DEALING DOPE AND DOING DOPE
In ancient Sumeria the poppy *Papaver somniferum* was referred to as “hul gil” or “plant of joy.”

At about this point, Sumerians were beginning systematically to name the more prominent stars and constellations and to link a scheme of constellations to the twelve calendar months.

“NARRATIVE HISTORY” AMOUNTS TO FABULATION, THE REAL STUFF BEING MERE CHRONOLOGY
A NEW CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE of remarkable Events, Discoveries, and Inventions.

Also, the Æra of Men illustrious for Learning and Genius.

The whole comprehending in one View, the Analysis or Outlines of General History from the Creation to the present Time.

Before Christ.

4004 The creation of the world, and Adam and Eve.
4003 The birth of Cain, the first who was born of a woman.
3167 Enoch, for his piety, is translated into Heaven.
2348 The whole world is destroyed by a deluge which continued 377 days.
2247 The tower of Babel is built about this time by Noah’s posterity, upon which God miraculously confounds their language, and thus disperses them into different nations.

About the same time Noah, is with great probability, supposed to have parted from his rebellious offspring, and to have led a colony of some of the more tractable into the East, and there either he or one of his successors to have founded the ancient Chinese monarchy.

2234 The celestial observations are begun at Babylon, the city which first gave birth to learning and the sciences.
2188 Mizraim the son of Ham, founds the kingdom of Egypt, which lasted 1663 years down to the conquest of Cambyses, in 525 before Christ.
2059 Ninus, the son of Belus, founds the kingdom of Assyria, which lasted above 1000 years, and out of its ruins were formed the Assyrians of Babylon, those of Nineveh, and the kingdom of the Medes.
A 65-foot-long medical scroll from Egypt (discovered in 1884 by Georg Ebers and termed the “Ebers Papyrus”) lists about 800 medicinal drugs, including many herbs and spices, among them anise, caraway, cassia, coriander, fennel, cardamom, onions, garlic, thyme, mustard, sesame, fenugreek, saffron, and poppy-seed. Numerous mixtures involved opium, including one the manuscript stipulates was useful in the calming of obstreperous children.
From this point until *circa* 680 BCE, the life of Hesiod, the 1st major Greek poet after Homer, and the 1st of mainland Greece whose works have survived down to the present era. Two of his complete epics survive:

- the *Works and Days*, a description of peasant life
- the *Theogony*, an attempt to resolve conflicting accounts of Greek gods

Hesiod mentioned a town near Corinth named Mekonê or “Poppy-town” (the present-day “Sikyon”):

For when the gods and mortal men were divided at Mekonê, even then Prometheus was forward to cut up a great ox and set portions before them, trying to beguile the mind of Zeus.

This happens to be the 1st record of the *poppy* in Western literature.
Papaver somniferum L.
First known conference of Peloponnesian League. Empedocles. Threat of Persian Empire to Greece. Persian invasion of Greece defeated. In classical Greece and Rome the only drug that would present a significant drug-abuse problem would be alcohol. Although opium would be widely employed as a medicine, great caution would be being advised in its use, it would seldom be used alone, and there would remain no historic trace of any phenomenon of dependence and abuse. While cannabis was widespread in Asia Minor and Assyria, the Greek and Roman cultures would seem to us to have displayed remarkably little interest.
The extreme value of spikenard, a fragrant emollient made from *Nardostachys jatamansi*, is highlighted in a Biblical episode that would appear in *Mark 14:3-6*. A believer is chastised by other supporters for anointing Christ with the expensive spikenard, which could have been sold for charity. By the time of the *floruit* of Gaius Plinius Secundus or Pliny the Elder the increase in direct Roman trade with *India* would lower the cost of spikenard to 1/3rd the value it had held before Roman fleets began to sail with the monsoons.

The condensed juice of the immature *poppy* capsule was already known by the Greek word “opion” (*opium*) at the time of Pliny, who carefully described typical cultivation of the plant and the preparation of the extract, as well as cataloging its various benefits and dangers.

**CHANGE IS ETERNITY, STASIS A FIGMENT**
DEALING DOPE

700 CE

DOING DOPE
The poppy of China and India was introduced to the Arabs, who would inherit and expand the classical medical legacy and knowledge of opium. At first use of *Papaver somniferum* would be limited to medicinal purposes, and the plant would be favored as a beverage made from the seeds (nowadays even the seeds are contraband in Saudi Arabia, even when destined for use in cooking Indian foods).
By about this point in India, the opium poppy *Papaver somniferum* was being cultivated, eaten, and drunk by all classes as a household remedy, it was being indulged in by rulers as a recreation, and it was being offered to soldiers to increase their courage.

By about this point in China, the Sung dynasty, the medicinal use of the seeds of the opium poppy *Papaver somniferum* had become widespread (by 1100, the more potent capsule would also be coming into use, but pure opium would not yet be extracted from that capsule).

**LIFE IS LIVED FORWARD BUT UNDERSTOOD BACKWARD?**
— **NO, THAT’S GIVING TOO MUCH TO THE HISTORIAN’S STORIES. LIFE ISN’T TO BE UNDERSTOOD EITHER FORWARD OR BACKWARD.**
At about this point the opium poppy *Papaver somniferum* was being introduced into China.

The neo-Confucian scholar Chu Hsi died.
Throughout the period of the Inca Empire (1200-1553), the chewing of coca leaves, containing minor amounts of unrefined cocaine, was central to Inca religious and social systems, with use controlled by ritual sanctions. The leaves of the plant were used for their euphoric, energizing effects and the plant was viewed as a divine gift of the Sun God.
November 11 or December 17: Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim (Philippus Paracelsus), Swiss physician and alchemist, was born in Einsiedeln. Upon his mother’s early death, his father, a German doctor and chemist, would relocate the family at Villach in southern Austria. This is the physician who would coin the New Latin term “laudanum” for extract of poppy or tincture of opium, as diluted with distilled water or with one form or another of ethanol.
During this century, psychoactive drug use in Europe would be becoming more widespread and diverse as European explorers and travelers would discover and bring back a wide variety of new drugs: tobacco, coca leaves or cocaine, cocoa, and cassina from the New World; coffee from Arabia and Turkey; the kola nut from Africa; and tea from China. At the same time, major sociocultural changes make the Western world more receptive to the adoption of innovative drug use. Previous social and religious controls were loosening and society generally was becoming more urban, complex, secular, and freeform. As the recreational consumption of new distilled spirits spread, as religious, social, and political changes weakened traditional controls, the problem of uncontrolled alcohol consumption was increasing. The Reverend Martin Luther, the Reverend John Calvin, and other Reformation leaders would emphasize the need for temperance; for the first time entire books would be devoted to such subjects. During this century the Dutch would achieve their Golden Age in part through cannabis (“hempe”) commerce. However, in North America the hemp plant was growing wild.

In China, the medicinal use of pure opium was fully established, but recreational use was still limited. In India,
we find the earliest western records of the production and widespread use of opium.
Sultan Babur or Babar (descendant of Mongol ruler Genghis Khan and of Tamerlane), the 1st Moghul emperor, invaded India. *Papaver somniferum* cultivation and opium sales became a state monopoly.

The Mountain of Light “Kohinoor” diamond came into his possession, and it is said that he valued it at the price of a day’s maintenance for the entire human race. This signifying rock would be passed down to each of the great Moguls, including the Shah Jehan who built or reoriented the Taj Mahal. When in the possession of the Emperor Aurungzebe it would be shown to a French traveller, Tavernier, it had become an India-cut stone of a mere 186 carats — having by that point been reduced by the lapidary Borgio to a more wearable length of one and five-eighths inch and thickness of five-eighths inch (this none-too-skillful recutting had involved three and a half years of hand labor, performed by rubbing lesser diamonds against this huge stone).
WALDEN: White Pond and Walden are great crystals on the surface of the earth, Lakes of Light. If they were permanently congealed, and small enough to be clutched, they would, perchance, be carried off by slaves, like precious stones, to adorn the heads of emperors; but being liquid, and ample, and secured to us and our successors forever, we disregard them, and run after the diamond of Kohinoor. They are too pure to have a market value; they contain no muck. How much more beautiful than our lives, how much more transparent than our characters, are they! We never learned meanness of them. How much fairer than the pool before the farmer’s door, in which his ducks swim! Hither the clean wild ducks come. Nature has no human inhabitant who appreciates her. The birds with their plumage and their notes are in harmony with the flowers, but what youth or maiden conspires with the wild luxuriant beauty of Nature? She flourishes most alone, far from the towns where they reside. Talk of heaven! ye disgrace earth.
Philippus Paracelsus provided a clinical description of syphilis and treated it with mercury. He coined the New Latin term “laudanum” for extract of poppy or tincture of opium, as diluted with distilled water or with one form or another of ethanol.
Conrad Gesner’s *Catalogus Plantarum.*

Leonhart Fuchs’s *De Historia Stirpium Commentarii* included this illustration of the poppy among its roughly 500 plant species.

By the following year he would publish also a German version, *New Kreüterbuch.* Illustrations for his herbals were based on studies of living plants, rather than on the simplified images that had become common in various scribed editions of the Apuleius herbal. The text, however, was taken essentially from Dioscorides. Much later, the plant genus *Fuchsia* would be named in his honor.
In India, opium became a major source of government revenue. Although opium eating and drinking was widespread, the narcotic was consumed in small quantities.
Garcia da Orta’s *Colloquies on Drugs and Simples of India*, the 1st scientific treatise on oriental spices published in the western world.
Nicolas Monardes brought coca leaves to Europe. Unlike the leaves of the tobacco plant, these would fail to generate interest or use, possibly because the leaves lost much of their cocaine potency during the long voyage.
The smoking of tobacco was introduced to Turkey and to Russia by travelers from Central Europe and by Western European and Turkish sailors. A controversy broke out over whether use of such substances was implicitly forbidden by the Koran. Although Sultan Ahmed I prohibited tobacco, the poet Pecevi would describe it, coffee, opium, and wine as the four “cushions on the sofa of pleasure.”
Sultan Ahmed I of Turkey lifted his prohibition of tobacco. The poet Pecevi described tobacco, coffee, opium, and wine as the four “cushions on the sofa of pleasure.”

Connecticut banned public smoking; citizens might smoke only once a day “and then not in company with any other.”

Rice was introduced into cultivation in the Carolinas (nowadays California, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Texas are our main rice-producing states).

Correspondence from the Caribbean to Governor Winthrop of Massachusetts confirmed that workers at sugar cane plantations would require food provisions from the outside, because the production of sugar was more profitable than the production of other provisions. The most important export for Massachusetts was salt cod sold to feed slaves in West Indian plantations. Returning ships brought quantities of sugar and molasses sufficient to spur the New England spirits industry.
During the 1660s, Dr. Thomas Sydenham (1624-1689), the “English Hippocrates” famous for his strictly empirical, “antiphlogistic” methods of acquiring insight, he who discovered the proper use of quinine against intermittent fevers, invented a version of laudanum which bears his name, and advocated his concoction with an enthusiasm not so completely different from the polypharmaceutical attitudes of his time. He proclaimed the virtues of the poppies then being grown in “physic” gardens at hospitals, in particular in the form known as “tincture,” which was the usual term applied to the liquid form of laudanum:

God has granted to the human race, as a comfort in their afflictions, no medicine of the value of opium, either in regard to the number of diseases it can control, or its efficiency in extirpating them.... Medicine would be a cripple without it.

There was not only “tincture,” but also a camphorated tincture known as “paregoric.” Opium was mixed with licorice, saltpeter, tartar, and ipecac and sold under the brand name Dover’s Powder, and this was the form most favored by hospitals, presumably because it reduced the main unpleasant side-effect of the medication, which was constipation. At home one might keep a supply of a patent mixture of opium in calcium hydrate, sherry, alcohol, and water, which was sold under the brand name Battley’s Sedative, for use in case of occasional insomnia. To keep one’s darling children quiet, one could purchase Godfrey’s Cordial, which was a pleasant potion based on laudanum. Otherwise, if one’s child were passing a grocery store and had a penny in his or her pocket, he or she could walk up to the counter and demand a dose of 20 to 25 drops of laudanum (“Children’s Draughts, a Penny Each”), or one’s child could push forward three pennies in exchange for an ounce bottle. We have no way to make any estimate of the number of children, especially babies, who died of intentional or unintentional overdoses of such drugs. The Fens of England, where white poppies were grown, and especially the town of Wisbech, became notorious for the overdosing of unwanted infants, with infant mortality consistently in the range of greater than 200 per 1,000. The English growers of the white opium poppy found the process to be so labor-intensive, that they experimented with the use of children as gatherers of the sticky white sap.
Dr. Thomas Sydenham (of Alexander Selkirk fame) praised opium: “Among the remedies which has pleased the Almighty God to give man to relieve his sufferings, none is so universal and so efficacious as opium.” This reflected the contemporary medical profession’s attitude toward the substance. (As the 18th century would progress, interest would grow not only in the substance’s therapeutic potential but also in problems that came with sustained use.)

His student Dr. Thomas Dover would develop the ubiquitous Dover’s powders used throughout the 18th Century as analgesics, particularly for the treatment of gout.
The state opium monopoly of the Moghul empire began to collapse. After a brief period of recreational use by the upper classes, however, the practice would soon fall into disrepute. Opium smoking was simply not destined to become the problem in India which it would become in China.

In Japan, Kabuki and ukiyo-e become popular.

The smoking of tobacco/opium mixtures, leading to the recreational smoking of opium by itself, was spreading from the East Indies to Formosa, Fukien, and the South China coast. At this point China began to recognize that a problem was developing in regard to this overuse of opium.

Opposition in Western Europe to the use of tobacco declined as by this point all classes were smoking. The French upper classes substituted the use of snuff for smoking. Spreading from France, snufftaking was becoming fashionable among the nobility and clergy. Courtiers returning from France introduced snufftaking into England.

By this point in China, tobacco cultivation and the use of snuff among the aristocracy were firmly established.
Dr. Jones’s *MYSTERIES OF OPIUM REVEAL’D* addressed the issue of *opium* addiction.
May 24, Monday: Jonathan Wild, a leader of organized crime, William Sperry, footpad and highwayman, Robert Harpham, a coiner (counterfeiter of coins), and Jonathan Wild, a thief-taker (fence) were hanged on the Tyburn gallows outside London.

As there is impudence and wickedness enough in the lives of most malefactors to make persons of a sober education and behaviour wonder at the depravity of human nature, so there are sometimes superlative rogues who, in the infamous boldness of their behaviour, as far exceed the ordinary class of rogues as they do honest people; and whenever such a monster as this appears in the world, there are enough fools to gape at him, and to make such a noise and outcry about his conduct as is sure to invite others of the gang to imitate the obstinacy of his deportment, through that false love of fame, which seems inherent to human nature. Amongst the number of these, Joseph Blake, better known by his nickname of Blueskin, always deserves to be remembered as one who thought wickedness the greatest achievement, and studiously took the paths of infamy in order to become famous. By birth he was a native of this City of London. His parents being persons in tolerable circumstances kept him six years at school, where he did not learn half as much good from his master as he did evil from his schoolfellow, William Blewitt, from whose lessons he copied so well that all his education signified nothing. When he came from school he absolutely refused to go to any employment, but on the contrary set up for a robber when he was scarce seventeen, but from that time to the day of his death was unsuccessful in all his undertakings, hardly ever committing the most trivial fact but he experienced for it, either the humanity of the mob, or of the keepers of Bridewell, out of which or some other prison, he could hardly keep his feet.
for a month together. He fell into the gang of Lock, Wilkinson, Carrick Lincoln and Daniel Carroll, which last having so often been mentioned, perhaps my readers may be desirous to know what became of him. I shall therefore inform them that after Carrick and Molony were executed for robbing Mr. Young, as has been before related, he fled home to his own native country of Ireland, where for a while making a great figure till he had exhausted what little wealth he had brought over with him from England, he was obliged to go again upon the old method to supply him. But street-robbing being a very new thing at Dublin, it so alarmed that city that they never ceased pursuing him, and one or two more who joined with him, till catching them one night at their employment, they pursued Carrol so closely that he was obliged to come to a close engagement with a thief-taker, so he was killed upon the spot. But to return to Blake, alias Blueskin. Being one night out with his gang, they robbed one Mr. Clark of eight shillings and a silver hilted sword, just as candles were going to be lighted, and a woman looking accidentally out of a window, perceived it, and cried out, Thieves. Wilkinson fired a pistol at her which, very luckily, upon her drawing in her head, grazed upon the stone of the window, and did no other mischief. Blake was also in the company of the same gang when they attacked Captain Langley, at the corner of Hyde Park Road, as he was going to the Camp¹; but the Captain behaved himself so well that notwithstanding they shot several times through and through his coat, yet they were not able to rob him. Not long after this Wilkinson being apprehended impeached a large number of persons, and with them Joseph Blake and William Lock. Blake hereupon made a fuller discovery than the other before Justice Blackerby; in which information there was contained no less than seventy robberies, upon which he also was admitted a witness. And having named Wilkinson, Lincoln, Carrick, Carrol, and himself to have been the five persons who murdered Peter Martin the Chelsea pensioner, by the Park wall, Wilkinson was apprehended, tried and convicted, notwithstanding the information he had before given (which was thereby totally set aside); so that Blake himself became now an evidence against the rest of his companions, and discovered about a dozen robberies which they had committed. Amongst these there was one very remarkable one. Two gentlemen in hunting caps were together in a chariot on the Hampstead Road, and they took from them two gold watches, rings, seals and other things to a considerable value. Junks, alias Levee, laid his pistol down by the gentleman all the while he searched him, yet he wanted either the courage or the presence of mind to seize and prevent their losing things of so great value. Not long after this, Oakey, Junks and this Blake, stopped a single man with a link before him in Fig Lane; and he not surrendering so easily as they expected, Junks and Oakey beat him over the head with

¹. An encampment was formed in Hyde Park, about 1714. Writing to Martha Blount, Pope says “The tents are carried there this morning, new regiments with new clothes and furniture, far exceeding the late cloth and linen designed by his Grace (the Duke of Marlborough) for the soldiery.”
their pistols, and then left him wounded in a terrible condition, taking from him one guinea and one penny. A very short time after this, Junks, Oakey and Flood were apprehended and executed for robbing Colonel Cope and Mr. Young of that very watch for which Carrick and Molony had been before executed, Joseph Blake being the evidence against them.

After this hanging work of his companions, he thought himself not only entitled to liberty but reward. Herein, however, he was mightily mistaken, for not having surrendered willingly and quietly, but being taken after long resistance and when he was much wounded, there did not seem to be the least foundation for this confident demand, he still remaining a prisoner in the Wood Street Compter, obstinately refusing to be transported for seven years, but insisting that as he had given evidence he ought to have his liberty. However, the magistrates were of another opinion, until at last by procuring two men to be bound for his good behaviour, he was carried before a wealthy alderman of the City and there discharged. At which time, somebody there present asking how long time might be given him before they should see him again at the Old Bailey, a gentleman made answer in about three sessions, in which time it seems he guessed very right, for the third session from thence, Blake was indeed brought to the Bar.

For no sooner were his feet at liberty but his hands were employed in robbing, and having picked up Jack Shepherd for a companion, they went out together to search for prey in the fields. Near the half-way house to Hampstead they met with one Pargiter, a man pretty much in liquor, whom immediately Blake knocked down into the ditch, where he must have inevitably perished if John Shepherd had not kept his head above the mud with great difficulty. For this fact, the next sessions after it happened the two brothers Brightwell in the Guards were tried, and if a number of men had not sworn them to have been upon duty at the time the robbery was committed, they had certainly been convicted, the evidence of the prosecutor being direct and full. Through the grief of this the elder Brightwell died a week after he was released from his confinement, and so did not live to see his innocence fully cleared by the confession of Blake.

A very short space after this, Blake and his companion Shepherd committed the burglary together in the house of Mr. Kneebone, where Shepherd getting into the house, let in Blake at the back door and stripped the house of a considerable value. For this, both Shepherd and he were apprehended, and the sessions before Blake was convicted his companion received sentence of death; but at the time Blake was taken up, he had made his escape out of the condemned hold.

He behaved with great impudence at his trial, and when he found nothing would save him, he took the advantage of Jonathan Wild coming to speak with him, to cut the said Wild’s throat, making a large gash from the ear beyond the windpipe. Of this wound Wild languished a long time, and happy had it been for him if
Blake's wound had proved fatal, for then Jonathan had escaped death by a more dishonourable wound in the throat than that of a penknife; but the number of his crimes and the spleen of his enemies procured him a worse fate. Whatever Wild might deserve of others, he seems to have merited better usage from this Blake, for while he continued a prisoner in the Compter, Jonathan was at the expense of curing his wound, allowing him three shillings and sixpence a week, and after his last misfortune promised him a good coffin, actually furnishing him with money to support him in Newgate, and several good books, if he would have made any use of them; but because he freely declared to Blueskin that there was no hopes of getting him transported, the bloody villain determined to take away his life, and was so far from showing any signs of remorse when he was brought up again to Newgate, that he declared if he had thought of it before, he would have provided such a knife as should have cut his head off. At the time that he received sentence there was a woman also condemned, and they being placed as usual in what is called the Bail Dock at the Old Bailey, Blake offered such rudeness to the woman that she cried out and alarmed the whole Bench. All the time he lay under condemnation he appeared utterly thoughtless and insensible of his approaching fate. Though from the cutting of Wild's throat, and some other barbarities of the same nature, he acquired amongst the mob the character of a brave fellow, yet he was in himself but a mean-spirited timorous wretch, and never exerted himself but either through fury and despair. His cowardice appealed manifestly in his behaviour at his death; he wept much at the chapel in the morning he was to die, and though he drank deeply to drive away fear, yet at the place of execution he wept again, trembled and showed all the signs of a timorous confusion, as well he might, who had lived wickedly and trifled with his repentance to the grave.

There was nothing in his person extraordinary. A dapper, well-set fellow of great strength, and great cruelty, equally detested by the sober part of the world for his audacious wickedness of his behaviour, and despised by his companions for the villainies he committed even against them. He was executed in the twenty-eighth year of his age, on the 11th of November, 1724.

There is not anything more extraordinary in the circumstances of those who from a life of rapine and plunder come to its
natural catastrophe, a violent and ignominious death, than that some of them from a life of piety and religion, have on a sudden fallen into so opposite a behaviour, and without any stumbles in the road of virtue take, as it were, a leap from the precipice at once.

This malefactor, William Sperry, was born of parents in very low circumstances, who afforded him and his brother scarce any education, until having reached the age of fourteen years, he and his younger brother before mentioned, were both decoyed by one of the agents for the plantations, to consent to their being transported to America, where they were sold for about seven years. After the expiration of the term, William Sperry went to live at Philadelphia, the capital of Pennsylvania, one of the best plantations the English have in America, which receives its name from William Penn, the famous Quaker who first planted it. Here, being chiefly instigated thereto by the great piety and unaffected purity of morals in which the inhabitants of that colony excel the greater part of the world, Sperry began with the utmost industry to endeavour at retrieving his reading; and the master with whom he lived favouring his inclinations, was at great pains and some expense to have him taught writing. Yet he did not swerve in his religion, nor fall into Quakerism, the predominant sect here, but went constantly to the Church belonging to the religion by Law established in England, read several good books, and addicted himself with much zeal to the service of God. Removing from the house of his kind master to that of another planter, he abated nothing in his zeal for devotion, but went constantly from his master’s house to church at West Chester, which was near five miles from his home.

Happening, not long after, to have the advantage of going in a trading vessel to several ports in America, he addicted himself with great pleasure to this new life. But his happiness therein, like all other species of human bliss, very shortly faded, for one morning just as the day began to dawn, the vessel in which he sailed was clapped on board, and after a very short struggle taken by Low, the famous pirate. Sperry, being a brisk young lad, Low would very fain have taken him into his crew, but the lad having still virtuous principles remaining, earnestly entreated that he might be excused. On the score of his having discovered to Low a mutinous conspiracy of his crew, the generosity of that pirate was so great that, finding no offer he could make made any impression, he caused him to be set safe on shore in the night, on one of the Leeward Islands.

Notwithstanding that Sperry did not at that time comply with the

2. There was great competition to secure white labour in the American plantations. Infamous touts circulated amongst the poor, and any who were starving or wished for personal reasons to emigrate engaged themselves with a ship-master or an office-keeper to allow themselves to be sold for a term of years in return for their passage money. On arrival at their destination these poor wretches were sent to the plantations and lived as slaves until the term for which they had contracted had expired. In Virginia and Maryland, where most of them went, they were driven to work on the tobacco fields with the negroes, and were worse treated than the blacks, as being only leasehold property whereas the negroes were freehold.

3. Captain Edward Low was one of the bloodied of the pirates. He served under Lowther until 1722, when he smacked on his own account. After many atrocities he was taken by the French and hanged, some time in 1724. A full account of him is given in my edition of Johnson’s HISTORY OF THE PIRATES, issued in the same series as the present volume.
instigations of the pirate, yet his mind was so much poisoned by the sight of what passed on board, that from that time he had an itching towards plunder and the desire of getting money at an easier rate than by the sweat of his brow. While these thoughts were floating in his head, he was entertained on board one of his Majesty’s men-of-war, and while he continued in the Service, saw a pirate vessel taken; and the men being tried before a Court of Admiralty in New England, every one of them was executed except five, who manifestly appeared to have been forced into the pirates’ service. One would have thought this would have totally eradicated all liking for that sort of practice, but it seems it did not. For as soon as Sperry came home into England and had married a wife, by which his inclinations were chained, though he had no ability to support her, and falling into very great necessities, he either tempted others or associated himself with certain loose and abandoned young men, for as he himself constantly declared, he was not led into evil practices by the persuasions of any. However it were, the deeds he committed were many, and he became the pest of most of the roads out to the little villages about London, particularly towards Hampstead, Islington and Marylebone, of some of which as our papers serve we shall inform you.

Sperry and four more of his associates hearing that gaming was very public at Hampstead, and that considerable sums were won and lost there every night, resolved to share part of the winnings, let them light where they would. In order to this, they planted themselves in a dry ditch on one side of the foot-road just as evening came on, intending when it was darker to venture into the coach road. They had hardly been at their posts a quarter of an hour before two officers came by. Some were for attacking them, but Sperry was of a contrary opinion. In the meanwhile they heard one of the gentlemen say to the other, There’s D—— M——, the Gamester, behind us, he has won at least sixty guineas to-night. Sperry and his crew had no further dispute whether they should rob the gentlemen in red or no, but resolved to wait the coming of so rich a prize.

It was but a few minutes before M—— appeared in sight. They immediately stepped into the path, two before him, and two behind, and watching him to the corner of a hedge, the two who were behind him caught him by the shoulders, turned him round, and hurrying him about ten yards, pushed him into a dry ditch. This they had no sooner done, but they all four leaped down upon him and began to examine his pockets, M—— thought to have talked them out of a stricter search by pretending he had lost a great deal of money at play, and had but fifty shillings about him, which with a silver watch and a crystal ring he deemed very ready to deliver; and it very probably would have been accepted if they had not had better intelligence, but one of the oldest of the gang, perceiving after turning out all his pockets that they could discover nothing of value, began to exert the style of a highwayman upon an examination, and addressed the gamester in

4. Belsize House was opened as a place of amusement, about 1720, by a certain Howell, who called himself the Welsh Ambassador. At first it was a fashionable resort, but it soon became the haunt of gamblers and harpies of both sexes.
these terms.

Nobody but such a rogue as you would have given gentlemen of our faculty so much trouble. Sir, we have received advice by good hands from Belsize that you won sixty guineas to-day at play. Produce them immediately, or we shall take it for granted you have swallowed them; and in such a case, Sir, I have an instrument ready to give us an immediate account of the contents of your stomach.

M——, in a dreadful fright, put his hand under his arm, and from thence produced a green purse with a fifty pound bank-note and eighteen guineas. This they had no sooner taken than, tying him fast to a hedge stake, they ran across the fields in search of another booty. They spun out the time, being a moonlight night, until past eleven, there being so much company on the road that they found it impossible to attack without danger.

As they were returning home, they heard the noise of a coach driving very hard, and upon turning about saw it was that of Sir W—— B——, himself on the box, two ladies of pleasure in the coach, and his servants a great way behind. One of them seized the horse on one side, and another on the other, but Sir W—— drove so very hard that the pull of the horses brought them both to the ground, and he at the same time encouraging them with his voice and the smack of his whip. So he drove safe off without any hurt, though they fired two pistols after him.

About three weeks after this they were passing down Drury Lane, and observing a gentleman going with one of the fine ladies of the Hundreds into a tavern thereabouts, one of the gang who knew him, and that he had married a lady with a great fortune to whom his father was guardian, and that they lived altogether in a great house near Lincoln’s Inn Fields, immediately thought on a project. They slipped into an alehouse, where he wrote an epistle to the old gentleman, informing him that they had a warrant to apprehend a lewd woman who was with child by his son, but that she had made her escape, and was now actually with him at a certain tavern in Drury Lane, wherefore being apprehensive of disturbance, and being unwilling to disgrace his family, rather than take rougher methods, they had informed him, in order that by his interposition the affair might be made up.

As soon as they had written this letter, they dispatched one of their number to carry it and deliver it, as if by mistake, to the young gentleman’s wife. This had the desired effect, for in less than half an hour came the father, the wife, and another of her trustees, who happened to be paying a visit there when the letter came. They no sooner entered the tavern but hearing the voice of the gentleman they asked for, without ceremony they opened the door, and finding a woman there, all was believed, and there followed a mighty uproar. Two of the rogues who were best dressed, had slipped into the next room and called for half a pint. As if by accident they came out at the noise, and under pretence of enquiring the occasion, took the opportunity of picking the gentleman’s pockets of twenty-five guineas, one gold watch, and two silver snuff-boxes, which it is to be presumed
were never missed until the hurry of the affair was over. The last robbery Sperry committed was upon one Thomas Golding, not far from Bromley, who not having any money about him, Sperry endeavoured to make it up by taking all his clothes. Being apprehended for this, at the next sessions at the Old Bailey he was convicted for this offence, and having no friends, could not entertain the least hopes of pardon. From the time that he was convicted, and, indeed, from that of his commitment, he behaved like a person on the brink of another world, ingenuously confessing all his guilt, and acknowledging readily the justice of that sentence by which he was doomed to death. His behaviour was perfectly uniform, and as he never put on an air of contempt towards death, so, at its nearest approach he did not seem exceedingly terrified therewith, but with great calmness of mind prepared for his dissolution. On the day of his execution his countenance seemed rather more cheerful than ordinarily, and he left this world with all exterior signs of true penitence and contrition, on Monday, the 24th of May, 1725, at Tyburn, being then about twenty-three years of age.

In my former volume I have taken occasion, in the life of Barbara Spencer, to mention the laws against coining as they stand at present in this kingdom. I shall not, therefore, detain my
DEALING DOPE

readers here with the unnecessary introduction, but proceed to inform them that a multitude of false guineas being talked of—the natural consequence of a few being detected—great pains were taken by the officers belonging to the Mint for detecting those by whom such frauds had been committed.

It was not long before information was had of one Robert Harpham and Thomas Broom, who were suspected of being the persons by whom such false guineas had been made. Upon these suspicions search warrants were granted, and a large engine of iron was discovered at Harpham's house, with other tools supposed to be made use of for that purpose. On this, the mob immediately gave out that a cart-load of guineas had been carried from thence, because those instruments were so cumberous as to be fetched in that manner; though the truth, indeed, was that no great number of false guineas had been coined, though the instruments undoubtedly were fitted and made use of for that purpose.

Harpham, who well knew what evidence might be produced against him, never flattered himself with hopes after he came to Newgate, but as he believed he should die, so he prepared himself for it as well as he could.

At his trial the evidence against him was very full and direct. Mr. Pinket deposed flatly that the instruments produced in Court, and which were sworn to be taken from the prisoner’s house, could not serve for any other purpose than that of coined. These instruments were an iron press of very great weight, a cutting instrument for forming blanks, an edging tool for indenting, with two dies for guineas and two dies for half-guineas. To strengthen this, William Fornham deposed in relation to the prisoners’ possession, and Mr. Gornbey swore directly to his striking a half-guinea in his presence. Mr. Oakley and Mr. Tardley deposing further, that they flatted very considerable quantities of a mixed metal for the prisoner, made up of brass, copper, etc., sometimes to the quantity of 30 or 40 pound weight at a time.

The defence he made was very weak and trifling, and after a very short consideration the jury brought him in guilty of the indictment, and he, never entertaining any hopes of pardon, bent all his endeavours in making his peace with God. Some persons in the prison had been very civil to him, and one of them presuming thereon, asked him wherein the great secret of his art of coining lay? Mr. Harpham thanked him for the kindnesses he had received of him, but said that he should make a very bad return for the time afforded him by the law of repentance, if he should leave behind him anything of that kind which might farther detriment his country. Some instances were also made to him that he should discover certain persons of that same profession with himself, who were likely to carry on the same frauds long after his decease. Mr. Harpham, notwithstanding the answer he had made to the other gentleman, refused to comply with this request; for he said that the instruments seized would effectually prevent that, and he would not take away their lives and ruin their families, when he was sure they were
incapacitated from coining anything for the future. However, that he might discharge his conscience as far as he could, he wrote several pathetic letters to the persons concerned; earnestly exhorting them for the sake of themselves and their families to leave off this wicked employment, and not hazard their lives and their salvation in any further attempt of that sort.

Having thus disengaged himself from all worldly concerns, he dedicated the last moments of his life entirely to the service of God; and having, received the Sacrament the day before his execution, he was conveyed the next noon to Tyburn in a sledge, where he was not a little disturbed, even in the agonies of death, by the tumult and insults the mob offered to Jonathan Wild, which he complained much of and seemed very uneasy at. He suffered on the same day with the last mentioned malefactor, appealing to be about two- or three-and-forty years of age.

As no person in this collection ever made so much noise as the person we are now speaking of, so never any man, perhaps, in any condition of life whatever had so many romantic stories fathered upon him in his life, or so many fictitious legendary accounts published of him after his death. It may seem a low kind of affectation to say that the memoirs we are now giving of Jonathan Wild are founded on certainty and fact; and that though they are so founded, they are yet more extraordinary than any of those fabulous relations pushed into the world to get a penny, at the time of his death, when it was a proper season for vending such forgeries, the public looking with so much attention on his catastrophe, and greedily catching up whatever pretended to the giving an account of his actions. But to go on with the history in its proper order.

Jonathan Wild was the son of persons in a mean and low state of life, yet for all that I have ever heard of them, both honest and industrious. Their family consisted of three sons and two daughters, whom their father and mother maintained and educated.
in the best manner they could from their joint labours, he as carpenter, and she by selling fruit in Wolverhampton market, in Staffordshire, which in future ages may perhaps become famous as the birth place of the celebrated Mr. Jonathan Wild. He was the eldest of the sons, and received as good an education as his father’s circumstances would allow him, being bred at the free-school to read and write, to both of which having attained to a tolerable degree, he was put out an apprentice to a buckle-maker.

5. A few additional particulars concerning Wild may be of interest. Soon after he came to London he opened a brothel in the infamous Lewkenor’s Lane, in partnership with Mary Milliner; after a time they quitted it to take an alehouse in Cock Alley, Cripplegate. He then drifted into business as a receiver and instigator of thefts, organizing regular gangs which operated in every branch of the thieving trade. On account of the number of criminals he brought to justice (as a result of their disloyalty to himself) the authorities winked at and tolerated his proceedings; and in January, 1724, he had the impudence to petition for the freedom of the City, as some recognition for the good services he had rendered in this direction. A few months later, however, his reputation became sadly blown upon, and in January, 1725, he was implicated in an affair with one of his minions, a sailor named Johnson, who had been arrested and had appealed to Wild for help. A riot was engineered, in which Johnson made his escape, but information was laid against the thief-taker, himself, who, after lying in hiding for three weeks, was arrested and committed to Newgate, which he only left to attend his trial and to take his last ride to Tyburn.
He served his time with much fidelity, and came up to town in the service of a gentleman of the long robe, about the year 1704, or perhaps a little later. But not liking his service, or his master being not altogether so well pleased with him, he quitted it and retired to his old employment in the country, where he continued to work diligently for some time. But at last growing sick of labour, and still entertaining a desire to taste the pleasures of London, up hither he came a second time, and worked journey-work at the trade to which he was bred. But this not producing money enough to support those expenses Jonathan’s love of pleasure threw him into, he got pretty deeply in debt; and some of his creditors not being endued with altogether as much patience as his circumstances required, he was suddenly
arrested, and thrown into Wood-street Compter. Having no friends to do anything for him, and having very little money in his pocket when this misfortune happened, he lived very hardly there, scarce getting bread enough to support him from the charity allowed to prisoners, and from what little services he could render to prisoners of the better sort in the gaol. However, as no man wanted address less than Jonathan, so nobody could have employed it more properly than he did upon this occasion; he thereby got so much into the favour of the keepers, that they quickly permitted him the liberty of the gate, as they call it, and he thereby got some little matter for going on errands. This set him above the very pinch of want, and that was all; but his fidelity and industry in these mean employments procured him such esteem amongst those in power there, that they soon took him into their ministry, and appointed him an under-keeper to those disorderly persons who were brought in every night and are called, in their cant, “rats.”

Jonathan now came into a comfortable subsistence, having learnt how to get money of such people by putting them into the road of getting liberty for themselves. But there, says my author, he met with a lady who was confined on the score of such practices very often, and who went by the name of Mary Milliner; and who soon taught him how to gain much greater sums than in this way of life, by methods which he until then never heard of, and will I am confident, to this day carry the charms of novelty to most of my readers. Of these the first she put upon him was going on what they call the “twang,” which is thus managed: the man who is the confederate goes out with some noted woman of the town, and if she fall into any broil, he is to be at a proper distance, ready to come into her assistance, and by making a sham quarrel, give her an opportunity of getting off, perhaps after she has dived for a watch or a purse of guineas, and was in danger of being caught in the very act. This proved a very successful employment to Mr. Wild for a time. Moll and he, therefore, resolved to set up together, and for that purpose took lodgings and lived as man and wife, notwithstanding Jonathan then had a wife and a son at Wolverhampton and the fair lady was married to a waterman in town.

By the help of this woman Jonathan grew acquainted with all the notorious gangs of loose persons within the bills of mortality, and was also perfectly versed in the manner by which they carried on their schemes. He knew where and how their enterprises were to be gone upon, and after what manner they disposed of their ill-got goods, when they came into their possession. Having always an intriguing head Wild set up for a director amongst them, and soon became so useful to them that though he never went out upon any of their lays, yet he got as much or more by their crimes as if he had been a partner with them, which upon one pretence or other he always declined.

He had long ago got rid of that debt for which he had been imprisoned in the Compter, and having by his own thought projected a new manner of life, he began in a very little time
to grow weary of Mrs. Milliner, who had been his first instructor. What probably contributed thereto was the danger to which he saw himself exposed by continuing a bully in her service; however, they parted without falling out, and as he had occasion to make use of her pretty often in his new way of business, so she proved very faithful and industrious to him in it, though she still went on in her old way.

'Tis now time, that both this and the remaining part of the discourse may be intelligible, to explain the methods by which thieves became the better for thieving where they did not steal ready money; and of this we will speak in the clearest and most concise manner that we can.

It must be observed that anciently when a thief had got his booty he had done all that a man in his profession could do, and there were multitudes of people ready to help them off with whatever effects he had got, without any more to do. But this method being totally destroyed by an Act passed in the reign of King William, by which it was made felony for any person to buy goods stolen, knowing them to be so, and some examples having been made on this Act, there were few or no receivers to be met with. Those that still carried on the trade took exorbitant sums for their own profit, leaving those who had run the hazard of their necks in obtaining them, the least share of the plunder. This (as an ingenious author says) had like to have brought the thieving trade to naught; but Jonathan quickly thought of a method to put things again in order, and give new life to the practices of the several branches of the ancient art and mystery called stealing.

The method he took was this.

As soon as any considerable robbery was committed, and Jonathan received intelligence by whom, he immediately went to the thieves, and instead of offering to buy the whole or any part of the plunder, he only enquired how the thing was done, where the persons lived who were injured, and what the booty consisted in that was taken away. Then pretending to chide them for their wickedness in doing such actions, and exhorting them to live honestly for the future, he gave it them as his advice to lodge what they had taken in a proper place which he appointed them, and then promised he would take some measures for their security by getting the people to give them somewhat to have them restored again. Having thus wheedled those who had committed a robbery into a compliance with his measures, his next business was to divide the goods into several parcels, and cause them to be sent to different places, always avoiding taking them into his own hands.

Things being in this position, Jonathan, or Mrs. Milliner went to the persons who were robbed, and after condoling the misfortune, observed that they had an acquaintance with a broker to whom certain goods were brought, some of which they suspected to be stolen, and hearing that the person to whom they thus applied had been robbed they said they thought it the duty of one honest body to another to inform them thereof, and to enquire what goods they were they lost, in order to discover whether
those they spoke of were the same or no. People who had such
losses are always ready, after the first fit of passion is over,
to hearken to anything that has a tendency towards recovering
their goods. Jonathan or his mistress therefore, who could
either of them play the hypocrite nicely, had no great
difficulty in making people listen to such terms; in a day or
two, therefore, they were sure to come again with intelligence
that having called upon their friend and looked over the goods,
they had found part of the goods there; and provided nobody was
brought into trouble, and the broker had something in
consideration of his care, they might be had again. He generally
told the people, when they came on this errand, that he had heard
of another parcel at such a place, and that if they would stay
a little, he would go and see whether they were such as they
described theirs to be which they had lost.

This practice of Jonathan’s, if well considered, carries in it
a great deal of policy; for first it seemed to be an honest and
good-natured act to prevail on evil persons to restore the goods
which they had stole; and it must be acknowledged to be a great
benefit to those who were robbed thus to have their goods again
upon a reasonable premium, Jonathan or his mistress all the
while taking apparently nothing, their advantages arising from
what they took out of the gratuity left with the broker, and out
of what they had bargained with the thief to be allowed of the
money which they had procured him. Such people finding this
advantage in it, the rewards were very near as large as the price
now given by receivers (since receiving became too dangerous),
and they reaped a certain security also by the bargain.

With respect to Jonathan, the contrivance placed him in safety,
not only from all the laws then in being, but perhaps would have
secured him as securely from those that are made now, if
covetousness had not prevailed with him to take bolder steps
than these; for in a short time he began to give himself out for
a person who made it his business to procure stolen goods to
their right owners. When he first did this he acted with so much
art and cunning that he acquired a very great reputation as an
honest man, not only from those who dealt with him to procure
what they had lost, but even from those people of higher station,
who observing the industry with which he prosecuted certain
malefactors, took him for a friend of Justice, and as such
afforded him countenance and encouragement.

Certain it is that he brought more villains to the gallows than
perhaps any man ever did, and consequently by diminishing their
number, made it much more safe for persons to travel or even to
reside with security in their own houses. And so sensible was
Jonathan of the necessity there was for him to act in this
manner, that he constantly hung up two or three of his clients
at least in a twelvemonth, that he might keep up that character
to which he had attained; and so indefatigable was he in the
pursuit of those he endeavoured to apprehend, that it never
happened in all his course of acting, that so much as one single
person escaped him. Nor need this appear so great a wonder, if
we consider that the exact acquaintance he had with their gangs and the haunts they used put it out of their power almost to hide themselves so as to avoid his searches. When this practice of Jonathan's became noted, and the people resorted continually to his house in order to hear of the goods which they had lost, it produced not only much discourse, but some enquiries into his behaviour. Jonathan foresaw this, and in order to evade any ill consequence that might follow upon it, upon such occasions put on an air of gravity, and complained of the evil disposition of the times, which would not permit a man to serve his neighbours and his country without censure. For do I not, quoth Jonathan, do the greatest good, when I persuade these wicked people who have deprived them of their properties, to restore them again for a reasonable consideration. And are not the villains whom I have so industriously brought to suffer that punishment which the Law, for the sake of its honest subjects, thinks fit to inflict upon them—in this respect, I say, does not their death show how much use I am to the country? Why, then, added Jonathan, should people asperse me, or endeavour to take away my bread?

This kind of discourse served, as my readers must know, to keep Wild safe in his employment for many years, while not a step he took, but trod on felony, nor a farthing did he obtain but what deserved the gallows. Two great things there were which contributed to his preservation, and they were these. The great readiness the Government always shows in detecting persons guilty of capital offences; in which case we know 'tis common to offer not only pardon, but rewards to persons guilty, provided they make discoveries; and this Jonathan was so sensible of that he did not only screen himself behind the lenity of the Supreme Power, but made use of it also as a sort of authority, and behaved himself with a very presuming air. And taking upon him the character of a sort of minister of Justice, this assumed character of his, however ill-founded, proved of great advantage to him in the course of his life. The other point, which, as I have said, contributed to keep him from any prosecutions on the score of these illegal and unwarrantable actions, was the great willingness of people who had been robbed to recover their goods, and who, provided for a small matter they could regain things for a considerable worth, were so far from taking pains to bring the offenders to justice that they thought the premium a cheap price to get off. Thus by the rigour of the magistrate, and the lenity of the subject, Jonathan claimed constant employment, and according as wicked persons behaved, they were either truss'd up to satisfy the just vengeance of the one, or protected and encouraged, that by bringing the goods they stole he might be enabled to satisfy the demands of the other. And thus we see the policy of a mean and scandalous thief-taker, conducted with as much prudence, caution, and necessary courage, as the measures taken by even the greatest persons upon earth; nor perhaps is there, in all history, an instance of a man who thus openly dallied with the
laws, and played with capital punishment.
As I am persuaded my readers will take a pleasure in the relation of Jonathan’s maxims of policy, I shall be a little more particular in relation to them than otherwise I should have been, considering that in this work I do not propose to treat of the actions of a single person, but to consider the villainies committed throughout the space of a dozen years, such especially as have reached to public notice by bringing the authors of them to the gallows. But Mr. Wild being a man of such eminence as to value himself in his life-time on his superiority to meaner rogues; so I am willing to distinguish him now he is dead, by showing a greater complaisance in recording his history than that of any other hero in this way whatsoever.
Nor, to speak properly, was Jonathan ever an operator, as they call it, that is a practicer in any one branch of thieving. No, his method was to acquire money at an easier rate, and if any title can be devised suitable to his great performance, it must be that of Director General of the united forces of highwaymen, housebreakers, footpads, pickpockets, and private thieves. Now, according to my promise, for the maxims by which he supported himself in this dangerous capacity.
In the first place, he continually exhorted the plunderers that belonged to his several gangs, to let him know punctually what goods they at any time took, by which means he had it in his power to give, for the most part, a direct answer to those who came to make their enquiries after they had lost their effects, either by their own carelessness, or the dexterity of the thief. If they complied faithfully with his instructions, he was a certain protector on all occasions, and sometimes had interest enough to procure them liberty when apprehended, either in the committing a robbery, or upon the information of one of the gang. If they complied faithfully with his instructions, he was a certain protector on all occasions, and sometimes had interest enough to procure them liberty when apprehended, either in the committing a robbery, or upon the information of one of the gang. In such a case Jonathan’s usual pretence was that such a person (who was the man he intended to save) was capable of making a larger and more effectual information, for which purpose Jonathan would sometimes supply him with memorandums of his own, and thereby establish so well the credit of his discovery, as scarce to fail of producing its effect.
But if his thieves threatened to become independent, and despise his rules, or endeavour for the sake of profit to vend the goods they got some other way without making application to Jonathan; or if they threw out any threatening speeches against their companions; or grumbled at the compositions he made for them, in such cases as these Wild took the first opportunity of talking to them in a new style, telling them that he was well assured they did very ill acts and plundered poor honest people, to indulge themselves in their debaucheries; that they would do well to think of amending before the Justice of their country fell upon them; and that after such warning they must not expect any assistance from him, in case they should fall under any misfortune. The next thing that followed after this fine harangue was that they were put into the information of some of Jonathan’s creatures; or the first fresh fact they committed and
Jonathan was applied to for the recovery of the goods, he immediately set out to apprehend them, and laboured so indefatigably therein that they never escaped him. Thus he not only procured the reward for himself, but also gained an opportunity of pretending that he not only restored goods to the right owners, but also apprehended the thief as often as it was in his power. As to instances, I shall mention them in a proper place.

I shall now go on to another observation, viz., that in those steps of his business which was most hazardous, Jonathan made the people themselves take the first steps by publishing advertisements of things lost, directing them to be brought to Mr. Wild, who was empowered to receive them and pay such a reward as the person that lost them thought fit to offer; and in this capacity Jonathan appeared no otherwise than as a person on whose honour these sort of people could rely; by which, his assistance became necessary for retrieving whatever had been pilfered.

After he had gone on in this trade for about ten years with success, he began to lay aside much of his former caution, and gave way to the natural vanity of his temper; taking a larger house in Old Bailey than that in which he formerly lived; giving the woman who he called his wife, abundance of fine things; keeping open office for restoring stolen goods; appointing abundance of under-officers to receive goods, carry messages to those who stole them, bring him exact intelligence of the several gangs and the places of their resort, and in fine, for such other purposes as this, their supreme governor, directed.

His fame at last came to that height that persons of the highest quality would condescend to make use of his abilities, when at an installation, public entry, or some other great solemnity they had the misfortune of losing watches, jewels, or other things, whether of great real or imaginary value.

But as his methods of treating those who applied to him for his assistance has been much misrepresented, I shall next give an exact and impartial account thereof, that the fabulous history of Jonathan Wild may not be imposed upon posterity.

In the first place, then, when a person was introduced to Mr. Wild’s office, it was first hinted to him that a crown must be deposited by way of fee for his advice; when this was complied with a large book was brought out; then the loser was examined with much formality, as to the time, place, and manner that the goods became missing; and then the person was dismissed with a promise of careful enquiries being made, and of hearing more concerning them in a day or two. When this was adjusted, the person took his leave, with great hopes of being acquainted shortly with the fruits of Mr. Wild’s industry, and highly satisfied with the methodical treatment he had met with.

But at the bottom this was all grimace. Wild had not the least occasion for these queries, except to amuse the persons he asked, for he knew beforehand all the circumstances of the robbery much better than they did. Nay, perhaps, he had the very
goods in the house when the folks came first to enquire for them; though for reasons not hard to guess he made use of all this formality before he proceeded to return them. When, therefore, according to his appointment, the enquirer came the second time, Jonathan took care to amuse him by a new scene. He was told that Mr. Wild had indeed made enquiries, but was very sorry to communicate the result of them; the thief, truly, who was a bold impudent fellow, rejected with scorn the offer which pursuant to the loser’s instructions had been made him, insisted that he could sell the goods at a double price, and in short would not hear a word of restitution unless upon better terms. But notwithstanding all this, says Jonathan, if I can but come to the speech of him, I don’t doubt bringing him to reason.

At length, after one or two more attendances, Mr. Wild gave the definite answer, that provided no questions were asked and so much money was given to the porter who brought them, the loser might have his things returned at such an hour precisely. This was transacted with all outward appearances of friendship and honest intention on his side, and with great seeming frankness and generosity; but when the client came to the last article, viz., what Mr. Wild expected for his trouble, then an air of coldness was put on, and he answered with equal pride and indifference, that what he did was purely from a principle of doing good. As to a gratuity for the trouble he had taken, he left it totally to yourself; you might do it in what you thought fit. Even when money was presented to him he received it with the same negligent grace, always putting you in mind that it was your own act, that you did it merely out of your generosity, and that it was no way the result of his request, that he took it as a favour, not as a reward.

By this dexterity in his management he fenced himself against the rigour of the law, in the midst of these notorious transgressions of it, for what could be imputed to Mr. Wild? He neither saw the thief who took away your goods, nor received them after they were taken; the method he pursued in order to procure you your things again was neither dishonest or illegal, if you will believe his account on it, and no other than his account could be gotten. According to him it was performed after this manner: after having enquired amongst such loose people as he acknowledged he had acquaintance with, and hearing that such a robbery was committed at such a time, and such and such goods were taken, he thereupon had caused it to be intimated to the thief that if he had any regard for his own safety he would cause such and such goods to be carried to such a place; in consideration of which, he might reasonably hope such a reward, naming a certain sum. If it excited the thief to return the goods, it did not thereby fix any guilt or blame upon Jonathan; and by this description, I fancy my readers will have a pretty clear idea of the man’s capacity, as well as of his villainy.

Had Mr. Wild continued satisfied with this way of dealing in all human probability he might have gone to his grave in peace, without any apprehensions of punishment but what he was to meet
within a world to come. But he was greedy, and instead of keeping constant to this safe method, came at last to take the goods into his own custody, giving those that stole them what he thought proper, and then making such a bargain with the loser as he was able to bring him up to, sending the porter himself, and taking without ceremony whatever money had been given him. But as this happened only in the two last years of his life, it is fit I should give you some instances of his behaviour before, and these not from the hearsay of the town, but within the compass of my own knowledge.

A gentleman near Covent Garden who dealt in silks had bespoke a piece of extraordinary rich damask, on purpose for the birthday suit of a certain duke; and the lace-man having brought such trimming as was proper for it, the mercer had made the whole up in a parcel, tied it at each end with blue ribbon, sealed with great exactness, and placed on one end of the counter, in expectation of his Grace’s servant, who he knew was directed to call for it in the afternoon. Accordingly the fellow came, but when the mercer went to deliver him the goods, the piece had gone, and no account could possibly he had of it. As the master had been all day in the shop, so there was no possibility of charging anything either upon the carelessness or dishonesty of servants. After an hour’s fretting, therefore, seeing no other remedy, he even determined to go and communicate his loss to Mr. Wild, in hopes of receiving some benefit by his assistance, the loss consisting not so much in the value of the things as in the disappointment it would be to the nobleman not to have them on the birthday.

Upon this consideration a hackney-coach was immediately called, and away he was ordered to drive directly to Jonathan’s house in the Old Bailey. As soon as he came into the room, and had acquainted Mr. Wild with his business, the usual deposit of a crown being made, and the common questions of the how, when, and where, having been asked, the mercer being very impatient, said with some kind of heat, Mr. Wild, the loss I have sustained, though the intrinsic value of the goods be very little, lies more in disobliging my customer. Tell me, therefore, in a few words, if it be in your power to serve me. If it is, I have thirty guineas here ready to lay down, but if you expect that I should dance attendance for a week or two, I assure you I shall not be willing to part with above half the money. Good sir, replied Mr. Wild, have a little more consideration. I am no thief, sir, nor no receiver of stolen goods, so that if you don’t think fit to give me time to enquire, you must e’en take what measures you please.

When the mercer found he was like to be left without any hopes, he began to talk in a milder strain, and with abundance of intreaties fell to persuading Jonathan to think of some method to serve him, and that immediately. Wild stepped out a minute or two, as if to the necessary house; as soon as he came back he told the gentleman, it was not in his power to serve him in such a hurry, if at all; however, in a day or two he might be
able to give him some answer. The mercer insisted that a day or
two would lessen the value of the goods one half to him, and
Jonathan insisted, as peremptorily, that it was not in his power
to do anything sooner.
At last a servant came in a hurry, and told Mr. Wild there was
a gentleman below desired to speak with him. Jonathan bowed and
begged the gentleman’s pardon, told him he would wait on him in
one minute, and without staying for a reply withdrew, and
clapped the door after him. In about five minutes he returned
with a very smiling countenance, and turning to the gentleman,
said, I protest sir, you are the luckiest man I ever knew. I
spoke to one of my people just now, to go to a house where I
know some lifters resort, and directed him to talk of the robbery
that had been committed in your house, and to say that the
gentleman had been with me and offered thirty guineas, provided
the things might be had again, but declared, if he did not
receive them in a very short space, he would give as great a
reward for the discovery of the thief, whom he would prosecute
with the utmost severity. This story has had its effect, and if
you go directly home, I fancy you’ll hear more news of it
yourself than I am able to tell you. But pray, sir, remember one
thing; that the thirty guineas was your own offer. You are at
free liberty to give them, or let them alone; do which you
please, ’tis nothing to me; but take notice, sir, that I have
done all for you in my power, without the least expectation of
gratitude.
Away went the mercer, confounded in his mind, and wondering
where this affair would end. But as he walked up Southampton
Street a fellow overtook him, patted him on the shoulder, and
delivered him the bundle unopened, telling him the price was
twenty guineas. The mercer paid it him directly, and returning
to Jonathan in half an hour’s time, readily expressed abundance
of thanks to Mr. Wild for his assistance, and begged him to
accept of the ten guineas he had saved him, for his pains.
Jonathan told him that he had saved him nothing, but supposed
that the people thought twenty demand enough, considering that
they were now pretty safe from prosecution. The mercer still
pressed the ten guineas upon Jonathan, who after taking them out
of his hand returned him five of them, and assured him that was
more than enough, adding: ’Tis satisfaction enough, sir, to an
honest man that he is able to procure people their goods again.
This, you will say, was a remarkable instance of his moderation.
I will join to it as extraordinary an account of his justice,
equity, or what else you will please to call it. It happened
thus.
A lady whose husband was out of the kingdom, and had sent over
to her draughts for her assistance to the amount of between
fifteen hundred and two thousand pounds, lost the pocket-book
in which they were contained, between Bucklersbury and Mapgie
alehouse in Leadenhall Street, where the merchant lived upon
whom they were drawn. She however, went to the gentleman, and
he advised her to go directly to Mr. Jonathan Wild. Accordingly
to Jonathan she came, deposited the crown, and answered the
questions she asked him. Jonathan then told her that in an hour
or two's time, possibly, some of his people might hear who it
was that had picked her pocket. The lady was vehement in her
desires to have it again, and for that purpose went so far at
last as to offer an hundred guineas. Upon that Wild made answer,
*Though they are of much greater value to you, madam, yet they
cannot be worth anything like it to them; therefore keep your
own counsel, say nothing in the hearing of my people, and I’ll
give you the best, directions I am able for the recovery of your
notes. In the meanwhile, if you will go to any tavern near, and
endeavour to eat a bit of dinner, I will bring you an answer
before the cloth is taken away.* She said she was unacquainted
with any house thereabouts, upon which Mr. Wild named the
Baptist Head. 6 The lady would not be satisfied unless Mr. Wild
promised to eat with her; he at last complied, and she ordered
a fowl and sausages at the house he had appointed.
She waited there about three quarters of an hour, when Mr. Wild
came over and told her he had heard news of her book, desiring
her to tell out ten guineas upon the table in case she should
have an occasion for them. As the cook came up to acquaint her
that the fowl was ready, Jonathan begged she would see whether
there was any woman waiting at his door.
The lady, without minding the mystery, did as he desired her,
and perceiving a woman in a scarlet riding-hood walk twice or
thrice by Mr. Wild’s house, her curiosity prompted her to go
near her. But recollecting she had left the gold upon the table
upstairs, she went and snatched it up without saying a word to
Jonathan, and then running down again went towards the woman in
the red hood, who was still walking before his door. It seems
she had guessed right, for no sooner did she approach towards
her but the woman came directly up to her, and presenting her
pocket book, desired she would open it and see that all was safe.
The lady did so, and answering it was alright, the woman in the
red riding-hood said, *Here’s another little note for you, madam;
upon which she gave her a little billet, on the outside of which
was written ten guineas.* The lady delivered her the money
immediately, adding also a piece for herself, and returning with
a great deal of joy to Mr. Wild, told him she had got her book,
and would now eat her dinner heartily. When the things were taken
away, she thought it was time to go to the merchant.
Thinking it would be necessary to make Mr. Wild a handsome
present, she put her hand in her pocket, and with great surprise
found her green purse gone, in which was the remainder of fifty
guineas she had borrowed of the merchant in the morning. Upon
this she looked very much confused, but did not speak a word.
Jonathan perceived it, asked if she was not well. *I am tolerably
in health, sir,* answered she, *but I am amazed that the woman
took but ten guineas for the book, and at the same time picked
my pocket of thirty-nine.*
Mr. Wild hereupon appeared in as great a confusion as the lady,

6. A well-known tavern in Old Bailey.
and said he hoped she was not in earnest, but if it were so, begged her not to disturb herself, she should not lose one farthing. Upon which Jonathan begging her to sit still, stepped over to his own house and gave, as may be supposed, necessary directions, for in less than half an hour a little Jew (called Abraham) that Wild kept, bolted into the room, and told him the woman was taken, and on the point of going to the Compter. You shall see, Madam, said Jonathan, turning to the lady, what exemplary punishment I’ll make of this infamous woman. Then turning himself to the Jew, Abraham, says he, was the green purse of money taken on her? Yes sir, replied his agent. O la! then said the lady, I’ll take the purse with all my heart; I would not prosecute the poor wretch for the world. Would not you so, Madam, replied Wild. Well, then, we’ll see what’s to be done. Upon which he first whispered his emissary, and then dispatched him. He was no sooner gone than Jonathan told the lady that she would be too late at the merchant’s unless they took coach; which thereupon they did, and stopped over against the Compter gate by the Stocks Market. She wondered at all this, but by the time they have been in a tavern a very little space, back comes Jonathan’s emissary with the green purse and the gold in it. She says, sir, said the fellow to Wild she has only broke a guinea of the money for garnish and wine, and here’s all the rest of it. Very well, says Jonathan, give it to the lady. Will you please to tell it, madam? The lady accordingly did, and found there were forty-nine. Bless me! says she. I think the woman’s bewitched, she has sent me ten guineas more than I should have had. No, Madam, replied Wild, she has sent you back again the ten guineas which she received for the book; I never suffer any such practices in my way. I obliged her, therefore, to give up the money she had taken as well as that she had stole. And therefore I hope, whatever you may think of her, that you will not have a worse opinion of your humble servant for this accident. The lady was so much confounded and confuted at these unaccountable incidents, that she scarce knew what she did; at last recollecting herself, Well, Mr. Wild, says she; I think the least I can do is to oblige you to accept of these ten guineas. No, replied he, nor of ten farthings. I scorn all actions of such a sort as much as any man of quality in the kingdom. All the reward I desire, Madam, is that you will acknowledge I have acted like an honest man, and a man of honour. He had scarce pronounced these words, before he rose up, made her a bow, and went immediately down stairs. The reader may be assured there is not the least mixture of fiction in this story, and yet perhaps there was not a more remarkable one which happened in the whole course of Jonathan’s life. I shall add but one more relation of this sort, and then go on with the series of my history. This which I am now going to relate happened within a few doors of the place where I lived, 7.

7. This was the Poultry Compter.
and was transacted in this manner.
There came a little boy with vials in a basket to sell to a
surgeon who was my very intimate acquaintance. It was in the
winter, and the weather cold, when one day after he had sold the
bottles that were wanted, the boy complained he was almost
chilled to death with cold, and almost starved for want of
victuals. The surgeon’s maid, in compassion to the child, who
was not above nine or ten years old, took him into the kitchen,
and gave him a porringer of milk and bread, with a lump or two
of sugar in it. The boy ate a little of it, then said he had
enough, gave her a thousand blessings and thanks, and marched
off with a silver spoon, and a pair of forceps of the same
mettle, which lay in the shop as he passed through. The
instrument was first missed, and the search after it occasioned
their missing the spoon; and yet nobody suspected anything of
the boy, though they had all seen him in the kitchen.
The gentleman of the house, however, having some knowledge of
Jonathan Wild, and not living far from the Old Bailey, went
immediately to him for his advice. Jonathan called for a bottle
of white wine and ordered it to be mulled; the gentleman knowing
the custom of his house, laid down the crown, and was going on
to tell him the manner in which the things were missed, but Mr.
Wild soon cut him short by saying, Sir, step into the next room
a moment; here’s a lady coming hither. You may depend upon my
doing anything that is in my power, and presently we’ll talk the
thing over at leisure. The gentleman went into the room where
he was directed, and saw, with no little wonder, his forceps and
silver spoon lying upon the table. He had hardly taken them up
to look at them before Jonathan entered.

So, sir, said he, I
suppose you have no further occasion for my assistance. Yes,
indeed, I have, said the surgeon, there are a great many servants
in our family, and some of them will certainly be blamed for
this transaction; so that I am under a necessity of begging
another favour, which is, that you will let me know how they
were stolen? I believe the thief is not far off, quoth Jonathan,
and if you’ll give me your word he shall come to no harm, I’ll
produce him immediately.
The gentleman readily condescended to this proposition, and Mr.
Wild stepping out for a minute or two, brought in the young vial
merchant in his hand. Here, sir, says Wild, do you know this
hopeful youth? Yes, answered the surgeon, but I could never have
dreamt that a creature so little as he, could have had so much
wickedness in him. However, as I have given you my word, and as
I have my things again, I will not only pass by his robbing me,
but if he will bring me bottles again, shall make use of him as
I used to do. I believe you may, added Jonathan, when he ventures
into your house again.
But it seems he was therein mistaken, for in less than a week
afterwards the boy had the impudence to come and offer his vials
again, upon which the gentleman not only bought of him as usual,
but ordered two quarts of milk to be set on the fire, put into
it two ounces of glister sugar, crumbled it with a couple of
penny loaves, and obliged this nimble-fingered youth to eat it every drop up before he went out of the kitchen door, and then without farther correction hurried him about his business. This was the channel in which Jonathan’s business usually ran, but to support his credit with the magistrates, he was forced to add thief-catching to it, and every sessions or two, strung up some of the youths of his own bringing-up to the gallows. But this, however, did not serve his turn; an honourable person on the Bench took notice of his manner of acting, which being become at last very notorious, an Act of Parliament was passed, levelled directly against such practices, whereby persons who took money for the recovery of stolen goods, and did actually recover such goods without apprehending the felon, should be deemed guilty in the same degree of felony with those who committed the fact in taking such goods as were returned. And after this became law, the same honourable person sent to him to warn him of going on any longer at his old rate, for that it was now become a capital crime, and if he was apprehended for it, he could expect no mercy.

Jonathan received the reproof with abundance of thankfulness and submission, but what was strange, never altered the manner of his behaviour in the least; but on the contrary, did it more openly and publicly than ever. Indeed, to compensate for this, he seemed to double his diligence in apprehending thieves, and brought a vast number of the most notorious amongst them to the gallows, even though he himself had bred them up in the art of thieving, and given them both instructions and encouragement to take that road which was ruinous enough in itself, and by him made fatal.

Of these none were so open and apparent a case as that of Blake, alias Blueskin. This fellow had from a child been under the tuition of Jonathan, who paid for the curing his wounds, whilst he was in the Compter, allowed him three and sixpence a week for his subsistence, and afforded his help to get him out of there at last. Yet as soon after this he abandoned him to his own conduct in such matters, and in a short space caused him to be apprehended for breaking open the house of Mr. Kneebone, which brought him to the gallows. When the fellow came to be tried Jonathan, indeed, vouchsafed to speak to him, and assured him that his body should be handsomely interred in a good coffin at his own expense. This was strange comfort, and such as by no means suited Blueskin: he insisted peremptorily upon a transportation pardon, which he said he was sure Jonathan had interest enough to procure him. But Wild assured him that he had not, and that it was in vain for him to flatter himself with such hopes, but that he had better dispose himself to thinking of another life; in order to which, good books and such like helps should not be wanting.

All this put Blueskin at last into such a passion that though this discourse happened upon the leads at the Old Bailey; in the presence of the Court then sitting, Blake could not forbear taking a revenge for what he took to be an insult on him. And
therefore, without ado, he clapped one hand under Jonathan’s chin, and with the other, taking a sharp knife out of his pocket, cut him a large gash across the throat, which everybody at the time it was done judged mortal. Jonathan was carried off, all covered with blood, and though at that time he professed the greatest resentment for such usage, affirming that he had done all that lay in his power for the man who had so cruelly designed against his life; yet when he afterwards came to be under sentence of death, he regretted prodigiously the escape he had made then from death, often wishing that the knife of Blake had put an end to his life, rather than left him to linger out his days till so ignominious a fate befell him.

But it was not only Blake who had entertained notions of putting him to death. He had disobliged almost the whole group of villains with whom he had concern, and there were numbers of them who had taken it into their heads to deprive him of life. His escapes in the apprehending such persons were sometimes very narrow; he received wounds in almost every part of his body, his skull was twice fractured, and his whole constitution so broken by these accidents and the great fatigue he went through, that when he fell under the misfortunes which brought him to his death, he was scarce able to stand upright, and was never in a condition to go to chapel.

But we have broke a little into the thread of our history, and must therefore go back in order to trace the causes which brought on Jonathan’s last adventures, and finally his violent death. This we shall now relate in the clearest and concisest manner that the thing will allow; being well furnished for that purpose, having to personal experience added the best intelligence that could be procured, and that, too, from persons the most deserving of credit.

The practices of this criminal in the manner we have before mentioned continued long after the Act of Parliament; and in so notorious a manner, at last, that the magistrates in London and Middlesex thought themselves obliged by the duty of their office to take notice of him. This occasioned a warrant to be granted against him by a worshipful alderman of the City, upon which Mr. Wild being apprehended somewhere near Wood Street, he was carried into the Rose Sponging-house. There I myself saw him sitting in the kitchen at the fire, waiting the leisure of the magistrate who was to examine him.

In the meantime the crowd was very great, and, with his usual hypocrisy, Jonathan harangued them to this purpose. *I wonder, good people, what it is you would see? I am a poor honest man, who have done all I could do to serve people when they have had the misfortune to lose their goods by the villainy of thieves. I have contributed more than any man living to bringing the most daring and notorious malefactors to justice. Yet now by the malice of my enemies, you see I am in custody, and am going before a magistrate who I hope will do me justice. Why should you insult me, therefore? I don’t know that I ever injured any of you? Let me intreat you, therefore, as you see me lame in*
body, and afflicted in mind, not to make me more uneasy than I can bear. If I have offended against the law it will punish me, but it gives you no right to use me ill, unheard, and unconvicted.

By this time the people of the house and the Compter officers had pretty well cleared the place, upon which he began to compose himself, and desired them to get a coach to the door, for he was unable to walk. About an hour after, he was carried before a Justice and examined, and I think was thereupon immediately committed to Newgate. He lay there a considerable time before he was tried; at last he was convicted capitaly upon the following fact, which appeared on the evidence, exactly in the same light in which I shall state it.

He was indicted on the afore-mentioned Statute, for receiving money for the restoring stolen goods, without apprehending the persons by whom they were stolen. In order to support this charge, the prosecutrix, Catherine Stephens, deposed as follows:

As no person in this collection ever made so much noise as the person we are now speaking of, so never any man, perhaps, in any condition of life whatever had so many romantic stories fathered upon him in his life, or so many fictitious legendary accounts published of him after his death. It may seem a low kind of affectation to say that the memoirs we are now giving of Jonathan Wild are founded on certainty and fact; and that though they are so founded, they are yet more extraordinary than any of those fabulous relations pushed into the world to get a penny, at the time of his death, when it was a proper season for vending such forgeries, the public looking with so much attention on his catastrophe, and greedily catching up whatever pretended to the giving an account of his actions. But to go on with the history in its proper order.

Jonathan Wild was the son of persons in a mean and low state of life, yet for all that I have ever heard of them, both honest and industrious. Their family consisted of three sons and two daughters, whom their father and mother maintained and educated in the best manner they could from their joint labours, he as carpenter, and she by selling fruit in Wolverhampton market, in Staffordshire, which in future ages may perhaps become famous as the birth place of the celebrated Mr. Jonathan Wild. He was the eldest of the sons, and received as good an education as his father’s circumstances would allow him, being bred at the free-

8. Her name was really Statham.

9. A few additional particulars concerning Wild may be of interest. Soon after he came to London he opened a brothel in the infamous Lewkenor’s Lane, in partnership with Mary Milliner; after a time they quitted it to take an alehouse in Cock Alley, Cripplegate. He then drifted into business as a receiver and instigator of thefts, organizing regular gangs which operated in every branch of the thieving trade. On account of the number of criminals he brought to justice (as a result of their disloyalty to himself) the authorities winked at and tolerated his proceedings; and in January, 1724, he had the impudence to petition for the freedom of the City, as some recognition for the good services he had rendered in this direction. A few months later, however, his reputation became sadly blown upon, and in January, 1725, he was implicated in an affair with one of his minions, a sailor named Johnson, who had been arrested and had appealed to Wild for help. A riot was engineered, in which Johnson made his escape, but information was laid against the thief-taker, himself, who, after lying in hiding for three weeks, was arrested and committed to Newgate, which he only left to attend his trial and to take his last ride to Tyburn.
school to read and write, to both of which having attained to a tolerable degree, he was put out an apprentice to a buckle-maker in Birmingham.

He served his time with much fidelity, and came up to town in the service of a gentleman of the long robe, about the year 1704, or perhaps a little later. But not liking his service, or his master being not altogether so well pleased with him, he quitted it and retired to his old employment in the country, where he continued to work diligently for some time. But at last growing sick of labour, and still entertaining a desire to taste the pleasures of London, up hither he came a second time, and worked journey-work at the trade to which he was bred. But this not producing money enough to support those expenses Jonathan’s love of pleasure threw him into, he got pretty deeply in debt; and
some of his creditors not being endued with altogether as much patience as his circumstances required, he was suddenly arrested, and thrown into Wood-street Compter.

Having no friends to do anything for him, and having very little money in his pocket when this misfortune happened, he lived very hardly there, scarce getting bread enough to support him from the charity allowed to prisoners, and from what little services he could render to prisoners of the better sort in the gaol. However, as no man wanted address less than Jonathan, so nobody could have employed it more properly than he did upon this occasion; he thereby got so much into the favour of the keepers, that they quickly permitted him the liberty of the gate, as they call it, and he thereby got some little matter for going on errands. This set him above the very pinch of want, and that was all; but his fidelity and industry in these mean employments procured him such esteem amongst those in power there, that they soon took him into their ministry, and appointed him an under-keeper to those disorderly persons who were brought in every night and are called, in their cant, "rats."

Jonathan now came into a comfortable subsistence, having learnt how to get money of such people by putting them into the road of getting liberty for themselves. But there, says my author, he met with a lady who was confined on the score of such practices very often, and who went by the name of Mary Milliner; and who soon taught him how to gain much greater sums than in this way of life, by methods which he until then never heard of, and will I am confident, to this day carry the charms of novelty to most of my readers. Of these the first she put upon him was going on what they call the "twang," which is thus managed: the man who is the confederate goes out with some noted woman of the town, and if she fall into any broil, he is to be at a proper distance, ready to come into her assistance, and by making a sham quarrel, give her an opportunity of getting off, perhaps after she has dived for a watch or a purse of guineas, and was in danger of being caught in the very act. This proved a very successful employment to Mr. Wild for a time. Moll and he, therefore, resolved to set up together, and for that purpose took lodgings and lived as man and wife, notwithstanding Jonathan then had a wife and a son at Wolverhampton and the fair lady was married to a waterman in town.

By the help of this woman Jonathan grew acquainted with all the notorious gangs of loose persons within the bills of mortality, and was also perfectly versed in the manner by which they carried on their schemes. He knew where and how their enterprises were to be gone upon, and after what manner they disposed of their ill-got goods, when they came into their possession. Having always an intriguing head Wild set up for a director amongst them, and soon became so useful to them that though he never went out upon any of their lays, yet he got as much or more by their crimes as if he had been a partner with them, which upon one pretence or other he always declined.

He had long ago got rid of that debt for which he had been
imprisoned in the Compter, and having by his own thought projected a new manner of life, he began in a very little time to grow weary of Mrs. Milliner, who had been his first instructor. What probably contributed thereto was the danger to which he saw himself exposed by continuing a bully in her service; however, they parted without falling out, and as he had occasion to make use of her pretty often in his new way of business, so she proved very faithful and industrious to him in it, though she still went on in her old way.

’Tis now time, that both this and the remaining part of the discourse may be intelligible, to explain the methods by which thieves became the better for thieving where they did not steal ready money; and of this we will speak in the clearest and most concise manner that we can.

It must be observed that anciently when a thief had got his booty he had done all that a man in his profession could do, and there were multitudes of people ready to help them off with whatever effects he had got, without any more to do. But this method being totally destroyed by an Act passed in the reign of King William, by which it was made felony for any person to buy goods stolen, knowing them to be so, and some examples having been made on this Act, there were few or no receivers to be met with. Those that still carried on the trade took exorbitant sums for their own profit, leaving those who had run the hazard of their necks in obtaining them, the least share of the plunder. This (as an ingenious author says) had like to have brought the thieving trade to naught; but Jonathan quickly thought of a method to put things again in order, and give new life to the practices of the several branches of the ancient art and mystery called stealing. The method he took was this.

As soon as any considerable robbery was committed, and Jonathan received intelligence by whom, he immediately went to the thieves, and instead of offering to buy the whole or any part of the plunder, he only enquired how the thing was done, where the persons lived who were injured, and what the booty consisted in that was taken away. Then pretending to chide them for their wickedness in doing such actions, and exhorting them to live honestly for the future, he gave it them as his advice to lodge what they had taken in a proper place which he appointed them, and then promised he would take some measures for their security by getting the people to give them somewhat to have them restored again. Having thus wheedled those who had committed a robbery into a compliance with his measures, his next business was to divide the goods into several parcels, and cause them to be sent to different places, always avoiding taking them into his own hands.

Things being in this position, Jonathan, or Mrs. Milliner went to the persons who were robbed, and after condoling the misfortune, observed that they had an acquaintance with a broker to whom certain goods were brought, some of which they suspected to be stolen, and hearing that the person to whom they thus applied had been robbed they said they thought it the duty of
one honest body to another to inform them thereof, and to enquire what goods they were they lost, in order to discover whether those they spoke of were the same or no. People who had such losses are always ready, after the first fit of passion is over, to hearken to anything that has a tendency towards recovering their goods. Jonathan or his mistress therefore, who could either of them play the hypocrite nicely, had no great difficulty in making people listen to such terms; in a day or two, therefore, they were sure to come again with intelligence that having called upon their friend and looked over the goods, they had found part of the goods there; and provided nobody was brought into trouble, and the broker had something in consideration of his care, they might be had again. He generally told the people, when they came on this errand, that he had heard of another parcel at such a place, and that if they would stay a little, he would go and see whether they were such as they described theirs to be which they had lost.

This practice of Jonathan’s, if well considered, carries in it a great deal of policy; for first it seemed to be an honest and good-natured act to prevail on evil persons to restore the goods which they had stole; and it must be acknowledged to be a great benefit to those who were robbed thus to have their goods again upon a reasonable premium, Jonathan or his mistress all the while taking apparently nothing, their advantages arising from what they took out of the gratuity left with the broker, and out of what they had bargained with the thief to be allowed of the money which they had procured him. Such people finding this advantage in it, the rewards were very near as large as the price now given by receivers (since receiving became too dangerous), and they reaped a certain security also by the bargain.

With respect to Jonathan, the contrivance placed him in safety, not only from all the laws then in being, but perhaps would have secured him as securely from those that are made now, if covetousness had not prevailed with him to take bolder steps than these; for in a short time he began to give himself out for a person who made it his business to procure stolen goods to their right owners. When he first did this he acted with so much art and cunning that he acquired a very great reputation as an honest man, not only from those who dealt with him to procure what they had lost, but even from those people of higher station, who observing the industry with which he prosecuted certain malefactors, took him for a friend of Justice, and as such afforded him countenance and encouragement.

Certain it is that he brought more villains to the gallows than perhaps any man ever did, and consequently by diminishing their number, made it much more safe for persons to travel or even to reside with security in their own houses. And so sensible was Jonathan of the necessity there was for him to act in this manner, that he constantly hung up two or three of his clients at least in a twelvemonth, that he might keep up that character to which he had attained; and so indefatigable was he in the pursuit of those he endeavoured to apprehend, that it never
happened in all his course of acting, that so much as one single person escaped him. Nor need this appear so great a wonder, if we consider that the exact acquaintance he had with their gangs and the haunts they used put it out of their power almost to hide themselves so as to avoid his searches.

When this practice of Jonathan's became noted, and the people resorted continually to his house in order to hear of the goods which they had lost, it produced not only much discourse, but some enquiries into his behaviour. Jonathan foresaw this, and in order to evade any ill consequence that might follow upon it, upon such occasions put on an air of gravity, and complained of the evil disposition of the times, which would not permit a man to serve his neighbours and his country without censure. For do I not, quoth Jonathan, do the greatest good, when I persuade these wicked people who have deprived them of their properties, to restore them again for a reasonable consideration. And are not the villains whom I have so industriously brought to suffer that punishment which the Law, for the sake of its honest subjects, thinks fit to inflict upon them—in this respect, I say, does not their death show how much use I am to the country? Why, then, added Jonathan, should people asperse me, or endeavour to take away my bread?

This kind of discourse served, as my readers must know, to keep Wild safe in his employment for many years, while not a step he took, but trod on felony, nor a farthing did he obtain but what deserved the gallows. Two great things there were which contributed to his preservation, and they were these. The great readiness the Government always shows in detecting persons guilty of capital offences; in which case we know 'tis common to offer not only pardon, but rewards to persons guilty, provided they make discoveries; and this Jonathan was so sensible of that he did not only screen himself behind the lenity of the Supreme Power, but made use of it also as a sort of authority, and behaved himself with a very presuming air. And taking upon him the character of a sort of minister of Justice, this assumed character of his, however ill-founded, proved of great advantage to him in the course of his life. The other point, which, as I have said, contributed to keep him from any prosecutions on the score of these illegal and unwarrantable actions, was the great willingness of people who had been robbed to recover their goods, and who, provided for a small matter they could regain things for a considerable worth, were so far from taking pains to bring the offenders to justice that they thought the premium a cheap price to get off.

Thus by the rigour of the magistrate, and the lenity of the subject, Jonathan claimed constant employment, and according as wicked persons behaved, they were either trussed up to satisfy the just vengeance of the one, or protected and encouraged, that by bringing the goods they stole he might be enabled to satisfy the demands of the other. And thus we see the policy of a mean and scandalous thief-taker, conducted with as much prudence, caution, and necessary courage, as the measures taken by even
the greatest persons upon earth; nor perhaps is there, in all history, an instance of a man who thus openly dallied with the laws, and played with capital punishment. As I am persuaded my readers will take a pleasure in the relation of Jonathan’s maxims of policy, I shall be a little more particular in relation to them than otherwise I should have been, considering that in this work I do not propose to treat of the actions of a single person, but to consider the villainies committed throughout the space of a dozen years, such especially as have reached to public notice by bringing the authors of them to the gallows. But Mr. Wild being a man of such eminence as to value himself in his life-time on his superiority to meaner rogues; so I am willing to distinguish him now he is dead, by showing a greater complaisance in recording his history than that of any other hero in this way whatsoever. Nor, to speak properly, was Jonathan ever an operator, as they call it, that is a practicer in any one branch of thieving. No, his method was to acquire money at an easier rate, and if any title can be devised suitable to his great performance, it must be that of Director General of the united forces of highwaymen, housebreakers, footpads, pickpockets, and private thieves. Now, according to my promise, for the maxims by which he supported himself in this dangerous capacity.

In the first place, he continually exhorted the plunderers that belonged to his several gangs, to let him know punctually what goods they at any time took, by which means he had it in his power to give, for the most part, a direct answer to those who came to make their enquiries after they had lost their effects, either by their own carelessness, or the dexterity of the thief. If they complied faithfully with his instructions, he was a certain protector on all occasions, and sometimes had interest enough to procure them liberty when apprehended, either in the committing a robbery, or upon the information of one of the gang. In such a case Jonathan’s usual pretence was that such a person (who was the man he intended to save) was capable of making a larger and more effectual information, for which purpose Jonathan would sometimes supply him with memorandums of his own, and thereby establish so well the credit of his discovery, as scarce to fail of producing its effect.

But if his thieves threatened to become independent, and despise his rules, or endeavour for the sake of profit to vend the goods they got some other way without making application to Jonathan; or if they threw out any threatening speeches against their companions; or grumbled at the compositions he made for them, in such cases as these Wild took the first opportunity of talking to them in a new style, telling them that he was well assured they did very ill acts and plundered poor honest people, to indulge themselves in their debaucheries; that they would do well to think of amending before the Justice of their country fell upon them; and that after such warning they must not expect any assistance from him, in case they should fall under any misfortune. The next thing that followed after this fine
harangue was that they were put into the information of some of Jonathan’s creatures; or the first fresh fact they committed and Jonathan was applied to for the recovery of the goods, he immediately set out to apprehend them, and laboured so indefatigably therein that they never escaped him. Thus he not only procured the reward for himself, but also gained an opportunity of pretending that he not only restored goods to the right owners, but also apprehended the thief as often as it was in his power. As to instances, I shall mention them in a proper place.

I shall now go on to another observation, viz., that in those steps of his business which was most hazardous, Jonathan made the people themselves take the first steps by publishing advertisements of things lost, directing them to be brought to Mr. Wild, who was empowered to receive them and pay such a reward as the person that lost them thought fit to offer; and in this capacity Jonathan appeared no otherwise than as a person on whose honour these sort of people could rely; by which, his assistance became necessary for retrieving whatever had been pilfered.

After he had gone on in this trade for about ten years with success, he began to lay aside much of his former caution, and gave way to the natural vanity of his temper; taking a larger house in Old Bailey than that in which he formerly lived; giving the woman who he called his wife, abundance of fine things; keeping open office for restoring stolen goods; appointing abundance of under-officers to receive goods, carry messages to those who stole them, bring him exact intelligence of the several gangs and the places of their resort, and in fine, for such other purposes as this, their supreme governor, directed. His fame at last came to that height that persons of the highest quality would condescend to make use of his abilities, when at an installation, public entry, or some other great solemnity they had the misfortune of losing watches, jewels, or other things, whether of great real or imaginary value.

But as his methods of treating those who applied to him for his assistance has been much misrepresented, I shall next give an exact and impartial account thereof, that the fabulous history of Jonathan Wild may not be imposed upon posterity.

In the first place, then, when a person was introduced to Mr. Wild’s office, it was first hinted to him that a crown must be deposited by way of fee for his advice; when this was complied with a large book was brought out; then the loser was examined with much formality, as to the time, place, and manner that the goods became missing; and then the person was dismissed with a promise of careful enquiries being made, and of hearing more concerning them in a day or two. When this was adjusted, the person took his leave, with great hopes of being acquainted shortly with the fruits of Mr. Wild’s industry, and highly satisfied with the methodical treatment he had met with.

But at the bottom this was all grimace. Wild had not the least occasion for these queries, except to amuse the persons he
asked, for he knew beforehand all the circumstances of the robbery much better than they did. Nay, perhaps, he had the very goods in the house when the folks came first to enquire for them; though for reasons not hard to guess he made use of all this formality before he proceeded to return them. When, therefore, according to his appointment, the enquirer came the second time, Jonathan took care to amuse him by a new scene. He was told that Mr. Wild had indeed made enquiries, but was very sorry to communicate the result of them; the thief, truly, who was a bold impudent fellow, rejected with scorn the offer which pursuant to the loser’s instructions had been made him, insisted that he could sell the goods at a double price, and in short would not hear a word of restitution unless upon better terms. But notwithstanding all this, says Jonathan, if I can but come to the speech of him, I don’t doubt bringing him to reason. At length, after one or two more attendances, Mr. Wild gave the definite answer, that provided no questions were asked and so much money was given to the porter who brought them, the loser might have his things returned at such an hour precisely. This was transacted with all outward appearances of friendship and honest intention on his side, and with great seeming frankness and generosity; but when the client came to the last article, viz., what Mr. Wild expected for his trouble, then an air of coldness was put on, and he answered with equal pride and indifference, that what he did was purely from a principle of doing good. As to a gratuity for the trouble he had taken, he left it totally to yourself; you might do it in what you thought fit. Even when money was presented to him he received it with the same negligent grace, always putting you in mind that it was your own act, that you did it merely out of your generosity, and that it was no way the result of his request, that he took it as a favour, not as a reward.

By this dexterity in his management he fenced himself against the rigour of the law, in the midst of these notorious transgressions of it, for what could be imputed to Mr. Wild? He neither saw the thief who took away your goods, nor received them after they were taken; the method he pursued in order to procure you your things again was neither dishonest or illegal, if you will believe his account on it, and no other than his account could be gotten. According to him it was performed after this manner: after having enquired amongst such loose people as he acknowledged he had acquaintance with, and hearing that such a robbery was committed at such a time, and such and such goods were taken, he thereupon had caused it to be intimated to the thief that if he had any regard for his own safety he would cause such and such goods to be carried to such a place; in consideration of which, he might reasonably hope such a reward, naming a certain sum. If it excited the thief to return the goods, it did not thereby fix any guilt or blame upon Jonathan; and by this description, I fancy my readers will have a pretty clear idea of the man’s capacity, as well as of his villainy. Had Mr. Wild continued satisfied with this way of dealing in all
human probability he might have gone to his grave in peace, without any apprehensions of punishment but what he was to meet within a world to come. But he was greedy, and instead of keeping constant to this safe method, came at last to take the goods into his own custody, giving those that stole them what he thought proper, and then making such a bargain with the loser as he was able to bring him up to, sending the porter himself, and taking without ceremony whatever money had been given him. But as this happened only in the two last years of his life, it is fit I should give you some instances of his behaviour before, and these not from the hearsay of the town, but within the compass of my own knowledge.

A gentleman near Covent Garden who dealt in silks had bespoke a piece of extraordinary rich damask, on purpose for the birthday suit of a certain duke; and the lace-man having brought such trimming as was proper for it, the mercer had made the whole up in a parcel, tied it at each end with blue ribbon, sealed with great exactness, and placed on one end of the counter, in expectation of his Grace’s servant, who he knew was directed to call for it in the afternoon. Accordingly the fellow came, but when the mercer went to deliver him the goods, the piece had gone, and no account could possibly he had of it. As the master had been all day in the shop, so there was no possibility of charging anything either upon the carelessness or dishonesty of servants. After an hour’s fretting, therefore, seeing no other remedy, he even determined to go and communicate his loss to Mr. Wild, in hopes of receiving some benefit by his assistance, the loss consisting not so much in the value of the things as in the disappointment it would be to the nobleman not to have them on the birthday.

Upon this consideration a hackney-coach was immediately called, and away he was ordered to drive directly to Jonathan’s house in the Old Bailey. As soon as he came into the room, and had acquainted Mr. Wild with his business, the usual deposit of a crown being made, and the common questions of the how, when, and where, having been asked, the mercer being very impatient, said with some kind of heat, Mr. Wild, the loss I have sustained, though the intrinsic value of the goods be very little, lies more in disobliging my customer. Tell me, therefore, in a few words, if it be in your power to serve me. If it is, I have thirty guineas here ready to lay down, but if you expect that I should dance attendance for a week or two, I assure you I shall not be willing to part with above half the money. Good sir, replied Mr. Wild, have a little more consideration. I am no thief, sir, nor no receiver of stolen goods, so that if you don’t think fit to give me time to enquire, you must e’en take what measures you please.

When the mercer found he was like to be left without any hopes, he began to talk in a milder strain, and with abundance of intreaties fell to persuading Jonathan to think of some method to serve him, and that immediately. Wild stepped out a minute or two, as if to the necessary house; as soon as he came back
he told the gentleman, it was not in his power to serve him in such a hurry, if at all; however, in a day or two he might be able to give him some answer. The mercer insisted that a day or two would lessen the value of the goods one half to him, and Jonathan insisted, as peremptorily, that it was not in his power to do anything sooner.

At last a servant came in a hurry, and told Mr. Wild there was a gentleman below desired to speak with him. Jonathan bowed and begged the gentleman’s pardon, told him he would wait on him in one minute, and without staying for a reply withdrew, and clapped the door after him. In about five minutes he returned with a very smiling countenance, and turning to the gentleman, said, I protest sir, you are the luckiest man I ever knew. I spoke to one of my people just now, to go to a house where I know some lifters resort, and directed him to talk of the robbery that had been committed in your house, and to say that the gentleman had been with me and offered thirty guineas, provided the things might be had again, but declared, if he did not receive them in a very short space, he would give as great a reward for the discovery of the thief, whom he would prosecute with the utmost severity. This story has had its effect, and if you go directly home, I fancy you’ll hear more news of it yourself than I am able to tell you. But pray, sir, remember one thing; that the thirty guineas was your own offer. You are at free liberty to give them, or let them alone; do which you please, ’tis nothing to me; but take notice, sir, that I have done all for you in my power, without the least expectation of gratuity.

Away went the mercer, confounded in his mind, and wondering where this affair would end. But as he walked up Southampton Street a fellow overtook him, patted him on the shoulder, and delivered him the bundle unopened, telling him the price was twenty guineas. The mercer paid it him directly, and returning to Jonathan in half an hour’s time, readily expressed abundance of thanks to Mr. Wild for his assistance, and begged him to accept of the ten guineas he had saved him, for his pains. Jonathan told him that he had saved him nothing, but supposed that the people thought twenty demand enough, considering that they were now pretty safe from prosecution. The mercer still pressed the ten guineas upon Jonathan, who after taking them out of his hand returned him five of them, and assured him that was more than enough, adding: ’Tis satisfaction enough, sir, to an honest man that he is able to procure people their goods again. This, you will say, was a remarkable instance of his moderation. I will join to it an extraordinary an account of his justice, equity, or what else you will please to call it. It happened thus.

A lady whose husband was out of the kingdom, and had sent over to her draughts for her assistance to the amount of between fifteen hundred and two thousand pounds, lost the pocket-book in which they were contained, between Bucklersbury and Magpie alehouse in Leadenhall Street, where the merchant lived upon
whom they were drawn. She however, went to the gentleman, and he advised her to go directly to Mr. Jonathan Wild. Accordingly to Jonathan she came, deposited the crown, and answered the questions she asked him. Jonathan then told her that in an hour or two’s time, possibly, some of his people might hear who it was that had picked her pocket. The lady was vehement in her desires to have it again, and for that purpose went so far at last as to offer an hundred guineas. Upon that Wild made answer, Though they are of much greater value to you, madam, yet they cannot be worth anything like it to them; therefore keep your own counsel, say nothing in the hearing of my people, and I’ll give you the best, directions I am able for the recovery of your notes. In the meanwhile, if you will go to any tavern near, and endeavour to eat a bit of dinner, I will bring you an answer before the cloth is taken away. She said she was unacquainted with any house thereabouts, upon which Mr. Wild named the Baptist Head.10 The lady would not be satisfied unless Mr. Wild promised to eat with her; he at last complied, and she ordered a fowl and sausages at the house he had appointed. She waited there about three quarters of an hour, when Mr. Wild came over and told her he had heard news of her book, desiring her to tell out ten guineas upon the table in case she should have an occasion for them. As the cook came up to acquaint her that the fowl was ready, Jonathan begged she would see whether there was any woman waiting at his door. The lady, without minding the mystery, did as he desired her, and perceiving a woman in a scarlet riding-hood walk twice or thrice by Mr. Wild’s house, her curiosity prompted her to go near her. But recollecting she had left the gold upon the table upstairs, she went and snatched it up without saying a word to Jonathan, and then running down again went towards the woman in the red hood, who was still walking before his door. It seems she had guessed right, for no sooner did she approach towards her but the woman came directly up to her, and presenting her pocket book, desired she would open it and see that all was safe. The lady did so, and answering it was alright, the woman in the red riding-hood said, Here’s another little note for you, madam; upon which she gave her a little billet, on the outside of which was written ten guineas. The lady delivered her the money immediately, adding also a piece for herself, and returning with a great deal of joy to Mr. Wild, told him she had got her book, and would now eat her dinner heartily. When the things were taken away, she thought it was time to go to the merchant. Thinking it would be necessary to make Mr. Wild a handsome present, she put her hand in her pocket, and with great surprise found her green purse gone, in which was the remainder of fifty guineas she had borrowed of the merchant in the morning. Upon this she looked very much confused, but did not speak a word. Jonathan perceived it, asked if she was not well. I am tolerably in health, sir, answered she, but I am amazed that the woman took but ten guineas for the book, and at the same time picked

10. A well-known tavern in Old Bailey.
my pocket of thirty-nine.
Mr. Wild hereupon appeared in as great a confusion as the lady, and said he hoped she was not in earnest, but if it were so, begged her not to disturb herself, she should not lose one farthing. Upon which Jonathan begging her to sit still, stepped over to his own house and gave, as may be supposed, necessary directions, for in less than half an hour a little Jew (called Abraham) that Wild kept, bolted into the room, and told him the woman was taken, and on the point of going to the Compter. You shall see, Madam, said Jonathan, turning to the lady, what exemplary punishment I’ll make of this infamous woman. Then turning himself to the Jew, Abraham, says he, was the green purse of money taken on her? Yes sir, replied his agent. O la! then said the lady, I’ll take the purse with all my heart; I would not prosecute the poor wretch for the world. Would not you so, Madam, replied Wild. Well, then, we’ll see what’s to be done. Upon which he first whispered his emissary, and then dispatched him.

He was no sooner gone than Jonathan told the lady that she would be too late at the merchant’s unless they took coach; which thereupon they did, and stopped over against the Compter gate by the Stocks Market. She wondered at all this, but by the time they have been in a tavern a very little space, back comes Jonathan’s emissary with the green purse and the gold in it. She says, sir, said the fellow to Wild she has only broke a guinea of the money for garnish and wine, and here’s all the rest of it. Very well, says Jonathan, give it to the lady. Will you please to tell it, madam? The lady accordingly did, and found there were forty-nine. Bless me! says she. I think the woman’s bewitched, she has sent me ten guineas more than I should have had. No, Madam, replied Wild, she has sent you back again the ten guineas which she received for the book; I never suffer any such practices in my way. I obliged her, therefore, to give up the money she had taken as well as that she had stole. And therefore I hope, whatever you may think of her, that you will not have a worse opinion of your humble servant for this accident.

The lady was so much confounded and confuted at these unaccountable incidents, that she scarce knew what she did; at last recollecting herself, Well, Mr. Wild, says she; I think the least I can do is to oblige you to accept of these ten guineas. No, replied he, nor of ten farthings. I scorn all actions of such a sort as much as any man of quality in the kingdom. All the reward I desire, Madam, is that you will acknowledge I have acted like an honest man, and a man of honour. He had scarce pronounced these words, before he rose up, made her a bow, and went immediately down stairs. The reader may be assured there is not the least mixture of fiction in this story, and yet perhaps there was not a more remarkable one which happened in the whole course of Jonathan’s life. I shall add but one more relation of this sort, and then

11. This was the Poultry Compter.
go on with the series of my history. This which I am now going to relate happened within a few doors of the place where I lived, and was transacted in this manner.

There came a little boy with vials in a basket to sell to a surgeon who was my very intimate acquaintance. It was in the winter, and the weather cold, when one day after he had sold the bottles that were wanted, the boy complained he was almost chilled to death with cold, and almost starved for want of victuals. The surgeon’s maid, in compassion to the child, who was not above nine or ten years old, took him into the kitchen, and gave him a porridge of milk and bread, with a lump or two of sugar in it. The boy ate a little of it, then said he had enough, gave her a thousand blessings and thanks, and marched off with a silver spoon, and a pair of forceps of the same mettle, which lay in the shop as he passed through. The instrument was first missed, and the search after it occasioned their missing the spoon; and yet nobody suspected anything of the boy, though they had all seen him in the kitchen.

The gentleman of the house, however, having some knowledge of Jonathan Wild, and not living far from the Old Bailey, went immediately to him for his advice. Jonathan called for a bottle of white wine and ordered it to be mulled; the gentleman knowing the custom of his house, laid down the crown, and was going on to tell him the manner in which the things were missed, but Mr. Wild soon cut him short by saying, "Sir, step into the next room a moment; here’s a lady coming hither. You may depend upon my doing anything that is in my power, and presently we’ll talk the thing over at leisure.

The gentleman went into the room where he was directed, and saw, with no little wonder, his forceps and silver spoon lying upon the table. He had hardly taken them up to look at them before Jonathan entered. "So, sir," said he, "I suppose you have no further occasion for my assistance. Yes, indeed," said the surgeon, "there are a great many servants in our family, and some of them will certainly be blamed for this transaction; so that I am under a necessity of begging another favour, which is, that you will let me know how they were stolen? I believe the thief is not far off," quoth Jonathan, and if you’ll give me your word he shall come to no harm, I’ll produce him immediately.

The gentleman readily condescended to this proposition, and Mr. Wild stepping out for a minute or two, brought in the young vial merchant in his hand. "Here, sir," says Wild, "do you know this hopeful youth? Yes," answered the surgeon, "but I could never have dreamt that a creature so little as he, could have had so much wickedness in him. However, as I have given you my word, and as I have my things again, I will not only pass by his robbing me, but if he will bring me bottles again, shall make use of him as I used to do. I believe you may," added Jonathan, "when he ventures into your house again.

But it seems he was therein mistaken, for in less than a week afterwards the boy had the impudence to come and offer his vials again, upon which the gentleman not only bought of him as usual,
but ordered two quarts of milk to be set on the fire, put into it two ounces of glister sugar, crumbled it with a couple of penny loaves, and obliged this nimble-fingered youth to eat it every drop up before he went out of the kitchen door, and then without farther correction hurried him about his business. This was the channel in which Jonathan’s business usually ran, but to support his credit with the magistrates, he was forced to add thief-catching to it, and every sessions or two, strung up some of the youths of his own bringing-up to the gallows. But this, however, did not serve his turn; an honourable person on the Bench took notice of his manner of acting, which being become at last very notorious, an Act of Parliament was passed, levelled directly against such practices, whereby persons who took money for the recovery of stolen goods, and did actually recover such goods without apprehending the felon, should be deemed guilty in the same degree of felony with those who committed the fact in taking such goods as were returned. And after this became law, the same honourable person sent to him to warn him of going on any longer at his old rate, for that it was now become a capital crime, and if he was apprehended for it, he could expect no mercy.

Jonathan received the reproof with abundance of thankfulness and submission, but what was strange, never altered the manner of his behaviour in the least; but on the contrary, did it more openly and publicly than ever. Indeed, to compensate for this, he seemed to double his diligence in apprehending thieves, and brought a vast number of the most notorious amongst them to the gallows, even though he himself had bred them up in the art of thieving, and given them both instructions and encouragement to take that road which was ruinous enough in itself, and by him made fatal.

Of these none were so open and apparent a case as that of Blake, alias Blueskin. This fellow had from a child been under the tuition of Jonathan, who paid for the curing his wounds, whilst he was in the Compter, allowed him three and sixpence a week for his subsistence, and afforded his help to get him out of there at last. Yet as soon after this he abandoned him to his own conduct in such matters, and in a short space caused him to be apprehended for breaking open the house of Mr. Kneebone, which brought him to the gallows. When the fellow came to be tried Jonathan, indeed, vouchsafed to speak to him, and assured him that his body should be handsomely interred in a good coffin at his own expense. This was strange comfort, and such as by no means suited Blueskin: he insisted peremptorily upon a transportation pardon, which he said he was sure Jonathan had interest enough to procure him. But Wild assured him that he had not, and that it was in vain for him to flatter himself with such hopes, but that he had better dispose himself to thinking of another life; in order to which, good books and such like helps should not be wanting. All this put Blueskin at last into such a passion that though this discourse happened upon the leads at the Old Bailey; in the
presence of the Court then sitting, Blake could not forbear
taking a revenge for what he took to be an insult on him. And
therefore, without ado, he clapped one hand under Jonathan’s
chin, and with the other, taking a sharp knife out of his pocket,
cut him a large gash across the throat, which everybody at the
time it was done judged mortal. Jonathan was carried off, all
covered with blood, and though at that time he professed the
greatest resentment for such usage, affirming that he had done
all that lay in his power for the man who had so cruelly designed
against his life; yet when he afterwards came to be under
sentence of death, he regretted prodigiously the escape he had
made then from death, often wishing that the knife of Blake had
put an end to his life, rather than left him to linger out his
days till so ignominious a fate befell him.
But it was not only Blake who had entertained notions of putting
him to death. He had disobliged almost the whole group of
villains with whom he had concern, and there were numbers of
them who had taken it into their heads to deprive him of life.
His escapes in the apprehending such persons were sometimes very
narrow; he received wounds in almost every part of his body, his
skull was twice fractured, and his whole constitution so broken
by these accidents and the great fatigue he went through, that
when he fell under the misfortunes which brought him to his
death, he was scarce able to stand upright, and was never in a
condition to go to chapel.
But we have broke a little into the thread of our history, and
must therefore go back in order to trace the causes which brought
on Jonathan’s last adventures, and finally his violent death.
This we shall now relate in the clearest and concisest manner
that the thing will allow; being well furnished for that
purpose, having to personal experience added the best
intelligence that could be procured, and that, too, from persons
the most deserving of credit.
The practices of this criminal in the manner we have before
mentioned continued long after the Act of Parliament; and in so
notorious a manner, at last, that the magistrates in London and
Middlesex thought themselves obliged by the duty of their office
to take notice of him. This occasioned a warrant to be granted
against him by a worshipful alderman of the City, upon which Mr.
Wild being apprehended somewhere near Wood Street, he was
carried into the Rose Sponging-house. There I myself saw him
sitting in the kitchen at the fire, waiting the leisure of the
magistrate who was to examine him.
In the meantime the crowd was very great, and, with his usual
hypocrisy, Jonathan harangued them to this purpose. I wonder,
good people, what it is you would see? I am a poor honest man,
who have done all I could do to serve people when they have had
the misfortune to lose their goods by the villainy of thieves.
I have contributed more than any man living to bringing the most
daring and notorious malefactors to justice. Yet now by the
malice of my enemies, you see I am in custody, and am going
before a magistrate who I hope will do me justice. Why should
you insult me, therefore? I don’t know that I ever injured any of you? Let me intreat you, therefore, as you see me lame in body, and afflicted in mind, not to make me more uneasy than I can bear. If I have offended against the law it will punish me, but it gives you no right to use me ill, unheard, and unconvicted.

By this time the people of the house and the Compter officers had pretty well cleared the place, upon which he began to compose himself, and desired them to get a coach to the door, for he was unable to walk. About an hour after, he was carried before a Justice and examined, and I think was thereupon immediately committed to Newgate. He lay there a considerable time before he was tried; at last he was convicted capitally upon the following fact, which appeared on the evidence, exactly in the same light in which I shall state it.

He was indicted on the afore-mentioned Statute, for receiving money for the restoring stolen goods, without apprehending the persons by whom they were stolen. In order to support this charge, the prosecutrix, Catherine Stephens, 12 deposed as follows:

On the 22nd of January, I had two persons come in to my shop under pretence of buying some lace. They were so difficult that I had none below would please them, so leaving my daughter in the shop, I stepped upstairs and brought down another box. We could not agree about the price, and so they went away together. In about half an hour I missed a tin box of lace that I valued at £50. The same night and the next I went to Jonathan Wild’s house; but meeting with him at home, I advertised the lace that I had lost with a reward of fifteen guineas, and no questions asked. But hearing nothing of it, I went to Jonathan’s house again, and then met with him at home. He desired me to give him a description of the persons that I suspected, which I did, as near as I could; and then he told me, that he would make enquiry, and bid me call again in two or three days. I did so, and then he said that he had heard something of my lace, and expected to know more of the matter in a very little time.

I came to him again on that day he was apprehended (I think it was the 15th of February). I told him that though I had advertised but fifteen guineas reward, yet I would give twenty or twenty-five guineas, rather than not have my goods. Don’t be in such a hurry, says Jonathan, I don’t know but I may help you to it for less, and if I can I will; the persons that have it are gone out of town. I shall set them to quarrelling about it, and then I shall get it the cheaper. On the 10th of March he sent me word that if I could come to him in Newgate, and bring ten guineas in my pocket, he would help me to the lace. I went, he desired me to call a porter, but I

12. Her name was really Statham.
not knowing where to find one, he sent a person who brought one that appeared to be a ticket-porter. The prisoner gave me a letter which he said was sent him as a direction where to go for the lace; but I could not read, and so I delivered it to the porter. Then he desired me to give the porter the ten guineas, or else (he said) the persons who had the lace would not deliver it. I gave the porter the money; he returned, and brought me a box that was sealed up, but not the same that was lost. I opened it and found all my lace but one piece.

Now, Mr. Wild, says I, what must you have for your trouble? Not a farthing, says he, not a farthing for me. I don’t do these things for worldly interest, but only for the good of poor people that have met with misfortunes. As for the piece of lace that is missing, I hope to get it for you ere long, and I don’t know but that I may help you not only to your money again, but to the thief too. And if I can, much good may it do you; and as you are a good woman and a widow, and a Christian, I desire nothing of you but your prayers, and for these I shall be thankful. I have a great many enemies, and God knows what may be the consequence of this imprisonment.

The fact suggested in the indictment was undoubtedly fully proved by this disposition, and though that fact happened in Newgate, and after his confinement, yet it still continued as much and as great a crime as if it had been done before; the Law therefore condemned him upon it. But even if he had escaped this, there were other facts of a like nature, which inevitably would have destroyed him; for the last years of his life, instead of growing more prudent, he undoubtedly became less so, for the blunders committed in this fact, were very little like the behaviour of Jonathan in the first years in which he carried on this practice, when nobody behaved with greater caution, as nobody ever had so much reason to be cautious. And though he had all along great enemies, yet he had conducted his affairs so that the Law could not possibly lay hold of him, nor his excuses be easily detected, even in respect of honesty.

When he was brought up to the bar to receive sentence, he appeared to be very much dejected, and when the usual question was proposed to him: What have you to say why judgment of death should not pass upon you? he spoke with a very feeble voice in the following terms.

My Lord, I hope even in the sad condition in which I stand, I may pretend to some little merit in respect to the service I have done my country, in delivering it from some of the greatest pests with which it was ever troubled. My Lord, I have brought many bold and daring malefactors to just punishment, even at the hazard of my own life, my body being covered with scars I received in these undertakings. I presume, my Lord, to say I have done merit, because at the time the things were done, they
were esteemed meritorious by the government; and therefore I hope, my Lord, some compassion may be shown on the score of those services. I submit myself wholly to his Majesty’s mercy, and humbly beg a favourable report of my case.

When Sir William Thomson\(^\text{13}\) (now one of the barons of his Majesty’s Court of Exchequer), as Recorder of London, pronounced sentence of death, he spoke particularly to Wild, put him in mind of those cautions he had had against going on in those practices rendered capital by Law, made on purpose for preventing that infamous trade of becoming broker for felony, and standing in the middle between the felon and the person injured, in order to receive a premium for redress. And when he had properly stated the nature and aggravations of his crime, he exhorted him to make a better use of that small portion of time, which the tenderness of the law of England allowed sinners for repentance, and desired he would remember this admonition though he had slighted others. As to the report he told him, he might depend on Justice, and ought not to hope for any more.

Under conviction, no man who appeared upon other occasions to have so much courage, ever showed so little. He had constantly declined ever coming to chapel, under pretence of lameness and indisposition; when clergymen took the pains to visit him and instruct him in those duties which it became a dying man to practice, though he heard them without interruption, yet he heard them coldly. Instead of desiring to be instructed on that head, he was continually suggesting scruples and doubts about a future state, asking impertinent questions as to the state of souls departed, and putting frequent cases of the reasonableness and lawfulness of suicide, where an ignominious death was inevitable, and the thing was perpetrated only to avoid shame. He was more especially swayed to such notions he pretended, from the examples of the famous heroes of antiquity, who to avoid dishonourable treatment, had given themselves a speedy death. As such discourses were what took up most of the time between his sentence and death, so that occasioned some very useful lectures upon this head from the charitable divines who visited him; but though they would have been of great use in all such cases for the future, yet being pronounced by word of mouth only, they are now totally lost. One letter indeed was written to him by a learned person on this head, of which a copy has been preserved, and it is with great pleasure that I give it to my readers, it runs thus:

A letter from the Reverend Dr. — to Mr. Wild in Newgate.
I am very sorry that after a life so spent as yours is notoriously known to have been, you should yet, instead of repenting of your former offences, continue to swell their number even with greater. I pray God that it be not the greatest of all sins, affecting doubts as to a future state, and whether you shall ever be brought to answer for your actions in this life, before a tribunal in that which is to come.

The heathens, it must be owned, could have no certainty as to

\(^{13}\) See page 418.
the immortality of the soul, because they had no immediate revelation; for though the reasons which incline us to the belief of those two points of future existence and future tribulation be as strong as any of the motives are to other points in natural religion, yet as none return from that land of darkness, or escape from the shadow of death to bring news of what passeth in those regions whither all men go, so without a direct revelation from the Almighty no positive knowledge could be had of life in the world to come, which is therefore properly said to be derived to us through Christ Jesus, who in plain terms, and with that authority which confounded his enemies, the Scribes and Pharisees, taught the doctrine of a final judgment, and by affording us the means of grace, raised in us at the same time the hopes of glory.

The arguments, therefore, which might appear sufficient unto the heathens, to justify killing themselves to avoid what they thought greater evils, if they had any force then must have totally lost it now. Indeed, the far greater number of instances which history has transmitted us, show that self-murder, even then, proceeded from the same causes as at present, viz., rage, despair, and disappointment. Wise men in all ages despised it as a mean and despicable flight from evils the soul wanted courage and strength to bear. This has not only been said by philosophers, but even by poets, too; which shows that it appeared a notion, not only rational, but heroic. There are none so timorous, says Martial, but extremity of want may force upon a voluntary death; those few alone are to be accounted brave who can support a life of evil and the pressing load of misery, without having recount to a dagger.

But if there were no more in it than the dispute of which was the most gallant act of the two, to suffer, or die, it would not deserve so much consideration. The matter with you is of far greater importance, it is not how, or in what manner you ought to die in this world, but how you are to expect mercy and happiness in that which is to come. This is your last stake, and all that now can deserve your regard. Even hope is lost as to present life, and if you make use of your reason, it must direct you to turn all your wishes and endeavours towards attaining happiness in a future state. What, then, remains to be examined in respect of this question is whether persons who slay themselves can hope for pardon or happiness in the sentence of that Judge from whom there is no appeal, and whose sentence, as it surpasses all understanding, so is it executed immediately. If we judge only from reason, it seems that we have no right over a life which we receive not from ourselves, or from our parents, but from the immediate gift of Him who is the Lord thereof, and the Fountain of Being.

To take away our own life, then, is contradicting as far as we are able the Laws of Providence, and that disposition which His wisdom has been pleased to direct. It is as though we pretended to have more knowledge or more power than he; and as to that pretence which is usually made use of, that Life is meant as a
blessing, and that therefore when it becomes an evil, we may if we think fit resign it, it is indeed but a mere sophistry. We acknowledge God to be infinite in all perfections, and consequently in wisdom and power; from the latter we receive our existence in this Life, and as to the measure it depends wholly on the former; so that if we from the shallow dictates of our reason contemptuously shorten that term which is appointed us by the Almighty, we thereby contradict all His laws, throw up all right to His promises, and by the very last act we are capable of, put ourselves out of His protection.

This I say is the prospect of the fruits of suicide, looked on with the eye only of natural religion; and the opinion of Christians is unanimous in this respect, that persons who willfully deprive themselves of life here, involve themselves also in death everlasting. As to your particular case, in which you say ‘tis only making choice of one death rather than another, there are also the strongest reasons against it; The Law intends your death, not only for the punishment of your crimes, but as an example to deter others. The Law of God which hath commanded that the magistrates should not bear the sword in vain, hath given power to denounce this sentence against you; but that authority which you would assume, defeats both the law of the land in its intention, and is opposite also unto the Law of God. Add unto all this, the example of our blessed Saviour, who submitted to be hung upon a tree, tho’ He had only need of praying to His Father to have sent Him thousands of Angels; yet chose He the death of a thief, that the Will of God, and the sentence even of an unrighteous judge might be satisfied.

Let, then, the testimony of your own reason, your reverence towards God, and the hopes which you ought to have in Jesus Christ, determine you to await with patience the hour of your dissolution, dispose you to fill up the short interval which yet remains with sincere repentance, and enable you to support your sufferings with such a Christian spirit of resignation, as may purchase for you an eternal weight of glory. In the which you shall always be assisted with my Prayers to God.

Who am, etc.

Jonathan at last pretended to be overcome with the reasons which had been offered to him on the subject of self-murder. But it plainly appeared that in this he was a hypocrite; for the day before his execution, notwithstanding the keepers had the strictest eye on him imaginable, somebody conveyed to him a bottle of liquid laudanum, of which having taken a very large quantity, he hoped it would forestall his dying at the gallows. But as he had not been sparing in the dose, so the largeness of it made a speedy effect, which was perceived by his fellow-prisoners seeing he could not open his eyes at the time that prayers were said to them as usual in the condemned hold. Whereupon they walked him about, which first made him sweat exceedingly, and he was then very sick. At last he vomited, and they continuing still to lead him, he threw the greatest part of the laudanum off from his stomach. Notwithstanding that, he
continued very drowsy, stupid and unable to do anything but gasp out his breath until it was stopped by the halter. He went to execution in a cart, and instead of expressing any kind of pity or compassion for him, the people continued to throw stones and dirt all the way along, reviling and cursing him to die last, and plainly showed by their behaviour how much the blackness and notoriety of his crimes had made him abhorred, and how little tenderness the enemies of mankind meet with, when overtaken by the hand of Justice.

When he arrived at Tyburn, having by that gathered a little strength (nature recovering from the convulsions in which the laudanum had thrown him), the executioner told him he might take what time he pleased to prepare his death. He therefore sat down in the cart for some small time, during which the people were so uneasy that they called out incessantly to the executioner to dispatch him, and at last threatened to tear him to pieces if he did not tie him up immediately. Such a furious spirit was hardly ever discovered in the populace upon such an occasion. They generally look on blood with tenderness, and behold even the stroke of Justice with tears; but so far were they from it in this case that had a reprieve really come, 'tis highly questionable whether the prisoner could ever have been brought back with safety, it being far more likely that as they wounded him dangerously in the head in his passage to Tyburn, they would have knocked him on the head outright, if any had attempted to have brought him back.

Before I part with Mr. Wild, 'tis requisite that I inform you in regard to his wives, or those who were called his wives, concerning whom so much noise has been made. His first was a poor honest woman who contented herself to live at Wolverhampton, with the son she had by him, without ever putting him to any trouble, or endeavouring to come up to Town to take upon her the style and title of Madam Wild, which the last wife he lived with did with the greatest affection. The next whom he
thought fit to dignify with the name of his consort, was the afore-mentioned Mrs. Milliner, with whom he continued in very great intimacy after they lived separately, and by her means carried on the first of his trade in detecting stolen goods. The third one was Betty Man, a woman of the town in her younger days, but so suddenly struck with horror by a Romish priest that she turned Papist; and as she appeared in her heart exceedingly devout and thoroughly penitent for all her sins, it is to be hoped such penitence might merit forgiveness, however erroneous the principle might be of that Church in the communion of which she died. Wild ever retained such an impression of the sanctity of this woman after her decease, and so great veneration for her, that he ordered his body to be buried next hers in Pancras Churchyard, which his friends saw accordingly performed, about two o’clock in the morning after his execution.14

The next of Mr. Wild’s sultana’s was Sarah Perrin, alias Graystone, who survived him; then there was Judith Nunn, by whom he had a daughter, who at the time of his decease might be about ten years old, both mother and daughter being then living. The sixth and last was no less celebrated as Mrs. or Madam Wild, than he was remarkable by the style of Wild the Thief-catcher, or, by way of irony, of Benefit Jonathan. Before her first marriage this remarkable damsel was known by the name of Mary Brown, afterwards by that of Mrs. Dean, being wife to Skull Dean who was executed about the year 1716 or 1717 for housebreaking. Some malicious people have reported that Jonathan was accessory to hanging him merely for the sake of the reward, and the opportunity of taking his relict, who, whatever regard she might have for her first husband, is currently reported to have been so much affected with the misfortunes that happened to the latter, that she twice attempted to make away with herself, after she had the news of his being under sentence of death. However, by this his last lady, he left no children, and but two by his three other wives were living at the time of his decease. As to the person of the man, it was homely to the greatest degree. There was something remarkably villainous in his face, which nature had imprinted in stronger terms than perhaps she ever did upon any other; however, he was strong and active, a fellow of prodigious boldness and resolution, which made the pusillanimity shown at his death more remarkable. In his lifetime he was not at all shy in owning his profession, but on the contrary bragged of it upon all occasions; into which perhaps he was led by that ridiculous respect which was paid him, and the meanness of spirit some persons of distinction were guilty of in talking to him freely.

Common report has swelled the number of malefactors executed through his means to no less than one hundred and twenty; certain it is that they were very numerous in reality as in his own reckoning. The most remarkable of them were these: White, Thurland, and Dunn, executed for the murder of Mrs. Knap, and robbing Thomas Mickletwait, Esq.; James Lincoln and Robert

14. Soon after burial his body was disinterred and the head and body separated. Wild’s skull and the skeleton of his trunk were exhibited publicly as late as 1860.
Wilkinson, for robbing and murdering Peter Martin, the Chelsea Pensioner (but it must be noted that they denied the murder even with their last breath); James Shaw, convicted by Jonathan, for the murder of Mr. Pots, though he had been apprehended by others; Humphrey Angier, who died for robbing Mr. Lewin, the City Marshal; John Levee and Matthew Flood, for robbing the Honourable Mr. Young and Colonel Cope, of a watch and other things of value; Richard Oakey, for robbing of Mr. Betts, in Fig Lane; John Shepherd and Joseph Blake, for breaking the house of Mr. Kneebone; with many others, some of which, such as John Malony and Val Carrick, were of an older date.

It has been said that there was a considerable sum of money due to him for his share in the apprehension of several felonies at the very time of his death, which happened, as I have told you, at Tyburn, on Monday, the 24th day of May, 1725; he being then about forty-two years of age.
The Chinese governmental monopoly on opium restricted its recreational use to the very well-to-do. This drug was not going to become a public problem in the Central Kingdom for so long as the Chinese had any control over their own internal situation. (This ban on importation would be seriously compromised by the British East India Company until 1839. Eventually, growing, supplying, or even smoking this drug would be made, in China, capital offenses.)

Yongzheng set up his Grand Council, an informal and flexible body of military advisers.

The British Parliament passed the first Gin Act, the high duties of which would result in the production of bad, bootlegged gin, prompting widespread protests.
The poppy *Papaver somniferum* began to be cultivated in England, and for awhile local opium production would be able to produce a profit (until the local opium was quite driven off the market by the ready transportability of opium produced in overseas growth centers).

In Virginia the Inspection Acts come into effect, standardizing and regulating tobacco sales and exports to prevent the export of “trash tobacco” (shipments diluted with leaves and household sweepings, which were debasing the value of Virginia tobacco). Inspection warehouses were empowered to verify weight and kind and quality of tobacco.

The 1st American tobacco factories were begun in Virginia — they were small snuff mills.
Papaver somniferum L.
A shipload of immigrants from Silesia settled in Pennsylvania, introducing there the *Crocus Sativa* that produces *saffron*.

An article in *Newsweek* has reminded me of a problem that has been repeatedly rearing its ugly head, to wit, "Austin, you don’t know nearly enough about the influence of drugs on the lives of the people you are studying."

Kendall Hamilton reported in this article on the designer drugs of history, that *laudanum* had been a tincture of *opium* and *saffron*. Was this a principle reason for the cultivation of the *Crocus sativus*? I have been studying how the reputation of religious dissenters such as the Quakers, for probity and plain dealing, was turned to good use not only in the manufacture and merchandising of fine *chocolate*, as in Cadbury, but also in the manufacture and merchandising of reliable designer drugs, as in Black Drop and many other preparations. And if the *Crocus sativus* fields around Saffron Walden in England were significantly used in this drug business, then there was perhaps an involvement of Huguenot religious refugees from France similar, say, to today’s newspapers and the “minority Christian farmers” of the Bekka Valley in the Lebanon, with their machineguns and their rockets and their primary cash crop of *hashish*. Or, at least, that was what first sprang to my mind when I read in my *Newsweek* of *laudanum* consisting not only of *opium* but also of *saffron*. In the 19th Century, the best *opium* was coming from Turkey, but the Greek independence movement of the 1820s closed the port of Smyrna and that led to new *opium* fields first in Bengal and then also in Burma, and of course in Persia. *Saffron* has always been very expensive (costing considerably more than 19th Century *opium*) because of the complexity of its cultivation. The saffron colored robes of the buddhist monks from some *opium* growing areas (e.g. Thailand) might be relevant here. While I was in the Middle East, the Shah’s twin sister was getting arrested with suitcases full of Iranian *opium* in Switzerland, and claiming diplomatic immunity. I kept running across case after case of dope stuff having to do with historic Persia. For an instance of the curious stuff which I am convinced remains to be discovered, I’ve found out that the turquoise used by Navajo silversmiths was, from an exceedingly early date, almost exclusively imported from Persian mines. Well before the lands in the American southwest became divided up into states, well back into the days of the first stagecoaches, white traders were going down there and essentially obsoleting the local sources of inferior turquoise with very superior, easily portable gemstone from Persia. They were also carrying in fast artificial dies, such as the latest coal-tar derivatives from Germany, to replace the non-fast dies made from local plants, so that it was at a very early point that the native weaving began to make this crossover. In general, what I think we haven’t been paying adequate attention to is that there is an entire range of commodities which spread very rapidly, because 1.) their usefulness is obvious to everyone, as in the case of *saffron* or *opium* or turquoise or fast dies and mordants, and because 2.) they were just absolutely easy to transport, being something that maybe one person could carry along in his saddlebag wrapped in a greasy cloth. I would suspect that the discoveries we are going to make are on the order of back when we were discovering, say, that a particular species of bird that disappeared from New England in the autumns was doing this disappearing act every year because it was flying to say Bermuda for the winter, and had just as much of a life in Bermuda as in Connecticut. Chemistry handbooks and encyclopaedias mention *saffron* only as a coloring agent (e.g. for liquors, in former centuries for cloth) and as substance to make perfumes from, making no mention of any drug effects. However, by checking saffron (azafra’n) in a dictionary we can find that it has been considered to be a stimulant, and in mediaeval herbals one can find also that:
According to ancient legend, a Greek girl, partaking of saffron for an entire week, could not resist a lover. The reputation of saffron as an aphrodisiac has not wholly disappeared although it is now used largely as a condiment in food. According to Wedek’s Dictionary of Aphrodisiacs. (NY: Philosophical Library, 1961, pages 212-13), “A concoction consisting of saffron, orange blossoms, dried dates, anise, wild carrots, and egg yolk, boiled in clear water into which honey and the blood of two freshly killed doves have been poured, is recommended by Arabs as a sexual inducement.”

According to The Medical Formulary or Aqrabadhin of Al-Kindi as translated by Martin Levey (Madison WI: U of Wisconsin P, 1966, pages 275-76) saffron is credited in different parts of the world with helping in problems of the eyes, stomach, hysteric depressions, and “in pessaries and cataplasmes for the uterus and other organs.”

The article “Laudanum” in the Encyclopaedia Britannica indicates that this tincture, first produced by Paracelsus, contained many ingredients—presumably the list of ingredients would have been a trade secret of every provider— including saffron but always among these ingredients was opium. It seems plausible that the powers ascribed to saffron were transferred to the one ingredient in the popular mind, from the other ingredient.

According to the Dictionnaire Universel de la Vie Pratique, red. G. Beleze, Hachette 1876, page1225, at the end of its article on “Opium,”

Le Laudanum liquide de Sydenham s’obtient en faisant macérer, pendant douze ou quinze jours, au soleil, dans un demi-litre de vin d’Espagne ou de Malaga, 8 gr. d’opium, 4 gr. de safran, 4 gr. de cannelle et 4 gr. de girofle; on passe et on filtre. Vingt gouttes de ce liquide contiennent 5 centigr. d’opium en dissolution. Il est tonique et calmant : on le administre à la dose de quelques gouttes. Pris a plus forte dose, il occasionnerait l’empoissonnement.

Also, on pages 1585/86, in its article on “Safran,”

(Econ.domestiq.) Il est employé comme assaionnement dans quelques préparations culinaires, et principalement dans la cuisine méridionale. Il sert aussi à colorer certaines pates, telles que la vermicelle, des cremes, des gateaux, le beurre etc. Enfin, il entre dans la composition de quelques liqueurs de table. Dans tout les cas c’est une substance stimulante dont on ne doit faire usage qu’a petites doses.

(Medicine domest.) Les stigmates du safran sont employés en medicine comme antispasmodiques excitants. C’est un stimulant inoffensif, a la dose d’un ou deux decigrammes en infusion dans une tasse d’eau bouillante.
Robert Clive defeated Siraj ud daula, Nawab of Bengal, at the Battle of Plassey, consolidating the control of the East India Company over Bengal and dooming the French colonialists in India.

The British East India Company began to expand its influence throughout the subcontinent. It assumed control of the opium-growing districts of Bengal and Bihar and established a limited monopoly over the trade, attempting to maximize revenue by sponsoring use of the substance.
William Cowper, nominated by his sponsor for a political position for which he felt unsuited, was nevertheless afraid to withdraw lest he damaged his sponsor’s reputation. So he fell into a state of melancholy and began to attempt suicide, or, as we would say today, make suicide gestures. He tried laudanum and it “didn’t work,” he couldn’t do it with his penknife, and even the Thames proved insufficiently fatal. He would survive to compose an account of this “dejection of spirits as none but they who have felt the same can have the least conception,” which would be published after his eventual demise. This piece would become the first instance, in English at least, of a new genre, the memoir of melancholy, which is now known as autopathography, the literature of mood disorder: a prime current example of the genre would be William Styron’s 1990 tour de force, Darkness Visible. [I DO NOT PLAN TO WRITE AN ODE TO MELANCHOLY/WALDEN]
In England, Dr. John Jones declared in *The Mysteries of Opium Reveal’d* that properly used, opium would cure, not merely alleviate, symptoms of many disorders. His unbounded enthusiasm went beyond even Sydenham’s. Dover’s Powder made its appearance and would be one of the most widely used opium preparations for the next century and a half.
Parliament limited the authority of the East India Company but left the company free to carry on its trading activities but placed all British subjects in India under parliamentary control and a single governor-general. Warren Hastings became the 1st governor-general of India.

He attempted to bring the opium trade under more government control, by limiting cultivation and production.
British traders from India established depots at Canton and Macao on the coast of China, and the commercial importance of opium in the British trade balance began to increase. Opium smoking would reach Peking in 1790. As opium smoking spread across China, there would be imperial edicts in 1780, 1796, and 1800 prohibiting its importation, sale, and consumption.

Frederick the Great ordered Prussians to drink beer rather than coffee, because he was deriving better revenue from the taxes on beer than from the taxes on coffee. He attempted to restrict coffee drinking to his court, and established a prohibitive tax.
Publication, in London, of a book a copy of which would wind up on the shelves of Henry Thoreau’s library, and then in Special Collections at the Concord Free Public Library: A CODE OF GENTOO LAWS, OR, ORDINATIONS OF THE PUNDITS, FROM A PERSIAN TRANSLATION, MADE FROM THE ORIGINAL, WRITTEN IN THE SHANSCRIT \[sic\] LANGUAGE.

In this year but 60 tons of opium were produced in all of India (primarily in and around Patna and Benares).

Although the distribution copies of the Declaration of Independence would be sent out as a mere broadside roughly printed on newspaper-quality paper stock, as soon as it would become more or less safe for the delegates to set their names to this anonymous document, presentation holographic copies would be inscribed for the purposes of posterity on cannabis (hemp) paper.
The East India Company at this point established its monopoly over traffic in opium.
At about this point Malwah opium grown in Central India was beginning to be shipped by the East India Company from the port of Bombay to China in the form of cases of 300-gram balls. Opium was hardly known in China. This inferior Malwah product could be purchased for between 20% to 50% as much per case as European-grade opium.

(In related drug-traffic news, at this point the doors of Warren Tavern in Charlestown MA were opening to local imbibers for the first time. And these doors’ve been open ever since, for the establishment now lays claim to being the oldest continuously operating tavern in the US of A. The open door to China has, however, been closed for some time to the products of this East India Company.)
French troops, in Providence to support the American revolutionaries against their common enemy England, set up their encampment off Rochambeau Avenue at a place that would become known as Camp Street. We have an extract from the diary of one of these French officers stationed in Rhode Island.

Although opium was a known anodyne, the French surgeons would refuse to administer it to their soldier patients. Although this might possibly have been due to the French having considered there to be something wrong with opium in particular as a medical drug, there is also a possibility that they considered there to be something undesirable, or at the very least unnecessary, about relieving the suffering of a patient. That was an attitude which would prove to be all too prevalent among American doctors and dentists several generations later, with the introduction of ether and nitrous oxide. A number of our doctors and dentists would be reluctant to—how shall I put this—to by their own superior judgment override God’s clear will. An all too prevalent attitude was that this was supposed to hurt, people in such circumstances ought to be in great pain—that this is all a part of the grand process of life. I don’t have any clear understanding of the “religious” roots of this, and if anyone can offer insightful words which will help me better to understand that sort of attitude, I would be most appreciative. I find it exceedingly strange and have difficulty imagining what the theological underpinnings of it might have been.

My sense of the situation is that operative anesthesia would not come into general use until surgeons noticed that, by cutting down remarkably on the number of deaths due to post-operative shock, it offered them, priding themselves on the rapidity with which they could remove various body parts, competing with one another for hero status as the quickest sawbones, an opportunity to operate in less of a chop-chop hurry-up mode. If this was the situation several generations earlier as it would be the situation toward the middle of the 19th Century, then we should not hasten from the observation that the French Revolutionary-War surgeons here were reluctant to administer opium, to the conclusion that it was opiates in particular of which they were suspicious—it may be that they would likewise have refused to administer aspirin.
The botanist Michel-Guillaume-Jean de Crèvecoeur,\textsuperscript{15} in his \textit{LETTERS FROM AN AMERICAN FARMER} (Stone, ed., page 160), had some alarming things to say about women's use of opium on Nantucket Island:

A singular custom prevails here among the women, at which I was greatly surprised and am really at a loss how to account for the original cause that has introduced in this primitive society so remarkable a fashion, or rather so extraordinary a want. They have adopted these many years the Asiatic custom of taking a dose of opium every morning, and so deeply rooted is it that they would be at a loss how to live without this indulgence; they would rather be deprived of any necessary than forego their favorite luxury. This is much more prevailing among the women than the men, few of the latter having caught the contagion, though the sheriff, whom I may call the first person in the island, who is an eminent physician beside and whom I had the pleasure of being well acquainted with, has for many years submitted to this custom. He takes three grains of it every day after breakfast, with the effects of which, he often told me, he was not able to transact any business. It is hard to conceive how a people always happy and healthy, in consequence of the exercise and labour they undergo, never oppressed with the vapours of idleness, yet should want the fictitious effects of opium to preserve that cheerfulness to which their temperance, their climate, their happy situation, so justly entitle them. But where is the society perfectly free from error or folly; the least imperfect is undoubtedly that where the greatest good preponderates; and agreeable to this rule, I can truly say, that I never was acquainted with a less vicious or more harmless one.

As a Quaker as well as a researcher into the general past, I can think of a suggestion to make, a suggestion only, as to a novel line of research in regard to this revelation. Nantucket was from a very early point a Quaker center. And the Quakers of England had been in that era involved in the manufacture and sale of opium products. Nowadays we don't hear much of this, although we hear a whole lot about the involvement of certain Quaker families, such as the Cadbury's, in the manufacture and sale of a comparison product, fine chocolate candies. Someday I'd like to know whether any of those Quakers were making any sort of connection between the use of opium, a decided pacifier, and the Quaker Peace Testimony. I'm not jesting.

Lawrence Buell characterizes this literary effort thusly on page 55 and pages 127-8 of \textit{THE ENVIRONMENTAL \textsc{1782}}

\textsuperscript{15} He was also known during his lifetime as Hector Saint-John de Crèvecoeur and, in the New World, as J. Hector St. John.
America's first major work of literary agrarianism, Crèvecoeur’s *LETTERS OF AN AMERICAN FARMER* (1782), ... begins with images of Farmer James’s happy, thriving estate—the proper way of the new world, clearly—and ends with somber autobiographical reminiscence of the loyalist untimely ripped from that estate when revolution struck. Crèvecoeur’s visions of agrarian prosperity in the middle colonies are not a homegrown American documentary so much as a European visitor’s or immigrant’s dream of what might be enacted, ventriloquized first through the letters of a model farmer writing to an English gentleman who had visited him, then in Crèvecoeur’s more cosmopolitan authorial voice. We witness American culture and writing at the moment of being dreamed by the European mind. ... One sign of Henry Thoreau’s yielding that also presaged (and, through his influence, helped to shape) the whole course of American literary naturalism was the opening of a split between pastoral and agrarian sensibility in his work not present in early American literary naturalism. Crèvecoeur and the Virginia planters domesticated the pastoral ideal in an agrarian context, as did Jefferson’s Yankee Federalist counterpart Timothy Dwight. Thoreau, however, generally satirized farming as part and parcel of the soul-withering false economy of the work ethic against which he set his own ethos of contemplative play, which approached crop growing in a wilfully fanciful manner: “Shall I not rejoice also at the abundance of the weeds whose seeds are the granary of the birds?” (*WALDEN* 166). His favorite metaphor for necessary labor was the myth of Apollo tending the flocks of King Admetus (*WALDEN* 70; cf. *Journal* 4: 114) — a way of pastoralizing but spurning pasture duty at a single stroke. (It became one of his code phrases for days spent surveying [*Journal* 6: 185].) Thoreau’s desire to imagine an actualization of the pastoral idea more as leisure than as work drove him more often to picture the countryman as a Colin Clout than as a Lycidas.

16. It is not clear to me why Buell here refers to him as Farmer James. Although he was known by several names, I was not aware that James had been one of them.
The *Encyclopædia Britannica*, which of course very seldom mentions Thoreau, has this to say in addition:

The passage containing his "melting pot" theory and answering the question "What is an American?" is widely quoted, and historians of the frontier depend heavily on his documented account of the stages by which the log cabin became the opulent farmhouse. Crèvecoeur also provides natural history essays like those of *Thoreau*, descriptions of nature, Indian legends, poignant tales of the Revolution, and melancholy, sentimental stories of slavery and the disappearance of the red men. His charming style, keen eye, and simple philosophy are universally admired.

*Cambridge History of English and American Literature*

July: Samuel Taylor Coleridge was entered into Christ’s Hospital, the famous “Blue Coat” charity boarding school that had in 1552 been chartered by King Edward VI, prior to his 10th birthday in October. While there he would meet Charles Lamb, and would be friendly with the Evans family. There presumably also, between the ages of 8 and 19, he would have had his 1st experience of opium, as it would have been the medication administered for his rheumatic fever, although he would not become seriously addicted until his late 20s. It was at approximately this point that the lad crawled to the back of the Pixies’ Parlor cave a mile south of St Mary Ottery and there carved “STC” prominently into the wall.

It took me a moment to realize that the sandstone walls are so porous and flaky that they could not possibly be Coleridge’s original graffiti, but some later act of piety. Such carvings and recarvings of his initials, ceremoniously repeated by generation after generation of unknown memorialists, suddenly seemed to me like a symbol of the essentially cumulative process of biography itself.
The Shakers crossed the White China pig from England with the American backwoods varieties, to produce the Poland China breed. This breed would become the mainstay of the American pork industry. In this year, also, the Shakers innovated the practice of selling garden seed in small, labeled paper packets.

A Ryukyuan merchant, Shionja, and a Chinese soldier, Kung Hsiang-chün, arrived together at Okinawa. The soldier would be known in the Ryukyus as Kusanku, and must have been a teacher of the martial arts as one of the oldest of the martial arts disciplines (kata) there has been named for him.

In England in this year, the Commutation Act was reducing to about \( \frac{1}{10} \)th the previous high rate of taxation, of over 100%, on tea from China, which had been resulting in much loss of revenue due to uncontrollable smuggling activities. We may date the American trade in Oriental goods from this as it would be in February of this year that the Empress of China would sail out of New-York harbor destined for the port of Canton in order to begin our direct trade with China, and this would be also the year in which the United States would come to anchor off the coast of India. With most foreign ports denied to them because of the revolutionary war,
the first American ships visited the South China seas. In that region there wasn’t all that much distinction being made between an American captain and a British captain, and thus the American vessels were able to purchase opium in India and the Middle East, and distribute it along the China coast.

William Hamilton of Philadelphia imported the Chinese tree of heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*, first planted in Europe by Miller at the Chelsea Physic Garden in 1751), which has become such a hardy “problem tree weed” in many American cities (well, one can’t win them all, can one? — the tree of heaven happens to be “The Tree” that grew in Brooklyn). Hamilton also introduced *Acer platanoides*, the Lombardy poplar, and the *Ginkgo biloba* to America (a ginkgo had been in cultivation in the botanical garden at Utrecht since about 1730).

Here is the *Empress of China* arriving in Whampoa harbor:
Once the duties on tea were thus sharply lowered, its use would be much increased. People of merit in England would soon begin, it seems, to criticize the poor for using this tea, and to attribute their poverty not to exploitation by the rich but to humble people’s improvident attempts to live beyond their means:

Tea has become an economical substitute to the middle and lower classes for malt liquor, the price of which renders it impossible for them to procure the quantity sufficient for them as their only drink.... In short, we are so situated in our commercial and financial system, that tea brought from the eastern extremity of the world, and sugar brought from the West Indies and both loaded with the expense of freight and insurance ... compose a drink cheaper than beer.

— MacPherson, David.

The Reverend David Davies, who made detailed budgetary records of the cost of keeping a cow in England during this period, concluded however that rural poor families were drinking tea rather than milk as a matter of economic necessity, and also concluded that they were neglecting “small beer” because of the stiff taxes on malt. He pointed out that the tea which the poor were drinking was not the luxury item imagined by the rich, “fine hyson tea, sweetened with refined sugar, and softened with cream,” but rather was “spring-water, just coloured with a few leaves of the lowest-priced tea, and sweetened with the brownest sugar.” Thus tea-drinking was found to be “not the cause, but the consequence of the distresses of the poor,” and the rich who were scoffing at this were merely playing their usual game of blame-their-victims:

Under these hard circumstances, the dearness of malt, and the difficulty of procuring milk, the only thing remaining of them to moisten their bread with, was tea. This was their last resource. Tea (with bread) furnishes one meal for a whole family every day, at no greater expense than about one shilling a week, at an average. If any body will point out an article that is cheaper and better, I will venture to answer for the poor in general, that they will be thankful for the discovery.

Benjamin Franklin began the heavy use of opium to control the pain from his gallstone.
In 1776 but sixty tons of opium had been produced in all of India, but by this point the Indian production of opium had grown to some 300 tons. One box of 20 four-pound balls of Patna opium had become worth as much on the international market as two tons of Chinese tea.

A National Theater was established in Peking, to showcase the performances imprecisely considered by the English to amount to “Chinese opera” (actually, such performances have more in common with Elizabethan theater than with European opera, since choreographed fights are prominent in the performance). Schools were established in which training might begin at the age of four (as recently as 1985, fewer than one favored child in 10,000 might be allowed entry to such a national-level theatrical school).
Early March: Samuel Taylor Coleridge had begun taking laudanum “almost every night.”

April 16, Saturday: Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s POEMS ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS. He began to take laudanum with greater frequency, at first on the basis of physical complaints.

The book featured four sonnets by “Mr. Charles Lamb of the India House,” Coleridge’s school chum (this was his initial appearance in print).

November: Samuel Taylor Coleridge was at this point taking laudanum every four hours.
March: Laudanum, being taken to relieve a headache and a fever, was providing for Samuel Taylor Coleridge “a spot of enchantment, a green spot of fountains, & flowers & trees, in the very heart of a waste of Sands!”
The British emerged as the controlling power in India. The Bengal Resolution (1813) inaugurates a policy of restricting the habit of opium-eating by obtaining the “maximum revenue from the minimum consumption.” The British government declares it will countenance only to the narrowest extent a habit which it finds impossible to eradicate.

Although the punishments for dope smuggling in China were increased and an anti-opium trade offensive was begun, the smuggling of suspicious vegetable substances would remain uncontrollable.

Stewart Dean, an in-law of John Jacob Astor, became captain of the China trader Severn, sailed from New-York harbor to Canton with a shipment of furs and pelts, cochineal and American ginseng, and would return the following year.

October 8, Wednesday: Abigail (Abigail = “Father’s Joy,” Abby or her “baby name,” Abba) May (Alcott) was born in Boston, daughter of Colonel Joseph May and Dorothy Sewall, just in time for the nation’s 2d census. This infant would be baptized at the King’s Chapel.

Ludwig van Beethoven received 200 florins from Prince Franz Joseph von Lobkowitz for the String Quartets op.18/4-6.

During this year a young woman with cancer, named Abigail May, traveled to Ballston Springs, New York to try the mineral water baths there, in search of relief from the pain of her illness. At first she was nervous at the sight of the douche hoses but, making sure she had her laudanum handy, she took the plunge into the soothing waters:

I felt finely for two hours after bathing.
Winter: Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s prolonged illnesses, such as for instance rheumatic fever, had been leading him to resort again and again to the painkiller opium. It was presumably at this point that he became “addicted.”

19. The term is in scarequotes because in this period the concept of addiction had not yet been extended to include chemical dependency. The term had originated in ancient Rome to indicate the legal status of a citizen enslaved due to unpaid debt. From the 2d Century until well into the 19th, this was a behavioral term implying weakness of character or moral failing (“addicted to the infernal passion, anger”; “addicted to practices of the deceptive kind”; “they are much addicted to gambling, and spend all their leisure hours at cards and smoking opium”; “addicted to wenching”; “Edward II. was much addicted to buffoons, singers, tragedians, waggoners, ditchers, rowers, sailors, and other such low company”), but not until late in the century would it enter the medical lexicon as a descriptor of the difficulty of withdrawal from opium and morphine abuse, and not until considerably later than that would it be used in regard to ethanol (alcoholism and attendant necrosis of the liver) and nicotine (risk of cancer).
Despite serious illness and increasing dependence upon opium, Samuel Taylor Coleridge was studying philosophy.
September 21, Tuesday: The Reverend Gideon Hawley again wrote to his friend the Reverend Timothy Dwight. This letter also would be included in the Reverend Dwight’s TRAVELS IN NEW ENGLAND AND NEW YORK, published in 1823 in London.

“One Captain Learned took his own life by Lodnum at Mr Williams’s Tavern.”

November: Touring Wales with Tom and Sally Wedgwood, Samuel Taylor Coleridge made another unsuccessful attempt to break the grip that opium had on him.\(^{20}\)

\[^{20}\text{You need to understand here, that it is the easiest thing in the world to break the grip of opium, if one has a plentiful cheap supply and ample time. All one need do is decrease the daily amount in a regular manner, to the point of discontinuance. There are no withdrawal symptoms and no complications. All the stuff you see in movies such as “Man With a Golden Arm” have to do with the high costs associated with a legally interdicted supply, and an unplanned and sharp withdrawal of the “addictive” substance. (Here “addictive” is placed inside scarequotes because in this period the concept of addiction had not yet been extended to include chemical dependency. The term had originated in ancient Rome to indicate the legal status of a citizen enslaved due to unpaid debt. From the 2d Century until well into the 19th, this was a behavioral term implying weakness of character or moral failing, but not until late in the century would it enter the medical lexicon as a descriptor of the difficulty of withdrawal from opium and morphine abuse, and not until considerably later than that would it be used in regard to ethanol and nicotine.)}\]
Thomas De Quincey first took opium, while at Worcester College, Oxford, to cope with the pain of facial neuralgia.

In this year, also, he first met Charles Lamb.
The USA began to fill its opium need primarily from the region east of Smyrna in Turkey.

In this or the following year, Perry Davis of Westport, Massachusetts, at the age of 14, seriously injured one of his hips by falling through a raft upon which he was at work. The record asserts that by this accident he was not only made a cripple for life but rendered peculiarly liable to colds, followed by fevers and kindred diseases, to many of which he would become a prey in succeeding years. From sickness he would suffer greatly and would be brought down with fevers, which had their regular run on 24 different occasions. “With physicians, however, he was abundantly blessed of the regular scientific stamp, and by them has submitted 64 times to the use of the lancet, not to mention other accompanying remedies administered for his diseases.” (Eventually Mr. Davis would find surcease for his bodily pain in a “vegetable” concoction he would develop, of opiates in ethanol.)
May 21, Tuesday: In Paderborn, the Germany pharmacist Friedrich Wilhelm Adam Sertürner crystallized a potent alkaloid extract from opium latex. He did this by dissolving the substance in acid and then neutralizing the solution with ammonia. This was the first time any alkaloid had ever been extracted from a plant, and the first time a medicinal plant had been reduced to just its active chemical. He experimented on himself and named the chemical morphium, after Morpheus the god of dreams. While this medication would become popular following the 1853 perfection of subcutaneous injection by means of the hypodermic needle, chemical dependency due to prolonged use of this substance would not be well recognized until after the Crimean War, the American Civil War, and the Franco-Prussian War had caused prolonged use to receive the popular name “Soldier’s Disease.” The three extracts of opium commonly used medicinally are morphine, codeine, and papaverine.
Normally, the British East India Company was able to maintain a monopoly over the sale of opium to China. However, in this year an American brig, the Sylph out of Philadelphia, was able to get a cargo of opium from Smyrna to Macau. By 1817 Americans would be in control of 10% of this international drug traffic, but the 10% which America would control would be the low-rent 10% as the Chinese considered this Turkish opium to be inferior both in flavor and in potency.
The Massachusetts Society for the Suppression of Intemperance damned not only rum, but all of the “kindred vices, profaneness and gambling” and beseeched members to “discourage... by ... example and influence, every kind of..... immorality.”

During this period retailers’ and distillers’ licenses would bear a federal tax, although beginning in 1818 the industry would begin to enjoy a tax-free era which would endure until 1862.

In England, by this point Thomas De Quincey had become a “faithful and confirmed opium-eater” with a
decanter of laudanum always by his elbow.

His relations with William Wordsworth became strained. He courted Margaret Simpson, daughter of a Lake District farmer.
Samuel Taylor Coleridge placed himself under the care of a Dr. Daniel on account of his opium dependency and depression, and fears that this would lead him to suicide.

Thomas De Quincey visited Edinburgh, Scotland with John Wilson, and they met various denizens of the literary scene such as James Hogg the “Ettrick Shepherd” and J.G. Lockhart (who would become the biographer of Sir Walter Scott).

April 12, Tuesday: Napoléon Bonaparte, who since his excellent adventure in Russia had been wearing a tiny pouch of black taffeta on a string around his neck, gulped down its contents. It contained opium with a mixture of belladonna and hellebore. But his suicide potion didn’t work, more’s the pity — it just made him spasm and go comatose for awhile.21

Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

21. All the pain of dying with none of the benefit of death: Nazi leaders, with their cyanide-filled tooth cavities, must have learned from this Frenchman’s bad example.
3rd day 12th of 4 M / This Afternoon took a little walk with John & called on our old neighbor Briggs. - While sitting there my mind was much exercised on Mary's account, she has lately become Serious & I have no doubt but her mind has been tenderly visited & reached by divine love & my fervent secret intercessions have been put up that she may not take up her rest in the barren hills of an empty profession, but Alass it is little else which I can do for her The Work must be on her own part but the Baptists have gotten hold of her among whom it is a time of much stir & many go into the Water - The young coverts are almost continually at work upon her, to get her in Also. The event must be left & whether she does or does not yield to their importunity I shall ever believe that her mind is at present under impressions which if cultivated would lead her beyond Water Baptism or any other outward ceremony even into, spiritual Baptism & the Spiritual Supper of our Lord & Master these she may know by the depth of experience by due attention to that holy & pure spirit which I have no doubt she hath of late felt the operations of. -

This Afternoon & while writing the above the funeral of Ann Rogers has passed by she was a young woman of respectability but suddenly taken from time. - but a few nights ago she attended a Ball where with great mirth & gayety there she took a heavy cold which very shortly put a period to her life - I understand she was favor'd in her illness with quiet & resignation to her situation, but I do hope her sudden Death may prove a Warning to the great Party Makers & to the young people of the town. -
August 25, Sunday: Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

1st day 25 of 8 M / This morning took Jo Mitchells carriage & with Sister Ruth & John rode to Portsmouth, stoped at Uncle Thurstons from thence to meeting which was silent but to me a season of feeling — Dined & took tea at Uncle Thurstons — After dinner went with Rich’d Sherman down to B Pearces & rec’d of Rich’d a number of manuscript & printed Books late belonging to Ja Bringhurst which I am to forward to Joseph Bringhurst at Wilmington Del. After tea rode home having had a pleasant Day — My H was willing to stay at home & give place to Ruth who is much confined in the week time in her school —
August 26, Monday: Charles Lamb wrote William Wordsworth about the condition of Samuel Taylor Coleridge. He was “at present under the medical care of a Mr. Gilman (Killman?) a Highgate Apothecary, where he plays at leaving off Laudanum. I think his essentials not touched: he is very bad, but then he wonderfully picks up another day, and his face when he repeats his verses has its ancient glory, an Archangel a little damaged.”

Friend Stephen Wanton Gould wrote in his journal:

2nd day 26 of 8 M / Rote to Jo Bringhurst, informing him of my having rec'd some manuscripts &c & in closed in the letter a Profile [?] likeness of Ja Bringhurst & a number of his friends Put the letter in the Office this evening
September: Although Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s chemical dependency had gotten so bad that he had had to voluntarily commit himself to the care of Dr. James Gillman in a supervised residence in Highgate (and would need to remain under supervision until his death in 1834), he was still playing both ends against the middle by encouraging his public in the perception that his best works, such as “Kubla Khan,” “Christobel,” and “The Pains of Sleep,” had been inspirations resulting from opium. Like today’s drug users, he would not have appreciated being labeled an addict.\footnote{Within his lifetime he was not ever termed an addict because the concept of addiction had not yet been extended to include chemical dependency (you will note that within the boxed self-description, he does not characterize his situation as one of addiction). The term had originated in ancient Rome to indicate the legal status of a citizen enslaved due to unpaid debt. From the 2d Century until well into the 19th, this was merely a behavioral term implying weakness of character or moral failing (“addicted to the infernal passion, anger”; “addicted to practices of the deceptive kind”; “they are much addicted to gambling, and spend all their leisure hours at cards and smoking opium”; “addicted to wenching”; “Edward II. was much addicted to buffoons, singers, tragedians, waggoners, dithers, rowers, sailors, and other such low company”), and not until late in the century would it enter the medical lexicon as a descriptor of the difficulty of withdrawal from opium and morphine abuse, and not until considerably later than that would it be used in regard to ethanol (alcoholism and attendant necrosis of the liver) and nicotine (risk of cancer).}

The controls were not completely effective. Occasionally he was able to sneak out to the Highgate chemist, Dunn, and purchase 3/4ths of a pint of laudanum, which in his case he could stretch out to cover five days of his need.
Over the years, however, he was managed down to a more carefully supervised dose rate.
Bulk production began, from opium, of a substance termed “morphium” because it seemed to induce sleep (the considerably more toxic substance developed by the Bayer Company, “heroin,” would not be produced from opium until 1874).
In this year Thomas De Quincey, an English opium addict, wrote his mother that his intention was to become the intellectual benefactor of “my species,” to place education upon a new footing, to be the first founder of

In studying the early 19th Century in the US, we are studying a period in which opium was legal, omnipresent, and cheap. A child could push a penny across a market counter and obtain opium to make it through the school day, literally. Yet nowhere do we find any remark about opium withdrawal presenting any sort of problem. Today, I understand, opium is widely used in elder homes in England, and the chief problem with this is that it tends to cause a degree of constipation. The nurses need to keep after these oldsters to hydrate themselves and add fiber to their diets.

Today, of course, there would be much talk about addiction and withdrawal. However, do we know for sure that opium is addictive? It may be that the “addiction and withdrawal” scenario which we have constructed is a social consequence of a socially imposed illegality and scarcity and expense. It may be that we focus on this “addiction and withdrawal” scenario in order to legitimate our social taboos about recreational drug use. Too sudden withdrawal from a customary dose of opium can definitely be unpleasant and can definitely have health side-effects. Illegality, and the consequent scarcity and expense, however, have created this situation in which withdrawal from a customary dose of opium can easily become too sudden. For instance, nowadays a person who is accustomed to a daily dose of opium may be arrested for theft (because due to the artificially high cost of a dose of opium, theft had become a way of life for them), and when thrown into jail, suddenly the customary dose would be unavailability and the result would be a very unpleasant and unhealthy “cold turkey” withdrawal. However, the determinants of that scenario would be in the social situation as now constructed by us (illegality, scarcity, expense) rather than in the substance itself or in the practice itself.

I have been told, and I don’t know whether this is accurate or inaccurate, that in China, when a person has needed to withdraw from opium use for one reason or another, withdrawal has not been regarded as any sort of problem. One simply reduces one’s dose gradually until use ceases. The 1994 movie “To Live” (directed by Zhang Yimou based on a novel by Yu Hua) may be instructive in that regard, for in this movie a wealthy opium user is portrayed as losing his money by gambling, and needing consequently to discontinue his opium use, and in this movie, although his financial loss is depicted as having a great impact on his life and the life of his family, his withdrawal itself is treated by the script and the director as being entirely unremarkable.

We do know that there is such a thing as “the addictive personality.” There are in fact compulsions and they do in fact cause problems. A person who is compulsive in this way may select opium use as his or her compulsion, and this may be an unpleasant thing, but I would wonder: is the unpleasantness of this a consequence of the substance, opium, or is it a consequence of the mental condition, compulsiveness? If the unpleasantness of this is indeed a consequence of the substance, opium, then of course we are doing the correct and the effective thing, in attempting to control use of the substance. However, if the unpleasantness of this is a consequence of the mental condition, compulsiveness, then what we are doing, in attempting to control opium, is evading the real problem, while persecuting people who have the mental disorder of being compulsive.

It seems to me that we simply have not done the research which would indicate to us, whether the problem is opium (or, expanding this, recreational drugs in general) or whether the problem is compulsiveness (in its many manifestations). Until we have done that research, I would suggest, we are the blind leading the blind, and cannot even begin a proper study of the 19th Century, let alone a proper management of the 21st Century.
a true Philosophy, and to be the re-establisher in England (with great accessions) of Mathematics.

With Wordsworth, De Quincey published CLOSE COMMENTS UPON A STRAGGLING SPEECH, a Tory denunciation of Henry Brougham, an Independent Whig candidate in the parliamentary election campaign at Westmorland. He was appointed editor of the local Tory newspaper, The Westmorland Gazette. He slid deeper into debt.

Another English opium eater, William Wilberforce, was in this year managing with medical assistance to bring
himself down to a maintenance dosage of 12 grains a day.

During this year and the next the daily dosage maintained by Walter Scott, who had completed ROB ROY and THE HEART OF MID-LOTHIAN and was writing THE BRIDE OF LAMMERMOOR, would be 200 drops of laudanum.
and 6 grains of opium. 24

At the author’s request the Scottish Regalia, which is to say the Crown and Sceptre and Sword of State presented in 1507 to James IV by Pope Julius II, were recovered from a dusty trunk and displayed to him.


WHAT I’M WRITING IS TRUE BUT NEVER MIND
YOU CAN ALWAYS LIE TO YOURSELF
The British East India Company’s opium trade in China had reached 10,000 chests annually: The Central Kingdom had begun to chase the dragon.
Opium use had become endemic among the Fenish peoples of Britain, where use was tolerated but was successfully controlled by informal social mechanisms. Concerns were growing, however, over increasing use, particularly in the sedation of infants. Facing competition from other poppy *Papaver somniferum* growers, the British stepped up their efforts to increase their exports to China.

Thomas De Quincey went to London to dispose of some translations from German authors, but was persuaded first to write and publish an account of his opium experiences, which soon appeared in the *London Magazine* and proved to be even more popular with the reading public than Lamb’s *Essays of Elia*, which were then appearing in that periodical. *The Confessions of an English Opium-Eater* would soon appear also in book form.
His translation of Friedrich Schiller’s “The Sport of Fortune” appeared in Blackwood’s Magazine. However, he quarreled with William Blackwood. In this year he had conversations with John Keats’s friend Richard Woodhouse.
The chronic alcoholic stupor and antics of the Vice President of the United States of America, the Honorable Daniel D. Tomkin, had been embarrassing the Senate—in which of course he was the presiding officer—and finally his colleagues prevailed upon him to just go the hell home, for the remainder of his term of office.

Thomas De Quincey’s CONFESSIONS OF AN ENGLISH OPIUM-EATER, which had appeared in the previous year in London Magazine, at this point was printed as a book.

He projected a work to be entitled CONFESSIONS OF A MURDERER (this would not materialize).
Thomas De Quincey’s Notes from the Pocket Book of a Late Opium-Eater, including “On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth,” appeared in London Magazine. He began to appear also as “The Opium-Eater” in “Noctes Ambrosianae,” a series of dialogues published in Blackwood’s Magazine that would continue until 1835.
At the age of 6 Charles Henry Appleton Dall was packed off to live in Boston with his father’s brother and sister William and Sarah Dall, and study at the Franklin School. He would not be visiting his parents in Baltimore for 9 years.

An indigenous bush producing leaves that contained caffeine was found growing in Upper Assam. This, eventually, would break the Chinese monopoly on tea. The 1st agricultural laborers in tea in northern India would be Chinese accustomed to work on Chinese tea plantations, who would be enticed by Charles Bruce out of China to transplant young native bushes into nursery beds.

Warren Delano sailed from Boston for Canton on behalf of Russel & Co. He would return after traffic in opium had made him a wealthy man. He well knew that opium was “black dirt,” but defended his conduct by pointing out that alcoholic beverages were also being imported into America — and nobody was barfing at that. In 1851 he would settle in Newburgh, New York, where he would give the hand of his daughter in marriage to James Roosevelt (father of Franklin Delano Roosevelt).

The fuchsia had been first noticed by Fuchs in 1501. The scarlet fuchsia had been introduced from Chile in 1788 and the slender fuchsia in 1822, and in this year the tree fuchsia was obtained from Mexico.
Late May: Samuel Taylor Coleridge’s AIDS TO REFLECTION: IN THE FORMATION OF A MANLY CHARACTER, ON THE SEVERAL GROUNDS OF PRUDENCE, MORALITY, AND RELIGION: ILLUSTRATED BY SELECT PASSAGES FROM OUR ELDER DIVINES, ESPECIALLY FROM ARCHBISHOP LEIGHTON (Henry Thoreau would study the 1829 edition of this).

For serious young people who were interested in pushing the edges of the envelope, such as Coleridge, the remedy for slings and arrows was Kendal Black Drop, famous for having four times the power of ordinary laudanum—don’t leave home without it. The Black Drop was being merchandised by a Quaker family of Kendal, the Braithwaites, at the high price of 11 shillings per 4-ounce bottle, although two other Quaker families had entered the lists with somewhat less expensive opium potions. In Kendal, Mrs. Braithwaite, the Quaker angel of mercy, died. The drug business had been doing so well that she was able to leave her daughter not only this family business—which retailed ironmongery and marble chimneypieces as well as selling to druggies—but also the sum of £10,000. At the time, to stir up business, the Quakers were carefully planting rumors to the effect that their opium potions were powerful because their pots of potion were being stirred at night, by women, who were wearing masks.
Salicin, an ingredient of willow bark used to relieve fever and rheumatic pain, was extracted by Leroux. (In 1838, salicylic acid would be manufactured from salicin. In 1853, acetylsalicylic acid would be synthesized by Charles Gerhardt. From 1884 to 1894 the aspirin family of pain and fever relievers would be being introduced by the German chemical industry — think Bayer.)

It was in this year that Benjamin Disraeli coined the word “millionaire.” (At that time, with money worth much more than it is now, there were actually quite a few fewer millionaires than today there are billionaires, even in Hong Kong.)

Speaking of millionaires: William “Iron Head Rat” Jardine, a partner in a Chinese trade merchant house who had previously been an employee of a Parsi (Zoroastrian) firm that distributed opium grown in Malwa, and James “Ta-pi-tze” Matheson, who had been retailing opium by ship along the coast of China, entered into a partnership to create a fleet of the fastest “Clipper” ships and thus slip past the junks of the Mandarin customs authorities.

Iron Head Rat Ta-pi-tze
During the decade of the 1830s, more than 30 malt-shops and breweries were thriving in and around the town of Saffron Walden.

By this point there were fully one thousand temperance societies in the United States of America.

Facing competition from other *Papaver somniferum* growers, the British again, as they had in 1821, stepped up their efforts to increase their exports to China.

Opium importation to England had reached an annual total of 22,000 pounds, 80 to 90% of it from Turkey, where the USA also filled the preponderance of its demand. In the region east of Smyrna this was a family cash crop. There were three sowings, in November, in December, and in February/March, so that the labor-intensive harvesting of the sticky white sap from the maturing poppy pods by all members of the family could proceed over a longer period of time. Farmers had to be careful to protect their children from the vapors produced by the 6-to-8-foot-tall plants, and these vapors were especially pervasive during the night. The product was transported inside Turkey in two-pound brownish-black slabs wrapped in leaves and packed in gray calico bags in fitted wicker baskets. The purest export opium from Smyrna was stamped “24 Carat,” and loaded into wooden crates that had been lined with zinc to make them airtight. At this point product from Persia, in the form of sticks, was mixed in with the Turkish product. In contrast, product from Egypt came to brokers in Mark Lane and Mincing Lane in London as flat round cakes, and, from India, as chests of mangowood with two rows of ten compartments, having a $3\frac{1}{2}$-pound ball the size of a smallish grapefruit in each one of the 20 compartments. Garraway’s Coffee House, near the Royal Exchange, held regular auctions of these provisions and the stocks were carefully supervised by the British government to ensure proper purity and weight — nobody likes to get burned on a drug deal!
When officials of the Chinese court suggested that the prohibition of opium be dropped as ineffective, this proposal was rejected by the emperor. Unhappy with the lack of growth in the China market in general, the British government took over control of the China trade from the East India Company. The Chinese vigorously enforced its anti-opium policy by ordering the executions of all smokers and dealers.

The monopoly of the British East India Company, on the supplying of opium to China, expired. However, the Brits continued to sell the bulk of the opium purchased in China, perhaps because their supplies from Patna were regarded as a cut above the Portuguese supplies from Malwa and the American supplies from Turkey. At this time opium was the most valuable single trade commodity in the world. During the years 1828-1836 China shipped away $38,000,000 worth of silver due to its trade deficit, and yet without opium its trade deficit would have been a substantial surplus. It is no wonder that the Mandarin customs officials were in the habit of referring to opium as “foreign mud.”

25. The economics of illegal drug traffic can easily become just overwhelming. For instance, the marijuana grown illegally in northern California now has a greater market value than the rest of the agricultural commodities grown in California all lumped together — despite the fact that California also produces like a tenth of the entire amount of food consumed in the US.
Publication, during this year and the following one, of The Complete Works of Sir Walter Scott, by Conner & Cooke in New-York. Out of this collection Henry Thoreau would mention “Lady of the Lake” in his journal on May 21, 1839 and “Thomas the Rhymer” on September 28, 1843. There would be a mention in A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers, and in Excursions there would be casual mention of a category that would include Ivanhoe, Quentin Dunward, and The Talisman. In Rome, the painter Karl Briullov (Carlo Brullo) – who is said to have made himself the first internationally known Russian – completed his “The Last Day of Pompeii”.

Reportedly Sir Walter Scott, after having stared at this Disneyish fantasia for all of an hour at the studio during the process of its composition, had declared it to be not so much a painting as an epic. (Part of this may have been politeness toward his host, of course, but surely a small part of this would have been the enormous doses of opiates that Scott was needing to rely upon in order to live in his pain-wracked body.)
July 25, Friday: At 6:30AM one of the opium addicts under the care of Dr. James Gillman in his supervised extended residence in the Highgate district of London, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, died. On his deathbed the poet arranged to have a mourning ring sent to Charles and Mary Lamb. He instructed that his body be subject to autopsy so that it would become clear to posterity that he actually had been ill rather than just another hypochondriac.

A Central Criminal Court was established in London, with authority to hear and determine all treasons, murders, felonies, and misdemeanors committed in London or Middlesex, and some parts of the adjacent counties, and all offences committed within the jurisdiction of the Admiralty of England (the new court was to meet at least twelve times in the course of the year).
When officials of the Chinese court in Beijing again suggested, as they had in 1833, that the ineffective restraints upon the importation of opium be relaxed, this proposal was again rejected by the emperor, and the idea would ultimately be discarded.

April: Here is an editorial which appeared in the Canton Register, the English-language newspaper of the outer barbarians who traded in furs, cottons, woolens, and opium coming from outside China, and in teas, silks, and silver coming from inside China, but traded most of all in opium which was legal in England (laudanum) but quite illegal in China:

If the lion’s paw is to be put down on any part of the south side of China, let it be Hong Kong: let the lion declare it to be under his guarantee a free port, and in ten years it will be the most considerable mart east of the Cape. The Portuguese made a mistake [Macau]: they adopted shallow water and exclusive rules. Hong Kong, deep water and a free port forever!
In 1827 Leroux had extracted Salicin, an ingredient of willow bark used to relieve fever and rheumatic pain. At this point, salicylic acid was manufactured from salicin. (In 1853, acetylsalicylic acid would be synthesized by Charles Gerhardt. From 1884 to 1894 the aspirin family of pain and fever relievers would be being introduced by the German chemical industry — think Bayer.)
On the other side of the globe, the new viceroy in Canton, China was destroying the illegal opium imports of the British East India Company, a total of 2,640,000 pounds of suspicious vegetable substances, and in consequence Britain was going on the warpath, seizing Hong Kong, forcing trade concessions, and garnering much loot. Meanwhile, in Rhode Island, the governor was William Sprague II and Perry Davis was removing from Westport, Massachusetts to Pawtucket and then to Taunton, Massachusetts while engaged in the development of his invention, of a mill for grinding grain. In Taunton he would fall ill and would study the effects of certain drugs upon the human system, and he would experiment in the various uses of these drugs, mostly ethanol and opiates, until he became able to concoct a dose capable of curing his own maladies. This Mr. Davis would later vend the following story: “I told my wife that she could not expect to have me with her much longer. A cold settled on my lungs. A hard cough ensued, with pains in my side. My stomach soon became sore, my digestive organs became weak, consequently my appetite failed; my kidneys had become affected. The canker in my mouth became troublesome.... I searched the globe in my mind’s eye for a cure during my illness and selected the choicest gums and healing herbs. These were carefully compounded creating a medicine to soothe the nerves and a balm to heal the body. I commenced using my new discovered medicine with no hope other than handing me gently to the grave.”
September 1, Sunday: After prayers on board the New Zealand Company vessel Tory, Colonel William Wakefield and his 19-year-old nephew Edward Jerningham Wakefield went ashore on Queen Charlotte’s Sound of the island of New Zealand at the whaling town Te-awa-iti. “There were about twenty houses presented to our view; the walls generally constructed of wattled supple-jack, called kareau, filled in with clay; the roof thatched with reeds; and a large unsightly chimney at one of the ends, constructed of either the same materials as the walls, or of stones heaped together by rude masonry. Dicky Barrett’s house, or ware [whare] as it is called in maori or native language, was a very superior edifice, built of sawn timber, floored and lined inside, and sheltered in front by an ample veranda. A long room was half full of natives and whalers. His wife E Rangi, a fine stately woman, gave us a dignified welcome; and his pretty half-caste children laughed and commented on our appearance, to some of their mother’s relations, in their own language. He had three girls of his own, and had adopted a son of an old trader and friend of his named Jacky Love, who was on his death-bed, regretted by the natives as one of themselves. He had married a young chieftainess of great rank, and his son Dan was treated with that universal respect and kindness to which he was entitled by the character of his father and the rank of his mother... There were about twenty-five half-caste children at Te-awa-iti. They were all strikingly comely, and many of them quite fair, with light hair and rosy cheeks; active and hardy as the goats with which the settlement also swarmed. The women of the whalers were remarkable for their cleanliness and the order which they preserved in their companion’s house. They were most of them dressed in loose gowns or printed calico, and their hair, generally very fine, was always clean and well-combed.”

“While it was old, the canal between the Concord and the Merrimack just above Billerica Falls plainly revealed its youthfulness in comparison to the untouched lands about it. Thoreau noted that birds that fed in, and creatures which swam in the waters were the first to be at home in the man-made water-way. Plants adjust themselves more slowly to areas disturbed by man.” – Cruickshank, Helen Gere. THOREAU ON BIRDS (New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1964)
herself, and gradually plant fit shrubs and flowers along its borders. Already the kingfisher sat upon a pine over
the water, and the bream and pickerel swam below.

Sunday Sep 1st: We glided over the broad bosom of the merrimack between Middlesex and
Tyngsboro at noon, here a quarter of a mile wide, while the rattling of our oars was echoed over the water to
those villages, and their slight sounds to us. Their harbors lay as smooth and fairy like as the Lido, or Syracuse
or Rhodes in our imaginations. Like a strange piratical craft we flitted past the dwellings of noble home-staying
men — seeming to float upon a tide which came up to every villager’s breast, as conspicuous as if we were on
an eminence. Communicating with the villas and hills and forests on either hand by the glances we sent to them,
or the echoes we awakened. We glanced up many a pleasant ravine with its farm house in the distance, where
some contributory stream came in. Again the site of a saw-mill, and a few forsaken eel pots were all that greeted
us. [One-third page blank]

Our thoughts reverted to Arabia Persia and Hindostan — the lands of contemplation — and dwelling place of
the ruminant nations. And in the experience of those noon tides we found an apology and an instinct for the
opium — betel — and tobacco chewers. Mount Saber, according to the French traveller and naturalist Botta
is celebrated for producing the Kat tree. Of which “The soft tops of the twigs and tender leaves are eaten,”
says his reviewer, “and produce an agreeable soothing excitement, restoring from fatigue, banishing sleep,
and disposing to the enjoyment of conversation.”

What a dignified oriental life might be lived along this stream, browsing the tree tops — and chewing mallows
and apple tree buds like the camelopards — rabbits and partridges.

Salmon Brook runs under the rail-way — but we sailed up far enough into the meadows which border it, to learn
its piscatorial history from a haymaker on its banks. He told us that silver eel was formerly abundant here,
and pointed to some sinker creels at its mouth.

Salmon Brook  Silver eels
Pennichook  Wooden creels
Ye sweet waters of my brain  These the baits that still allure
When shall I look  And dragon fly
Or cast the hook  That floated by
In thy waves again?  May they still endure?

Sunday 1st At a 3d of a mile over the water we heard distinctly children repeating their catechism in
a cottage by the river side– While in the broad shallows between a herd of cows we re cooling their hides and
waging war with the mosquitoes.

While we sail here we can remember unreservedly those friends who dwell far away on the banks and by
the sources of this very river and people this world for us — without any harsh and unfriendly interruptions. (2, 27)

Sunday sep 1st We passed the noon under an oak on the banks of the canal in chelmsford. From Ball’s
hill which is the St Anne’s of Concord voyageurs to Billerica meeting house the river is twice or three times as
broad as in Concord— A deep and dark stream, flowing between gentle hills and occasional cliffs, and well
wooded all the way. It is one long lake bordered with willows. The boatmen call it a dead stream. For long
reaches you can see but few traces of any village. It seemed a natural sabbath today — a stillness so intense that it could not be heightened. There was not breeze
enough to ruffle the water. The cattle stood up to their bellies in the river and made you think of Rembrandt.
we encamped under some oaks in Tyngsboro, on the east bank of the Merrimack, just below the ferry.
Maharaja Ranjit Singh of Baroda died. This maharaja had been a fan of combative sports, supportive of a court wrestler named Sadika Gilgoo or “Man Mountain.”


In the previous year the British government had disassociated the East India Company from obligations into which it had entered, to maintain the temples of India. Forget your promises, that’s an order! In this year the Reverend Robert Spence Hardy’s pamphlet THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT AND IDOLATRY IN CEYLON would cry out again for an end to the “unnatural, sinful, and pernicious connexion between the British Government of Ceylon and idolatry.” Just as the sole purpose for the existence of the Roman Empire way back then obviously had been to facilitate the initial flourishing of Christianity in the known world, he argued, the sole purpose of the British Empire in the present era obviously must be to consolidate and hegemonize this entire globe under the sway of Christianity. The issue was that when the British had taken possession of Ceylon in 1815 their emissaries had done so with the explicit pledge, made to the Buddhist sangha and the Kandyan chiefs, that they would be responsible for maintenance of the Tooth Relic in Kandy — the ceremonies attendant upon this annual act of idolatry were at the present time costing the crown the unholy sum of £15.19.9½ per year! (Although such an expense might seem to be small potatoes in the eyes of some, it amounts to a jab in the eye of God — God will not be mocked!) It was “the bounden duty of the government of the country, from its possession of Truth, to discomfiture the system [of Buddhism] by every legitimate means.” Buddhism must be confronted in a struggle that can end only “in the discomfiture of those who have risen against the Lord and his Christ.”
Opium was India’s largest export. The first war between the British and the Chinese over the opium trade began.

A very popular medical book that had first appeared in 1830, Dr. John C. Gunn’s DOMESTIC MEDICINE OR POOR MAN’S FRIEND, IN THE HOUSE OF AFFLICTION, PAIN AND SICKNESS, reached its 9th edition despite being all of a thousand pages. A feature of this medical treatise was a sizeable section titled “Of the Passions” which attempted to deliver advice on mental health, religion, and love. The “passions” analyzed were those of:

- fear
- anger
- love
- jealousy
- joy
- grief
- intemperance

Thankfully, the remedies which the popular Dr. Gunn commended to his self-medicants for their “passions” were not drugs such as opiates but amounted instead to:

- religion
- education
- self-discipline
March: By the decade of the 1830s, it has been estimated, opium had become not only the main event of the British-sponsored trade between India and China, but the single most lucrative item of all international commerce. Then in this year a new mandarin arrived in Guangzhou (Canton), Imperial Commissioner Lin Tse-hsü who had been governor of Hubei and Hunan provinces, and he had been the victor in an anti-opium purity campaign in government circles in Beijing and had won a mandate from the Court of Heaven to extirpate this unlawful wholesale recreational-drug traffic by foreigners which was proving to be so debilitating to the citizenry and to the economy of the Central Kingdom and thus correct the outflow of the Chinese supply of silver:

In this month Lin demanded that 20,291 chests of the controlled substance, on hand in the warehouses (godowns) of the British and their compradors, be surrendered. The Danish, German, American, and Spanish traders immediately accommodated themselves to this new regulation and Lin confiscated and destroyed 20,283 opium chests, but British traders were infuriated. The British Chief Superintendent of Trade, Captain Charles Elliot R.N., who had previously been the commander of a hospital ship and the Protector of Slaves in British Guiana, acceded to Imperial High Commissioner Lin and handed over the opium chests, which were promptly destroyed. The merchants withdrew to their “hell-ships” anchored in the harbor, where they would be safe, Lin refused to sell them food or water, Captain Elliot fired on three Chinese war-junks, and hey presto: both nations had ample reason to be at war.

26. Each chest contained 40 balls of opium wrapped in poppy leaves. Each ball weighed three pounds. Each ball had to be completely dissolved in noxious chemicals and flushed away into the harbor in such manner as to ensure that it would not be salvageable, as such psychotropic materials could not merely be burned without toxicity and as there existed a established secondary market for merely sea-damaged opium balls. All in all we’re talking about a lot of hard work.
Implementing the “forward policy” recommended by the Scottish merchants William Jardine and James Matheson, Foreign Secretary Palmerston of Lord Melbourne’s whig government in London decided that the matter could be settled by putting gunboats on the major Chinese rivers. This would open up the Central Kingdom both to Free Trade and to Christianity. Gladstone warned that this policy was “at variance both with justice and religion” but succeeded only in isolating himself from other Members of Parliament in opposition. After a few skirmishes it became clear that the British military equipment and organization could handily defeat and destroy the Chinese war-junks, and so the Chinese agreed to cede to Britain a small, rocky island at the sea mouth of the Pearl River, for their use as a commercial base. This island of 26 square miles had been in use as a source of fresh water for ships, and was variously known at Incense Port, Fragrant Harbor, Aunty Heung, Herukong, Shiankang, and Hong Kong.

During this year Samuel Russell & Co. of Boston and Hong Kong was giving up its opium trade.

27. In 1939, Mao Zedong would list the “Opium Wars” as the first of “twelve historical landmarks” of the “struggle by the Chinese people against imperialism and its lackeys” (SELECTED WORKS, Beijing 1967, Volume II, page 314).
28. One was always able to trust Henry John Temple, Lord Palmerston (1784-1865), “Lord Pumice-Stone,” to always leave a situation worse rather than better.
After September: British men-of-war blockaded and shelled the port of Canton. The port of Tinghai at the mouth of the Yangtze River was occupied. What would be known as the 1st Opium War, which would lead to the initial humiliating “Unequal Treaty” of Europeans with China, had begun.
The Reverend Issachar J. Roberts, 罗寿全, despite his lack of any training in the Chinese language, had picked up enough to be able to create by this point four tracts, *Tzu Pu Chi Chieh* or “Explanation of the Radical Characters,” *Chen Li Che Chiao* or “The Religion of Truth,” *Chu Shih Chu Yeh-su Hsin I Chao Shu* or “New Testament of the Saviour Jesus,” and *Wen Ta Su Hua* or “Catechism in the Macao Dialect.” This last tract included a small map of Asia with its surrounding lands and seas.

The Opium Wars ended mandarin control of British trade with China. (This would be followed by the 1842 Treaty of Nanking which would cede Hong Kong to the British and open numerous ports to Europeans and Americans. Under a further 1858 treaty, foreigners would be enabled to travel anywhere in the interior of the empire. That the Chinese were humiliated by this was irrelevant.)

It had become apparent that opium use was on the increase in Britain, but there was not agreement as to how harmful this was. On the whole the dangers of the use of this substance were being downplayed, and few people saw any parallel with the Chinese situation. Concerns over abuse did not rise to the same level as the British concern over the abuse of alcohol.

Thomas De Quincey’s “Style” and “The Opium and the China Question” appeared in Blackwood’s Magazine. De Quincey was again prosecuted for his debts.
June: In the deep strait off Hong Kong, an expeditionary force of 16 British warships assembled. They sailed on up the Pei Ho river with 4,000 troops to express British contempt for Chinese local rule. The Qing court sent the mandarin Qishan, governor of Qili, to negotiate to prevent this foreign army from approaching the capital of the nation in Beijing.

It was during this year of deep international tension that the newly minted Reverend James Legge was becoming the representative of the London Missionary Society in Malacca and Hong Kong (until 1873).
November 24, Tuesday: John Gordon Bennett of the *New York Herald* celebrated England’s “Opium War” attack on China as

another movement of the Anglo-Saxon spirit in the remotest east, against the barriers of semi-barbarians and a half-civilized race, who have been stationary for twenty centuries or more.

Evidently opium was the medication the Chinese needed to give them some good old Anglo-Saxon get-up-and-go.
A little more opium, Mr. China?
February: James Matheson began construction of a warehouse on the north shore of Hong Kong Island.

May: The fleet of British men-of-war shelled the walled city of Canton and obtained a ransom of $6,000,000. The Chinese then counterattacked, but the only weapons at their disposal were such items of desperation as rafts which they would set on fire and attempt to direct into the paths of the warships.

August: Henry Pottinger replaced Rear Admiral George Elliot and began a campaign which seized the Chinese districts of Amoy, Ting-hai, and Ning-po.

29. Opinioned this factor Matheson, accurately enough: “We have every respect for persons entertaining strict religious principles, but we fear that very godly people are not suited to the drug trade.” The very godly need not apply.
Steam shipping to China began. Naushon Island in the Elizabeth Islands was purchased in its entirety by John Murray Forbes and William W. Swain, largely with money from the China trade, opium money, for instance (Forbes would soon buy out Swain).

By this point England’s opium trade in China had reached 40,000 chests annually. The government of China, attempting to interdict opium traffic and thus prevent its citizens from debilitating themselves by “chasing the dragon” as so desired by foreign enemies, seized and destroyed bales of opium belonging to English merchants. Naughty naughty!

When the dust of the 1st Opium War had settled later on in this year, China had been re-opened to the English opium traffic by the initial one of the “Unequal Treaties” into which it was coerced by overwhelmingly powerful and insolent and paternalistic Westerners. Trade restrictions were removed. In a decade the trade
volume would double. Having been chastened by the lion and unicorn of Great Britain, the Central Kingdom would be obliged for many years to “chase the dragon” for the greater profit of Englishmen (who would eventually be mailing postcards home to their loved ones from Hong Kong, postcards showing picturesque scenes of the indescribable debasement of Orientals, obtained from filthy opium dens).

Let us pause for a moment and savor this situation. Naushon is a remote bucolic island near Cape Cod and Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket. –And, it was a significant part of the reward some New Englanders gave themselves for the creation of one of the driving forces of our contemporary world, the absolute fury with which the Chinese still contemplate the manner in which their nation had been humiliated during this period!
Well, but drugs aren’t all bad. For instance, in this year C.W. Long of Jefferson, Georgia first used nitrous oxide gas as an anesthetic during an operation. Some have attested this to be the first such use of any anesthetic during an operation. The effect of shock upon patients had been such a great killer that the rule of thumb of the time was, that if a surgeon took longer than 15 minutes to complete an operation the patient was gonna die. Therefore surgeons needed not only the eye of an eagle, the hand of a lady, and the heart of a lion (the saying in those days), but also the speed of a weasel: it had been said in praise of a particularly swift British sawbones, Dr. Astley Cooper, that:

For operating with alacrity, and well at the same time, I have never known his equal.
A little more opium, Mr. China?

William Thomas Green Morton left the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery without graduating to study dentistry in Hartford, Connecticut under Dr. Horace Wells, with whom he would share a brief partnership.

Death of Thomas De Quincey’s son Lieutenant Horace De Quincey in China at the age of 22.

September 28, Thursday: A federal court decided John Brown’s bankruptcy case, as the culmination of years of dicey business decisions. His creditors were awarded all but the essentials which the Brown family needed to sustain life — but this proceeding did free him.

A failed surveyor, farmer, speculator, schoolteacher, tanner, and cattleman, he showed up as a wool dealer in an 1848 credit report: "his condition is questionable." Winter 1849: “may or may not be good.” Summer 1850: “his means are equally obscure.” Still in his forties, he looked sixty to credit reporters. The agency lost him when he switched lines of work yet again, only to fail yet again. Like many another misfit who pushed a doomed venture too far, he quit when he had no other choice. Having grown whiskers for the first time, his craggy face looked still more ancient. Everyone had an opinion of this broken man. "Served him right." Overhearing such comments, Thoreau said he felt proud even to know him and questioned why people "talk as if a man’s death were a failure, and his continued life, be it of whatever character, were a success." The bankrupt court had restored this loser’s freedom in 1842. Now it was 1859, and no earthly court could save John Brown after his failure at Harpers Ferry.
Waldo Emerson continued in his journal:

Next morning, we begun our walk at 6½ o’clock for the Shaker Village distant 3½ miles. Whilst the good Sisters were getting ready our breakfast, we had a conversation with Seth Blanchard & Cloutman of the Brethren, who gave an honest account by yea & by nay of their faith & practice. They were not stupid like some whom I have seen of their society, & not worldly like others.... From the Shaker Village we came to Littleton, & thence to Acton, still in the same redundance of splendour. It was like a day of July, and from Acton we sauntered leisurely homeward to finish the nineteen miles of our second day before four in the afternoon.

After the two walkers returned to Concord, Margaret Fuller came visiting the Emerson home for two weeks. Lidian Emerson was on opium and began to fantasize connections between Margaret and Waldo, and Margaret had to defend by pointing out that on two of the evenings Lidian supposed she spent talking to Waldo, actually she had been with Ellery Channing or Henry Thoreau while Waldo had been alone, writing in his study.

There was embarrassment at the dining table when Lidian burst into tears at an imagined slight. After the meal the two women went walking and evidently bonded somewhat, for Lidian confided to Margaret that “she has a lurking hope that Waldo’s character will alter, and that he will be capable of an intimate union.” Margaret mused on this in her journal:

- I suppose the whole amount of the feeling is that women cant bear to be left out of the question. ...when Waldo’s wife, and the mother of that child that is gone [Waldo Jr.] thinks me the most privileged of women, & that EH [Elizabeth Hoar] was happy because her love [Charles (?) Emerson] was snatched away for a life long separation, & thus she can know none but ideal love: it does seem a little too insulting at first blush. - And yet they are not altogether wrong.
An entanglement arose when Ellery Channing wanted to visit his former love Caroline Sturgis on Naushon Island one last time, at her suggestion, before his new wife Ellen Fuller Channing would arrive in Concord from Boston. Margaret Fuller had no objection and Ellery went to Naushon but then Ellen arrived early in Concord and discovered his absence and Margaret was unwilling to admit where he was — and everyone became rather upset. Margaret recorded:

If I were Waldo’s wife, or Ellery’s wife, I should acquiesce in all these relations, since they needed them. I should expect the same feeling from my husband, & I should think it little in him not to have it. I felt I should never repent of advising Ellery to go whatsoever happened. Well, he came back next day, and All’s Well that Ends Well.... Mama [Emerson’s mother Ruth Haskins Emerson] & Lidian sympathized with me almost with tears. Waldo looked radiant, & HT [Henry Thoreau] as if his tribe had won a victory. Well it was a pretty play, since it turned out no tragedy at last. Ellery told Ellen at once how it was, and she took it just as she ought.

Bronson Alcott, Henry Wright, Charles Lane, and Lane’s son William who was about 9 years of age, embarked at Gravesend on the Leland for Boston. They brought a large library of books on mysticism to be used “in the commencement of an Institution for the nurture of men in universal freedom of action, thought, and being.” More important, Lane brought his life savings of approximately $2,000. Wright’s bride and infant waited in England for developments.
Dr. Alexander Wood of Scotland discovered that injecting morphine with a syringe tripled the impact of the drug.

April: Opening of the display of Chinese artifacts of Nathan Dunn, at Hyde Park Corner in London. Until May 1851, passers-by would be able to view a set of utensils intended for the smoking of opium, and shoes intended for tiny bound feet.

Late Summer: Perry Davis mixed up a batch of his patent vegetable painkiller consisting of opiates in ethanol to sell at the annual Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry fair in Pawtuxet.
April: John James Dixwell (would he have been a descendant of the John Dixwell AKA James Davids who had been a regicide of King Charles I but had managed to marry and live out his life unmolested in New Haven, Connecticut?) arranged for William Gardner to build two clipper ships at Baltimore, one a 140-ton schooner to be named the Dart, to be used as a coaster making opium deliveries along the China coast, and the other a 200-ton brig (actually it would weigh in at 209 tons displacement) to be named the Frolic, equipped with hermaphrodite rigging and sails, which is to say, square rigged on the foremast but fore-and-aft rigged on the mainmast, to be ready for a China run by about the beginning of September.30

I have tried to describe a world system that ultimately linked Pomo Indians with Boston businessmen, Baltimore shipbuilders, Bombay opium merchants, smugglers on the coast of China, and newly rich consumers in Gold Rush California. What follows, then, is a tale about a little known and awkward chapter in American history: a story of American participation in the opium trade.

Early in the spring of 1844, George Basil Dixwell wrote from Canton, China, to his brother, John James Dixwell, in Boston, asking him to have two fast vessels built for use on the China coast. George had been in China since the fall of 1841, when, at age 27, he joined Augustine Heard & Co., a newly established partnership of American commission merchants. The Dixwell brothers and Augustine Heard already had extensive commercial experience in India and China. Now George Dixwell, the company’s opium specialist, wanted fast ships to give his firm a competitive edge in the drug trade. If the company had its own fleet to transport opium from India to China and to distribution points along the China coast, the increased drug consignments from native dealers in India would yield large profits from both transport fees and commissions on sales.

While the opium trade was prohibited by the Chinese government, it did not contravene any United States law of that time. Indeed, medicinal preparations containing opiates were legal and routinely consumed in nineteenth-century America by much of the population. In any case, American shippers were accustomed to walking a fine line between legal and illegal ventures. They had, after all, already been active in the slave trade, blockade running, and privateering. Further, as we shall see, by the second quarter of the nineteenth century opium had become the primary commodity by which the Western world balanced its trade with China.

30. Eventually the owner of the Frolic, John James Dixwell of Boston, an associate of the China trading firm of Augustine Heard & Co., would have her re-rigged as a standard brig, which is to say, square rigged on both her masts.
Prosper Merimee’s novel about CARMEN, a feisty Gypsy girl in an Andalusian cigarette factory.

Mary Godwin Wollstonecraft Shelley was invalided by what would eventually be discovered to be a tumor in her brain.

John Quincy Adams wrote to the Reverend Samuel H. Cox: “In my early youth I was addicted to the use of tobacco in two of its mysteries, smoking and chewing. I was warned by a medical friend of the pernicious operation of this habit upon the stomach and the nerves.”

Thomas De Quincey’s “Coleridge and Opium-Eating” and “Suspiria de Profundis” appeared in Blackwood’s Magazine. His “On Wordsworth’s Poetry” and “Notes on Gilfillan’s Gallery of Literary Portraits: Godwin, Foster, Hazlitt, Shelley, Keats” (which would run until 1846) appeared in Tait’s Magazine.

Perry Davis’s patent vegetable painkiller consisted of opiates and ethanol and—as is evident in the globe map on its label—originated from that known center of “Joy to the World” sensory satisfaction, Providence, Rhode Island:

March 28, Friday: The Frolic arrived in Bombay to begin its work in the opium trade. She would be found capable of making three round trips per year between India and China. Under favorable conditions she would be able sail from Hong Kong to Bombay in but 35 days. However, at the moment, she was delinquent, she had arrived in Bombay after schedule, and the opium that had been reserved for her had already been released to another buyer.

April 30, Wednesday: The Bombay Times ran an advertisement soliciting a cargo of opium for the Frolic.
May 8, Thursday: Isaac Hecker wrote to the Reverend Orestes Augustus Brownson.

Captain Edward H. Faucon (sketched below by a Chinese artist during this year) sailed the Frolic out of Bombay Harbor and headed for Macau anchorage.

To demonstrate her worthiness, he arranged to race against the Anodyne, a 275-ton brig formerly of the Royal Yacht Squadron but at that point in the possession of the merchant empire of Jardine, Matheson & Co. of Hong Kong.

The near-shipload of opium which had been rounded up for this new ship from various sources had cost the owners more than $400,000, although it was not monopoly opium produced in Patna and exported through Calcutta by the British East India Company, but opium of considerably lower grade produced independently in the Malwa uplands and exported through Bombay by Parsee (Indian Zoroastrian) and Hindu merchant trading houses. It was necessary to keep very close tabs on the quality of such bootleg drug, as it frequently had been “extended” by the addition of inert ingredients such as cowshit, fruit juices, clay, etc., a process which could be repeated a number of times by a number of different middlemen.
Late Summer: Henry Thoreau was making a study of the *Bhagavad-Gita* while Emily Dickinson, 16 years old, who had just withdrawn from Amherst Academy on account of ill health, was on tour in Boston. She saw Mount Auburn Cemetery, Bunker Hill, the Horticultural Exhibit, and the Chinese Museum. She attended two concerts, commented she was “not happy, but contented,” and was glad to return to her family and friends in Amherst MA. She would not be eager to repeat such a visit.

At some point Emily wrote about this museum visit, reporting that she had been particularly impressed with the two former opium eaters who had left behind family and friends and come to America to overcome their addiction: “There is something peculiarly interesting to me in their self denial.”
January 26, Tuesday: The steamer Sir Charles Forbes left Bombay for the coast of China with 400 chests of Malwa opium balls. It would soon be obvious to all that the lower insurance rates on such fast new steamboat traffic would soon drive the clippers, such as the Frolic, entirely out of the drug transport business:

1847 Cost of Shipping a $500 Chest of Opium Balls from India to China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Clipper</th>
<th>Steamer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freight rate</td>
<td>$6.00</td>
<td>$12.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Insurance</td>
<td>$12.50</td>
<td>$5.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>$18.50</td>
<td>$17.22</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In all likelihood the Wesleyan missionary Robert Spence Hardy was not aboard this particular vessel. However, we do know that it was during this year that he returned from Ceylon to England.
September: Scientific American magazine reported that Prescott, in his Conquest of Peru, described the cuca as a shrub growing to the height of a man, the leaves of which, when “dried in the sun and mixed with a little lime, form a preparation for chewing, much like the betel leaf of the East. With a small supply of this cuca in his pouch, and a handful of roasted maize, the Peruvian Indian in our time performs his wearisome journeys day after day, without fatigue or at least without complaint. Yet, with the soothing charms of an opiate, this weed, so much vaunted by the natives, when used to excess, is said to be attended with all the mischievous effects of habitual intoxication.”31

31. The active ingredient, cocaine, would not be isolated in the laboratory until 1859.
The building of the Corn Exchange in the marketplace of the town of Saffron Walden, on the site of the mediaeval timber-framed Woolcombers Hall, indicated the dominance of cereal crops during that period of malting and beer brewing.

Patrick Branwell Brontë, a tuberculosis victim, died of his ethanol and opium addictions. Emily Brontë died, a tuberculosis victim.

January: Scientific American magazine reported that a committee of the House of Commons had estimated the value of British imports into China at $43,296,782 per annum, of which the Chinese were paying out some $23,000,000 per annum for opium alone. “Large quantities are used in other countries, Siam, Hindostan, &c. Its horrid effects are seen in the sallow, sunken cheeks, the glassy, watery eyes, the idiotic look and vacant stare, and all the loathsome ruin that vice can bring upon the human body and soul.”
November: Edgar Allan Poe visited Providence, Rhode Island again to do some more wooing of the eligible widow Friend Sarah Helen Power Whitman. While in Providence this time he would reside at the home of William Jewett Pabodie, who had previously been romantically involved with this same lady. The poet’s wooing would be so unsuccessful that he would board a train to Boston, town of his birth, and with a bottle of laudanum either attempt suicide or made a suicide gesture.

December: Edgar Allan Poe’s suicide attempt or gesture with the bottle of laudanum evidently had a desirable effect, for, taking the “temperance pledge,” he and his Helen (Friend Sarah Helen Power Whitman) of Providence, Rhode Island became engaged to be wed. Poe delivered his lecture “The Poetic Principle.” Fearing that their funded widow was in the clutches of a fortune hunter, the family was transferring all of Helen’s assets into the name of her mother and the marriage plans would collapse between Christmas and the turn of the new year. The legacy of this episode is that if you visit the Providence Athenaeum at 251 Benefit Street, you can see not only a Poe daguerreotype but also a portrait of Sarah.
July: Since the Frolic had become obsolete as an opium runner and Captain Edward H. Faucon had gone negative about having personal funds tied up in an obsolescent vessel, at this point the Boston company for which he worked sought to guarantee his further cooperation by buying out the skipper’s 1/5th of the vessel.

December 5, Wednesday: On its front page, Elizur Wright, Jr.’s Boston Daily Chronotype made a final mention of Henry Thoreau while remarking the “irrepressible good humor and wit” to be found in James Russell Lowell’s review in the Massachusetts Quarterly Review of a “pleasant book on the Concord and Merrimack.”

The Frolic sailed one last time from the port of Hong Kong on the coast of China to the port of Bombay on the coast of India to pick up a cargo of opium. The plan was that after this last trip she would be loaded with luxury items, taken to California, and, if the proper opportunity arose, sold there as no longer large enough or fast enough for the opium trade.32

32. The plan to grant Captain Edward H. Faucon power of attorney to sell the Frolic once it had reached San Francisco and been unloaded did not take account, of course, of a fact not known either to the firm members in Asia or to the firm members in Boston, that the Golden Gate was clogged at this point with vessels which had been abandoned by their crews so the crews could participate in the frenzy of gold digging. (It seems clear that the coming wreck of the vessel was not a staged thing, not intended merely for collection of insurance money.)
Papaver somniferum L.
The Board of Aldermen of Providence, Rhode Island voted to limit Dexter Asylum inmates to 180.

Perry Davis’s son Edmund Davis joined him in the patent medicine business located at 43 Pond Street.
THE FUTURE CAN BE EASILY PREDICTED IN RETROSPECT
August 22, Friday: Henry Thoreau characterized his writing agenda in AN EXCURSION TO CANADA just after jotting down a trial version of that book’s opening paragraph.

Dissecting the faults of “some excellent writers,” he specifically criticized Thomas De Quincey’s “first impressions on seeing London” as having been expressed “with too great fullness and detail”:

It is the fault of some excellent writers – De Quincey’s first impressions on seeing London suggest it to me– that they express themselves with too great fullness & detail. They give the most faithful natural & living account of their sensations mental & physical – but they lack moderation and sententiousnes – they do not affect us by an ineffectual earnestness and a reserve of meaning – like a stutterer — they say all they mean. Their sentences are not concentrated and nutty. Sentences which suggest far more than they say, which have an atmosphere about them, which do not merely report an old, but make a new impression — Sentences which suggest far more than they say, which have an atmosphere about them — which do not merely report an old by make a new impression — Sentences which suggest as many things and are as durable as a Roman Acqueduct To frame these that is the art of writing. Sentences which are expensive towards which so many volumes — so much life went — which lie like boulders on the page — up & down or across. Not mere repetition but creation. Which a man might sell his grounds & castle to build. If De Quincey had suggested each of his pages in a sentence and passed on, it would have been far more excellent writing. — His style is no where kinked and knotted up into something hard & significant which you could swallow like a diamond without digesting.
Very truly yours,

Thomas De Quincey.
The British trade in opium for China had doubled in the decade since the first Opium War had ended in the defeat of China and the removal of all trade restrictions. The federal government of the United States, cutting itself in on a good deal, began to tax the import of opium.

The Reverend Issachar J. Roberts, who had joined the Southern Baptist Convention in 1846, at this point severed such ties, reverting to an independent status.33

33. During his period in China the Reverend would return occasionally to the United States.
An insurance broker “placed an advertising booklet in his hand ... Elizur Wright looked it over and perceived quickly enough that no company could undertake to do what this one pretended to and remain solvent.” The fraudulence of such advertisements would induce Wright to embark on a crusade to reform that industry.

A law was enacted restricting the flogging of US Navy seamen.
DOING DOPE

In 1827 Leroux had extracted Salicin, an ingredient of willow bark used to relieve fever and rheumatic pain. In 1838, salicylic acid had been manufactured from salicin. At this point, acetylsalicylic acid was synthesized by Charles Gerhardt. (From 1884 to 1894 the aspirin family of pain and fever relievers would be being introduced by the German chemical industry — think Bayer.)

Although at mid-century the role of opiates in medical practice in Britain and the USA had yet to be challenged, soon events would begin to cloud the traditional sunny picture. In this year the development of the hypodermic needle first made possible the direct injection of such drugs. In addition there would be the introduction of morphine, increased advertising, overprescription, mass production, and use of opium-laden patent medicines, introduction of the smoking of opium, increasing concerns over the use of cocaine, greater advances in precise identification and analysis of drug effects and an increasing understanding of the phenomenon of habituation, the prevailing spirit of moral reform as exemplified by the temperance and Progressive movements in the US, the direct involvement of America with the opium problem in the Philippines, the discovery of painkillers and anesthetics that involved fewer hazards, attention generated by the debate over opium trade, and highly publicized confessions by addicts such as De Quincey.

January 31, Monday: Henry Thoreau quoted from “System of the Heavens as Revealed by Lord Rosse’s Telescopes” on pages 2-47 of Volume II of the NARRATIVE AND MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS of Thomas De Quincey, which had just been published in Boston by the firm of Ticknor, Reed, and Fields:

A man is wise with the wisdom of his time only & ignorant with its ignorance– Observe how the greatest minds yield in some degree to the superstitions of their age. De Quincy (whose pains to prove that was not Christ’s mission to teach men science though he of course (!) knew it all, – suggested the above–) says– “This downward direction of the eyes, however, must have been worse in former ages: because, else it never could have happened that, until Queen Ann’s days, nobody ever hinted in a book that there was such a thing, or could be such a thing, as the Aurora Borealis; and in fact, Halley...
had the credit\textsuperscript{34} of discovering it."

\textit{Very truly yours,}\n\textit{Thomas De Quincey.}

\textbf{ATTITUDES ON DE QUINCEY}

34. De Quincey is of course mistaken, since the aurora borealis had already been seen, and named as such, by Galileo Galilei, before Edmond Halley fils was even a gleam in the eye of Edmond Halley pere.
September: Before the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, the case of Perry Davis vs. George Kendall (as reported in THE AMERICAN LAW REGISTER for 1852-1891, Volume 2, Number 11 for September 1854, pages 681-685). Evidently a drug dealer named Kendall had been manufacturing and vending a compound similar to the Providence drug dealer Davis’s “Pain-Killer” “Manufactured by Perry Davis” “The original inventor, No. 74 High St.” under the name “J.A. Perry’s Vegetable Pain-Killer,” in bottles of similar size though of somewhat different shape, thus pirating Mr. Davis’s trade-mark under which said compound had become extensively and favorably known. The attorney for the defendant drug dealer Kendall pointed out to the court that there was no copy-right on words of the English language such as “Pain-Killer.” The Supreme Court held that the whole question in this case was, whether the defendant drug dealer’s label was liable to deceive the public, and to lead them to suppose they are purchasing an article manufactured by the plaintiff drug dealer Davis instead of by the defendant drug dealer Kendall. The majority of the court ruled for the plaintiff drug dealer, agreeing that his copy-right had in fact illicitly been infringed and that he would therefore be entitled to legal redress.

(The past is a foreign country — you will instantly notice that our courts no longer proactively protect the entitlements of drug dealers in any such manner.)
November 9, Wednesday: Perry Davis of Providence, Rhode Island was ordained to the Baptist ministry.

Since Mr. Davis was a world-class drug dealer specializing in opiates and ethanol, we may be pardoned for turning at this point to an insight about the heartlessness of capitalist society by Karl Marx:

“Religious distress is at the same time the expression of real distress and the protest against real distress. Religion is the sigh of the oppressed creature, the heart of a heartless world, just as it is the spirit of a spiritless situation. It is the opium of the people. The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is required for their real happiness. The demand to give up the illusion about its condition is the demand to give up a condition which needs illusions. The criticism of religion is, therefore, in embryo, the criticism of that vale of tears of which religion is the halo.”

— Karl Marx, CRITIQUE OF HEGEL’S PHILOSOPHY OF RIGHT (February 1844)

Excerpt from “Thoreau as Storyteller in the Journal” by Professor Sandra Harbert Petrulionis:

On November 29, 1853, sandwiched in between the Journal’s discussion of a rare beetle and a local boy's find of a Native American artifact, Thoreau records a story told to him by local farmer George Minott—a tale of a rabid dog which met its demise in Concord many years before. Francis H. Allen included this tale in his 1936 Men of Concord, a compilation of the Journal’s character sketches. As a way of leading in to it, Thoreau relates the fact that recently a boy in nearby Lincoln had been fatally bitten by a rabid dog. Thoreau—who calls what he’s about to
[5] In classic storytelling fashion, Thoreau begins by establishing the time and setting: "It was when he [Minott] was a boy and lived down below the Old Ben Prescott House—over the Cellar Hole on what is now Hawthorne’s Land." The following excerpts summarize Minott’s description of the dog’s progress through town:

When the dog got to the old Ben Prescott Place ... there were a couple of turkeys—[it] drove them into a corner—bit off the head of one.... They then raised the cry of mad dog ... his [Minott’s] mother and Aunt Prescott ... coming down the road—& he shouted to them to take care of them selves—for that dog was mad—Minott next saw Harry Hooper—coming down the road after his cows ... & he shouted to him to look out for the dog was mad—but Harry ... being short the dog leaped right upon his open breast & made a pass at his throat, but missed it. (522-523)

[6] the name of Fay—dressed in small clothes” was waylaid by the dog and bitten twice because he failed to heed Minott’s warning that the oncoming dog was mad. Thoreau writes that “Fay ... well frightened, kicked the dog, “seized [it] ... held him ... fast & called lustily for somebody to come & kill him.” Unfortunately, when a man named Lewis “rushed out” to help, his axe was somewhat “dull,” and after a worthless “blow across the back,” the “dog trotted along still toward town” (523-524).

[7] The dog proceeded to bite two cows, both of which later died, to grab “a goose in the wing” and “kept on through the town” (523). Finally, however, it met its demise at the hands of the story’s unlikely hero: “The next thing that was heard of him—Black Cato ... was waked up about midnight ... he took a club & went out to see what was the matter—Looking over into the pen this dog reared up at him & he knocked him back into it & jumping over—mauled him till he thought he was dead & then tossed him out” (524-525). Unfortunately, Cato discovered the next morning that the dog was in fact not dead and had disappeared. Later that day, he encountered the dog again, “but this time having heard the mad dog story he ... ran—but still the dog came on & once or twice he knocked him aside with a large stone—till at length ... he gave him a blow which killed him—& lest he should run away again he cut off his head & threw both head & body into the river—” (525). Cato succeeds where esteemed white citizens fail; his heroic act rids the town of danger.

[8] From the vantage of our safe hindsight, the story’s humor is inseparable from its potential tragedy. Anyone who comes in contact with this dog could, of course, be killed. Nevertheless, Thoreau has a bit of fun at the expense of the townsfolk. Mr. Fay was possibly Grant Fay, a local farmer whose son Addison was
a contemporary of Thoreau. As "a large and stout old gentleman ... dressed in small clothes," twice bitten by the dog largely through his own ineptitude, Fay suffers at Thoreau’s hands. Moreover, Thoreau concludes with the information that "Fay went home ... drank some spirit ... went straight over to Dr. Heywoods ... & ... was doctored 3 weeks. cried like a baby. The Dr cut out the mangled flesh & ... Fay ... never experienced any further ill effects from the bite" (525).
In America during this timeframe, immigrant Chinese laborers were introducing the habit of opium smoking.

When some drunken Englishmen murdered a Chinaman in China but the foreign government refused to turn them over to the local authorities for trial, there began what would become known as the “Anglo-French Expedition” or “Arrow War” or “2d Opium War.” The lorcha Arrow was searched by Chinese police, and of course the white men couldn’t put up with that sort of conduct. England’s opium traffic at this point was amounting to 50,000 to 60,000 chests per year. The war would go on for some years and be concluded by the Treaty of Tientsin in which opium was legalized.

Thomas De Quincey seized upon the opportunity offered by a collected edition of his writings, to rewrite his famous CONFESSIONS OF AN ENGLISH OPIUM-EATER of 1821/1822.

This appeared as Volume V of SELECTIONS GRAVE AND GAY.

De Quincey began to contribute to James Hogg’s monthly magazine The Titan.
April 26, Sunday: Henry Thoreau wrote to Benjamin B. Wiley and attempted to explicate his parable in WALDEN; OR, LIFE IN THE WOODS of the loss of the hound, horse, and turtle-dove.

**WALDEN**: In any weather, at any hour of the day or night, I have been anxious to improve the nick of time, and notch it on my stick too; to stand on the meeting of two eternities, the past and future, which is precisely the present moment; to toe that line. You will pardon some obscurities, for there are more secrets in my trade than in most men’s, and yet not voluntarily kept, but inseparable from its very nature. I would gladly tell all that I know about it, and never paint “No Admittance” on my gate.

I long ago lost a hound, a bay horse, and a turtle-dove, and am still on their trail. Many are the travellers I have spoken concerning them, describing their tracks and what calls they answered to. I have met one or two who had heard the hound, and the tramp of the horse, and even seen the dove disappear behind a cloud, and they seemed as anxious to recover them as if they had lost them themselves.

To anticipate, not the sunrise and the dawn merely, but, if possible, Nature herself! How many mornings, summer and winter, before yet any neighbor was stirring about his business, have I been about mine! No doubt many of my townsmen have met me returning from this enterprise, farmers starting for Boston in the twilight, or woodchoppers going to their work. It is true, I never assisted the sun materially in his rising, but, doubt not, it was of the last importance only to be present at it.
Curiously, he explicated it as if he were explicating his reference to Mencius's remark about the loss of the "sentiments of the heart" in A WEEK where he had quoted as follows:

**A WEEK**: Mencius says: "If one loses a fowl or a dog, he knows well how to seek them again; if one loses the sentiments of his heart, he does not know how to seek them again.... The duties of practical philosophy consist only in seeking after those sentiments of the heart which we have lost; that is all."

I would infer, from this confusion, that in Thoreau's memory his quotation in THE DIAL and then in A WEEK of a parable from Mencius, a parable which referred to a fowl and a dog, and his invention of his own parable in WALDEN, which referred to a hound, a horse, and a turtle-dove, had, by 1857 at least, become commingled.

**THE SCHOLAR.**

Teen, son of the king of Tse, asked what the business of the scholar consists in? Mencius replied, In elevating his mind and inclination. What do you mean by elevating the mind? It consists merely in being benevolent and just. Where is the scholar's abode? In benevolence. Where is his road? Justice. To dwell in benevolence, and walk in justice, is the whole business of a great man. Benevolence is man's heart, and justice is man's path. If a man lose his fowls or his dogs, he knows how to seek them. There are those who lose their hearts and know not how to seek them. The duty of the student is no other than to seek his lost heart. He who employs his whole mind, will know his nature. He who knows his nature, knows heaven. It were better to be without books than to believe all that they record.
We should, therefore, limit the range of possible interpretations of Thoreau’s parable to those which are not blatantly discordant with the more decipherable intention of the Mencius parable. And immediately we notice that a key to the Mencius parable is that “loss” can mean such different things, that we may know how to recover from one “loss” but may have no clue as to how to recover from another “loss.”

There is a marked difference in the meaning of the word “my” when it is applied to my hound, my horse, and my turtledove.

Did we suppose that “my” means the same in the expression “Please get my hat” as in the expression “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?” No, we did not suppose that, nor are we to suppose that the possessive pronoun is the same when it is applied to a family pet with whom we share a long-term and deep affectional relationship, to a barn animal we saddle in order to go somewhere, and to a wild bird we glimpse as it disappears behind a cloud. In the sense in which the dog is my dog, the horse is not my horse. In the sense in which the horse is my horse, the turtledove is not my turtledove. And there is not only a difference in the definition of the possessive pronoun “my” when it is applied to my hound, my horse, and my turtledove, there is also a difference in the meaning of the economic term “loss.” For me to lose my hound is for this dog to run off after a scent and return when it chooses. For me to lose my horse is for this horse to be stolen by a horse thief, or for me to gamble it away, or for it to lie down and die. For me to lose a turtledove is — what? Thoreau didn’t need to clutch a turtledove, so how could he lose it? What he said was “In Boston yesterday an ornithologist said significantly, ‘If you held the bird in your hand—’; but I would rather hold it in my affections,” and the bird of which he and the ornithologist spoke might as well have been a turtledove as an eponymous anonymous bird of some other species. When one gets to the turtledove part of the saying, one recognizes that Thoreau’s parable of loss is a secret joke, a joke on the whole idea that in this world there could be such a thing as loss. We may well wonder how the idea of loss could have arisen in a world in which each instant of our lives is a gift to us, and is a gift over which we have no control whatever.
Note that if we interpret the parable of the “loss” of the hound, horse, and turtle-dove as a secret joke on the whole idea that in this world there could be such a thing as loss, then the parable becomes an intrinsic part of the chapter, for the chapter, according to Stanley Cavell’s THE SENSES OF WALDEN, is, in its entirety, a parable about the unreality of loss and an attempt to subvert our customary deployment of economic terms such as loss when we attempt to deal with the affect of our lives:

The writer comes to us from a sense of loss; the myth does not contain more than symbols because it is no set of desired things he has lost, but a connection with things, the track of desire itself.

Note also that if we interpret this parable of the “loss” of the hound, horse, and turtle-dove as a secret joke on the simpleminded presumption that “loss” is one single, unproblematic concept, then we are led directly back, full circle, to this citation of Mencius in A WEEK, the citation in which the “duties of practical philosophy” are specified.

A WEEK: Mencius says: “If one loses a fowl or a dog, he knows well how to seek them again; if one loses the sentiments of his heart, he does not know how to seek them again.... The duties of practical philosophy consist only in seeking after those sentiments of the heart which we have lost; that is all.”

Barbara Johnson, while agreeing that the parable has to do with losses, evidently disagrees with the idea that the chapter is intended to distance us from the easy application of such economic terms to the affect of our lives. Rather, she suggests, WALDEN wakes us up to our losses, evidently to the reality of our losses:

WALDEN’s great achievement is to wake us up to our own losses, to make us participate in the trans-individual movement of loss in its own infinite particularity, urging us passionately to follow the tracks of we know not quite what, as if we had lost it, or were in danger of losing it, ourselves. In order to communicate the irreducibly particular yet ultimately unreadable nature of loss, Thoreau has chosen to use three symbols [hound, bay horse, and turtledove] that clearly are symbols but that do not really symbolize anything outside themselves.

We may note also, here, that Johnson is attempting a pre-emptive strike at anyone and everyone who would make the three symbolic animals “symbolize anything outside themselves.” My own attitude toward this is that a good reader is an active reader, and seeks to read meaning into what she is reading. We should judge each attempt on its merits, and make no pre-emptive strike against the attempt to actively engage with the presented material.

Concord April 26th
1857
Dear Sir
I have been spending a fortnight in New Bedford, and on my return find your last letter awaiting me.
I was sure that you would find Newcomb inexhaustible, if you found your way into him at all. I might say, however, by way of criticism, that he does not take firm enough hold on this world, where surely we are bound to triumph.
I am sorry to say that I do not see how I can furnish you with a copy of my essay on the wild. It has not been prepared for publication, only for lectures, and would cover at least a hundred written pages. Even if it were ready to be dispersed, I could not easily find time to copy it. So I return the order.
I see that you are turning a broad furrow among the books, but I trust that some very private journal all the while holds its own through their midst. Books can only reveal us to ourselves, and as often as they do us this service we lay them aside. I should say read Goethe’s Autobiography by all means, also Gibbon’s Haydon the Painter’s— & our Franklin’s of course; perhaps also Alfieris, Benvenuto Cellini’s, & De Quincey’s Confessions of an Opium Eater – since you like Autobiography.
I think you must read Coleridge again & further –skipping all his theology— i.e. if you value precise definitions & a discriminating use of language. By the way, read De Quincey’s reminiscences of Coleridge & Wordsworth.
How shall we account for our pursuits if they are original? We get the language with which to describe our various lives out of a common mint. If others have their losses, which they are busy repairing, so have I mine, & their hound & horse may perhaps be the symbols of some of them. But also I have lost, or am in danger of losing, a far finer & more ethereal treasure, which commonly no loss of which they are conscious will symbolize— This I answer hastily & with some hesitation, according as I now understand my own words.
I take this occasion to acknowledge, & thank you for, your long letter of Dec 21st. So poor a correspondent am I. If I wait for the fit time to reply, it commonly does not come at all, as you see. I require the presence of the other party to suggest what I shall say.
Methinks a certain polygamy with its troubles is the fate of almost all men. They are married to two wives – their genius (a celestial muse) and also to some fair daughter of the earth. Unless these two were fast friends before marriage, and so are afterward, there will be but little peace in the house.
In answer to your questions, I must say that I never made, nor had occasion to use a filter of any kind; but, no doubt, they can be bought in Chicago.
You cannot surely identify a plant from a scientific description until after long practice.
The “millers” you speak of are the perfect or final state of the insect.
The chrysalis is the silken bag they spun when caterpillars, & occupied in the nymph state.
Yrs truly
April 26. Riordan’s cock follows close after me while spading in the garden, and hens commonly follow the gardener and plowman, just as cowbirds the cattle in a pasture.

I turn up now in the garden those large leather-colored nymphs.

P. M. — Up Assabet to White Cedar Swamp.

See on the water over the meadow, north of the boat’s place, twenty rods from the nearest shore and twice as much from the opposite shore, a very large striped snake swimming. It swims with great ease, and lifts its head a foot above the water, darting its tongue at us. A snake thus met with on the water appears far more monstrous, not to say awful and venomous, than on the land. It is always something startling and memorable to meet with a serpent in the midst of a broad water, careering over it. But why had this one taken to the water? Is it possible that snakes ever hibernate in meadows which are subject to be overflowed? This one when we approached swam toward the boat, apparently to rest on it, and when I put out my paddle, at once coiled itself partly around it and allowed itself to be taken on board. It did not hang down from the paddle like a dead snake, but stiffened and curved its body in a loose coil about it.

This snake was two feet and eleven inches long; the tail alone, seven and a quarter. There were one hundred and forty-five large abdominal plates, besides the three smaller under the head, and sixty-five pairs of caudal scales. The central stripe on the back was not bright-yellow, as Storer describes, but a pale brown or clay-color; only the more indistinct lateral stripes were a greenish yellow, the broad dark-brown stripes being between; beneath greenish. Beneath the tail in centre, a dark, somewhat greenish line.

This snake was killed about 2 P.M.; i.e., the head was perfectly killed then; yet the posterior half of the body was apparently quite alive and would curl strongly around the hand at 7 P.M. It had been hanging on a tree in the meanwhile.

I have the same objection to killing a snake that I have to the killing of any other animal, yet the most humane man that I know never omits to kill one.

I see a great many beetles, etc., floating and struggling on the flood.

We sit on the shore at Wheeler’s fence, opposite Merriam’s. At this season still we go seeking the sunniest, most sheltered, and warmest place. C. says this is the warmest place he has been in this year. We are in this like snakes that lie out on banks. In sunny and sheltered nooks we are in our best estate. There our thoughts flow and we flourish most. By and by we shall seek the shadiest and coolest place. How well adapted we are to our climate! In the winter we sit by fires in the house; in spring and fall, in sunny and sheltered nooks; in the summer, in shady and cool groves, or over water where the breeze circulates. Thus the average temperature of the year just suits us. Generally, whether in summer or winter, we are not sensible either of heat or cold.

A great part of our troubles are literally domestic or originate in the house and from living indoors. I could write an essay to be entitled “Out of Doors,” — undertake a crusade against houses. What a different thing Christianity preached to the house-bred and to a party who lived out of doors! Also a sermon is needed on economy of fuel. What right has my neighbor to burn ten cords of wood, when I burn only one? Thus robbing our half-naked town of this precious covering. Is he so much colder than I? It is expensive to maintain him in our midst. If some earn the salt of their porridge, are we certain that they earn the fuel of their kitchen and parlor? One man makes a little of the driftwood of the river or of the dead and refuse (unmarketable!) wood of the forest suffice, and nature rejoices in him. Another, Herod-like, requires ten cords of the best of young white oak or
hickory, and he is commonly esteemed a virtuous man. He who burns the most wood on his hearth is the least warmed by the sight of it growing. Leave the trim wood-lots to widows and orphan girls. Let men tread gently through nature. Let us religiously burn stumps and worship in groves, while Christian vandals lay waste the forest temples to build miles of meeting-houses and horse-sheds and feed their box stoves. The white cedar is apparently just out. The higher up the tree, the earlier. Towed home an oak log some eighteen feet long and more than a foot through, with a birch with around it and another birch fastened to that. Father says lie saw a boy with a snapping turtle yesterday.

November 16, Monday: George Robins Gliddon died drug-addled in a hotel room in Panama City, where he had been acting as a deputy agent for the Honduras Interoceanic Railway. The cause of death, depending on which account you credit, was ODing on opium, pulmonary congestion, or “fatal isthmus fever.”

On this day Henry Thoreau made no entry in his journal.

In the District of Columbia, home of our nation’s puzzle palace, somebody had a decent idea:

District of Columbia, County of Washington, to wit:
On this sixteenth day of November A.D. 1857 personally appeared before the subscriber, a Justice of the Peace for the county aforesaid, William Henry Upperman and made oath in due form of law that George Lucas a colored boy aged twenty two years of the county of Washington D. C. was born free, and that no one has a claim against his freedom according to his best knowledge & beliefs.
Given under my hand & seal this 16th day of November 1857.
Chas. Walter J.P. {seal}
In India, as a result of a dangerous rebellion, the British government finally dissolved the British East India company and the Moghul Empire and began to rule India directly. Subsequent to the mutiny, Monier Williams would no longer be able to teach Asian languages at the East India Company College.

The Reverend Charles Henry Appleton Dall’s A LECTURE ON TRUE PATRIOTISM IN BENGAL, OR, THE BENGALI AS HE IS, AND AS HE MAY BE.

Having taken over the opium trade as of 1833, in order to increase revenues the British government of India inaugurated a period of “mad expansion” of opium cultivation. Except for land and salt, opium revenues would become its largest source of income. In Britain, meanwhile, proposals were increasingly being made to abolish the opium trade. The medical profession disagreed over the extent of damage caused by opium. Due to lower import duties, an opium high became cheaper than getting drunk on alcohol. The Pharmacy Act of 1868, one of the first laws restricting the sale of such substances, dictated that opiates could only be sold by registered chemists or druggists, but patent medicines are specifically excluded.

The Anglo-Chinese war or Opium War that began in 1856 wound toward an end, with the Treaties of Tientsin. Karl Marx, writing from London for the New-York Tribune, marveled at the opium war, that the “civilized nations of the world” were giving their de-facto blessing to the invasion of China, “a peaceful country, without
previous declaration of war, for an alleged infringement of the fanciful code of diplomatic etiquette.”

The infringements in question were that:

1.) the ambassadors of the outer barbarians had been denied permission to establish a foreign compound within the city limits of the Chinese capital, Beijing,

and
2.) in a [Chinese] port, a ship had been searched by Chinese authorities for the presence of opium, and that ship had at that time been flying the British “rice flag.”

It is estimated that by 1900 roughly 90,000,000 people in China would have become addicted to the substance in question.

The official translator for the French at negotiations in Tientsin, a father Delamarre, took it upon himself to insert a few words into the Chinese version of the Sino-American, Sino-Russian, Sino-British, and Sino-French treaty being signed on his own behalf, and granted to his Catholics the privilege of purchasing or leasing land in the interior of China. Evidently, nobody noticed that he had added this.

This was Hong Kong strait in this year, depicted from Kowloon side on the Chinese mainland with Victoria Island in the background, per The Illustrated London News:
1st chemical extraction of the cocaine powder as the chief alkaloid of Peruvian coca leaves, by Albert Niemann, a chemistry student who was writing up his doctoral thesis.

A racist young Italian physician, Dr. Paolo Mantegazza, published a monograph *Sulle Virtù Igieneche e Medicinali della Coca e sugli Alimenti Nervosi in Generale* (On the Hygienic and Medicinal Properties of Coca and on Nervous Nourishment in General). Certain drugs were so fine that they were wasted on people of color, people who not evolutionarily advanced enough to fully appreciate their benefits of mental stimulation. While high he saw “images that were more bizarre and splendid, in terms of colour, than can ever be imagined.” He talked rapidfire to a colleague who was witnessing his experiment, but “I spoke with such vehemence that he was not able to take down more than a few of the thousands of words with which I was deafening him.” His conclusion was that “God is unjust because he made man incapable of sustaining the effects of coca all life long. I would rather have a lifespan of ten years with coca than one of
10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000 centuries without!’’
January 29, Saturday: William Cranch Bond died in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Harper’s Weekly offered a woodcut having to do with opium, the poor child’s nurse:
Dante Gabriel Rossetti’s model and wife Elizabeth Siddal Rossetti OD’d on laudanum. Overcome with grief or exhibitionism or something, Rossetti had her buried with his poems held in her hand, which was a bad move as he had neglected to keep a copy of some of them.
May 12, Monday: The following notice of the funeral of Henry D. Thoreau appeared in the Lowell Daily Citizen & News:

The funeral of Henry D. Thoreau, which took place in Concord on Friday, was attended by a large company of citizens of that and neighboring towns, and services are described as unusually impressive. Selections of Scripture were read, and a brief ode, prepared for the occasion by W.E. Channing, was sung, when Mr. Emerson read an address, marked, says the Transcript, by all his felicity of conception and diction — an exquisite appreciation of the salient and subtle traits of his friend’s genius.

The following notice of that funeral appeared in the Boston Post:

The funeral of Henry D. Thoreau took place in the meeting house in Concord on Friday and Ralph Waldo Emerson delivered a feeling and characteristic address. Men of note from Boston and elsewhere were present. Mr Thoreau was 44 years old. He is said to have been engaged, at the time of his death, on several literary works, some of which were so nearly finished as to enable survivors to publish them. Mr Emerson will doubtless undertake this friendly work.

Perry Davis died. His son Edmund Davis would continue dealing drugs at 43 Pond Street, Providence, Rhode Island in the manner which his father had initiated. During the Civil War this patent compound of opiates with ethanol would be marketed as “good for man or beast” — since a horse on painkillers would be able to haul heavy loads until it dropped in its traces and was shot.
The chemist Angelo Mariani, after reading Dr. Paolo Mantegazza’s 1859 paper on the beneficial effects of coca, innovated a wine he labeled “Vin Mariani,” which he made by suffusing coca leaves in ordinary Bordeaux. The ethanol extracted enough cocaine from the leaves to provide 6 milligrams per fluid ounce of wine (later, to be competitive with similar drinks in the USA, the level of cocaine in Vin Mariani would be raised to 7.2 mg per ounce). Pope Leo XIII would keep this wine in his hip flask, award a gold medal to the chemist, and allow his image to be used in the wine’s advertising. Thomas Edison would describe this drink as enabling him to work longer hours in his laboratory by doing without sleep.
February: Back home in Concord from her service in Washington DC, Louisa May Alcott was wearing a lace cap to cover the baldness caused by the doses of calomel that had been prescribed for her at the Army hospital.

“For 2400 years patients have believed that doctors were doing them good; for 2300 years they were wrong.”

— David Wootton, Bad Medicine: Doctors Doing Harm Since Hippocrates, Oxford, June 2006

She was troubled by repeated mercury-poisoning delusions in which Spanish grandees leaped out of closets at her, etc. Dr. Josiah Bartlett visited her every day, and in all probability this is the point at which she began her use of opium.

WALDEN: The old and infirm and the timid, of whatever age or sex, thought most of sickness, and sudden accident and death; to them life seemed full of danger, —what danger is there if you don’t think of any?— and they thought that a prudent man would carefully select the safest position, where Dr. B. might be on hand at a moment’s warning. To them the village was literally a community, a league for mutual defence, and you would suppose that they would not go a-huckleberrying without a medicine chest. The amount of it is, if a man is alive, there is always danger that he may die, though the danger must be allowed to be less in proportion as he is dead-and-alive to begin with. A man sits as many risks as he runs.
September 3, Thursday: On this day, and on the following two, people would be killing each other at Whitestone Hill.

Calvin H. Greene visited the Alcott family’s home in Concord and was able to see Bronson Alcott, but Louisa May Alcott did not come down because at the army hospital in Washington DC, under treatment with calomel (a mercury concoction), she “had lost a part of her hair (which she claimed she laid upon the altar of her country) & so was unpresentable.”

(Actually, the probable reason why Louisa –whom Greene referred to as “Louise”– did not put on her lace cap and come downstairs would be that in this period she was coping with her illness by the use of opium.)

This day marked the 25th anniversary of Frederick Douglass’s freedom, which we may well elect to celebrate in lieu of an unknown slave birthday.

Here is a Daguerreotype, by an unidentified photographer in the 1850-1855 timeframe.

“It has been a source of great annoyance to me, never to have a birthday.”
Winter: *Wicasa itancan* or “chief” Shakpe II “Little Six” and his band’s *pejuta wicasa* or “traditional healer”

“Medicine Bottle,” the current political and spiritual leaders of the Shakpe village, were drugged with opium in Canada during the winter of 1863-1864 by a US government agent and kidnapped and brought into the United States bound and gagged, breathing chloroform vapors, on a dog sled at night, to stand trial before a US military commission.

They were of course found guilty of something and sentenced to hang by the neck until they were dead Indians in spite of the uncontroversial fact that every piece of evidence that could be offered against them in that court was a piece of hearsay. After being sentenced, for a period of time they were allowed to sweep the walkways at Fort Snelling, with chains and cannonballs welded to their ankles, to earn their keep while being stared at

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35. One would have thought they would have been more careful, after having hanged at least one man by attaching the wrong number to his nametag in 1863, and after having hanged one innocent boy merely because he had been in the care of his father. But no.

36. An actual ball and chain is not at all as represented in cartoons. When you visit Fort Snelling Historical Landmark, ask the “blacksmith” to let you try on a ball and chain. Shakpe II and Medicine Bottle, in being hanged with hempen ropes, were “given hemp medicine” an old history book has said, evidently relying on old common knowledge that an infusion of hemp (marijuana) would induce sufferers to forget their cares.
by local urchins and tourists and photographed as curiosities, during their process of “judicial review” at War Department headquarters in Washington DC.

Meanwhile, in St. Paul, Taoyateduta’s scalp, and his skull and forearms and other collected body-parts, were put on permanent display at the Minnesota Historical Society. For white people in Minnesota to consider this cold-blooded murder as a cold-blooded murder, a century after the fact, it was necessary to transform it from a fact into a question. Thus we got Walter N. Trenerry’s “The Shooting of Little Crow: Heroism or Murder?” in *Minnesota History* 38(3): 150-3. I find it necessary to point out that there is no similar magazine article about the cold-blooded murder of another political leader of that period, an article which might have received a parallel title such as “The Shooting of President: Heroism or Murder?”—despite the considerable similarities between these two events.

I also find it necessary to point out here that Native American “medicine men” have had to put up with a lot of prejudice, and that it is possible that Medicine Bottle’s execution had more to do with this prejudice than it had to do with anything that Medicine Bottle ever did to any whites. For instance, Nicholas Black Elk, of whom perhaps you have heard through the writings of John G. Neihardt of the University of Nebraska (BLACK ELK SPEAKS), was not only a Roman Catholic and a world traveler but also a Dakota medicine man, and here is what he had to put up with in 1908 from a self-righteous Jesuit (ever met any other kind?) who had been forced to deal with him:

> during many a year, [he] fooled the people with his “wakan” or remedies, supposed to possess magical efficacy ... the “medicine men” [pejuta wicasa] are about the last class of Indians whom we impress.

We may note with good humor that this prejudice against medicine men, sponsored by modern science and by the Jesuits and the American Medical Association as well, has even had its impact on Christian theology. The gospel according to Mark is full of healings, and it is the earliest of the preserved biographies of Jesus, and many persons of “modern” orientation have had difficulty dealing with this. It is outside their frame of reference that a legitimate non-dichotomous distinction may be made between illness, which may best be treated by a healer who can help the ill person to mobilize all of his or her efforts toward healing, and disease, which may be treated by a medical doctor who can mobilize a series of invasive and heroic technologies. The prejudice against superstition which would lead these people to mock a Dakota traditional healer would also lead them—were they serious human beings—to mock their own Savior!
Eighteen-year-old Jack Newton Daniel established a whiskey distillery in Tennessee.

The *cholera* spread to the US from Russia and Europe, killing 50,000 Americans this year, including 2,000 in New-York alone. That city responded to such recurring epidemics, not only of *cholera* but also of *scarlet fever*, *measles*, *typhoid fever*, *typhus*, diphtheria, whooping cough, and *yellow fever*, by creating the 1st municipal board of health. (Refer to Charles E. Rosenberg’s *The Cholera Years: The United States in 1832, 1849, and 1866*.)

*Perry Davis* & Son opened a branch depot in London for the exclusive sale of their Pain Killer in Great Britain — a painkiller consisting of a solution of *opiates* in *ethanol* which was alleged to be just the very thing with which to cure this *cholera*.

Extensive agencies also have been opened up in China, India, Japan, Turkey, Australia, Africa, New Zealand and other countries both in the new and old world, until now the manufacture and sale of this medicine exceeds that of any other. Mr. Davis’ liberality has also contributed largely to the advertisement of this medicine. Missionaries to heathen lands, especially those of the *Baptist* church, have been furnished medicine free of charge to take with them. This alone has brought the remedy into great notoriety with the natives of heathen lands.

When a young man Mr. Davis became converted to God, and from that time till his death lived a consistent Christian life. He was baptized by Elder Job Borden of the First Baptist church in Tiverton, R.I. In church work Mr. Davis was also active. He was very liberal with his money to all classes of society, and was a generous, kind hearted man to the needy and distressed. On the day of his burial the streets about his door were lined with the poor and the needy of the city, who loved him for the many benevolent acts of his life. Although almost in poverty himself till after 50 years of age, he always gave freely and sometimes of all he had to others in distress. His donations to the church were extensive. He first built a chapel on Broad street, used for several years; then the little chapel on Stewart court, then called High Street church; then the Stewart Street church, which cost him $36,000. He himself was an earnest preacher and was
ordained to the ministry November 9th, 1853.
W.R. Bowling, M.D.’s *Cholera as it Appeared in Nashville in 1849, 1850, 1854 and 1866.*
Edmund Davis relocated the patent medicine manufacturing conducted under the name “Perry Davis & Son” in Providence, Rhode Island to 78 High Street.
Following the Civil War in the USA, use of opiates had become widespread. Expanded advertising had created an unregulated patent medicine craze.

In England, a grocery had sold sugar with arsenic mixed into it to someone making sweets for sale — and the result had been, sadly, that an entire fairground of people had been poisoned. In response to this and other poisonings, intentional or unintentional, a Pharmacy Act supposedly made it necessary for private individuals to identify themselves when they purchased their potential poisons, such as for instance opium products, and made it necessary to purchase them from a licensed apothecary which was required to maintain an auditable record of such sales. (This bill did not make opium purchase illegal or restrict in any way its recreational use, and was not enacted out of any concern for the effect that opium may have been having on drug users, either British or foreign. It did diddly squat nothing to intercept poisoners who sought to obtain poisons, and diddly squat nothing to intercept recreational drug abusers who sought to obtain their fix. The primary beneficiary of this act was the Pharmaceutical Society, for the act granted it the means to regulate all of England’s chemist shops, and made the products available in these shops unavailable in England’s grocery stores.)

At this point the central government in Beijing had managed to exterminate the last significant vestiges of the vicious Taiping millennialist Christian culture of the Pai Shang-ti Hui or God Worshipers’ Society which once had dominated the culture of South China, and which had created the longest (since like 1850) and bloodiest (some 25,000,000 deaths) Civil War in the history of the world — although in the course of this long campaign it had become so weakened that the Forbidden City inside its high wall at the core of Beijing would never again be able to summon the allegiance of the entire Central Kingdom.

37. It is necessary to add the modifier “significant” because in fact there is a direct line of continuity between some of the abandoned beleaguered Christian military formations in rural areas, which were never chased down and destroyed by the Qing armies, and 20th-Century rogue formations active in SouthEast China today, who are acting as protectors of the drug production there!

38. Were you wondering why it happens to be the case that in the 1990s, the Communists of the PRC consider the proper place for a Chinese Christian to be in a prison labor camp for life without the possibility of parole? — The Central Committee has reason to know what Christians are like when they begin to become obstreperous. — They consider that they themselves had their origination as these rural peasant Han Chinese Christian superpatriots of the 19th Century! The Tai-p’ings did have a useful list of rigorous prohibitions: they tolerated no prostitution or divorce in their Kingdom of Heaven, they tolerated no enslavement or foot-binding, they tolerated no recreational use of opium or wine or tobacco, and of course they indulged in no gambling. They had simplified the Chinese language, as would happen again, they had decreed equality between men and women, as would happen again, they had held all property in common, as would happen again — some of their leaders had even proposed the development of industry and the building of democracy. Also, however, for all that their leader had considered that he was JC’s little brother, actually he hadn’t had much use for anything peculiar to the New Testament — such as for instance kindness, or forgiveness, or redemption. Instead his “Christianity” had been long on obedience, and proper worshipfulness, and his dad he construed as the Lord of vengeance. Had he been a commie? — a Quaker advocate of the Peace Testimony he most definitely had not been.
Michael Baxter, who had no idea what had been going on in China, and no interest in what had been going on in China, had claimed the Battle of Armageddon was to take place during this year (Abanes, Richard. END-TIME VISIONS. NY: Four Walls Eight Windows, 1998, page 338; McIver, Tom. THE END OF THE WORLD: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY. Jefferson NC: McFarlane & Co., 1999 #349).

39 Armageddon = the place (possibly to be identified with Har Megiddo, the Mount of Megiddo, near Tel Aviv, near which many battles were fought) designated in Revelation 16:16 as the scene of the final battle between the kings of the earth at the end of the world.
In the manuscript for Charles Dickens’s *The Mystery of Edwin Drood*, the novel on which he was working when he died, there is a reference to an East End woman who “opium-smoked herself into the strange likeness of the Chinaman."

Meanwhile, in California, an anti-Chinese movement became overwhelmingly powerful. Winslow Anderson, a San Francisco doctor with a thing for pure young white girls, would at some point in the 1870s become overwhelmed with longing and attest to having witnessed “the sickening sight of young white girls ... lying half-undressed on the floor on couches, smoking with their ‘lovers’... Men and women, Chinese and white people, mix in Chinatown smoking-houses.”
Edmund Davis took in Mrs. Sarah D. Dennis as a partner in the patent medicine business conducted under the name “Perry Davis & Son.” They would relocate the manufacturing facility to 136 High Street, Providence, Rhode Island.

Losses in the great Chicago fire caused the complete liquidation of the assets of the Washington Providence Insurance Company of Providence. The business would need to be revived through the infusion of new capital.

The Yearly Meeting School of the Religious Society of Friends received $17,732.75 from the city of Providence for a plot of land that had been cut off from the school grounds by an extension of Thayer Street. This money would be spent on an addition to Alumni Hall.
In England, C.R. Write created heroin by boiling morphine. What a boon it would be if this would turn out to be less dangerous and less addicting than morphine!

The 1st milk chocolate was produced by Daniel Peter in Switzerland, using the condensed milk perfected by his compatriot Henri Nestle. (It still needed work. For instance, using milk would mean that the processors would need to be careful about the usual sorts of infections carried by this product, such as the microorganism which we would name the “Salmonella” after a Dr. Daniel Elmer Salmon who was the boss of its discoverer, Theobald Smith — and appropriated his underling’s discovery.)

Probably, by this point in time, this undated Currier & Ives print having to do with the William Tell story was in circulation:
When Edmund Davis died at the age of 57, his son Edmund W. Davis took over the family's patent medicine business conducted under the name “Perry Davis & Son” at 136 High Street, Providence, Rhode Island.
Mrs. Sarah D. Dennis died and Edmund W. Davis took in a new partner in the family’s patent medicine business, Horace S. Bloodgood. The company, still called “Perry Davis & Son,” relocated to 594 Westminster Street in downtown Providence, Rhode Island.
Kahlil Gibran (Jubran Kahleel Jubran) was born in Bsharri — a town in what is now northern Lebanon that once upon a time had been surrounded by the famed “Cedars of Lebanon,” near the “Holy Valley” of the Maronite Christians that has since become so productive of the very highest quality hashish and opium. His father Kahlil Gibran was a clerk in his uncle’s apothecary shop until on account of gambling debts he needed to become an enforcer for Raji Bey, a local Ottoman-appointed administrator. As a child he would sustain an injury to his left shoulder, which would leave it weak and semi-paralyzed.
Kate Greenaway, author of children’s books, published her LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS, one of the more popular dictionaries on this topic.

In 1827 Leroux had extracted Salicin, an ingredient of willow bark used to relieve fever and rheumatic pain. In 1838, salicyclic acid had been manufactured from salicin. In 1853, acetylsalicyclic acid had been synthesized by Charles Gerhardt. Beginning in this year and continuing to 1894, the aspirin family of pain and fever relievers would be being introduced by the German chemical industry — think Bayer.

In Finland, drunkenness had come to be such a major problem among unskilled urban laborers that a prohibition movement had developed. In this year all beverages containing over 22% alcohol came to be regulated, and in the following year rural sales would be banned.
Between 1880 and 1904 the prohibition movement in the USA would succeed in enacting many new laws against alcohol at the state level.

An assistant to Sigmund Freud touched purified cocaine to his tongue and discovered a numbing sensation. Dr. Freud termed cocaine “magical,” suggesting its use in localized anesthesia. Carl Koller demonstrated its usefulness in eye surgery. (Eventually, however, when this drug would turn out to be more addictive even than morphine, Freud would be attacked for having participated in loosing “the third scourge of mankind.” A similar chemical compound would be produced synthetically, “procaine” commonly sold under the trade name ‘Novocain,” and by now this has replaced cocaine for medicinal purposes.)

Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes delivered himself of a biography of Waldo Emerson in which he was, basically, unsympathetic:

> Of course no one can hold Emerson responsible for the “Yoga” doctrine of Brahmanism, which he has amused himself with putting in verse. The oriental side of Emerson’s nature delighted itself in these narcotic dreams, born in the land of the poppy and of
hashish. They lend a peculiar charm to his poems, but it is not worth while to try to construct a philosophy out of them. The knowledge, if knowledge it be, of the mystic is not transmissible. It is not cumulative; it begins and ends with the solitary dreamer, and the next who follows him has to build his own cloud-castle as if it were the first aerial edifice that a human soul had ever constructed.
As an aside Dr. Holmes also made a profoundly snide comment anent Henry Thoreau, amounting to an implicit accusation that such concern over nature could have amounted only to a sublimated sexuality: Thoreau “told the story of Nature in undress as only one who had hidden in her bedroom could have told it.”
March 29, Monday: In his back yard in Atlanta, Georgia, John Styth Pemberton, a pharmacist with a proclivity for developing patent medicines, concocted an elixir for the aid of the nervous and those suffering from the aftereffects of ethanol indulgence.
May 8, Saturday: John Styth Pemberton began to manufacture the syrup for his creation, which he would name Coca-Cola because its two main ingredients derived from the coca plant and from the cola plant.

The recipe for “Coca-Cola” is of course a trade secret, but it was a beverage using water (later, carbonated water), caramel, kola nut, sugar, vanilla, cinnamon, lime, and coca leaf extractions. (By 1903 the makers would begin purging the coca leaf extract of its cocaine component prior to adding it to the syrup.)
A traveler reporting back from the Levant related that Arabs in the desert of Syria who had been smoking a local plant termed *Hyoscyamus* were getting giddy and getting headaches from a few whiffs of our tobacco. In America, the advice offered by the cigar and tobacco price list of M. Breitweiser and Brothers of Buffalo was succinct and germane:

“If you think smoking injurious to your health, stop smoking in the morning.”

Between the Civil War and World War I opiate use in the USA appeared widespread and uncontrollable. Two patterns of use have become apparent. In one typical pattern the users were white middle-class middle-aged citizens, mostly female, and their use was considered therapeutic and legal. Although there would be some public concern and local regulations would begin to make their appearance, there would be little moral stigma and no class persecution. The other typical pattern was that of opium smoking among the Chinese, which was generally associated in the public mind with criminality and in this year resulted in a ban on opium imports. In the 1890s the first state anti-morphine laws would appear. By 1896 opium imports would have peaked and would be subsiding.
In the Canadian case of In re Perry Davis & Son, 58 L.T.N.S. 695; 15 App. Cas. 315, the facts were that in 1877 Perry Davis & Son had registered as proprietors of a trade mark consisting of the words “Pain Killer” in respect of which they claimed user for forty years prior to registration in connection with a medicine sold by them. On the application of another person for the removal of the name from the Canadian copyright register, the evidence shewed that although the medicine had been spoken of and ordered as “Pain Killer,” it had not been sold under that name alone — the words “Perry Davis” and “Davis” had also been used at times in connection therewith. The court ruled therefore that the words “Pain Killer” were not a proper mark for registration, and removed the words from the Canadian copyright register.
Vermont legislated that oleomargarine could be sold in that state only if it was colored pink.

At this point 26 states and territories had outlawed the sale of cigarettes to minors (the age of majority in any particular state was varying between 14 and 24). During the 1890s the Women’s Christian Temperance Movement would be distributing E.B. Ingalls’s NARCOTIC, a pamphlet discussing the evils of numerous drugs including tobacco as well as cocaine, ginger, hashish, and headache medications.
In the United States, cocaine was becoming widely used for a variety of medical problems and was regularly included in numerous tonics and stimulant drinks (such as, beginning in this year, “Coca-Cola”).

Reformers petitioned the US Congress to prohibit the manufacture, importation and sale of cigarettes. The Senate Committee on Epidemic Diseases, while agreeing that cigarettes indeed represented a public health hazard, indicated that under our restricted federal constitution only the states would have the authority to act. The committee therefore urged these petitioners to go consult with the various state legislatures of regions in which tobacco was a major cash crop.

40. Oh, and don’t let the doorknob hit you in the butt on your way out.
The Prohibition Party’s venture into partisan politics having collapsed, an Anti-Saloon League took over leadership of the abolition movement. The movement’s appeal was spreading primarily among middle-class, nativist Protestants, who had become so desperate to maintain their prerogatives in society against threats from massive immigration, industrialization, and urbanization that they were embracing “family values” such as industry, frugality, sobriety, and religiosity.

The state of Washington banned the sale and use of cigarettes.

Under pressure from Joshua Rowntree and the Anglo Oriental Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade, the British Government of India appointed a royal commission to inquire into the prevalence of opium use on that subcontinent. The commission would discover oral use to be so common as to be impossible to prohibit, but would describe this primarily medical or quasi-medical use as nonproblematic. The commission would report that the East’s reliance upon opium was rather similar to the West’s reliance upon alcohol, in that it was a practice against which the government would have no real need to crusade. The smoking of the substance, although more dangerous, was found to be still “comparatively rare and novel.”

Initial presentation of the Glass Flowers to Harvard University (created under the guidance of Harvard Professor Ware by artists Leopold Blaschka and his son, Rudolph).

A Supreme Court decision written by Justice Horace Gray declared the tomato to be a vegetable based on common usage of the term “vegetable” as opposed to the term “fruit.” On this basis tomato importer John Nix would be obligated to pay a 10% vegetable tariff on shipments of tomatoes (declared to be honorary vegetables for tax purposes) grown in the West Indies.41

41. It would be on this basis that, eventually, the Reagan administration would determine that in the planning of the child’s nutritional needs in the public school lunch program, french fries with catsup was to count as “two servings of vegetables.”
May 22, Tuesday: Edward Horatio Faucon died (his obituary would appear in the Milton, Massachusetts News).

Catherine Faucon had wanted her father remembered for his public life, as the dashing young captain portrayed by Richard Henry Dana, Jr., in Two Years Before the Mast and as a volunteer shipmaster in the Union navy during the Civil War. To accomplish this, she had destroyed her father’s records of his career in China. She would have been horrified to learn that 23 years after her death Jim Kennon, a weekend scuba diver hoping to spear a lingcod, had discovered the wreck of the Frolic, her father’s Baltimore-built opium clipper.
Sigmund Freud developed a new treatment that would be the basis of psychoanalysis. “No neurosis is possible with a normal sex life,” he would opinion, but he would himself give up sex at age 42, and would suffer much of his life from stomach upsets, migraine headaches, and nasal catarrh, for which he prescribe for himself cocaine.

When the patent medicine company Perry Davis & Son relocated its operation from Providence to New-York City, Edmund W. Davis stayed behind in Narragansett, Rhode Island.
At Cadbury, a savings account was opened for each employee. Those employed for 3 years or more received 20 shillings, everyone else 10 shillings.

Although Cadbury produced its 1st milk chocolate, it was coarse and dry — it was no competition for the Swiss chocolate being made by Daniel Peter, who was using condensed milk. George Cadbury went to Switzerland to learn about this and then installed a milk condensing plant at Bournville. The new chocolate bar was an improvement but still was no rival for the Swiss chocolate. (Fry’s would also introduce a milk chocolate product, but not until 1902).

Felix Hoffman produced two new compounds for the Bayer pharmaceutical corporation, acetylsalicylic acid and diacetylmorphine (Bayer was unaware that this diacetylmorphine had in fact already been synthesized by another). Acetylsalicylic acid (“Aspirin”) was noted to relieve minor aches and pains and diacetylmorphine (“Heroin”), an opium derivative, was noted to relieve moderate pain and alleviate the respiratory symptoms of asthma, bronchitis, and TB.
Wheat rust cost the US $67,000,000. By 1904 significant research programs would be established to discover control measures. The German scientist H. de Bary had earlier detailed the life cycle of wheat rust, but it would not be until 1917 that sufficient study would be completed to support a barberry eradication program, and the eradication of barberry bushes would be legalized in North Dakota.

Bayer pharmaceutical corporation registered and marketed Felix Hoffman’s diacetylmorphine under the brand name “Heroin,” from the German heroisch meaning heroic, as a substitute for morphine and codeine cough suppressants which had proven to offer difficulties. Their marketers may have chosen this designation because of the ease with which this opium derivative reduced pain and eased the breathing, or they may have chosen it because of the way test subjects described its effects.

“The first cause of problems is solutions.”

By 1917 this new drug would be causing such problems of its own that its use in over-the-counter cough syrups would be discontinued.
Bayer pharmaceutical corporation registered and marketed Felix Hoffman’s acetylsalicylic acid under the brand name “Aspirin.”

The 1st edition of the *Merck’s Manual of the Materia Medica / Together with a Summary of Therapeutic Indications and a Classification of Medicaments: A Ready-Reference Pocket Book for the Practicing Physician*, for carrying in the black bag of physicians making house calls, although it contained but 192 pages (it now has 2,833), found space to record the following list of potential remedies for that most prevalent American complaint, melancholy (only the first half of the lengthy list is shown below):

**Melancholia.** — *See also, Hypochondiasis, Hysteria, Insanity.*
- Acid, Hydrocyanic.
- Acid, Nitrohydrochloric after meals : if associated with oxaluria.
- Alcohol.
- Arsenic : in aged persons along with opium.
- Belladonna.
- Bromides.
- Caffeine.
- Camphor.
- Cannabis Indica.
- Chloral Hydrate : as hypnotic.
- Chloroform : for insomnia.
- Cimicifuga : in puerperal or uterine despondency.
- Cocaine.
- Colchicum.
- Colocynth.
- Galvanism.
- Gold.
- Ignatia.
- Iron.
- Morphine.
- Musk.
- Nitrous Oxide.
- Opium : in small doses especially useful.
- Paraldehyde.
- Phosphorus.... [etc.]
A Japanese chemist living in Chicago, Satori Kato, invented water soluble instant coffee (he would obtain a US patent for this on August 11, 1903).

When Friend William Cadbury of Cadbury Chocolates visited the island of Trinidad in the Caribbean he was alerted to the fact that the cocoa workers on Sao Thome and Principe Islands were still for all practical purposes enslaved.

William G. Mortimer’s PERU HISTORY OF COCA: THE DIVINE PLANT OF THE INCAS presented the favorable medical opinion of the day in regard to cocaine.
Dr. T.D. Crothers, reflecting the considerable medical opposition to coffee use, in his MORPHINISM AND NARCOMANIAS FROM OTHER DRUGS classified caffeine addiction with morphinism and alcoholism.
There had been a dramatic increase in coca importation to the United States. Under government pressure, Coca-Cola removed cocaine from its secret list of ingredients.
The British government decided to bring its opium trade to an end. (This would be, with the cooperation of the dowager empress of China, accomplished by 1917.)

The US federal Pure Food and Drug Act requires accurate listing on labels of all drugs used in over-the-counter preparations, producing a sharp decline in their use.

In England, Cadbury’s Bournville Cocoa (produced by a treatment with alkalis) began to be produced in response to a demand for a cocoa with an intense taste, flavoured with spices. Bournville Works Education Committees were formed. By 1910 all young workers would be being required to attend evening classes until the age of 18. (In 1913 this night education would become voluntary rather than mandatory.)

In the United States, the Pure Food and Drug Act, by requiring accurate labeling, effectively eliminated cocaine and opium from patent medicines and soft drinks. Use of these substances was increasingly being identified in the public mind with persons of color, the poor, and crime.
Papaver somniferum L.
In England, Cadbury launched Bournville Chocolate, the original dark chocolate.

A Pharmacy Act placed opium on its Schedule of Poisons.
A prohibition movement developed in Sweden, and the failed Gothenburg system would finally be replaced in 1917 by the Bratt system of monopoly sales rationing of alcohol based on the use of a pass book.

A prominent British medical textbook, A SYSTEM OF MEDICINE edited by Allbutt and Rolleston, attacked all caffeine drinks, while regarding opium as relied upon in the Orient as “a reasonable aid in the work of life.”

An international commission, the Shanghai Opium Conference, met in China to consider the opium problem. Import of opium into the US for smoking or nonmedical use was banned.
Fritz Haber patented the Haber process.

A Paris fashion for imitation sable and sealskin led amateur hunters to trap Manchurian marmots, many of which were infected with the bubonic plague. The disease would be transmitted to humans and in the following nine years in China and India an epidemic would kill 1,500,000.

At about this point 20% of a sample of United States Army soldiers stationed in the Panama Canal Zone admitted to smoking more than 5 marijuana cigarettes per day. (The use of Cannabis Indica would not be stigmatized in the United States until the 1930s, when American petrochemical manufacturers would become interested in eliminating hemp as a competitor for their new synthetic fibers. Soldiers stationed along the Mexican border, however, were preferring to consume Cactus Wine, a drink which combined homemade tequila with peyote tea. Alcohol consumption was high — surviving bar bills show that a consumption rate of 30 shots of whiskey a day was not uncommon among those who could afford it, and Dr. B.J. Kendall’s blackberry balsam, “a remedy for diarrhea, dysentery, cholera morbus, biliousness, and costive liver,” amounted to a 122-proof whiskey reinforced with opium.
In this year and the following one an international commission would be meeting at the Hague in the Netherlands to consider the opium problem.

At this point all Cadbury workers, not only the men but also the women, came to be granted holidays, and not merely holidays but holidays with pay — and came to be included within the company’s pension scheme. A milk condensing factory was opened outside Bournville: henceforth milk would be handled “on the spot.”
By this point Cadbury’s Dairy Milk had become the firm’s biggest line. During World War I this formerly Quaker firm would proclaim itself in support of its nation’s war effort, entirely disregarding the Quaker Peace Testimony. More than 2,000 of its male employees would enlist in the British armed forces—or so it would brag—and the company would send books, warm clothes, and of course chocolates to the front lines. The company would augment the Government’s allowances to the dependants of its workers who had become warriors. At the end of the war the former employees who had become warriors would either be invited to return to their previous jobs, or be sent for education, or be looked after in convalescent homes at company expense.

(That the firm was on a morally slippery slope should have been apparent — for during World War II it would become a weapons contractor, and afterward it would brag about such warlike activity.)

Marijuana smoking had been appearing in the United States, among laborers in towns along the Mexican border, and was spreading along the Gulf Coast. Between this year and 1931, 29 states, most of them west of the Mississippi, would be prohibiting its nonmedical use. However, this anti-drug legislation would initially receive only limited media attention.

US forces occupied Vera Cruz and a fleet arrived off Tampico in consequence of hostile acts by Mexicans. After pressuring the Mexican President to resign, Víctoriano Carranza attempted to supplant him but became engaged in a civil war with one of his former lieutenants, Pancho Villa.

In the US, 27 state and city laws prohibited the smoking of opium.

The federal Harrison Act treated cocaine as more dangerous than opium, classifying it (incorrectly) as a narcotic. Fears over cocaine use, particularly by blacks, had led by this point to regulatory laws in 46 states of the United States of America — whereas only 29 states had enacted such regulatory laws in regard to opiates. In result of this legal situation, cocaine use would become surreptitious, and the substance would be used primarily by bohemians and musicians, and in the urban ghettos. Ostensibly a tax measure designed to control the marketing of opium, this required all persons authorized to handle or manufacture narcotic drugs to register, pay a fee, and keep a record of the drugs in their possession. The act did not prohibit the supply of opiates to users by registered physicians “in the course of their professional practice.” Subsequent Supreme Court decisions and government enforcement policies would, however, restrict the right of doctors to prescribe opiates.
R.J. Reynolds’s chewing tobacco manufacturing company in Winston, North Carolina had developed a line of pipe tobaccos, and had in 1913 introduced the first American blend cigarette, known as “Camel.” By his death in 1918 of a pancreatic cancer that hypothetically might now be linked to a lifetime of chewing tobacco, Reynolds would have brought economic development in North Carolina. By this year, however, 14 states had banned cigarettes while others enacted control regulations. The taxes on tobacco products had increased, and the government had broken up a trade cartel. An advertising campaign began for a new brand of cigarettes, made of a very much milder than usual mixture of American and Turkish tobacco:

(By 1927 such prohibitions against tobacco would have been rescinded in all states because income from taxes upon tobacco products had rendered our government a full-profit participant in this aspect of the drug trade.)

Richard Martin Willstätter was awarded a Nobel Prize for his work with plant pigments, particularly chlorophyll. After World War I, Willstätter would continue his work in biological chemistry, investigating the synthesis of cocaine and the nature of enzymes. By World War II, Willstätter would suffer the isolation and

42. R.J. Reynolds had four children one of whom was either murdered or a suicide, one of whom died of a stomach cancer that may have been smoking-related, and two of whom definitively died because of smoking.
persecution of so many other Jewish German scientists, and eventually would feel obliged to migrate to Switzerland. At one point during the war Gestapo agents would attempt to take him into custody: “He was in his garden at the time, however, and the Gestapo did not think to look for him there.”
British concern over prostitutes who were providing cocaine to their soldier customers contributed to the passage of a “Defense of the Realm Act.”

Although this Act was primarily intended to curb military and domestic use of cocaine, it in addition enacted controls over opium.

The German secret agents who in the previous year had begun operations in Romania and in the USA, waging a campaign of biowarfare against the enemy livestock, began to stage their attacks also in Argentina, in Spain, and in Norway. The dates and details of this operation are now obscure, as in fact they obtained no significant results from their attempts to pour bacteria cultures on animal feed and to administer needle injections to the domestic livestock. All we know for sure is that various attempts, over the following three-year period, would
be prosecuted with great determination.

Two duckbill dinosaur fossils possessing extremely rare skin impressions were sunk to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, when a German warship fired upon the vessel carrying them.
US troops were landed at Chungking to protect American lives during a political crisis.

The dowager empress of China, in coordination with the British, brought opium trade to an end.

Prohibition was enacted in Finland, but would quickly fail as illicit distribution of alcohol would overly burden the police and smuggling would become widespread.

The Swedish prohibition movement succeeded in replacing the failed Gothenburg system of alcohol regulation with the Bratt system of monopoly sales rationing based on the use of a pass book.
In Finland, the smuggling of liquor was rising to the level that the nation’s prohibition effort was being entirely defeated.

Idaho law (this would be amended in 1921) declared marriage between whites and Mongolians, Negroes, or Mulattoes to be illegal and void; the penalty for cohabitation was established as imprisonment for up to six months with a maximum fine of $300.

A rise in heroin use was reported among urban male youths, that would promote in 1924 a ban of its manufacture and import. By the end of this period, the fear of the “dope fiend” would be firmly established.


The Reverend Thomas Dixon, Jr.’s THE WAY OF A MAN. Racial conflict is an epic struggle with the future of civilization at stake. Maybe we can’t have human slavery anymore but American blacks cannot be allowed to be politically equal with American whites as that would lead to social equality, and social equality would lead to miscegenation, and miscegenation would lead to the destruction of the family, and the destruction of the family would lead to the destruction of civilized society. Everything we admire and respect would fall like a row of damn dominoes, you fool.
In England, a Dangerous Drug Act attempted to implement the agreement entered into by the Hague Convention in 1912 by restricting opiate distribution to medical channels, while continuing to affirm the doctor’s right to possess and supply controlled drugs in the provision of medical care.

Bertrand Russell visited China.

Receiving an MA from Harvard University, Lin Yu-t’ang went to work with the YMCA in France.
The use of cyanide gas was introduced with the execution of Gee Jon, a 29-year-old member of the Hop Sing Tong, born in China, who had in an outbreak of tong warfare killed Tom Quong Kee in Mina, Nevada. First the government of the state of Nevada in its compassion attempted to pump cyanide gas into this prisoner’s cell while he slept, but this didn’t work so a gas chamber had to be constructed. During this decade and the following one in the United States of America, there would be a resurgence in capital punishment. (There would be an average of 167 executions per year here during the 1930s, adding up to more than in any other decade in American history.)

Concern grew among the white land-owning population of the island of Jamaica over the its demoralizing, criminogenic influence of ganja smoking among poor native laborers. Being a poor native laborer ought not to be so much fun. The Dangerous Drugs Law of 1924 increased penalties for use of opium or cannabis.

The increase in heroin use among urban male youths led to a fear of the “dope fiend,” and to a ban of its manufacture and import.

In England, the Rolleston Committee emphasized that it considered that non therapeutic use of opiates did not represent a serious threat. After assessing the situation that obtained in the USA subsequent to the federal Harrison Act, it again affirmed the legal right of British physicians to prescribe opiates.

The All-India Congress Committee, in conjunction with Mohandas Gandhi, resolved that the British opium policy was contrary to the moral welfare of the Indian people.
The Rolleston Act gave British doctors the right to prescribe narcotics on the basis of their own judgment. This act would become, until 1967, the primary basis of narcotics legislation. The use of opiates and cocaine would decline in England, there would be very little press or parliamentary interest in drug use, and only a few cases of nonmedical addiction would become evident.
September 26, Thursday, 10PM: Walter Benjamin died in a border internment camp after a failed attempt to flee from Vichy/German antisemitism across the Pyrenees into Spain — apparently of a self-administered overdose of morphine.
"A Klee painting named 'Angelus Novus' shows an angel looking as though he is about to move away from something he is fixedly contemplating. His eyes are staring, his mouth is open, his wings are spread. This is how one pictures the angel of history. His face is turned towards the past. Where we perceive a chain of events, he sees one single catastrophe which keeps piling wreckage upon wreckage and hurls it in front of his feet. The angel would like to stay, awaken the dead, and make whole what has been smashed. But a storm is blowing from Paradise; it has got caught in his wings with such violence that the angel can no longer close them. This storm irresistibly propels him into the future to which his back is turned, while the pile of debris before him grows skyward. This storm is what we call progress."

— Walter Benjamin’s description of Paul Klee’s 1920 painting “Angelus Novus,” often termed “the Angel of History” (Benjamin owned this painting) from his Thesen über den Begriff der Geschicchte (Theses on the Philosophy of History), 1940
As the Indian National Congress had come to power in some provinces of India, it had begun to prohibit local opium use. The British government asserted its desire to stop nonmedical use in the future, and in this year it prohibited opium smoking. 

Lyndon LaRouche, Jr. returned to America from India on the troop ship SS General Bradley. During his period abroad, reading Karl Marx, he had tended toward Marxism. While sailing home, a fellow soldier who was also from Lynn, Massachusetts, Don Merrill, introduced him to Trotskyism. Back in the United States, he would attempt to resume his higher education at Northeastern University in Boston, but unsuccessfully.
General Marshall sponsored an ambitious plan to rebuild Europe from its devastation of war.

As India achieved independence, Oxford University’s Indian Institute shut its doors. The new Indian government inaugurated a policy to totally prohibit within one decade all opium production except for medical and scientific use.

During the late 1940s a “bohemian” drug subculture developed in Sweden which made nonmedical oral use of black-market amphetamine.
In Japan, intravenous use of opiates was spreading among economically marginal and delinquent youths, and in result an Awakening Drug Control Law was passed.

Japan’s gross national product was US$14.2 billion, which was 4.2% of the USA’s, half of West Germany’s, and a third less than Britain’s.

Japanese sumotori wrestlers toured Honolulu, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Chicago with boxer shorts under their loincloths to avoid charges of indecent exposure.

The famed cherry grove along the Arakawa River near Tokyo that had been the parent stock for Washington DC’s initial cherry trees had fallen into decline during World War II. Japan requested help in restoring the grove in the Adachi Ward, and our National Park Service shipped budwood from descendants of those same trees back to Tokyo in an effort to restore the original site.
The Butokukai reopened in Kyoto, to cheers from the Japanese political right, which tends to remain persuaded that martial art training provides a good way of instilling right-wing ultranationalism into young Japanese.

Mochizuki Minoru introduced aikido to Paris. An advocate of non-violent solutions to problems, Mochizuki would later be expelled from France for too strongly protesting French nuclear testing.

In Japan, intravenous use of opiates among urban populations was peaking, and heroin use also began to increase.

With the release of The Seven Samurai, Japanese director Kurosawa Akira introduced the stylized bloodletting of the bunraku puppet theater to international cinema. While the Italians and Spanish quickly copied Kurosawa’s techniques, similar slow-motion mayhem would not catch on in heavily censored Hollywood until after the release of Sam Peckinpah’s The Wild Bunch in 1969.
In Japan, to bring opiates and heroin under control, the Awakening Drug Law and police and educational efforts were strengthened. Despite this, use of heroin and hypnotics would increase during the 1960s.

The US occupation of Japan ended.

At the Anniversary dinner of the War Resisters League the speakers were Tom Wardle and Friend Bayard Rustin.
In India, sale and use of opiates was prohibited except for medical purposes. Between 1963 and 1970 use would decline markedly.
In Britain, the 1st Brain Committee issued its review of the Rolleston findings in regard to opiates, an approving review. However, nonmedical heroin use would then begin to become more apparent among young, urban males.
The US federal government designated Eastern State Penitentiary a National Historic Landmark (yes, that does sound desperate).

Prisoners at the Holmesburg State Prison in Philadelphia were subjected to dioxin, a highly toxic chemical component found in the Agent Orange used in Vietnam. The prisoners would later be checked to see if they had gotten cancer as a result of these secret medical experiments — which would seem to indicate that we have been suspecting all along, that Agent Orange might well prove to be carcinogenic.

George Evelyn Hutchinson’s THE ECOLOGICAL THEATER AND THE EVOLUTIONARY PLAY.

In Britain, the 2d Brain Committee recommended increased control over opiates, including a system of addict notification, the establishment of special treatment centers which would seek to rehabilitate and not just maintain drug users, and the restriction of heroin supplies to these centers. These recommendations would be put into effect with the Dangerous Drug Act of 1968.
In Britain, the 2d Brain Committee had in 1965 recommended increased control over opiates, including a system of addict notification, the establishment of special treatment centers which would seek to rehabilitate and not just maintain drug users, and the restriction of heroin supplies to these centers. At this point the Dangerous Drug Act put these recommendations into effect.

In America, our Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) was experimenting with the possibility of poisoning the nation’s drinking water by injecting harmless tracer chemicals into the water supply of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Washington DC.43

During this year the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert Kennedy would be assassinated by individual assassins acting entirely alone, who would be sent to prison.

43. Of course, it was not the agenda of the CIA, which is a secret government agency made up of good people, to do us harm. They were merely trying to plan for how to protect us against our being harmed by other people, bad people — so long as you trust your government to have your best interests at heart you will have no problem whatever with this.
August: The New York Times reported that cocaine was allegedly being used by baseball players in every major league team.

“Solidarity” was founded at the Lenin Shipyards in Poland. Repressed under martial law in 1981, in 1989 it would win every available seat in parliament and begin to govern the nation. This triumph would come without a single violent act.
Afghan opium production in this year amounted to 250 tons, whereas by the end of this intervention in Afghanistan (CIA support and funding of mujaheddin such as Osama bin Laden), in 1991, it would amount to 2,000 tons. Alfred McCoy, a professor of Southeast Asian history at the University of Wisconsin, alleges that US and Pakistani intelligence officials sanctioned the rebels’ drug trafficking because they were fierce opponents of the Soviet occupation: “If their local allies were involved in narcotics trafficking, it didn’t trouble CIA. They were willing to keep working with people who were heavily involved in narcotics.” For instance, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a rebel leader who would receive over the years approximately US$1,000,000,000 in covert CIA funding, was known at the time to be a major heroin trafficker. The director of the CIA in Afghanistan would later claim to have been oblivious about the drug trade: “We found out about it later on.”

44. The exact same thing would happen once more, in the post-9/11 world. Now that we have invaded Afghanistan from the air in order to rid the world of our protege Osama bin Laden, and have installed a puppet government to replace the Taliban — Afghan opium production has yet again skyrocketed.
In New York City, 42% of males arrested for serious crimes in the Manhattan Central Booking office this year had cocaine in their systems.

University of California anthropologist Gilbert Herdt reported that some warrior cultures of Papua, New Guinea believed that boys became men only by swallowing the semen of the elders, and thus were requiring their prepubescent boys to regularly fellate adult warriors. These men also enjoyed sex with women but feared that this exposed their precious male essence to female pollution, as well as stealing it from the next generation of warriors. The societies he described were some of the most homicidal on earth with murder rates approaching two per thousand (similar statistically to our city of Los Angeles during our “Wild West” era, an era in which it was by far our most dangerous population center).
March 10, Tuesday: Forty people, including airline employees, were arrested in New York City as part of a $1,500,000,000 cocaine smuggling ring.

Charles James Haughey of Fianna Fáil replaced Garret Fitzgerald of Fine Gael as Prime Minister of Ireland.

Awake, Thou Wintry Earth for clarinet and violin by William Schuman was performed for the initial time, in New York.
Afghan opium production had in 1982 amounted to 250 tons, whereas by the end of our intervention in Afghanistan (CIA support and funding of mujaheddin such as Osama bin Laden) in this year, it was amounting to 2,000 tons per year. Alfred McCoy, a professor of Southeast Asian history at the University of Wisconsin, alleges that US and Pakistani intelligence officials had been sanctioning the rebels’ drug trafficking because they had been fierce opponents of the Soviet occupation: “If their local allies were involved in narcotics trafficking, it didn’t trouble CIA. They were willing to keep working with people who were heavily involved in narcotics.” For instance, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a rebel leader who had received over the years approximately US$1,000,000,000 in covert CIA funding, had been known at the time to be a major heroin trafficker. The director of the CIA in Afghanistan would later claim to have been oblivious about the drug trade: “We found out about it later on.” And Osama bin Laden was still, at this point, regarded as one of the good guys, our friend.

Saddam Husayn Al-Tikriti, our former friend in Iraq, was at this point no longer regarded as one of the good guys, our friend. It was in this year that Operation “Desert Storm” ousted the Iraqis from Kuwait. There was ecological disaster in the Persian Gulf region as defeated troops set fire to oil wells to cover their retreat. Later on our troops would be exhibiting “Gulf War syndrome,” one of the causes for which may have been this massive pollution.
October 7, Sunday: President George W. Bush’s ordered his first “War on Terror” strikes against Afghanistan. The President vowed that he was going to take Osama bin Laden “dead or alive,” although he would fail, the significance of this particular Taliban leader would be greatly downplayed. Those we did capture, and other individuals we happened to sweep up, would be subjected to “Copper Green,” a torture program devised at the highest levels of our government which evidently has involved sexual humiliation as well as waterboarding. Journalist Seymour Hersh would assert that the torture program had been directly approved by Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld, while Colonel Lawrence Wilkerson, former chief of staff to Colin Powell, would assert that Vice President Dick Cheney had also been directly involved. Wilkerson would inform National Public Radio that “The secretary of defense under cover of the vice president’s office ... began to authorize procedures within the armed forces that led to what we’ve seen.”

The Taliban had almost succeeded in destroying the Afghani poppy *Papaver somniferum* crop (the red asterisk below), but after we conquered this nation, its opium production would be reaching new highs (no pun intended):
“IT’S ALL NOW YOU SEE. YESTERDAY WON’T BE OVER UNTIL TOMORROW AND TOMORROW BEGAN TEN THOUSAND YEARS AGO.”

- Remark by character “Garin Stevens” in William Faulkner’s *Intruder in the Dust*

Prepared: March 21, 2014
This stuff presumably looks to you as if it were generated by a human. Such is not the case. Instead, someone has requested that we pull it out of the hat of a pirate who has grown out of the shoulder of our pet parrot "Laura" (as above). What these chronological lists are: they are research reports compiled by ARRGH algorithms out of a database of modules which we term the Kouroo Contexture (this is data mining). To respond to such a request for information we merely push a button.
Commonly, the first output of the algorithm has obvious deficiencies and we need to go back into the modules stored in the contexture and do a minor amount of tweaking, and then we need to punch that button again and recompile the chronology — but there is nothing here that remotely resembles the ordinary "writerly" process you know and love. As the contents of this originating contexture improve, and as the programming improves, and as funding becomes available (to date no funding whatever has been needed in the creation of this facility, the entire operation being run out of pocket change) we expect a diminished need to do such tweaking and recompiling, and we fully expect to achieve a simulation of a generous and untiring robotic research librarian. Onward and upward in this brave new world.

First come first serve. There is no charge.
Place requests with <Kouroo@kouroo.info>. Arrgh.