



An Exhortation to young and old to be cautious of small Crimes, lest they become habitual, and lead them before they are aware into those of the most heinous Nature. Occasioned by the unhappy Case of *Levi Ames*, Executed on *Boston-Neck*, *October 21st, 1773*, for the Crime of Burglary.

I.

**B**EWARE young People, look at me,  
Before it be too late,  
And see Sin's End is Misery :  
Oh ! shun poor *Ames's* Fate.

II.

I warn you all (beware betimes)  
With my now dying Breath,  
To shun Theft, Burglaries, heinous Crimes ;  
They bring untimely Death.

III.

Shun vain and idle Company ;  
They'll lead you soon astray ;  
From ill-fam'd Houles ever flee,  
And keep yourselves away.

IV.

With honest Labor earn your Bread,  
While in your youthful Prime ;  
Nor come you near the Harlot's Bed,  
Nor idly waite your Time.

V.

Nor meddle with another's Wealth,  
In a defrauding Way :  
A Curie is with what's got by stealth,  
Which makes your Lie a Prey.

VI.

Shun Things that seem but little Sins,  
For they lead on to great,  
From Sporting many Times begins  
Ill Blood, and p[er]sonous Hate.

VII.

The Sabbath-Day do not prophane,  
By wickedness and Plays ;  
By needless Walking Streets or Lanes  
Upon such Holy days.

VIII.

To you that have the care of Youth,  
Parents and Masters too,  
Teach them betimes to know the Truth,  
And Righteousness to do.

IX.

The dreadful Deed for which I die,  
Arose from small Beginning ;  
My Idleness brought poverty,  
And so I took to Stealing.

X.

Thus I went on in sinning fast,  
And tho' I'm young 'tis true,  
I'm old in Sin, but caught at last,  
And here receive my due.

XI.

Alas for my unhappy Fall,  
The Rig[or] that I have run !  
Justice aloud for vengeance calls,  
Hang him for what he's done.

XII.

O may it have some good Effect,  
And warn each wicked one,  
That they God's righteous Laws respect,  
And Sinful Courses Shun.