 20
William Leonard Swan, forgery -	June 5, 21
Malcolm M'Intyre, William Pearson, and James Dyer, housebreaking, -	Oct. 20, 22
Donachy, housebreaking and theft -	June 8, 22
John M'Dougall & James Wilson, housebreaking and theft - -	June 24, 23
David Wylie, theft - -	Nov. 12, 23
W. M'Teague uttering forged notes	May 19 24
F. Kean, robbery, and G. Laidlaw, theft	June 2, 24
William Devon, murder - -	July 21, 24
James Stevenson, highway robbery -	June 1, 25
James Dolan, street robbery—This was the first criminal who suffered between sight and ten	June 7, 26
A. Stewart and E. Kelly, street robbery	Nov. 1, 26
James Glen, murder.—This criminal was dressed in white	Dec. 12, 27
Thomas Connor and Bell M'Menemy, assault and robbery - -	Oct. 29 28
Edward Moore, murder - -	May 30, 29
John Hill & Wm. Porter, assault & robbery,	May 12, 30
William M'Feat, murder - -	Sept 30, 30
David Little, stonthrow - -	Jan. 17, 31
James Campbell, housebreaking and theft	May 16, 31
James Buyers and Mary Ste l, murderers	Oct. 6, 31
William Heath, housebreaking -	Oct. 20, 32
William Lindsay, murder - -	Jan. 18, 32

	Date of Execution.
P. Carney, rape, and J. Barclay, murder	May 14, 32
Henry Birrell, street robbery -	Jan 13, 33
George Duffy, murder - -	Jan. 20, 33
Hugh Kennedy, throwing vitriol -	Sep. 20, 34
George Campbell, murder - -	Sep 20, 36
Mrs Jeffrey, murder - -	May 21, 38
Thomas Templeton, murder - -	May 27, 40
Denis Donolan and Patrick Redding, murder—Executed at Crosshill, near Glasgow - -	May 14, 41
Charles M'Kay, murder - -	May 18, 43
Margaret Lennox or Hamilton, forgery and murder - -	Jan. 31 50
Archibald Hare, murder - -	Oct. 24, 51
Hans Smith M'Farlane and Helen Blackwood, murder - -	May 23 55

Mrs M'Lauchlan was sentenced to be executed for the murder of Jessie M'Pherson on 11th of Oct. 1862, but was respited during her Majesty's pleasure.

EDINBURGH.

Thomas Hunter, M. murder - -	Aug. 8, 1700
Ciel Mosher, murder - -	Aug. 8, 10
Margaret Dickson, murder.—This person recovered, and lived 30 years at Musselburgh, where she was known by name of "hill hanged Meg" -	Aug. 2, 23
Agnes Crocket, child murder -	Sept. 8, 56
Ann Morrison, child murder -	Mar. 7, 58
James Heatly, child murder - -	April 1, 61
Patrick Ogilvie for the murder of Thomas Ogilvie of Easterhill, his brother, and adulterer of his wife - -	Nov. 18, 66
Margaret Adam, murder - -	Mar 2, 65
Robert Hay, street robbery - -	Mar 25, 67
John Raybould, forgery - -	Feb. 24, 68
William Harris, forgery - -	May 20, 70
Alex M'Donald and Chas. Jamieson, shop breaking at Lothgow Bridge[illegible]	Sept. 2, 70
Daniel Beveron, robbery - -	Jan. 7, 87
Chas and Jas. Jamieson, robbing the mail	Jan. 29, 87

	Date of Execution.
John Reid, murdering his son. -	Mar. 21, 1787
William Brown and George Smith, theft	Oct. 1, 88
J Falconer and P Bruce, bank robbery	Dec. 24, 88
Bartholomew Collins, murder -	Feb. 8, 90
William Gadesby, robbery - -	Feb. 2, 92
William Smith, housebreaking -	Oct. 12, 92
John Paul and J Stewart, street robbery	July 27, 94
Robert Watt, high treason - -	Oct. 13, 94
Melesine Roderick M'Ulian, forgery on the Paisley Bank - -	98
Thomas Urquhart, postmaster of Kirkwall, Orkney, opening letters, and abstracting money therefrom - -	Oct. 16, 1800
Richard Brodie, theft - -	Feb. 11, 01
George Lindsay, murder - -	April 7, 02
Margaret Cunningham, murder -	Jan. 7, 07
Matthew Smith, murder - -	— 08
Barbara Malcolm, murder - -	Feb. 10, 08
Robert Stewart, housebreaking and theft	Feb. 23, 09
John Armstrong, do. do.	Jan. 17, 10
Adam Lyal, highway robbery -	Mar. 27, 11
Hugh M'Donald, Neil Sutherland, and Hugh M'Intosh, street robbery -	April 22, 13
John M'Donald and James [illegible], murder	April 14, 12
James M'Dougal, forgery - -	Aug. 10, 14
John Murrach, murder - -	Mar. 29, 15
David Thomson, housebreaking and theft	Mar. 15, 16
Robert Johnstone, robbery - -	Dec. 30, 18
George Warden, taking money out of letters at Post Office Aberdeen -	April 14, 19
John Dempsey, murder - -	Dec. 13, 20
Samuel Maxwell, housebreaking & robbery	Jan. 17, 21
David Haggart, murder - -	July 18, 21
John Rennie and William Sutherland, housebreaking and theft -	Aug. 22, 21
Peter Hannan and Francis Madred, piracy and murder at Leith - -	Jan. 9, 22
William M'Intyre, house breaking	Feb. 26, 23
Mary M'Kinnon, murder - -	April 16, 23
Daniel M'Donald Elphinstone murder	July. 3, 24

	Date of Execution.
William Burke murdering 16 individuals by suffocating them, and selling their bodies for dissection - -	Jan. 28, 29
John Stewart and Catherine Wright, for murdering three persons by giving them poison - -	Aug. 19, 29
William Adams or Reid, robbery -	Jan. 6, 29
Robert Edmond, Huddington murders	Mar 17, 30
George Gilchrist, robbery - -	Aug. 5, 30
John Thompson & David Doble, murder	Aug. 19, 30
John M'Coist, murder - -	Dec. 19, 31
John Howieson, murder - -	Jan. 21, 24
Thomas Sweeney, assault and robbery—executed at Greenlaw - -	April 4, 34
James Bell, murder - -	July 6, 35
Elizabeth M'Neil, murder - -	Aug. 3, 35
James Wemyss, murder - -	April 16, 40
James Bryce, murder - -	April 3, 44
William Bennie, for poisoning his wife	Aug. 16, 50
J. Williams, murder—executed at Greenlaw	Mar. 14, 53
William Cumming murder - -	Jan. 25, 54

PAISLEY.

Four men and three women were burned at the stake, followgreed for witchcraft

Alexander Pearson, murdering his wife, had his right hand cut off and afterwards hanged - -	June 16, 1697
Thomas Potts, housebreaking -	Aug. 17, 97
John Crsigie and James Brown, stouthrief	Oct. 16, 1829
William Piric, murder - -	Oct. 18, 37
John Thomson alias Peter Walker, murder	Jan. 14, 58

GREENOCK.

Moses M'Donald, housebreaking	June 5, 1822
Hugh M'Dougal, Bernard M'Dougal, and P. M'Crystal, ape and [illegible]ery	Oct. 13, 23
John Kerr, murder - -	June 6, 27
John Boyd, murder - -	Oct. 27, 31

AYR.

John Hadden, housebreaking -	Dec. 3, 1768

	Date of Execution.
Matthew Hay, murder - -	Oct. 18, 1784
W. Dornon and R. Smith, housebreaking	May 16, 1816
John M'Millan, murder - -	May 25, 16
J. M'Manus, murder, and Robert Gibson, robbery - -	May 27, 11
George Watson, housebreaking -	June 7, 11
John Wetherington Symington, -	Feb. 17, 14
William Evans, forgery - -	May 31, 15
Mary Cressan, fire raising, Wm. Robertson and Joseph Cairns, robbery -	Oct. 17, 17
James Anderson and David Glen, murder	Dec. 12, 26
Samuel Waught, murder - -	Jan. 18, 31
James M'Whellan, murder and robbery	Oct. 26, 48
Alexander Cunningham, murder -	May 11, 54

STIRLING.

Thomas M'Lauchlan, housebreaking	Nov. 19, 1773
G. M'Kerracher, forgery - -	April 28, 83
John Smart, forgery - -	May 16, 85
F. M'Nair, robbery at Falkirk -	Oct. 26, 1811
Alexander O'Kane, robbery - -	Feb. 21, 13
John Baird and Andrew Hardie, treason	Sept. 8, 20
John Fleming, forgery - -	May 11, 29
John M'Grady, housebreaking -	May 25, 25
Peter Moffat, murder - -	July 28, 28
Robert Tennant, murder - -	Oct. 2, 28
Alex. Millar or Scatters, murder -	April 8, 37
Allan Mair, murder, upwards of 80 year,	Oct. 4 43

INVERARY.

Ann Campbell and Sarah Graham, murder	Nov. 3, 1723

INVERNESS.

Christian M'Keehnie, murder -	Nov 2, 1701
Alexander Gillan, rape and murder—hung in chains - -	May 14, 1800
H. M'Leod, murder and robbery -	Oct. 24, 34
John Adams alias John Anderson, -	Oct. 16, 35

PERTH.

	Date of
Alexander M'Cowan - -	Jun
H. Davidson and G. Bruce, robbery -	June
John Dee Cameron, murder and robbery	Nov.
William Doag, murder - -	June 13
H. M'Lean, murder, hung in chains,	July 15,
James Russell, robbery, - -	June 27, 6[illegible]
Robert Keith, murder, - -	July 2, 6[illegible]
John Henderson, murder—hung in Cupar,	Sept. 26, 63
Jean Cameron, child murder, -	Oct. 19, 64
Duncan Campbell and J. Chapel, murder,	June 19, 6
Alex M'Donald, cattle stealing, -	Nov. 27, 72
Francis Thorniley, housebreaking,	June 7, 74
John Fisher, housebreaking, -	July 17, 75
John Dorn, highway robbery -	May 31, 93
Robert Rodger, highway robbery -	June 24, 93
Donald M'Crae, murder - -	Nov. 13, 96
A. West, housebreaking, executed at Dundee,	June 12, 1801
Hans Regelson, rape - -	June 28, 12
John Larg and John Mitchell, robbery	Feb. 28, 17
Margt Tindel, murder—executed at Montrose	Nov 2, 23
David Balfour, murder—executed at Dundee,	June 3, 25
Margaret Wishart, murder—executed at Forfar, - -	June 15, 27
Arthur Woods, murder — executed at Dundee - -	May 24, 29
Thomas Leith, murder — executed at Dundee - -	Oct. 10, 47
John Kerscher, murder—executed at Forfar - -	May 9, 52
Michael and Patrick Scanlan, brothers, murder and robbery—executed at Cupar,	July 5, 52

DUMFRIES.

William Johnstone, theft - -	Nov. 3, 1789
John Carmichael, housebreaking -	May 27, 88
Maitland Smith, murder and robbery -	Oct. 21, 1808
James Gordon, murder - -	June 6, 10
John M'Canna and Joseph Richardson, forgery - -	May 14, 38

	Date of Execution.
James M'Manus, highway robbery -	Oct. 18, 1829
Mrs Reid or Timney, murder - -	April 19, 62

ABERDEEN.

John Hutchison, housebreaking and theft	June 28, 1766
Helen Watts, murder - -	Oct. 11, 63
William Keith (her son), murder -	Nov. 15, 66
Jean Craig, theft - -	July 28, 85
Elspeth Reid, theft - -	Jan. 14, 85
Thomas Donaldson, Wm. Buchanan, and Wm M'Leod, housebreaking -	May 23, 1823
Malcolm Gillespie, forgery - -	Nov. 17, 26
Catherine Davidson, murder - -	Oct 30, 36
James Burnet, murder - -	May 28, 49
James Kebb, murder - -	Oct. 10, 49
George Christie, robbery & double murder	Jan. 19, 53
John Booth, murder - -	Oct. 21, 57

JEDBURGH.

David Douglas, robbery - -	Nov. 18, 1768
William Murray, theft - -	May 26, 39
Charles Mercer, rape - -	Oct. 10, 1809
John Gibson, murder - -	May 12, 14
Robert Scott, murder - -	Oct. 23, 28
James Rodgers, murder - -	Oct 20, 31
M. Wilson, murder - -	Sept. 25, 42

LINLITHGOW.

Peter M'Lean, murder - -	Feb. 6 1851

FOR WITCHCRAFT.

	Date of Execution.
Allison Pearson, Fifeshire, practising sorcery and invoking the devil—strangled and burned -	1649
Euphame M'Clasean, Edinburgh, she buried alive	
Patrick Larrie, consulting with the devil, burned	
James Young, East Ferry, strangled and burned	
Janet Brown, Burntisland, condemned and executed - -	1678
Isabel Baird, and three women, strangled and burned - -	1649
Isabel Elliot, Edinburgh, for having carnal conversation with the devil, burned by the executioner	1678

THE ENGLISH CRIMINAL CODE.

In the reign of Henry VIII., according to Sharon Turner, there were executed 72,000 great and petty thieves. According to Hume 2000 were executed annually during that reign for theft and robbery only, besides other criminals. In the century from 1625 to 1716 there were 70,000 executions, or 700 per annum. From 1820 to 1824 the first inclusive and the last exclusive, there were 290, or 93 a year. From 1828 to 1831, there were 230, or 57½ a year. From 1832 to 1837, they were 155, or 31 a year; but in the year 1836 there were only 17 executions.

The Plantagenets made 4 offences capital.		
The Tudors	27	—
The Stuarts	35	—
The Hanoverians	156	—

Which were reduced in number considerably in the reign of George IV. and William IV., and in the reign of her present Majesty, so great has been the amelioration of our Criminal Code, that there are now only nine offences punishable with death.

For the origin of this purification of our Statute Book from blood we are mainly indebted to the late Sir Samuel Romilly and the late Mr Whitbread.

John Riley, murder, Glasgow.	May, 1864.
George Bryce, murder, Edinburgh,	Jun. 1864
D Pichard, murder, Glasgow.	Jul 1865
Andrew Brown, murder, Montrose,	Jan.3 1865
[illegible] murder [illegible]	May 22 1868
Joseph Smith, murder [illegible]	May 12, 18 [illegible]