

**REMAINS, HISTORICAL AND LITERARY,  
CONNECTED WITH THE PALATINE  
COUNTIES OF LANCASTER AND  
CHESTER, VOL. XXVIII. THE JACOBITE  
TRIALS AT MANCHESTER IN 1694. FROM  
AN UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT**

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**CHETHAM SOCIETY & WILLIAM BEAMONT**

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THE  
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FROM AN UNPUBLISHED MANUSCRIPT.

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WILLIAM BEAMONT, ESQ.

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THERE are epidemics in the moral as well as in the physical world. Society, at certain stages, seems to yield to a sort of possession which sways it to and fro beyond the bounds, and even against the dictates, of right reason. Whilst the fit lasts, it rages with all the virulence of active disease; and when it subsides, sense and reason resume their reign only to be dispossessed by a new recurrence of the moral disorder. In the latter half of the seventeenth century, England had scarcely recovered from one of these attacks before another succeeded. Our history during that interval is a continual record of real or pretended conspiracies. No term can be found more fit to characterize the period than the age of *plots*. Whoever looks, however casually, into our annals from 1660 to the close of the century, will not fail to see how infectious the credulity of the public mind became on the subject of the prevailing plot — how it was swayed on all sides like a ship in a gale, and during the same period how little share sense and reason appeared to have in its guidance. The ferment into which men were thrown by the extraordinary events of the late reign; the