

A circumstantial account of an extraordinary affair which lately happened at Poplar. (See our last, p. 339.)

**A** Bout 34 years ago a young fellow courted one *Mary East*, but he going upon the highway, was tried for a robbery, and cast, but was afterwards transported; this so affected our heroine, that she resolved ever to remain single. In the same neighbourhood lived another young woman, who had likewise met with many crosses in love, and had determined on the like resolution; being intimate, they communicated their minds to each other, and determined to live together ever after; after consulting on the best method of proceeding, they agreed that one should put on man's apparel, and that they should live as man and wife in some part where they were not known; the difficulty now was, who was to be the man, which was soon decided by the toss up of a halfpenny, and the lot fell on *Mary East*, who was then about 16 years of age, and her partner 17; the sum they were then possessed of together, was about 30*l.* with this they set out, and *Mary*, after purchasing a man's habit, assumed the name of *James How*, by which we will for a while distinguish her. In the progress of their journey, they happened to light on a little public house at *Epping*, which was to lett, they took it, and lived in it for some time; about this period a quarrel happened between *James How* and a young gentleman, of such a nature, that *James* entered an action against him, and obtained damages of 500*l.* which was paid him: possessed of this sum, they sought out for a place in a better situation, and took a public house in *Limehouse-Hole*, where they lived many years, saving money, still cohabiting as man and wife, in good credit and esteem: They afterwards left this house, and removed to the *White horse* at *Poplar*, which they bought, and after that several more houses.

About 16 years ago one *Mrs B.* who lived on *Garlick-Hill*, and was acquainted with *James* in her younger days, and knowing in what good circumstances she lived in, and of her being a woman, thought this a good scheme to build a project on, and accordingly sent to her for 10*l.* at the same time intimating that if she would not send it, she would discover her

sex; *James* fearful of this, complied with her demand, and sent the money; it rested here for a considerable time, in short till very lately, in which time *James* lived with his supposed wife in good credit, and had served all the parish offices in *Poplar*, excepting constable and churchwarden. She had been several times foreman of juries; though her eminacy indeed was remarked by most. Last *Christmas* *Mrs B.* abovementioned sent again with the same demand for 10*l.* and with the like threatening obtained it: Flushed with success, and not yet contented, she within a fortnight after sent again for the like sum, which *James* at that time happened not to have in the house: However, still fearful and cautious of a discovery, she sent her 5*l.* The supposed wife of *James How* now died, and the same conscionable *Mrs B.* now thought of some scheme to enlarge her demand; for this purpose she got two fellows to execute her plan, the one was a mulatto, the other was equipped with a short pocket staff, and was to act as constable; in these characters they came to the *White Horse*, and enquired for *Mr How*; who answered to the name; they told her that they came from justice *Fielding* to take her into custody for a robbery committed by her thirty-four years ago, and moreover that she was a woman; terrified to the greatest degree on account of her sex, though conscious of her innocence in regard to the robbery, an intimate acquaintance, one *Mr W.* a pawnbroker, happening to be passing by, she called to him, and told him the business those two men came about, and withal added this declaration to *Mr W.* *I am really a woman, but innocent of their charge:* On this sincere confession he told her she should not be carried to *Mr Fielding*, but go before her own bench of justices; that he would just step home, put on a clean shirt, and be back in five minutes: At his departure, the two fellows threatened *James How*, but at the same time told her, that if she would give them 100*l.* they would trouble her no more, if not, she would be hanged in sixteen days, and they should have 40*l.* a piece each for hanging her; notwithstanding these threatenings she would not give them the money, waiting with impatience till the return of *Mr W.* on her denial, they immediately forced her out, and took



took her near the fields, still using the same threats; adding, *you b—b had you not better give us the 100l. than be hang-ed*; after awhile they got her through the fields, and brought her to *Garlick-hill*, to the house of the identical Mrs *B.* where with threats they got her to give a draft on Mr *W.* to Mrs *B.* payable in a short time, which when they had obtained, they sent her about her business. Mr *W.* came back punctual to his promise, and was surpris'd to find her gone; he immediately went to the bench of justices to see if she was there, and not finding her, went to Sir *John Fielding's*, and not succeeding, came back, when *James* soon after returned; when she related to him all that had pass'd. The discovery was now public. On *Monday* the 14th of *July*, Mrs *B.* came to Mr *W.* with the draft, to know if he would pay it, being due the *Wednesday* after; he told her if she came with it when due, he should know better what to say; in the mean time, he applied to the bench of justices for advice, and *Wednesday* being come, they sent a constable with others to be in the house. Mrs *B.* punctually came for the payment of the draft, bringing with her the mulatto man, both of whom were taken into custody, and carried before the bench of justices sitting at the *Angel* in *Whitechapel*, where Mr *W.* attended with *James How*, dress'd in the proper habit of her sex; now again under her real name of *Mary East*; the alteration of her dress from that of a man to that of a woman, appeared so great, that together with her awkward behaviour in her new assumed habit, caused great diversion to all.

In the course of their examination, Mrs *B.* denied sending for the 100l. the mulatto declared likewise if she had not sent him for that, he should never have gone. In short, they so contradicted each other, that they discovered the whole villainy of their designs. In regard to the 100l. which *B.* had before obtained, she in her defence urged, that *Mary East* had sent it her. After the strongest proof of their extortion and assault, they were denied any bail, and both committed unto *Clerkenwell Bridewell* untill the next session, when they will be tried for the fact: The other man has made off, and has not been since heard of.

The supposed wife of *James How* finding herself indisposed, went to her friends in the country awhile for the

benefit of her health, but perceiving herself much worse, she sent for her supposed husband to come down to her, which he not doing, on her death-bed she discovered the secret to her friend as before related.

**A** Abstract of an Act for opening and establishing certain ports in the islands of *Jamaica* and *Dominica*, for the more free importation and exportation of certain goods and merchandises; for granting certain duties to defray the expences of opening, maintaining, securing, and improving such ports; for ascertaining the duties to be paid upon the importation of goods from the said islands of *Dominica* into this kingdom; and for securing the duties upon goods imported from the said island into any other British colony.

**C** FROM and after the 1st of *November* 1766, liberty is given to import, in any foreign one-decked vessels, live cattle, and all manner of goods, the produce of any *American* colony, not under the *British* dominion, into the island of *Dominica*; and into the ports of *Kingston*, *Savannah La Mar*, *Montego Bay*, and *Santa Lucia*, in the island of *Jamaica*, all manner of goods and commodities likewise, except sugars, coffee, pimento, ginger, molasses, and tobacco: But no foreign manufactures may be imported into the said islands, on forfeiture of the goods and vessel.

**E** Copper ore, cotton wool, ginger, fustic, or other dying woods, hemp, indico, molasses, beaver skins, or other furs, sugar, cocoa, coffee, pimento, hides and skins, pot and pearl ashes, raw silk or whale-fins, the produce of the *British* plantations, are prohibited to be imported into either of the said islands, after the 1st of *September* 1766, on forfeiture of the goods and vessel.

**G** Negroes, imported into the said islands in *British* ships, may be exported again in foreign one decked vessels; as may all *British* commodities legally imported, except matts, yards, or bowsprits, pitch, tar, turpentine, and tobacco; and also except such iron as shall be brought from the *British* colonies in *America*.

**H** Doubts, with respect to the legality of such importations, are to be cleared up by the oath of the exporter or proprietor of such goods, before the same are suffered to be shipped for exportation.

All wool, cotton wool, indico, cochineal