

PHILADELPHIA, March 28.

Extract of a Letter from a Gentleman in Kingston, Jamaica, to his Friend in Philadelphia, dated January 2, 1750.

You may, probably; e'er now, have heard of the unhappy Fate of the Doctors Williams and Bennet here: But as the Motives which induced the Quarrel, may not be known to you and others in Philadelphia (the constant Subject of Conversation amongst us) I send you the following Account, which may be depended on. Dr. Williams, about six Months ago, published *An Essay on the Bilious Fever of this Island*; which, tho' indeed not so compleat a Performance as might have been expected from a Man of Learning and Experience, yet was full of just Reasoning, and propos'd a Method of Cure in general good, and supported with that strongest of Arguments, great Success in Practice. Dr. Bennet, a Gentleman born at Montserrat, had his Education in Great Britain, commenced Physician in France, and came to Jamaica, not above three Months before Dr. Williams's Essay was printed; soon after the Publication of which, Dr. Bennet gave us a Pamphlet, intitled, *An Enquiry into the Essay, &c.* It consisted chiefly of Ridiculy, discover'd little of the learning of its Author, and (I need not say) was not founded on Experience. Dr. Williams neglected the Enquiry for a considerable Time, but at length published in the Courant a *Partic Epistle*, addressed to Colonel Price; in which, among other severe Lines against Bennet, are the following:

Unhappy NORTON fell beneath his Skill,
The first Attempt, alas! he made to kill.

After this several Pieces were published in the Courant, particularly a Letter by Bennet to the Author of the Verses addressed to Colonel Price. Williams, after some Time, published a Letter to Bennet in which he proved, by the Testimony of others, many gross Falsities in Bennet's; and this he did in a Manner that Justice to his own Character seem'd to require. I shall not (nor indeed will Time allow me) to trouble you with a Detail of the many Circumstances of this Affair. Provok'd by some Passages in Williams's Letter, Bennet on Saturday went to Williams at a Store in Kingston, and calling him aside, endeavour'd to throw a Box of Saus in his Eyes; upon which a Scuffle ensued, and Williams got the Advantage. A Magistrate thereupon (suspecting the Consequence) sent for Williams, but did not bind him over, taking his Parole of Honour that he would not accept a Challenge, if Bennet should offer one, nor would fight a Duel with him, if he could avoid it. In the Evening of the same Day, two or three Challenges, without Name were sent to Dr. Williams, who did not think proper to take Notice of Papers unsubstantiated. The next Morning, between four and five a Clock, several Persons (it is said three) whereof Bennet was one, knocked at the Door of Dr. Williams's House, but were otherwise so silent, that tho' Williams several Times called to know who they were, he received no Answer; upon which, taking his Pistols with him, he went down, and opened the Door, and seeing three Persons discharged one of the Pistols, which was loaded with Pidgeon Shot, amongst them, and presently the second; but neither of them did any perceptible Injury: Then they went on the other Side the Street, Williams followed, and Bennet and he drew their Swords, and after some Passes, Williams entered Bennet on the right Side, and came out of the left; whereupon Bennet fell, and Williams immediately received a Wound, which entered at the upper Part of the left Breast, and came out at the right Shoulder Blade, of which he instantly died: But from whom he receiv'd this Wound, is Matter of great Speculation and uncertain Conjecture, occasioned by the Manner in which it was given. Bennet survived two Hours, in which Time he did not reproach Williams with any ungentle Conduct; neither have I heard of any Wound by Ball (as it has been reported he receiv'd) discovered on Bennet's Body. Many white People were Spectators of this tragical Scene, who did not offer to interpose. Their Accounts of the Matter are very various, and each has differed from himself since the Time it happened. The Negroes, who were present, give strange Accounts of it. Upon the whole, it is the prevailing Opinion that Williams was deliberately m—d, from the Manner in which he was killed, and the Sword having never appeared, with which it is said the mortal Wound was given. This Affair has added to the well known Heat of Parties here, some taking up the Defence of Bennet's, and others of Williams's Conduct.—That it may not be productive of more Mischief, is the wish of,

Yours &c.
GREGOLIUS.

ANNAPOLIS.

We hear that Sarah Bevers was lately tried at the special Court in Cecil County for the Murder of her Ballard Child, and found Guilty.

The two Negro Women condemn'd at our last County Court, are to be Executed here on Friday next.

On Monday Evening last the Dwelling House of the Widow Wooden, near West River, took Fire, occasioned by a Candle falling among some Cotton or Flax, and burnt down to the Ground, with almost every Thing in it.

The Man mentioned in our last to be found murder'd in Baltimore County, was prov'd to be, (as was suppos'd) Donald McKennie, Mr. Digger's Overseer, and the Person suspected to be the Murderer is Daniel Sullivan, an Irish Convict, who was taken up in Cecil County, and is now brought to Town, and in our Goal, in order for his Trial.

This Day came on before the Honourable the Judges of the Provincial Court now sitting, the Trial of Jeremiah Swift, who murdered two of his Master's Children at Elk Ridge, in this County, on the 14th of March past, and knock'd down and almost kill'd the third. He was at work in the Field with John and Benjamin Hatherly, his Master's Sons, one of them twelve, the other about ten Years of Age, when one of them ask'd him if he thought he could make a Thousand Hills before Night; for they were making Hills for Tobacco; he told the Boy he would let him know before Night, and immediately, without the least Provocation, struck John on the Head with his Hoe, and knock'd him down, and then repeated his Blows 'till he kill'd him on the Spot: Little Benjamin seeing his poor Brother thus butcher'd, and expecting the same Fate, ran from him to the Distance of about 60 or 80 Yards where he was stopp'd by a Fence; and there the Villain overtook him, and with the same Hoe, knock'd him down, so that he could remember no more, for he was left for dead; but after some Time recover'd, and is now so well as to appear in Court as an Evidence; but his Skull on the back of the Head is dented in almost as deep, and full as large, as a Saucer, and he lost a vast deal of Blood. From the Field the Villain went to the House, and there with a Knife stabb'd Elizabeth Hatherly, a Girl of about 14 Years of Age, in several Places, and then with an Axe gave her several Blows on the Head, which kill'd her, but she did not die immediately, for there were some Signs of Life in her when her Father and Mother came home at Night; for they had that Day been to a Funeral at some Distance. Their Trouble and Distress on this melancholy and shocking fight, is easier to be conceiv'd than express'd. Brigid Leonard Hatherly, another Child, about 9 Years of Age, who appear'd in Court to witness against the Murderer, being in the House, endeavour'd to help his Sister, and took hold of the Knife, telling him not to kill her; but he pluck'd the Knife (which happen'd to be dull) thro' the Child's Hand, which cut him in several Places. After he had perpetrated these atrocious Murders, he made off, and got a few Miles from the House, but Vengeance pursued him, and he was tobn taken up, and secured in Goal. He was arraign'd upon one Indictment only, which was for the Murder of Elizabeth, to which, on Trial he pleaded Not Guilty; but the Evidence against him was so full and explicit, that the Jury did not carry two Minutes before they brought him in Guilty.

By Letters from London, which came by the way of Virginia, we hear, That the Quarr's Supply, Capt. Horro, was got safe Home.—That the Experiment, Capt. Conroy, was safe arriv'd in St. George's Channel.—That Capt. Sedgwick, in the Friendship, and three of his Men, were wash'd overboard; the three Men drowned, but he was saved.—A Gentleman writes in a Letter of December 31. "The Negro, name, Biggs, is put into Bristol, I hear, with the Loss of "Five Hands and Two of his Maths."

ADVERTISEMENTS.

Anne Arundel County, April 2, 1751.

THIS is to give Notice that the Vestry of Poplar-Corridor Parish, purposes to build a Chapel at Poplar Springs with Stone or Wood, Forty Feet long and Twenty-four Feet wide: Any Person or Persons that are inclinable to undertake the same, may agree with the said Vestry at the said Parish Church, on the first Tuesday in May next.

Signed by Order of the Vestry.
LANCET TODD, Register.

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