

Judge Jeffreys, was sent out on the Western Circuit to try those, who had taken part in the rebellion, and now crowded the gaols of Dorsetshire and Somersetshire. In the **Bloody Assize**, as this circuit has been called, Jeffreys hanged 320 rebels, and sent upwards of 841 poor wretches into slavery to the West Indies. He himself boasted "that he had hanged more traitors than all his predecessors since the Conquest." "At every spot where two roads met, on every market-place, on the green of every large village, which had furnished Monmouth with soldiers, ironed corpses clattering in the wind, or heads and quarters stuck on poles, poisoned the air, and made the traveller sick with horror."

NOTE.—But Jeffreys was not content with merely putting his wretched victims to death, he mocked and insulted them with coarse language and brutal jokes. One of them pleaded that he was a good Protestant. "Protestant," cried Jeffreys, "you mean Presbyterian, I'll hold you a wager of it. I can smell a Presbyterian forty miles." Some one tried to move the hard-hearted judge to pity in favour of one of the accused. "My lord," he said, "this poor creature is on the parish." "Do not trouble yourselves," said Jeffreys, "I will ease the parish of the burden," and he ordered the man to be hanged at once.

Some of the prisoners only escaped hanging by bribing the Judge with enormous sums of money, one man paying as much as £15,000. Batches of prisoners were given to the Queen to be sold as slaves in the plantations of the West Indies, while the maids of honour actually received £2,000 as a ransom, wrung out of the parents of the poor school-girls, who had presented a standard and a Bible to Monmouth at Taunton.

James turned a deaf ear to all entreaties for mercy. Good Bishop Ken interceded on behalf of the prisoners, but James was inexorable. Even Churchill revolted at the hard-heartedness with which James refused to listen to every appeal for mercy. "*This marble*," he said, laying his hand on the chimney-piece, on which he was leaning, "*is not harder than the King's heart.*" At a later period, Jeffreys himself stated, that even in his utmost cruelty, he had fallen short of his master's wishes.

Among the many instances of Jeffreys' barbarous treatment of his prisoners may be mentioned that of an aged lady, named Alice Lisle, who lived at Winchester. She had, it appears, afforded shelter to two fugitives from Sedgmoor, and Jeffreys sentenced her to be burnt alive, a sentence which was afterwards mercifully commuted to beheading. She met her death with a serene courage. Another woman named Elizabeth Gaunt was burnt at Tyburn for a similar offence. Some of the prisoners, to whom Jeffreys was unable to bring home the charge of high treason, were convicted of misdemeanours, and