

TRIALS FOR ADULTERY:

OR, THE

HISTORY OF DIVORCES.

BEING

SELECT TRIALS

AT

DOCTORS COMMONS,

FOR

ADULTERY, | CRUELTY,
FORNICATION, | IMPOTENCE, &c.

From the Year 1760, to the present Time.

Including the whole of the Evidence on each Cause.

TOGETHER WITH

The LETTERS, &c. that have been intercepted between
the amorous Parties.

The whole forming a complete History of the PRIVATE LIFE,
INTRIGUES, and AMOURS of many Characters in the most
elevated Sphere: every Scene and Transaction, however ridiculous, whimsical, or extraordinary, being fairly represented, as becomes a faithful Historian, who is fully determined not to sacrifice *Truth* at the Shrine of *Guilt* and *Folly*.

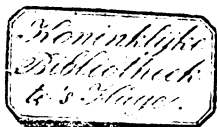
TAKEN IN SHORT-HAND, by a CIVILIAN.

V O L. V.

L O N D O N:

Printed for S. BLADON, No. 13, Pater-noster Row;

MDCCLXXX.



DAVID LOCKWOOD, Esq.

AGAINST

ELIZABETH LOCKWOOD.

LIBEL given in the 14th of *May*,
1777.

THE above-mentioned libel sets forth, that in the months of January, February, March, and April, 1764, David Lockwood, a lieutenant in his Majesty's navy, of the age of twenty-one years and upwards, made his addressees, in the way of marriage, to Elizabeth Lockwood, then Elizabeth Crofts, spinster, a minor, of the age of nineteen years and upwards, daughter of the Reverend Joshua Crofts, of East Bradenham, in the county of Norfolk; and, on or about the twenty-sixth of April, 1764, they were lawfully

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joined together in holy matrimony, according to the rites and ceremonies of the church of England : that the said parties consummated the said marriage by carnal copulation and the procreation of children ; that they have had ten children, seven of whom are now living ; that they continued to live and cohabit together till about the month of March last : that the said Elizabeth Lockwood, not having the fear of God before her eyes, but being seduced by the devil, and her own wicked lusts, did contract a criminal intercourse with Simeon Knowles, a menial servant, in the service of the said Reverend Joshua Crofts, her father, and committed the crime of adultery with him, at various times and places ; particularly upon the grass in the bleach-grounds, belonging to Mr. Crofts's house, and in many parts of the house belonging to the said Mr. Croft ; also in a ditch belonging to an inclosure in the parish of East Bradenham : the party proponent therefore prays right and justice to be effectually done and administered to him and his party in the premises, and
that

that the said David Lockwood may be divorced from bed, board, and mutual cohabitation with the said Elizabeth Lockwood, his wife, on account of adultery, &c.

27th May, 1777,

The Deposition of Elizabeth Smith.

ELIZABETH SMITH, of Market Dereham, in the county of Norfolk, spinster, aged twenty-four years and upwards, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, that she well knows David Lockwood, and Elizabeth Lockwood, his wife, the parties in this cause, and came to know them seven years ago last Michaelmas, by means of her then going to live as a servant, or nursery-maid, to the said Elizabeth Lockwood, at Mrs. Lockwood's father's; to wit, at the Reverend Joshua Crofts's, at East Bradenham, in the county of Norfolk, where the said parties in this cause lived and cohabited as lawful hus-

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band and wife, and they had then three children living: that the deponent continued to live as servant at the said Rev. Mr. Crofts's, till within these six or seven weeks past; and in the time that the deponent lived as servant to Mrs. Lockwood, as aforesaid, she the said Mrs. Lockwood had five children born at her said father's house: and the deponent farther saith, that she well knows Simeon Knowles; and he the said Simeon Knowles came to live as servant to the said Reverend Mr. Crofts, at East Bradenham aforesaid; on the Wednesday after Old Christmas-day was twelve-month; and continued so to do, till within about a fortnight or three weeks of the deponent's leaving her said service: and the deponent further saith, that the said Simeon Knowles is a young man, about four or five-and-twenty years of age; and, after the said Simeon Knowles had been at the Reverend Mr. Crofts's about a month, he and Mrs. Lockwood used to take frequent opportunities of getting together, and toying and playing; and going into the pantry, and other places

places by themselves; and the deponent hath many times seen Mrs. Lockwood kiss the said Simeon Knowles: and the deponent remembers, one Sunday morning, seeing the said Mrs. Lockwood put on the said Simeon Knowles's shirt in the kitchen; and the said David Lockwood, (the husband) was then in bed, and it was in harvest time; and the said Simeon Knowles sent the deponent up for the shirt; and the deponent was in the kitchen when Mrs. Lockwood put it on the said Simeon Knowles, for they did not make any ceremony with the deponent, and the said Mrs. Lockwood hath many times, (in the deponent's presence) put her hand into the said Simeon Knowles's breeches; and hath, at such times, often sent the deponent out of the room: the deponent further saith, that, in the course of last summer, but she cannot recollect the time more particularly, the deponent saw Mrs. Lockwood, between twelve and one o'clock at noon, go into the bleach-ground, not a great many yards from Mr. Crofts's house aforesaid, and presently after the deponent saw

saw the said Simeon Knowles follow Mrs. Lockwood into the said bleach-ground: that the deponent out of curiosity, went directly to the hedge of the said bleach-ground, and stood and looked through the hedge, which is not a thick one, and then saw the said Simeon Knowles lay the said Mrs. Lockwood down upon her back, pretty near the hedge or bush; and then saw him lift up her petticoats, so that the deponent saw Mrs. Lockwood's bare thighs; and then the said Simeon Knowles lay upon the said Mrs. Lockwood, and their bodies were in motion, and they had the carnal use and knowledge of each other, and committed the crime of adultery together: that, just before Simeon Knowles got up, the said Mrs. Lockwood said to him, "Simeon, you hurt me," and Simeon Knowles replied, "No, my dear, I don't:" that, when the said Simeon Knowles got up, the deponent saw him very plainly, for he turned about towards the deponent, and his breeches were then down, and the deponent immediately said to Mrs. Lockwood, "Madam, dinner
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“ is ready ;” and the deponent told Mrs. Lockwood that she had been there all the while ; and Mrs. Lockwood seemed much surprized ; and the deponent told her also that she had heard her say, as aforefaid, “ Simeon, you hurt me,” and Mrs Lockwood and Simeon Knowles both laughed : that the aforefaid David Lockwood was then at the Reverend Mrs. Crofts’s brother’s, at Graffland, about seven miles, or more, from East Bradenham, aforefaid ; that, some days afterwards, Mrs. Lockwood gave the deponent an old gown of her’s, and faid, she gave it to her, that she should not say any thing, (meaning of what she had at different times seen pass between Simeon Knowles and her) and further to this particular she cannot depose.

She also deposes and says, that, some time in the month of February last, Mrs. Lockwood was brought to-bed of a boy ; and, about three or four days next before she was so brought to-bed, the faid David Lockwood left East Bradenham, and went to London, and returned on the day-month

month after he set out for London : that, after Mrs. Lockwood had lain-in about a fortnight, or less, the deponent sat up five nights with her ; and every night, during those five nights, Simeon Knowles used to come (after Mr. Crofts was gone to bed) into the said Mrs. Lockwood's bed-chamber, and constantly lay in the same bed with Mrs. Lockwood ; and the deponent, who sat up in the said bed-chamber the whole of the night, doth believe that, during the aforesaid five nights, Mrs. Lockwood and Simeon Knowles had the carnal use and knowledge of each other, and committed the crime of adultery together : the deponent also saith, that, before Mrs. Lockwood lay in, as aforesaid, the deponent hath very often seen Mrs. Lockwood and Simeon Knowles in very indecent situations together, on different beds in the house, in the day-time, where they thought they were not likely to be seen by any body but the deponent, whom they did not regard : that the deponent doth verily believe, that, from the time the said David Lockwood, the producent, was informed

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informed of his wife's aforesaid criminal and adulterous conduct and behaviour, he hath not lived or cohabited with, or had any intercourse whatever with his wife, the said Elizabeth Lockwood, but the deponent doth not know how he came first to know of it.

The Mark X of
ELIZABETH SMITH.

27th May, 1777.

The Deposition of John Secker.

JOHN SECKER, of Yacksome, near Market Dereham, in the county of Norfolk, husbandman, aged twenty-four years and upwards, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, that he well knows David Lockwood and Elizabeth Lockwood, his wife, parties in this cause; and, about eight years ago, the deponent lived as a servant to them at the house of the Reverend Mr. Joshua Crofts, at East

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Bradenham, in Norfolk, for about half a year; though he had been their servant at different times before; that the deponent also well knows Simeon Knowles, who was a servant to the said Mr. Crofts, but not when the deponent lived there, for it was some years afterwards, and came to know him by seeing him in and about Bradenham parish aforesaid: and the deponent further saith, that, on Sunday afternoon, next before last Good-Friday, the deponent was going, between one and two o'clock, to see his mother, who lives but a little way from Mr. Crofts's house in Bradenham parish aforesaid; that the deponent, being about two furlongs, or some such distance, from the said house, observed the aforesaid Mrs. Lockwood, and the said Simeon Knowles going out of the road and over a gap in a hedge, into a dry ditch; and there was a horse, which the said Simeon Knowles had rode on, (as the deponent believes) fastened to a gate, within about twenty yards of the said gap: that the deponent, having heard that Mrs. Lockwood and
Simeon

Simeon Knowles were very intimate with each other, and having then observed them walking together like lovers, he determined to follow them; and accordingly he went over the gap, and, in the dry ditch aforesaid, he plainly saw Mrs. Lockwood lying on her back, and Simeon Knowles was lying upon her; and the deponent plainly saw Mrs. Lockwood's thighs; and the said Simeon Knowles's breeches were down; for the deponent saw him afterwards put up his breeches: and the deponent believes they had then the carnal knowledge of each other, and thereby committed adultery together: that the deponent spoke to Mrs. Lockwood, as Simeon Knowles was helping her up, and the deponent said, "Madam Lockwood, how do you do?" And the answer she made thereto was this, "I am nobody's foe but my own," and the deponent then went away, leaving Mrs. Lockwood and Simeon Knowles together, and the deponent afterwards told several persons what he had seen, as aforesaid: that the deponent doth not know, nor hath he any

12. *David Lockwood, against*

reason to believe, that Mr. Lockwood ever lived or cohabited, or had any intercourse with his said wife, after he came to know of her adulterous correspondence with the said Simeon Knowles.

The Mark X of
JOHN SECKER.

27th May, 1777.

The Deposition of Mary Owen.

MARY OWEN, of East Bradenham, in the county of Norfolk, widow, aged about forty-six years, a witness produced and sworn, deposes and says, that she well knows David Lockwood, and Elizabeth Lockwood, his wife, the parties in this cause, and hath so done for about ten years past, and hath frequently been at the house of the Reverend Mr. Crofts, at East Bradenham, to work at her needle; and the said parties in this cause lived in the said house, and cohabited there as lawful husband

husband and wife ; and the said Mr. Lockwood hath had ten children born at the said house of Mr. Crofts, who is her father : and the deponent further saith, that a little before harvest-time, in the last year, the deponent was employed to work at her needle at the said Mr. Crofts's house ; that after the deponent had been in the house about eight days, and having finished a piece of work she had had to do, she wanted to speak to Mrs. Lockwood aforesaid, to ask her what she should next go to work upon ; and asked her fellow-witness, (Elizabeth Smith) where the said Mrs. Lockwood was ? and she told the deponent that if she was to go up in the garret she would find her ; that the deponent accordingly went up stairs, and in the said room or garret of Simeon Knowles's, the deponent found the said Simeon Knowles in bed, and the said Mrs. Lockwood was in bed with him ; and the deponent, at that very time, saw Simeon Knowles lying on the said Mrs. Lockwood ; and they were then in the very act of carnal enjoyment : that the room-door was shut to, but not fastened,

fastened, (there being no lock or bolt to the door) that, almost as soon as the deponent came into the room, Simeon Knowles got off from Mrs. Lockwood, and bade the deponent go down stairs: that the deponent then said to Mrs. Lockwood, "Lord have mercy, Madam, what are you doing? There will be murder, when Mr. Lockwood comes to know this!" That Mrs. Lockwood replied, "Why should he come to know this? And she said further to the deponent, "If Mr. Lockwood was to be told of it, he would not believe it," or words to that very effect; and she did not appear the least frightened: that the said parties (Mrs. Lockwood and Simeon Knowles) were not undressed at that time; but the deponent saw Mrs. Lockwood's petticoats were up, and that Simeon Knowles's breeches were down; that it was then past twelve at noon, and neither of them offered to get up till past two in the afternoon; for the deponent went several times afterwards to Mrs. Lockwood, and found her and Simeon Knowles still in the bed together,

together, and they laughed, and made a joke of the deponent; for all the family were then out, except an old lady, (Mrs. Lockwood) the mother of Mrs. Lockwood, the producent, (who kept her room;) for the said Daniel Lockwood was then at Norwich, at an election; and Mr. and Mrs. Crofts, (the father and mother of the said Mrs. Lockwood) were then gone to Grassland, about ten miles from East Bradenham, aforesaid: that the deponent, several times afterwards, (when she hath been at Mr. Crofts's house at work) hath seen very indecent familiarities pass between Mrs. Lockwood and Simeon Knowles: and the deponent doth verily believe, the said David Lockwood was an utter stranger to the same; for he had a vast love for his said wife, and the highest opinion of her: she also saith, that though Mrs. Lockwood used to run great risques of being discovered, in her criminal connection with Simeon Knowles, yet she always behaved so well before her husband, that he never had any suspicion of her, to the best of this deponent's knowledge and belief:

belief: she further saith, that there would hardly be any end, if she was to relate all the instances she has seen of Mrs. Lockwood's adulterous behaviour, or connection with the said Simeon Knowles, in the garrets, chambers, stables, and almost every part in and about the house.

She further deposes and says, that Mrs. Lockwood was brought to-bed in February last, (at Mr. Crofts's aforesaid) of a boy, and the deponent attended her in her said lying-in; that Mr. Lockwood was then in London, but returned a week before Mrs. Lockwood's month was up: that, during Mr. Lockwood's absence from home, the said Simeon Knowles used constantly, for the first ten days, to come and lay down, for some time, on the bed, night and morning, after Mrs. Lockwood was delivered; and, on the ninth day of her lying-in, she told the deponent that she would have Simeon, (meaning the said Simeon Knowles) come and lay with her all night; whereupon the deponent told her that she would not stay with her any longer, if that was the case: that she then
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desired the deponent to go away that night, and to come the next morning; and said that Betty, (meaning the aforefaid Elizabeth Smith) should sit up with her; and that it would do the deponent good to take a night's rest: that, the next morning, the deponent came again to Mrs. Lockwood, and she gave the deponent a very impudent and indecent account of the said Samuel Knowles's having lain with, and had the carnal knowledge of her the preceding night: that, on the tenth night of Mrs. Lockwood's lying-in, the deponent did sit up with her, to attend her and the child; and, after eleven o'clock at night, Simeon Knowles came into the bed-chamber, with only his shirt on; and the deponent said he should not stay there; but Mrs. Lockwood bid him come into bed, which he did; and he staid with her till six o'clock the next morning: and, in the course of that night, the said Mrs. Lockwood, and Simeon Knowles had, more than once, the carnal knowledge of each other, and thereby committed the crime of adultery; and they seemed to

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glory in their wickedness, and in exposing themselves; and they did so for several nights together: that the said Elizabeth Smith sat up with them three or four, if not five nights, during the said month; that the deponent told Mrs. Lockwood's mother, (Mrs. Crofts) of the aforesaid behaviour, and she (as the deponent believes) informed Mr. Lockwood, the husband, of it; and the deponent doth verily believe that Mr. Lockwood hath not had any intercourse with his wife, since her adulterous conversation hath come to his knowledge.

The Mark X of
MARY OWEN.

14th May, 1777.

The Deposition of John Crisp.

JOHN CRISP, of East Dereham, in the county of Norfolk, attorney at law, aged about forty years, a witness produced and sworn, to the paper-writing or exhibit

bit marked No. 1, pleaded and exhibited, and now produced and shewn to the deponent, he saith, that he well knows the said exhibit to be and contain, a true copy of the original entry of the marriage of David Lockwood and Elizabeth Lockwood, (formerly Crofts) as articulate; and to have been duly extracted from the original register-book of marriages, kept in and for the parish of East Bradenham, in the county of Norfolk; and to agree therewith; by reason that he, this deponent, did, on or about the twelfth of April last, carefully make the said copy, and faithfully examined or collated the same with the aforesaid original entry, and found the same to agree therewith; and, in testimony of his having so done, the deponent wrote the certificate appearing underneath the said copy, or extract, and subscribed his name to the said certificate; and the deponent, now viewing the name, "John
" Crisp," appearing subscribed to the said exhibit marked No. 1, saith, that he well knows the said name, and also the whole body and contents of the said exhibit, to

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be of his the deponent's own proper hand-writing; and he thereby well knows it to be the very same copy, or extract, he made and collated as aforesaid: and the deponent further saith, that he well knows David Lockwood, the producent in this cause, and Elizabeth Lockwood, (formerly Crofts) his wife, the parties in this cause; and he also well knows the Reverend Mr. Joshua Crofts, of East Bradenham, in the county of Norfolk, the father of the said Elizabeth Lockwood; and he doth verily believe that David Lockwood and Elizabeth Crofts, mentioned in the aforesaid original entry, and in the aforesaid paper-writing, or extract marked No. 1, and who signed the said original entry; and the said David Lockwood, and Elizabeth Lockwood, (formerly Crofts) his wife; the parties in this cause, were and are the same persons, and not diverse; and further he cannot depose, save that the aforesaid original entry is not signed, after the words, "by me," by the clergyman, or parson who married the aforesaid parties; and the deponent, at the time he made the aforesaid copy, or entry, observed

observed the same to the aforesaid Reverend Mr. Joshua Crofts, who was with the deponent at the time, and he told the deponent, that he the said Joshua Crofts was present at the marriage of the said parties, and that the name of the clergyman who married them was Francklin.

JOHN CRISP.

S E N T E N C E.

Upon hearing the 'depositions of the witnesses in this cause, a final sentence or decree was promulged to the following effect, viz. that Mrs. Elizabeth Lockwood, after the solemnization and consummation of the marriage, &c. not having the fear of God before her eyes, &c. did, in the years and months libellate, commit the crime of adultery with Simeon Knowles, and did thereby violate her conjugal duty, &c. her husband, David Lockwood, is therefore divorced from bed, board, and mutual cohabitation with the said Elizabeth Lockwood, his wife, by reason of adultery, &c.