

T H E

L I F E

. A N D .

C H A R A C T E R

Of a Strange

The = Monster.

Lately Arriv'd in

L O N D O N

F R O M A N

English Colony in America.

And is often to be seen upon the ROYAL-
EXCHANGE, *Gratis.*

*If Rational 'gainst Rationality
Will always act, he must a Monster be;
For Beasts by Nature, as we daily find,
Or Instinct, act according to their Kind.*

A. N. M D C C X X V I .

1726



THE
L I F E
A N D
C H A R A C T E R, & C.

HE is positively reported by a Northern Herald, to be the scabby Offspring of a *Scotch* M O G G Y, begot upon his cleanly Mother by a scorching P E D I A R, against a famous Rubbing-Post in *North Britain*, after a plentiful Feast of Bonny-Clapper, Oat-Cake, and hard Onions upon *St. Andrew's Day*, about fifty Years since; from whence he derives his Pedigree, and dates his Original. He was educated in his Minority at a Country School under a Queer Sir *Domine*, who by the Severity of his Discipline, whip'd him into more Craft than Grammar, more Infidelity than Christianity, and a thorough Aversion to fat Pork, Religion, Honesty, and his own Country. When thus qualified to become a Libertine, he began early to commence Rake, and, as an undeniable Instance of his natural Propensity to Wickedness, he dispatch'd a near Relation

after a barbarous Manner ; infomuch that the Safety of his Neck depended upon the Swift-ness of his Heels, having no Prospect of Security left but flying the King's Dominions ; and thus, as *Cain*, after the Murther of his Brother *Abel*, fled into the Land of *Nod* with a Mark upon his Forehead, that he might pass with Impunity ; so did our pennylefs young Wanderer transport himself to *Virginia* as an indentur'd Slave, to fly the Danger of a Halter, having no other Mark of Infamy in his Front but his own natural Confidence to secure him.

*Cain was no Bondsman when he rang'd abroad,
To seek his Fortune in the Land of Nod ;
Which Murderer then appears the wildest Knave ?
The wandering Freeman, or the wandering Slave !*

Our *Caledonian* Vagabond having thus bound himself to a certain Planter, the first Syllible of whose Name was borrow'd originally from an unlucky Quadrupede that often preys upon Poultry, and ends with the Cunning of the same Creature. He began now, as soon as he found his poor Crag in Safety, to entertain some Thoughts of making the best of a bad Market, whose Business, for a while, was to clean shoes, whet Knives, look after Horses, fetch home the Kine, and now and then at leisure Hours to hew among the Negroes, and lend an helping Hand in the planting of Tobacco ; 'till at length, his Ambition soaring above these servile Offices, and finding his Mistress, in his Master's Absence, a little more kind and familiar than a Servant could reasonably expect in his

his humble Station, was, in a short Time, encourag'd by her Colt's Tooth, to make a further Tryal of her amorous Inclinations; in which Adventure he so well succeeded, that his discerning Master, without the Help of Spectacles, could see his new-planted Antlers thrive faster upon his Brows, than Tobacco in his Plantation; insomuch that he grew as jealous of his Northern Slave, as a Spanish Lover of his Mistress's Lap-dog, conceiving his poor indentur'd Servant a very improper Person to become his Rival, thro' Fear that too much Familiarity between his Wife and her new Favourite, might be a means of scattering the *Scotch* Leprosy through his whole Family, and cost him the Expence of abundance of Tobacco Stalks to irradiate the Distemper; an approv'd-of Remedy, if steep'd in Chamber Lie, for the Mange in Dogs, and the hereditary Curse that prevails in *Scotland*

*Thus does one Poyson, which we daily smother,
By outward Application cure another;
In slothful Wretches does the Itch appease,
Nasty the Medicine, loathsome the Disease.*

The Master's Suspicion of his Wife's Kindness to his *Scotch* Rival, encreasing daily upon fresh Grounds and further Observations, which his watchful Eyes sought Opportunities of making, occasion'd him at length to be as horn-mad as a Buck in Rutting time; so that he had no means left to ease his Jealousy, but to remove his Servant, a Remedy as bad as the Disease; for the one was as great an Injury to his
Interest,

Interest, as the other an Interruption to his nuptial Peace and conjugal Affection. However, as Love, like Ambition, will admit of no Competitor, and Jealousy therein a predominant Passion that postpones all mercenary Considerations, he at last resolv'd to make Merchandize of his Domestick, notwithstanding he was likely to prove a Loser by the Bargain, and accordingly sold him, for the Remainder of his Term, to the best Bidder; who examining his new Servant, and finding him a little better learn'd than the common Understrappers of that Sylvaniaian Colony, made him Vice-President of an A b c darian Academy in an *American* Town, where he exercised the Authority of a Sub-Pedagogue under the Rod of Correction, soon arriving therein to such a Pitch of Reputation, that none durst vie with him for his excellent Knowledge in that Alphabetical Foundation of all Learning, the Hornbook, till his first Master kicking up his Heels, and the Time of his Servitude being expir'd, he resolv'd to have recourse to his old Mistress, having now a free Opportunity of renewing his Amour with less Obstruction, and much more Advantage, than in his Master's Life-time. Accordingly, letting no Time slip, he spirits up his natural Confidence, and, for Fear of Anticipation, makes an early Tender of his most humble Service to his disconsolate Paramour, who, like other Widows, being very willing to be comforted, gave her quondam Gallant a kind and favourable Reception; so that after administering the Nipple to the good old Gentlewoman, as he had done formerly, she presently began to renew her prior Fondness,

Fondness,

Fondness, forgot her mourning Weeds, and to moderate those fashionable Sorrows, which Widows generally dissemble upon the Loss of their Husbands :

*The Youth that's in Love, and in pain to obtain
A Maid, must dissemble and flatter ;
But he that a Widow's Affection would gain,
Must constant and instant come at her.*

Pursuant to the last Lines of the foregoing Stanza, our *Scotch* Amorist made a successful Progression in the Affair promis'd, till he had so far reinsinuated himself into the Widow's Favour, as to gain Possession, not only of her sinful Heart, and the obscure Appurtenances ; but her Plate, Money, costly Rings, and other things of Value, with which necessary Utenfils he thought convenient to elope, without the formal Ceremony of a parting Kiss, or any other Leave than a common Leveller takes when he plunders a Family, and marches off with the Booty. The unfortunate Lady, being thus left in a much worse Condition by her living Gallant, than she was by her dead Husband, the common Fate of such Widows, who are too rich to want any thing but Grace, and too religious to exclude any Vertue but Continence, began now seriously to reflect upon her former Follies, as well as present Misfortunes ; and, finding her self past all Hopes of ever once more blessing her desirous Arms with the kind Embraces of her amorous Renegado, either for the Loss of her Riches, the Ingratitude of her Gallant, or the want of that accustomed

Refreshment

Refreshment which she could not live without, she pin'd her self to a Skeleton in a little time, and dy'd a Martyr to her own Lust and Indiscretion, without ever beholding her slipstring Lover after the Moment of his Departure.

*When Lust prevails, and Woman craves,
No Merit can restrain 'em:
They will be staves to various Knives,
And pierce the Innocent.*

*The married Bless'd will not let her go,
To part her Care from her:
Cheats, lies, and plots to keep the Ring,
For fear he should forsake her.*

*The Witte-Dame, to cool her Flame,
Pursues the like all Males,
And will, if Young, her Children wrong,
To procure her Pleasures.*

*The single Jade, and all the Mail,
Will cheat her wealthy Mother,
And, slight her Cares, will kiss and give
With some of her Justice.*

Our Sir J. Vagrant, having thus rigged himself into the wrongful Possession of an upstart Fortune, and Bully, or Squirrel-like, covered his Back with his Tail, and laid his Pockets plentifully with the Root of all Evil, began now to make a topping Figure, and take upon himself the Style and Character of an expert Lawyer, talking big, and bluffing in all foolish Company he came into; like a Maggot Solicitor,

licitor, who, by bribing the Jury, had just sav'd a Rogue from the Gallows. Notwithstanding his Ignorance in the Science he profess'd, yet, by his submissive Flatteries amongst those above him, and his awful Deportment, and his Judgmatical Harangues among those beneath him, he at length insinuated himself into a great many Rascally Causes, and, by Virtue of his *Scotch* Eloquence, and a modest Assurance, became an eminent Pettitogger among all such obstinate and leigious Persons, who had more Money than Wit, or more Craft than Honesty. Having thus, in some measure, cover'd the indelible Strains of an infamous Reputation from the Eyes of the Publick, he takes upon him a Second time (having had before such flourishing Success) to insinuate his Abilities into another Widow of considerable Fortune, who likewise had the Care of some Orphans, and their Estates, which always renders an unguarded Woman the more worthy of an *Irishman's* Love, or a *Scotchman's* Flatteries. No amorous Arts, ceremonious Visits, or insinuating Applications, were now wanting in our upstart Lawyer, that might work his Ends upon this unfortify'd Lady; so that, without entering into the Bonds of Wedlock, in a little Time he got a good Share of the Widow's Effects, and all the Orphans Patrimony into his Fish-hook Fingers, and *America* being a wide Place, march'd off with his Plunder, like a *Jew* out of *Egypt*, and chang'd his Situation for another Colony, leaving the disappointed Widow, and her poor injur'd Orphans, to many weeping Sacrifices to his treacherous Villany.

*Go on, thou Prodigy of human Race,
The Reader's Wonder, and thy own Disgrace,
In whose face Life thy Brother Scot may see,
The English Rogue was but a Fool to thee.*

Our bonny *Sect*, by his second Adventure, having reimprov'd his Circumstances, and cunningly remov'd himself from the Place of his former Residence, where he was better known than trusted, to a new Colony of more sober Christians, who were absolute Strangers to his Character; and, having decently equipp'd himself with all things necessary for his further Purposes, he now began to cut as great a Figure, as if he had had the World in a String, and the Philosopher's Stone in his Pocket, affecting much Wisdom among the ignorant, great Civility among the Ladies, and more Knowledge in the Laws than the best Barrister in *America*; hoping, by his Volubility of Tongue, a well-tempered Audacity, and other study'd Stratagems, to advance a Reputation among the female Sex, that, before he had squander'd away his ill-got Subsistence, he might decoy some Woman or other of a plentiful Fortune into his ruinous Embraces.

With these mercenary Views *Sectus* put himself forward, daily hunting about the Country, like a ferreting Dog in a stubble Field, in order to find out such well-feather'd Game as he wanted to pull, if he could but allure 'em into his dangerous Net. At length, having a better Note for a trodden Hen than a Virgin Pullet, he happily succeeded to blunder unawares upon the warm Scent
of

of another buxom Widow, whose Fortune was more considerable than either of the former; and having, like a true Petticoat-Pensioner, first inform'd himself of her Circumstances, grew as sharp as a Hawk upon this fresh Discovery, and, pruning the Wings of his Ambition, resolv'd to take a Flight at this new Quarry, not doubting of Success, if the Lady's amorous Inclinations prov'd but half as vigorous as his own undaunted Assurance.

*Widows are taken like an open Town,
Fenc'd by no Walls, no River, Moat, or Bridge;
Push in with Sword in Hand, and all's your
own;
Neither are fortify'd to stand a Siege.*

According to the foregoing Lines, our vigilant *Caledonian* soon gain'd his Point, and, by Virtue of a little sacerdotal Conjunction, converted the unwary Widow into a second-hand Bride: And now, finding he had established his Fortune upon a sure Foundation, and had something in Reality to support his Confidence, he began to elevate his Pride above its ordinary Pitch, to hold up his Head above the Level of his Betters, and to dumbfound every Body that fell into his Company with insupportable Arrogancy, lessening every Person's Character, disparaging every Man's Judgement, and, like a travelling Mountebank in a Country Market, made himself the Trumpeter of his own Praise. His Head was stuffed as full of Moot Points, Law Cases, Quirks and Quibbles, as a Toyman's Show-Glass is of odd whimsical Trinkets, his

Heart as full of Knavery as a rotten Egg is of Corruption, and his whole Practice as full of Obliquity and Deceit, as the Dealings of a Dutch Jew with an English Christian.

*Our Laws are wholesome, as our Lawyers say,
If that be true, the greater ——— They.
For when it proves an injur'd Client's Lot
To trust an Agent, like our crafty Scot,
Male Practice, loaded Bills, and double Fees,
Make lawful Cures much worse than the
Disease.*

The next profitable Enterprize that happened in the Way of our indefatigable Scribe, was a poor *American* Youth, who for want of Experience, was totally unguarded against the deceitful Practices of foul insinuating Managers, and, being legally possessed of a better Inheritance in Land than he had Sense enough to keep, he, by some Accident or other, fell first into the Conversation, and afterwards into Familiarity, with our *Scotch* Cormorant, who, like the *Stork* in the Fable among the innocent Frogs, devoured all the Widows and Orphans that fell in his Way, without the least Mercy or Compassion. Our Northern Counsellor, according to his accusom'd Craft, which he always exercised when he had a fair Opportunity, finding the young Gentleman of an easy Temper, made it his Business to persuade him, that he held his Estate but by a precarious Title, and that it was much safer for him to dispose of the same for a Third of the Value, than to run the Hazard of being divested of the Whole, by
some

some other Claimant who might have a better Right ; and that he might make a Figure with the Purchase Money, and by that Means recommend himself to some considerable Fortune, as might improve his Circumstances, and make him compleatly happy. The Youth, for want of knowing the Villany of his Adviser, was so wonderfully taken with these ruinous Insinuations, that he parted with his Inheritance, for a meer Trifle, to his very deceitful Friend that counselled him to dispose of it ; and notwithstanding the *American* was under Age and consequently could not make a legal Conveyance of his Patrimony ; yet our *Scotch* Purchaser, supplying that Defect with a little Northern Cunning, has ever since, in Contempt of all Opposition, continued in Possession of the Infant's Inheritance ; no Land in *Kent* being more Rich and Fertile.

*In spight of wholesome Laws and sober Rules,
 Since some to Wit and some to Wealth are born,
 Aspiring Knaves will thrive among the Fools,
 As Tares and Cockle rise among the Corn.
 The Crafty prey upon the Rich and Vain,
 The worst of Mortals do the best abuse,
 And some, by downright Villany, obtain
 What others for the Sake of Virtue lose.*

After these many fortunate Adventures, wherein he never fail'd of his desir'd Success, the next promising Contingency that Fortune open'd to his View, was a City-Lot of a considerable Value, with a well-built House upon it ; but so intail'd, that the present Possessor, who

was

was but an indolent Person, and much given to Pleasure, could by no Means lawfully dispose of the same, tho' his Extravagancy otherwise might have inclin'd him to it, notwithstanding the Estate was the greatest Support of himself, his Wife, and several small Children: therefore had so much Conscience and Consideration left, as to withstand the many villainous Briberies and other *Witch* Temptations offer'd him by our Counsellor to destroy the Deed of Entailment; and then, for an inconsiderable Sum of ready Money, to make over the Estate to his infamous Adviser; and thus betray his poor Family to exemplar Poverty and Distress, which must have been the Consequence. But this Stratagem failing, like a disappointed Wizard, he conjures all his Craft together, and, once more, invoking the very Devil to his Assistance, by many fallacious Arguments, and sly artful Insinuations, prevails with the poor credulous Family to remove themselves and all their Effects to a distant wealthy Island, where he says they had some Interest, which he could not magnified with all the seeming Advantages that his seeming Fancy could imagine; or his deceitful Tongue could invent, pretending, for one of his own Friends for him, and of more Generosity and Innocence for them, to manage the Estate in their Absence with all possible Care, for the Use and Benefit of the proper Owners, like a trusty Steward, to account to him for the just Profits or annual Rent thereof; and by these and such like fair Promises and Perswasions, gains his Point upon them, turns the whole Family packing, and thus juggles himself into a

session first as a Tenant, and so, according to his knavish Scheme, as well as mercenary Conscience, made the Tenement as profitable to himself as if he had been a Freeholder; and the unfortunate Owner of the Tenement dying at a great Distance, in this unhappy Juncture, and leaving his Family but very slenderly provided for; our *Scotch* Lawyer, not being content to be any longer a Tenant, tho' he paid no Rent, now, pursuant to his nefarious Principles, forms a new Device to make himself the Landlord; which he most villainously effected, by trumping up a Bond given formerly by the Deceased, which had been fully discharged Years before, as several can testify, but not delivered up or cancelled, upon a crafty Pretence, *That it was mislaid, and could not be found*: And, by Virtue of this Obligation, got an Act of Assembly for Sale of the Estate, in Satisfaction of the said Bond, at such a Time when the injur'd Family were at a great Distance, and no Body present to defend the Justice of the Cause, by putting the whole Affair into a true Light: So that by this vile Stratagem he became a Purchaser of the Estate without Money, occupies the same in as great Splendor and with as much Assurance as if he had honestly come by it, and lords it over his Fellow-Citizens, like the Head of a Clan over his poor Vassals, when he is strutting in his Plad upon a Highland Mountain, with three or four Bagpipers about him. Thus he lives, and thus he thrives, like the cunning Fox that has stunk the Badger out of his Hole, triumphs over the poor Widow and her Orphans in Distress; and ever since, taking Advantage of

their

their Necessity, has held the Tenement as his own, in Defiance of all Law and Equity, notwithstanding Measures have been taken in order to make him disgorge the Bait he has so unjustly swallowed.

*Virtue, in vain, do we applaud,
Since Miscreants, like these,
Shall lord it o'er the World by Fraud,
And injure whom they please!*

*Our Laws are good, our Lawyers great;
But where is Justice shown?
If crafty Knaves have room to cheat,
And make our Rights their own.*

Our *American* Scribe, by the Means aforesaid, having improv'd his Fortune above the level of his Fraternity, and acquir'd the Reputation of being a cunning Lawyer, especially in the Management of a bad Cause, towards which his Genius was particularly bent, he at length, by Favour of his Superiors, obtained a License to wear a Bar Gown, of which he was as proud as the fore Horse of a Team is of a new Harness; and now strutted about the Court-House in his pompous Robe among his creeping Clients, as if he thought himself highly honoured with a better Cloak for his Knavery than he had hitherto been possessed of; Tricking being the only Use he resolved to make of it to the Scandal of that Cloth which would otherwise have been honourable. He is not only an excellent Advocate in all malicious Prosecutions, but a notorious Dealer in bad Titles, which he commonly

monly makes good by the Perjury of others and his own Villainy : He is so deeply learned in all the Collusions of the Law, and so compleat a Master of foul Practice, too often used in the noble Science of Contention, that the most cunning Lawyer that ever was bred in *Yorkshire* is not worthy to carry his Bag after him. He is an admirable Tongue-pad in the Company of all weak Brethren, whose undistinguishing Faculties he works upon by his Eloquence, till he has brought them over to his Interest, then laughs at them for their Ignorance behind their Backs, and never fails to ascribe the Success of the Affair in Hand to his own Conduct: In short, he has the Brains of a Projector, the Tongue of a Court-Sycophant, the Conscience of a Pawnbroker, the Religion of an hypocritical *Turk*, the Impudence of a *Jew*, the Cunning of a *Jesuit*, and Deceitfulness of the Devil!

*Whate'er is wicked, infamous, and base,
Among the spurious Dregs of human Race,
By Nature is summ'd up in this one Man;
Search the whole World, and match him if you
can.*





To *subvert* the *aforesaid* HISTORY, the following Particulars, being Facts now well known, are thought proper to be annex'd.



THE foregoing Hero having freed himself from Slavery and the Gallows, at least for a while, betook himself to the Office of Pedagogue, as best suiting his arbitrary Disposition : Soon tired with this, for want of Pupils, he next set up for a Lawyer, as aforementioned ; and being well known among such as delighted in subverting the Laws of Property, he soon met a Client who had made free with a Neighbour's Hog, and declaring the Truth of his Case to his Confident Advocate, who, averse to Truth and prone to Evasion and Quibble, soon found an Expedient to baffle an ignorant Judge and Jury ; bid him divide the ill-got Grunting so even that he might swear the Lawyer had as much as the Thief : This done, and the Tryal brought on, the new pert Orator address'd himself to his Ignoramusses, and swore his Client had no more of the Pig than he had ; which, together with the small Esteem such a Crime bears in that Country, acquitted the Thief, or, I may say, the Thieves, for the Receiver is as bad ; but our young Lawyer never was so nice or qualmish as to look on such an Oath to be Perjury, or that such a Receiver was a Thief, ever scorning to be under the mean Influence of Conscience ;
and

and in Procel's of Time came to bid the like Defiance to the Law, having serv'd double Apprenticethips among his Brethren in Iniquity in a Country allotted them in lieu of a worse Destiny due to their Crimes, he straggles up and down till he finds a Colony of different Stamp, innocent in Principle and Practice, but ignorant of crafty Subtilties and Knavery, and consequently fittest to make Tools of for our Hero, who with Huff and Bluster begins to set up for a Person of Reputation and Character, and by his Eloquence, or rather Noise, at first brought many Innocents to give Credit so much to him, as had like to be their and many others Ruin; for Knaves, by the Countenance and Mistakes of honest Men, often find Means to enrich themselves upon the Ruins of others, as appears by the Character before-going our Hero has already done. And in order to gain his darling Point absolute Power, he (well knowing that honest Men are most apt to be too credulous) took Pains, in publick and private, to persuade his new Acquaintance that he is a Man of much Honour, Truth, and Sincerity, tho' in Reality has not the least Title to any of these Virtues, as his Actions manifestly denote: And to complete his Work, he also sets up and engages others in the Service, to expose him as a Man of incomparable Art and Skill in the Law, and therefore dreadful to be opposed. Having prevailed on his Fellow Citizens to believe him thus qualified and formidable, he soon ty'd them to his own Measures: First, he obtains from the Lord of the Soil the Value of several thousand Pounds for Services pretended, though in Reality he has
been

been the greatest Enemy his Benefactor had, as well before as since the Donation, by introducing Arbitrary Power to himself, and rendering the Government so uneasy as to make and cause many Persons deserting it: And to show his further Gratitude, he took from his Benefactor the Right of being Landlord of a new-made City, and by a Wield got himself Master of it, against the known Right and Inclination of his Benefactor.

Add to his Ingratitude his indelible Character of never forgetting or forgiving any (tho' merely supposed) Injury, and never to omit executing Revenge, tho' he most publicly sacrifices Truth, Honour, Common Justice, and Honesty in the Attempt; many Instances of which may be had in the foregoing History of his Life. Among others, to be reveng'd of a Religious Society (against all which he bears mortal Hatred) he affirmed at the Head of a publick Assembly, that he never advis'd in the making a Deed against the Interest of the said Society; though the contrary appeared under his own Hand. At another time, to gratify his Pique against a private Person, he vow'd in open Court against most notorious Truths: Upon the like Occasion he affirm'd a Bond to have been given three several times to certain Purposes, when the contrary was well known to him; yet would he ruin the Trade of his Country rather than be debarr'd of his Revenge. Has he not been the Man of that Honour that at Night stood for Hours before a Gentleman's Door (open in warm Weather) to hear what pass'd in Conversation within between the Gentleman and his Company

Company over an innocent Bottle, and has he not communicated to a Magistrate what passed in that Company? Having rigged himself into a Station near the Seat of Judicature, whose Rulers he well knew to be ignorant, has he not imposed on them by his Influence to make Orders and Decrees against all Law and Equity, and thereby most unjustly depriv'd honest Men of several hundred Pounds that he knew to be their just Right; and has he not used much Art and Cunning to bring the sole Power of Judicature into his Hand, and Mens Properties to be by him arbitrarily determin'd? Nothing is more notorious than his Attempts by Threats and Menaces to intimidate some from giving just Evidence against him, and by false Stories and sham Pretences endeavoured to perswade others to give false Evidence for him against the Widow and Fatherless. Has he not betray'd an Assembly into the ingrateful Crime of supplanting a known powerful Friend, to prefer an Instrument of his, in order to make him the more solicitous in defending him against the just Claim of the Widow and Orphan? Has he not been so cruel to a poor Man, only for relating what he had heard a Magistrate in open Court (in the Country where our Hero is best known) say of his vile Character, as to procure his Bread to be taken from him and his Family, which cost them their Lives soon after.

F I N I S.