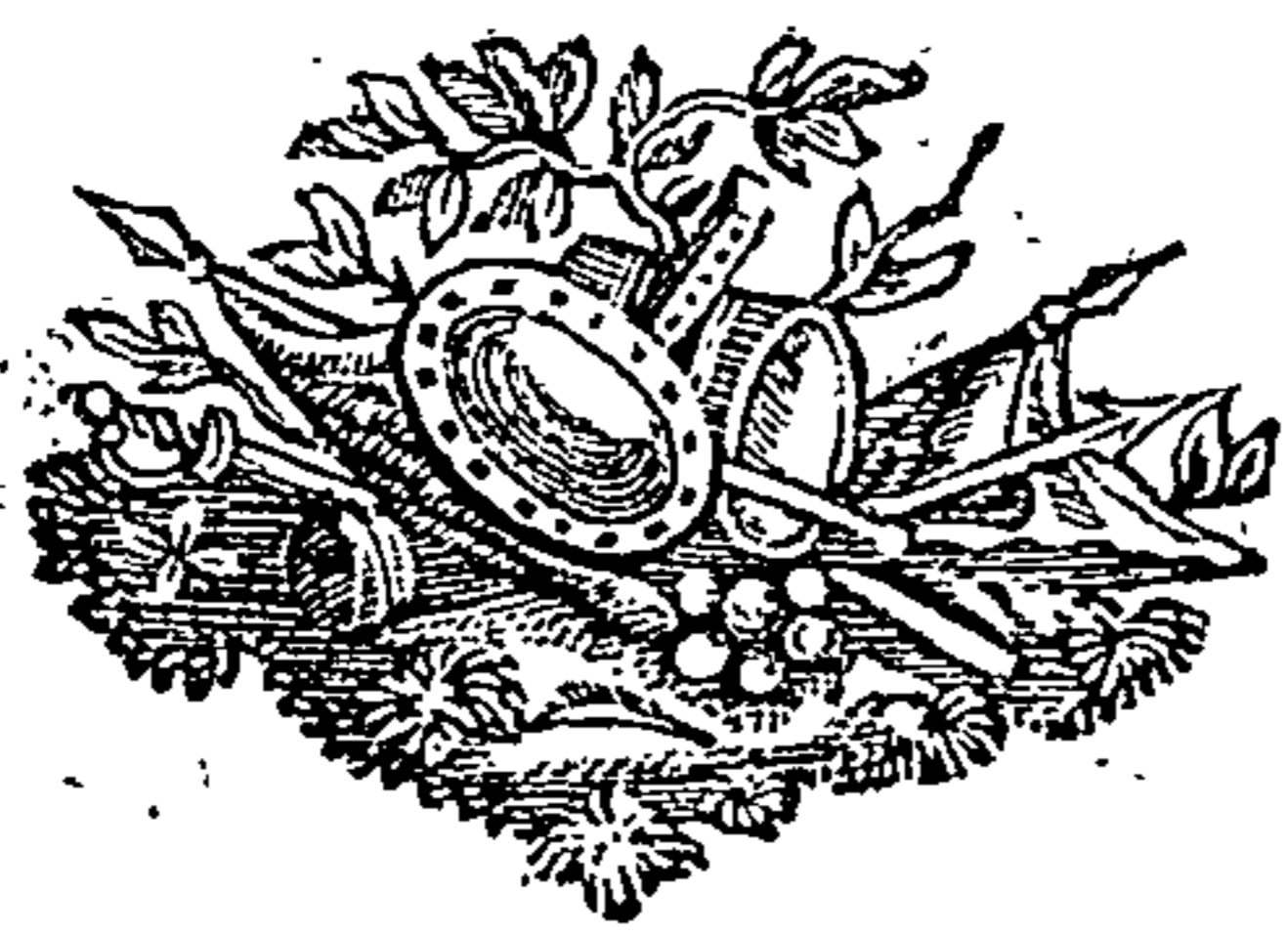
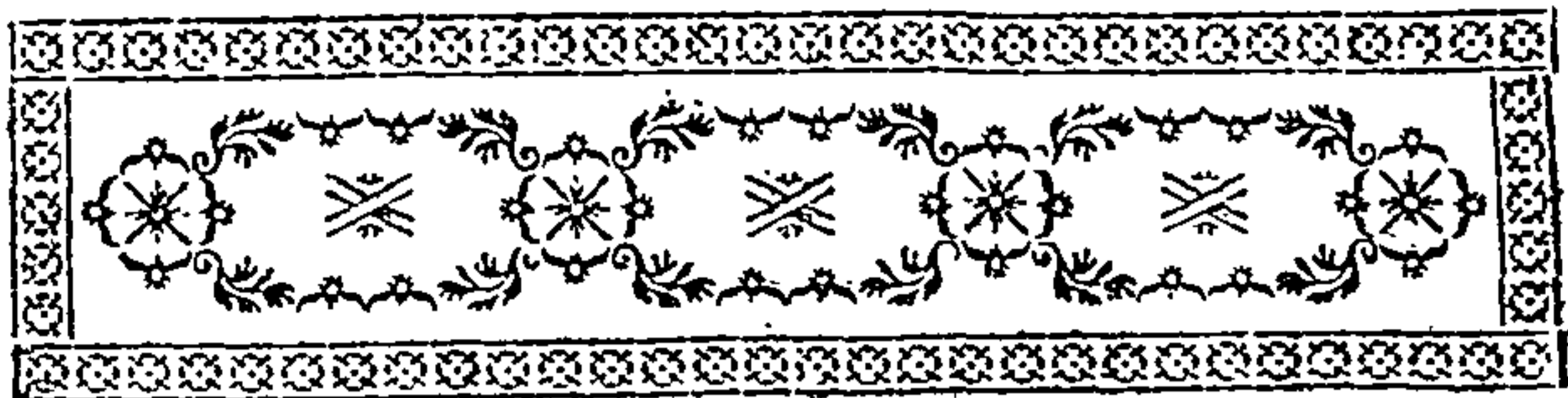


1780 26

THE  
 C A S E  
 OF THE  
 UNHAPPY PEOPLE  
 OF  
 C U S T R I N,  
 in the NEW-MARK, in the Electorate  
 of BRANDENBURG,  
 Since the INVASION of the *RUSSIANS*  
 in 1758.



L O N D O N,  
 Printed by H. MILLER, in *Fontain Court*,  
 opposite the *Bell Bagnio*, *St. Martin's Lane*.  
 M D C C L I X.



THE  
C A S E  
OF THE  
UNHAPPY PEOPLE  
OF  
C U S T R I N.

**T**HE *English* Reader has before now been informed, through the Channel of the public News-Papers, of the total Destruction of the City of *Custrin*, and several other Instances of Cruelty committed by the *Russians* in the Province of the *New-Mark*. But there being a Collection to be made in *England*, *Scotland*, and other Protestant Countries, for the Benefit of the unhappy Sufferers; it will not be improper to give some farther

Account of the unparallel'd Barbarities of these Troops, by which the Inhabitants are reduced to the lowest Ebb of Misery. To relate all the Particulars thereof, or even the greatest Part of them, would perhaps be as needless, as it is impossible. The mentioning of a few will be enough to convince every body of the unspeakable Hardships and Distress that Country labours under, and to excite the Compassion of those who have it in their Power, and are charitably inclined to relieve them, in some measure, out of their Abundance the LORD has blessed them with.

Shocking as this Account will appear to be, the Public may nevertheless depend upon its being strictly true, as may be proved by authentic Letters from Persons of undeniable Character, who have been Eye-witnesses of it.



TOWARDS the latter End of June 1758, the *Russians* entered the *New-Mark*, and seized upon the Fortrefs of *Driesen*, and totally plun-

plundered the City of *Friedberg*, *Selenow*, &c. It would be endless to enumerate all the horrid Scenes of Villany and Outrage committed in these Places by them. The Case of poor Mr. *Sch*—— may serve as a Specimen of the rest: He was heretofore one of the most substantial Inhabitants of *Selenow*; but after having been dangerously wounded in four different Places of his Body, was robbed of every thing. His Wife was forced to see her Infant of which she was delivered but seven Days before, fall a Victim to their Fury, and she herself left to perish in a Wood. In short; the whole Province is laid waste and desolate, and a great many People formerly in Affluence, are now quite naked, and destitute of the Necessaries of Life, and constrained to beg. The Nobility and Gentry shared the same Fate with others. Even the Ladies of Quality have not been spared; many of whom have miserably lost their Lives. But nothing comes up to the inhuman Treatment the Clergy have met with in these Places. They seemed to be fixed upon, in an especial manner, as the properest Objects upon which to glut their more than brutal Fury. Their Wives  
and

and Daughters have been shamefully abused; the Ministers burnt in Straw, shot with Pistols; stabbed with Pikes and Swords; had their Limbs cut off, and their Bodies otherwise unmercifully tore and mangled.

Here it would be proper to say something of the *Cossacks* and *Calmucks* in particular, who serve as Irregulars in the *Russian* Army, and have above all others done the greatest Mischiefs: But an Account of their Shape, Dress, Arms, Religion, Way of Living and Fighting, having already appeared in the News-Papers, it would be superfluous to repeat it. It is no Fiction that the *Calmucks* live much upon human Flesh, and are especially very greedy of little Children's; what they cannot eat at once they carry along with them. Some Time ago a Portmanteau was found in the Road with half a Child in it; and thus too many poor Parents have lost their Children. One of their own Officers said, 'It is a Sign of God's wrath against the *New-Mark*, that he suffers these People to enter it.'

The 14th and 15th of *August* the Siege of *Custrin* began. A neighbouring Gentleman describes it thus: ‘ On Tuesday Morning at  
 ‘ Eight o’Clock a terrible Cannonading com-  
 ‘ menced. An Hour and a half after a pro-  
 ‘ digious Fire was seen, and continued ascend-  
 ‘ ing as from a burning Furnace for twenty-  
 ‘ eight Hours. At first it was the general  
 ‘ Opinion, that it was only the Suburbs on  
 ‘ this Side, which the Commandant himself  
 ‘ had set Fire to: But we soon discovered  
 ‘ from some *Russian* Officers that it was the  
 ‘ City itself, and that the Suburbs were still  
 ‘ remaining. It was certainly a great Fault of  
 ‘ the General that he did not burn these Sub-  
 ‘ urbs before the Enemy arrived, since be-  
 ‘ hind them General Fermor could very con-  
 ‘ veniently erect his Batteries, under the Cover  
 ‘ of the large Houses, without Opposition.  
 ‘ A *Russian* Lieutenant-Colonel told us, that  
 ‘ the lamentable Shrieks and Cries of the dis-  
 ‘ tressed Inhabitants had even raised Compas-  
 ‘ sion in his Heart. It contributed very much  
 ‘ to the heightening of their Calamity, that,  
 ‘ contrary to the Rules of War, the City was  
 ‘ not summoned by a Trumpet, but in an  
 ‘ Instant

‘ Instant set on Fire ; for which reason a great  
 ‘ many People were so affrighted as to fly  
 ‘ away naked. Not one Dwelling-house is re-  
 ‘ maining. Every thing is consumed by the  
 ‘ Flames, except a small Chapel for the Use  
 ‘ of the Garrison, and the Prison, which stand  
 ‘ in a Wood. At that Time an immense  
 ‘ Quantity of very valuable Things were trea-  
 ‘ sured up in *Custrin*, being looked upon by  
 ‘ every one in the Country to be the safest  
 ‘ Place in which to secure their Effects. The  
 ‘ Royal Exchequer, containing more than ten  
 ‘ Millions of Rixdollers ; the Arsenal ; the  
 ‘ Archives of the Kingdom of *Prussia* ; the  
 ‘ most valuable Effects of Gold and Silver,  
 ‘ together with the Church-Plate, which was  
 ‘ conveyed thither from almost every Town  
 ‘ and Village, were all destroyed by the rage-  
 ‘ ing Flames. During the Siege of this un-  
 ‘ happy Town the Enemy have shewn a  
 ‘ most abominable Delight at its Destruction :  
 ‘ When the Fire seemed to be abated and the  
 ‘ Flames to be quenched a little, they imme-  
 ‘ diately throwed Bombs and Fire-balls into  
 ‘ it again, till it began to burn with greater  
 ‘ Violence ; and such Discharges having done  
 ‘ the

‘ the desired Execution, great Rejoicings, at-  
 ‘ tended with Music, were heard in the Ene-  
 ‘ my’s Camp. Thus the Capital of the *New-*  
 ‘ *Mark* was laid level with the Ground. This  
 ‘ City, before its deplorable Fate, contained  
 ‘ large, new and stately Buildings three Sto-  
 ‘ ries high, the Royal Palace, the Session-  
 ‘ House for the Regency of the *New-Mark*,  
 ‘ the Exchequer, &c. and was a flourishing  
 ‘ trading Town, having two navigable Rivers  
 ‘ the *Oder* and the *Warta*. But here the Mis-  
 ‘ fortune did not end: The terrible Cata-  
 ‘ strophe of *Custrin* was followed by many bad  
 ‘ Consequences to the neighbouring Places.  
 ‘ The whole Country now being laid open,  
 ‘ the nearest Villages, Churches and all, were  
 ‘ directly plundered, and reduced likewise to  
 ‘ Ashes. In one of these Villages three of  
 ‘ the Inhabitants were killed: in another above  
 ‘ half of the People burnt aliye. Old and  
 ‘ young, little Children not excepted, have  
 ‘ been drove with Pikes and Spears into the  
 ‘ midst of the Flames.’

The 24th of *August*, at Noon, the Siege  
 of *Custrin* was raised, the Reason of which



was the unexpected and providential Arrival of the King of *Prussia* with 20,000 Men.

The 25th that ever memorable and glorious Victory at *Zorndorf* happened, which the King of *Prussia* obtained over the *Russian* Forces, which, according to all Probability, consisted of more than 80,000 Men.

During and after the Action the *Russians* set Fire to seven of the finest and most opulent Villages in the whole Country: And, to increase the Calamity, the *Cossacks* and *Cal-mucks*, during the Conflagration, ranged about, committing the most unheard of Cruelties.

Besides what has been already mentioned, the following horrid Facts are not to be omitted. The scattered Inhabitants of *Wil-kersdorf* that were still alive, thinking to save themselves by taking Refuge in the Churches, locked themselves up in them, but the *Cossacks* forced themselves in, and shot, stabbed, and cut to Pieces both old and young. Few escaped by the Swiftness of their Heels. At *Quartshen* seven murdered People lay on the Ground,  
among

among whom were found the Body of a young Gentleman's Tutor, entirely mangled, two Clerks of the Bailiff of that Riding, a Mother, who had been shot, and her Daughter, eight Years old, lying near her, cut to Pieces, likewise a Woman big with Child, run through with a Pike. A Father from *Cammin*, had his Son of but two Years of Age, stabbed in his Arms. The Minister of *Begersdorf* passing over the *Oder*, was laid hold on by the *Cossacks*, they fastened a Rope round his Body, then jumped with their Horses in the Water, and dragged the unhappy Gentleman through the Water along with them. The Prisoners they take from us, must suffer Want very often, and they even shew them Mercy if they give them the Parings of Turnips and the Crusts of their coarse Bread.

At *Wilkersdorf*, where they destroyed half of the Inhabitants by Fire and Sword, they chained above forty-five People together, and thus compelled them to run along with them by the Side of their Horses. Among these unhappy ones there were several Mothers with their Sucklings. Whenever these poor

Wretches begged for Bread, &c. they took them by the Hair of their Heads, and so pulling them on the Grass, commanded them to eat it.

Sometimes they were constrained to kneel down and say their Prayers, then they sharpened their Knives before their Eyes, which cruel Preparations seemed to indicate their immediate Dispatch: when at last Horses were killed, and their Flesh divided among them, without Bread or Salt, which they were forced to live upon during the Time of three Weeks, and being afterwards released; a great many of them have since died.

And in this manner many thousands more have perished. The rest that escaped with their Lives, are reduced from a decent and reputable Condition to a State of Want and Beggary.

It would melt any Heart to see the Trees, Gardens and Houses, in some Places for twenty Miles round, entirely ruined and destroyed, and the People, for want of Utensils,  
Cattle

Cattle and Men, unable to cultivate their Land.

This is but a short and imperfect Sketch of the present miserable Situation of the *New-Mark*. But perhaps enough has been said to raise the Compassion of all true Protestants and Christians.

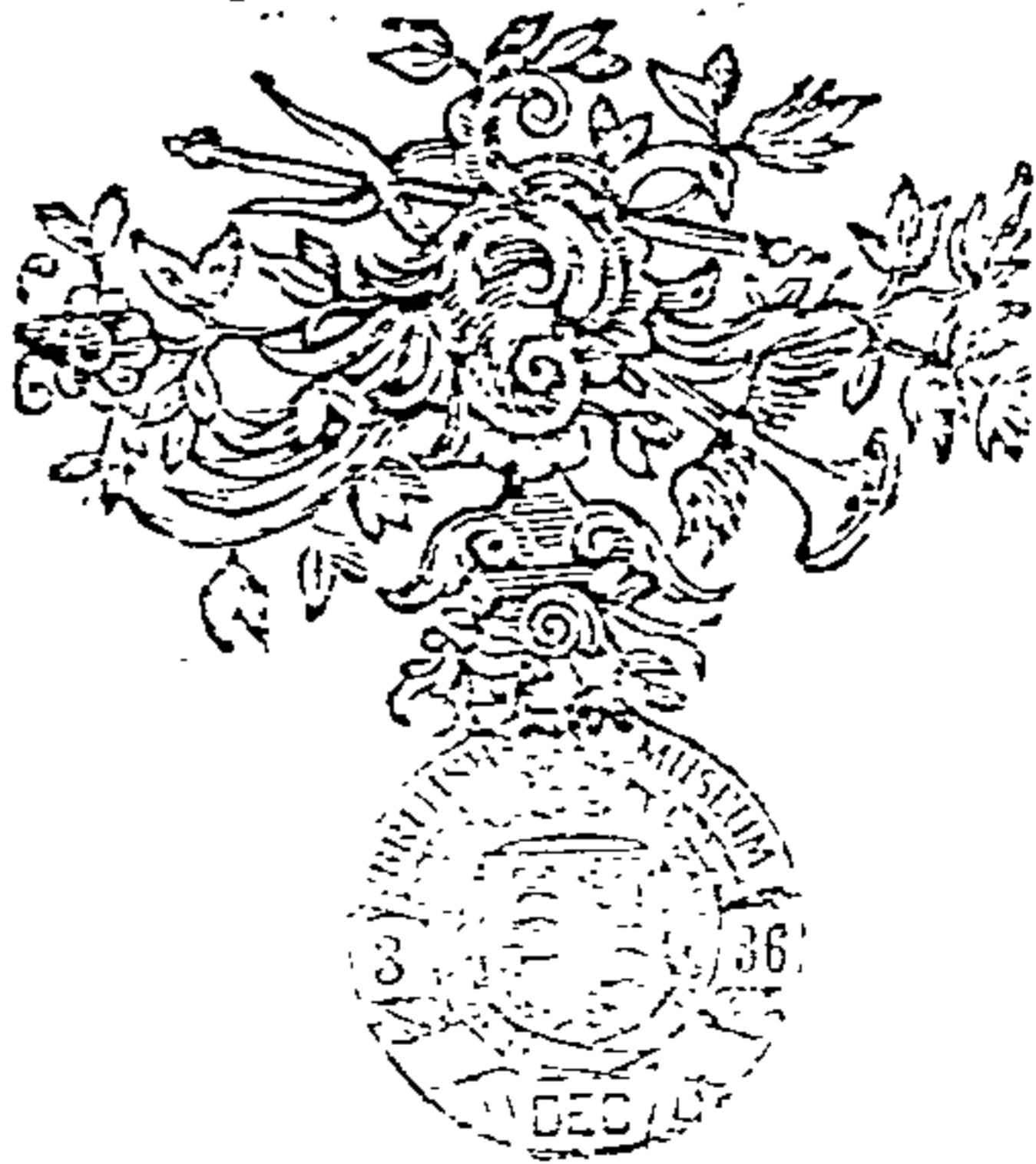
Such as are desirous to know more of it; will be pleased to read the Extracts of two other Letters on the same Subject, lately printed by Mr. *William Strahan*.



**M**AY GOD in his infinite Mercy preserve the Inhabitants of this and all other Countries from such Enemies, whose tender Mercies are perfect Cruelties; and fulfill all his Promises of Reward on such as shall think proper on this Occasion, *to cast their Bread upon the Water, and rejoice the Hearts of those whom the LORD has so deeply humbled!*  
a great

a great many of whom, on the Day of Judgment, will, no doubt, stand forth, and say: *LORD, we were an hungred, and these gave us Meat; we were thirsty, and they gave us Drink; we were naked, and they clothed us; we were sick and in Prison, and they visited and came unto us.* And then the KING shall answer and say unto them: *Verily, I say unto you, what you have done unto one of the least of these my Brethren, you have done unto me.*

**T H E   E N D .**





Benefactions are taken in by the following Gentlemen:

Henry Uthhoff, Esq;

Henry and John Shiffner, Esqrs.

Samuel Wilson and Sons, Esqrs.

Nathanael Voogt and des Cotes, Esqrs.

Paul Amfinck, Esq;

Merchants in *London.*

*In Scotland:*

William Hogg and Son, Esqrs.

Merchants at *Edinburg.*